

Ramokgopa: 'South Africa is beginning to turn the energy crisis corner'

"We have turned the corner, although we are not out of the woods yet. We are beginning to show sustained improved performance over an extended period of time and this is good news in that it's an affirmation and validation of the work that the team is doing at Eskom," said minister in the presidency for electricity, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, who was briefing the media on the implementation of the Energy Action Plan in Pretoria on Monday.



Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa speaking at Africa Energy Week.

The Minister said the intensification of maintenance plans at Eskom are beginning to have a positive impact despite a difficult period in September when load shedding was intensified as a result of maintenance outages.

These maintenance outages are aimed at reducing the incidence of generating units tripping on their own and improving performance.



World Bank in talks for \$1bn loan to end SA load shedding

Rachel Savage and Jorgelina do Rosario 16 Oct 2023



"These plans that have been put into motion are beginning to bear fruit. I did indicate some time ago when we were experiencing heightened levels of load shedding Stage 6, that essentially what we are dealing with is short term pain which is going to result in long term gain, and we are beginning to see the kinds of gains that I was referring to."

"Our actions are deliberate. We are going to invest a lot of our efforts to ensure that we are able to maintain the units," he said.

Ramokgopa insisted that both Eskom and the department will not show any signs of complacency going forward.

No complacency

"It's important that we shouldn't be complacent, and we have never been complacent...even when are beginning to see ... green shoots. I think what that does is just bolster and raise the morale of the team to ensure that we even achieved greater results and we are able to save the South African economy."

"We introduced these interventions when we came into office, after the President appointed and sat with the team and thought the best way of getting out of this situation is to ensure that we make these investments into these units. What are the results - when the units come back, they remain on load for the longest period of hours."

"Essentially, we have undermined the rate and frequency of failure of these units. We have improved on their efficiency. They are beginning to produce more... closer to their design capacity. This is not by accident. It's not some intervention that comes from a place that is unknown. It is simple engineering, and we really want to commend the team," he said.

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