

# 3-day city blackout blamed on cable theft, load-shedding

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TEBOGO MONAMA

CABLE THEFT and Eskom's load shedding have left some city residents without electricity for as long as three days. Residents of Erasmia in Centurion say they have not had electricity since Sunday and are struggling to get answers from the City of Tshwane.

Rita Janse van Rensburg, who runs The Cheese Shop in Centurion, said their electricity went out on Sunday evening. They have been struggling to get it back on, with the

city sending them from pillar to post.

Today, the shop is due to receive 1 000 litres of milk from its supplier and she is worried it will all be spoilt because of the electricity situation.

"Since this whole thing started, we've lost a lot of milk. We cannot afford to lose anymore. All our cheese-making equipment also use electricity. We cannot afford big generators," she said. Janse van Rensburg has received three reference numbers for her electricity problem - but still no power.

City spokesman Lindela Mashigo

said the matter was being looked into. "We are working on restoring power," Mashigo said.

Residents of Brooklyn were yesterday also left without electricity for at least 12 hours because of a broken link in an outdoor substation, according to the city.

Eskom started scheduled rolling load shedding across the country on Sunday after a silo at the Majuba power plant collapsed leading to a loss of 1 800MW of power. The electricity grid will be under pressure today and tomorrow.

Copper cable theft also contributed to power outages across the city, with the Centurion suburbs of Heuveloord and The Reeds waking up without electricity after two feeder cables from Brakfontein substation to Heuveloord substation were stolen. Mashigo said technicians were attending to the problem.

Customers are urged to switch off pool pumps, turn air-conditioning to 23°C and switch off geysers and unnecessary lights to assist with load reduction on the network.

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# R68m needed to fix network ills

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SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has warned that the country faces more unplanned power outages unless it invests R68 billion in electricity infrastructure backlog to sort out the problem.

The department told Parliament yesterday that the electricity infrastructure backlog had jumped from R38bn in 2006/07 to a massive R68bn this year.

Acting director-general in the department Wolsey Barnard told MPs that unplanned outages like the ones that hit Joburg on Monday were caused by the poor maintenance of electricity infrastructure.

One metro in Gauteng had at one point 400 outages between July last year and June because of poor maintenance in its distribution network, he said.

These problems did not have anything to do with Eskom, but poor maintenance of infrastructure.

Barnard, who was in Parliament with his team to brief the select committee on economic develop-

ment on their annual report, said in the study they conducted this year they found that the country would need R68bn to fix the electricity infrastructure backlog.

This is an increase from the R38bn they had calculated in 2006/07.

The infrastructure backlog problem would require the fixing of distribution lines, substations and switch gears.

Lack of maintenance of electricity infrastructure was a cause for concern, he said.

Barnard said it was because of this that South Africa was getting unplanned power failures.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the committee meeting, he said they were concerned about the lack of infrastructure maintenance.

The backlog was huge, he said, and the lack of maintenance was owing to a lack of money by municipalities.

Load shedding also has a negative impact on the economy.

Municipalities were not using the funds on the tariff structure to

fix the electricity infrastructure, said Barnard.

"Municipalities need to reallocate funds. They need to take up loans. But from the fiscus there isn't any money," he said.

"In the analysis we did in this R68bn, we know what is the shortcoming in municipality A,B,C," he said. There is a list of municipalities with infrastructure problems.

Barnard warned that if the situation did not change unplanned outages would continue.

The electricity infrastructure backlog has to be fixed, he said. "If we keep doing the wrong things, not maintaining infrastructure, we will continue to see the trend."

In the end, there had to be investment by electricity suppliers in the maintenance of the electricity infrastructure, he said.

Eskom has 40 percent of customers across the country, while municipalities have 60 percent customers. But most of the customers of Eskom include big businesses and mining companies, that are the largest consumers of electricity.

MADAM & EVE

S Francis, H Dugmore & Rico



## OUTAGES

Customers affected by power cuts are urged to report the failures by sending a text message with the word POWER, followed by their account/meter number to 44676 or 082 612 0333. They can also call the city's 24-hour customer care line on 012 358 9999/080 1111 556 and choose option 3 for electricity. Scheduled power outages can be viewed on <http://www.tshwane.gov.za/Services/Electricity/Pages/default.aspx>

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## NOTICE OF GRANTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE KAALPLAAS SPRUIT, MARTINUS AVENUE, ROSSLYN, CITY OF TSHWANE, GAUTENG [GDARD REF NO: GAUT 002/13-14/E0109]

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 10(2)(d) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations published in Government Notice GNR 543 of 18 June 2010, under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), has granted the **City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality** Environmental Authorisation for the proposed installation of stormwater infrastructure in the Kaalplaas Spruit, Martinus Avenue, Rosslyn, City of Tshwane, Gauteng. The Authorisation was issued on 29/10/2014.

**Name of Project:** Installation of stormwater infrastructure in the Kaalplaas Spruit, Martinus Avenue, Rosslyn, City of Tshwane, Gauteng.  
**Reference Number:** GAUT 002/13-14/E0109.  
**Property description:** Kaalplaas Spruit, Martinus Avenue, Rosslyn.

**Date of publication:** 05 November 2014.  
**Parties wishing to receive a copy and additional information about this Environmental Authorisation are welcome to contact:** Ms Thuledu Ntshingila, Interdesign Landscape Architects, P.O. Box 74648, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria, 0040 / Tel: (012) 348 1922 / Fax: (012) 348 7154 / E-mail: [thuledu@ilaweb.co.za](mailto:thuledu@ilaweb.co.za)

**Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the Authorisation, you must, inter alia, lodge a notice of intention to appeal with the Member of the Executive Council, within 20 calendar days from the issued date of the Authorisation, by post - Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, P.O. Box 8769, Johannesburg, 2000; or by fax (011) 240 2700; or by hand - 3rd Floor, Diamond Building, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg. Full details regarding the appeal procedure and timeframes are captured in Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations of 18 June 2010, Government Notice R. 543.**

## NOTICE OF GRANTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A STORMWATER NETWORK, FORMALISATION OF A NATURAL STREAM AND THE RELOCATION OF SERVICES AS NEEDED IN KARENPARK, CITY OF TSHWANE, GAUTENG. [GDARD REF NO: GAUT 002/13-14/E0108]

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 10(2)(d) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations published in Government Notice GNR 543 of 18 June 2010, under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), has granted the **City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality** Environmental Authorisation for the proposed construction of a stormwater network, formalisation of a natural stream and the relocation of services as needed in Karenpark, City of Tshwane, Gauteng. The Authorisation was issued on 29/10/2014.

**Name of Project:** Construction of a stormwater network, formalisation of a natural stream and the relocation of services as needed in Karenpark, City of Tshwane, Gauteng.

**Reference Number:** GAUT 002/13-14/E0108.  
**Property description:** Karenpark, City of Tshwane, Gauteng.

**Date of publication:** 05 November 2014.  
**Parties wishing to receive a copy and additional information about this Environmental Authorisation are welcome to contact:** Ms Thuledu Ntshingila, Interdesign Landscape Architects, P.O. Box 74648, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria, 0040 / Tel: (012) 348 1922 / Fax: (012) 348 7154 / E-mail: [thuledu@ilaweb.co.za](mailto:thuledu@ilaweb.co.za)

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SA must be on red alert

Taking

Jeremy Cronin