

## A collective effort in Energy Efficiency is needed – SAEE Board Member Hope Mashele

Gareth Burley  
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On Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 during a live interview on the eNews Channel energy expert Hope Mashele, a board member of the South African Association of Energy Efficiency (SAEE) stated that the delay in the readiness of the Medupi power plant will have major consequences in terms of not being able to meet South Africa's power demands in the short and medium term.

In the interview Hope says "Eskom has been warning the country of the seriousness of their operating margins, which need to be at around 15% of generating capacity to accommodate any emergency or unplanned breakdowns at any of their power stations. At one stage Eskom was operating at 2% margins and if any problems occurred at any of the units we would have had lights off and a revisit of the difficult 2008 period the country faced."

"When the Medupi coal-fired Power station comes online, likely to be in the last quarter of 2014, it will be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest of its kind in the world using extremely advanced technology. A project of this size should take 9 to 10 years but South Africa has fast tracked it for energy security reasons." for this Type of delivery up to so far, Eskom and the country must be commended.

Hope indicated that if we were to have load shedding in the current global and local economic state, it would be devastating for the country's growth. The recession we would fall into would have negative growth which is likely to take a very long time to recover from.

### **Alternatively:**

"Collective efforts are needed, that are coordinated through the leadership of the Dept of Energy, between public and private organisation to work out concrete measures that are now needed to help the country move forward in both the funding and implementation of energy efficiency initiatives. Everyone is being encouraged to save energy voluntarily. And if this does not happen the government will be forced to go through stronger measures such as the energy conservation scheme or even legislation with punishment for those who don't comply to ensure energy security for the country.

"In time Renewable Energy Projects and IPP's producing clean energy will be coming online and contributing to supply our energy intensive economy. in the immediate scenario a more serious focus on the efficient use of our current aging energy infrastructure is urgently needed now. Government simply have to act now! Using energy efficiency as it is the least cost option and quickest to deliver generating capacity.

For more on the SAEE and energy efficiency information please visit [www.sae.org.za](http://www.sae.org.za)

The full interview with Hope Mashele can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VozfFQOAA4>

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