



Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
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PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Hon. Cyril Ramaphosa

President of the Republic of South Africa

Dear Mr. President

Re: DA will not support a State of Emergency in response to the Energy crisis

The Democratic Alliance (DA), a political party represented in the National Assembly, wrote to your office on the 18th of May 2022 requesting that Cabinet considers declaring a State of Disaster on Eskom and the Electricity sector to address the energy crisis. We made the point that this declaration should be ring-fenced around electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

While we did not get a response to our letter, your recent announcement that the government will soon be announcing measures to address the energy crisis is a welcome development. The DA's call for a ring-fenced State of Disaster is only motivated by the need to remove impediments for the full participation of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and bringing of new generation capacity online in the shortest time possible.

That said, the DA will reject any announcement that declares a State of Emergency in response to the energy crisis. A state of emergency exceeds the bounds of reasonableness and will be too extreme a step to take in response to a crisis that is largely concentrated on administrative red tape on IPPs and stonewalling from Ministers in the energy cluster.

Only a ring-fenced state of disaster will, in the short-term, help South Africa secure the amount of power made available by Eskom's fleet of power plants to meet the minimum demands by consumers, in addition to opening up – with speed – alternative sources of supply to meet the nation's requirements.

South Africa is in the middle of an economically damaging energy crisis. A ring-fenced state of disaster, that is fully accountable to Parliament, can be an effective tool to remove red tape and unlock investment in new generation capacity. A state of emergency is not the appropriate action to take in response to the crisis and the DA will reject it outright should such a step be taken.

We look forward to your feedback on the aforementioned.

Thank you.



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Kind Regards

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