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- LEGAL LIABILITY FOR SUBORDINATE MANAGERS
- WORKING AT HEIGHTS
- HIRA
- BASIC FIRE FIGHTING
- HAND AND POWER TOOLS
- CONFINED SPACE



DID YOU KNOW? SAFETY ADVANTAGE IS ACCREDITED WITH SSEETA THESE ARE SOME OF OUR SSEETA ACCREDITED COURSES:

1. ISO FACILITATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
2. ISO AWERENESS
3. OHSAS 18001
4. 45001:2018
5. 14001:2015
6. 9001:2015



DID YOU KNOW? SAFETY ADVANTAGE IS ACCREDITED WITH HWSETA

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1. LEGAL LIABILITY FOR SUBORDINATE MANAGERS
2. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE
3. HIRA (HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT)
4. INCIDENT INVESTIGATION
5. PLANNED TASK OBSERVATION
6. LOCK-OUT PROCEDURE
7. GENERAL RISK MANAGEMENT INDUCTION
8. CAUSATION PROCESS TECHNIQUES
9. STORED ENERGY
10. PRACTICAL RISK ASSESMENT



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ESKOM: BLACKOUT OR BLACKMAIL? [Letter to the Editor]

South Africa – Earlier this week the Department of Public Enterprises announced that Eskom is **technically bankrupt** and would **'cease to exist by April'**. The very next day, 14 February, they issued a correction, stating that Eskom "is facing liquidity problems...", being R413 billion in debt. Right?

It doesn't take a master's degree in finance to announce "liquidity problems". A 10-year old with a (solar powered) calculator can tally that Eskom has collapsed financially. The same 10-year old would agree that it is ridiculous to let them just flog a dead horse the way they have been carrying on. They cannot do the job.

And while the state owned, monopoly power supplier is asking (**ransoming with load shedding?**) for another **15 % price increase year on year for the next three years** and a couple of billion-rand cash injection (again), I'm asking... Why do their executives get bonuses when they should be getting jail time? In most countries the management of such a disaster would be viewed as enemies of the state.

Just a quick one... if everyone (important) agrees to pay the 15% increase – will this entire dilemma be solved...? NO!

It's hard to believe that it's been **10 years since** South Africans learnt the harsh meaning of the word "load shedding", when Eskom faced its first crisis thanks to mismanagement, misappropriation of funds and a failure to maintain existing infrastructure... The good old days. On 25 June 2009, NERSA (the National Energy Regulator of South Africa) approved a **31.3% price increase** to aid the fading giant that (used to be) Eskom.

We were all so grateful to have our power back on, that we begrudgingly agreed to their price increases (or electrical ransom) and left them once again to their own devices, trusting that they **wouldn't rob or fail us again**.

We clearly didn't learn our lesson but at least the Fat Cats at Eskom learnt that all they had to do, was to switch off our lights and we would pay. Instead of firing the people who couldn't do their jobs, Eskom simply **hired more people**, not to do their job. Its employee numbers grew from 36,547 in 2010 to 48,268 in 2018.

Since 2008 and our first load shedding, **Eskom's revenue has rocketed from R44.4 billion in 2008 to a staggering R177.4 billion in 2018**. And still they couldn't keep the lights on. And while their staff has grown by 33% and their employee benefits expenses spiked to a shocking R29.4 billion (or an annual average of R609 099 per employee), their production capacity has decreased from 239,108 gigawatt hours (GWh) to 221,936 GWh. That's a loss in production of 17,172 GWh or a 7.2% drop in production.

According to leading national newspapers, **Eskom paid over R1 billion to Gupta owned companies** for services and coal – that was **simply never supplied**. Great strategy!
NOW WE FIND OURSELVES AT A CROSSROAD...

Eskom wants us to think there are only two options: 1) pay the parastatal monopoly the 15% to keep the gravy boat afloat, or 2) go back to the stone age.

... and that while rumours by specialists are doing the rounds of a possible blackout. But perhaps there is a third option? Let's allow private individuals to generate their own electricity, whether by massive wind turbines or simply small solar panels on your roof and push it back into the grid.

That way each South African has a real opportunity to make a difference, and at the same time they could sell the power back to Eskom. It is time for entrepreneurs with a know-how of the industry to take a step forward – obviously ESKOM can't make the grade.

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