



## **Environment Digest 24**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

### **Powerships**

South Africa anticipates a huge shortfall in electricity supply in the immediate future, increasing the threat of continued loadshedding, among other problems. President Cyril Ramaphosa says there is a plan to fix it:

<https://tinyurl.com/udjjm5e6>

<https://www.biznews.com/thought-leaders/2021/01/20/electricity-crisis>

Some of Eskom's oldest power stations are nearing decommissioning, and this will significantly contribute to the existing generation capacity challenges.

[https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/opinion-breathing-fresh-air-into-old-coal-power-stations-2020-11-13/rep\\_id:4136](https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/opinion-breathing-fresh-air-into-old-coal-power-stations-2020-11-13/rep_id:4136)

Government has announced a 'Risk Mitigation Independent Power Procurement Programme' (RMIPPP), which includes the use of floating power stations called 'powerships', in its plan to close the electricity supply gap.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/477190/south-africa-includes-power-ships-as-part-of-its-energy-plans/>

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-03-31-powerships-are-right-for-south-africa-insist-energy-department-and-its-independent-power-producer-office/>

There are several concerns regarding the proposed RMIPPP and the use of powerships. On the one hand, a sustainability worry regarding the burning of gas to generate electricity, and its impact on the environment. On the other, a growing level of dissatisfaction with the way in which government is conducting these bids and the lack of clarity around the programme.

The following articles highlight some of the concerns regarding the RMIPPP:

<https://tinyurl.com/52h82w4j>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-06/indebted-eskom-balks-at-power-deal-offered-by-turkish-generator>

---

**Lovedonia Mkansi**  
**Project Coordinator**