



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
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12 January 2023

Mr M C Ramaphosa  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
P O Box 15  
Cape Town  
8000

Dear President Ramaphosa,

I write to request an urgent meeting with you on South Africa's deepening electricity crisis. I would like to understand the reasons for the failure, to date, to implement meaningful reforms to the energy sector, and I would like an opportunity to put forward, once again, the DA's recommendations to overcome this crisis.

The announcement yesterday of continuous Stage 6 load-shedding "until further notice" poses the gravest threat to our country's economy and social stability. As you will know, we do not have the built-in resilience in our economy or society to withstand this scale of disruption, and high-level load-shedding over an extended period will have devastating effects on our most vulnerable citizens.

The almost exponential increase in load-shedding hours per year over the past five years resulted in South Africans experiencing a full 157 days without power in 2022. This is estimated to have cost our economy R570 billion in lost productivity. Without extremely bold reforms, that graph is not going to turn around, and 2023's outlook will be even more grim.

I would like to understand why your government has been so lethargic and conservative in its response to this catastrophe. The solutions to the electricity crisis are no secret and have been offered to you by industry experts, independent analysts and by us, the Democratic Alliance.

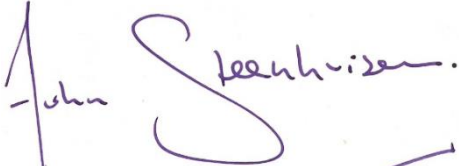
Allow me to remind you of the five most important interventions:

- Unbundle Eskom into separate generation, transmission and distribution entities and open the market for electricity generation to private power producers
- Appoint skilled engineers to run the transmission, distribution and generation elements of Eskom, and stop all political interference
- Declare a ring-fenced State of Disaster in order to exempt Eskom from all obstacles to efficient spending and rapid decision-making, such as localisation and BEE legislation
- Ramp up security at all key Eskom sites and deal decisively and harshly with saboteurs

- Do everything possible to enable private generation to come online soonest, such as lifting the 100MW cap

South Africans are desperate for a sign that there could be an end to the crisis. Our own voters ask us daily what is being done and when they can expect some form of relief. I need to know what to tell them, and so I respectfully ask that you meet with me for a thorough discussion of the issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Steenhuisen." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S'.

**John Steenhuisen MP**  
**Leader of the Official Opposition**  
**Parliament of RSA**