



Environment Digest 26

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The State of Electricity: Load-shedding will be here for a while

A few days after the re-introduction of electricity blackouts in 2022, the President made more commitments to reform the electricity sector and fix supply shortfall problems, during his State of the Nation Address in Cape Town City Hall on 10th February.

<https://mg.co.za/environment/2022-02-10-sona-2022-government-taking-firm-steps-to-reduce-energy-shortfalls-ramaphosa/>

<https://ewn.co.za/2022/02/10/new-energy-projects-on-the-way-to-assist-with-eskom-s-power-nightmare>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/557252/new-regulations-to-help-end-load-shedding-in-south-africa/>

Load-shedding had been regularly suspended due to reduced demand during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the slowdown of economic activity. However, now that South Africa appears to be coming out of the shadows of COVID-19, more load-shedding is to be expected.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/550572/expect-another-record-year-of-load-shedding-in-south-africa-economists/>

<https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2022/01/south-africa-load-shedding-likely-to-occur-periodically-through-2022>

Since he took office in early 2018, Mr Ramaphosa has been promising to address the energy crisis and to establish an electricity system that is dependable; but four years later we are still subjected to rotational power cuts. Of the many commitments made in the previous years, the decision to allow municipalities to source their own electricity was the most viable solution in the interim. However, it is going to take more than just being in 'good financial standing' for municipalities to be independent of Eskom, it seems.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/550572/expect-another-record-year-of-load-shedding-in-south-africa-economists/>

<https://www.polity.org.za/article/cape-town-ekurhuleni-serious-about-independent-power-as-sa-battles-load-shedding-2022-02-03>

Maybe 2022 will be the year where it all happens – we must wait and see – but the main impression from the President’s speech as far as electricity provision is concerned, was ‘buckle up, it’s going to be another difficult year filled with uncertainties.

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