



EXCO MEDIA STATEMENT

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All Media Houses

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EXCO and ESKOM meet to discuss the implications of JET

The Mpumalanga Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu convened a special sitting of the Executive Council on Monday, to discuss, among others, the implications of the Just Energy Transition (JET) in the province.

Coal is a significant mineral resource used by Eskom to produce electricity in the country. Mpumalanga is the base for various mining operations of coal, and is the host for ten Eskom power stations, namely: Camden, Grootvlei, Hendrina, Komati, Arnot, Kriel, Tutuka, Duvha, Matla and Kendal.

Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsoe Ramokgopa and Eskom's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Dan Marokane addressed the session at the Gert Sibande District Council Chamber in Ermelo. Their main focus was on forging a strong working relationship between the Provincial Government and Eskom on the JET phase, and plans to host one of the G20 meetings in Mpumalanga.

1. Implications of the JET

The session noted that ten power stations in Mpumalanga will be decommissioned by 2030. The power stations are located in Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts, with the Komati power station as the first to be decommissioned in 2022, due to the end of its operating life.

Eskom highlighted a broad range of consequences for many communities due to the decision. These include several job losses and opportunities for basic services, as well as development projects through CSI Corporate Social Investments (CSI).

The undesirable outcomes will be a dent to the considerable efforts of the 7th administration of job creation to stem the tight against unemployment. It will negate efforts to reduce poverty levels and hunger for households whose livelihoods are connected to the value chain of power stations, such as transportation of the coal and procurement of goods.

Through research studies, Eskom has identified opportunities that will be beneficial to the affected communities, to mitigate the impact of the JET process. The public entity says these can be achieved through the repowering and repurposing of the power stations. The opportunities are listed as follows:

- Artisanal jobs through repowering for operations.
- Potential jobs in smart agriculture and food security.