



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

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**ATM ON THE ENERGY CRISIS, ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY & SOLUTIONS  
TO AVERT THE ELECTRICITY GRID COLLAPSE.**

The African Transformation Movement is deeply concerned with the worsening energy crisis in the country and its impact on the economy and the day-to-day lives of South Africans.

For the last four years in parliament, the African Transformation Movement has continuously and consistently without fail, raised concerns about the issue of load shedding and its impact on the economy, business, and every other area of human activity. And for four years the government chose to ignore us and also chose to ignore the majority of South Africans who raised this matter at different forums.

Today, as we approach winter, we are told to brace ourselves for stage 16 of load shedding, which means that this winter, South Africans could go without electricity for up to 32 hours at a time. And those affected by these outages will include schools, hospitals, and small & medium-sized businesses that cannot afford to operate without electricity for extended periods.

We are also aware that 66% of township businesses have already cut down on staff, as a direct result of load shedding and the impact it's having on the revenues of these local businesses. Reports have also found that 60% of township businesses cannot operate during load shedding. This means that when stage 16 is implemented by ESKOM, 60% of township businesses will not operate for 32 hours.

South Africans have never been subjected to such incompetence at ESKOM and in government as they are today. The economy cannot possibly grow without addressing the energy crisis. Today, South Africa is on the brink of a recession, the economy is simply not growing at a rate that could even remotely inspire confidence even to the most optimistic of people. All this can be attributed to a deficit of ideas in government.

South Africans are tired of being told to wait, we have been waiting for far too long, we need answers, and we need a detailed plan from the government on how it intends to end load shedding and restore some level of normalcy.

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**On greenhouse gas emissions** - Our relationship with the world does us no good as we are dictated upon by major polluters, when our global contribution of greenhouse gas emissions such as Carbon dioxide is a measly 0.4%.

It is the view of the ATM that his country must not please world leaders in pollution at the expense of dragging the country into darkness.

In order to avert the electricity grid collapse, CEF must procure a 30-day emergency fuel stock to avert a catastrophic disaster that will surely plague this country if left unattended.

**On Power Stations** - In order to have a reliable energy system, a heavy investment in servicing and maintaining of power stations is required.

Managers with a proven track record of turning around power stations must be deployed to poor performing stations so as to ensure a faster turnaround time whilst ensuring an increase in the base load of the country.

Given the crisis we are in, Eskom, in consultation with the relevant Departments must do everything possible to extend the decommissioning schedule of the power stations that are due for decommissioning until we are out of the crisis.

The ATM strongly believes that the root cause of the energy crisis is the lack of political will. The leadership must seriously consider such proposals to end load shedding and shun from focusing on increasing the market share of the IPPs.

END

**Issued by the African Transformation Movement (ATM)**

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