



The Energy Council of South Africa is dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation, and action in the energy sector. Through partnerships, advocacy, and thought leadership, the Council is committed to advancing South Africa's energy transition and ensuring a secure, sustainable energy future for all. In partnership with NECOM, and with the backing of Business Unity South Africa and other key stakeholders, the Energy Council is driving collaborative solutions through initiatives designed to balance economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity.



A Defining Year for South Africa's Energy Future

February has come and gone and with it, a stark reminder that we cannot afford complacency. Recently, I've been emphasising in public forums that I believe we have ended structural loadshedding and must now put all our efforts into implementing the reforms committed by Government under the Electricity Regulation Amendment (ERA) Bill. These reforms are focused on liberalising the sector, creating a competitive electricity market and unlocking exponential levels of investment in new assets.



The current positive momentum under the Energy Action Plan and NECOM is encouraging and creating confidence in our ability to accelerate delivery, but we are not out of the woods yet. Our energy system remains fragile and recovering Eskom fleet reliability is a significant challenge. Lack of clarity on grid connection rules and discriminatory practices by Eskom remain a major short-term concern to investors. In the medium-term, insufficient grid capacity continues to be a major concern and it is imperative that we meet the target date of mid-2026 for the launch of the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM). The introduction of structural competition in energy supply is central to all other reforms and critical to creating transparency, confidence and positive investment signals.

Efficient and consistent access to grid connection has become a contentious but complicated topic. It requires clear grid access rules and non-discriminatory practices (currently controlled by Eskom Distribution), to be aligned with grid capacity (currently controlled by NTCSA) and is impacted by the numerous tariff structure changes being developed between Eskom, NTCSA and NERSA. All of these must be aligned to the launch of SAWEM. As complicated as this issue becomes with all these factors considered, it is not an impossible challenge to overcome and I am increasingly optimistic based on the strengthening relations and engagement between the Ministry, Eskom, NECOM and Business (led by the Energy Council).

This year's G20 Summit hosted in South Africa presents an opportunity to showcase our progress on the global stage, attracting investment and positioning our energy transition as a model for emerging economies. But this is also stretching already constrained Government resources even further. Our focus must remain firmly on implementation and NECOM is a critical vehicle for that.

The Energy Council is working hard to ensure close working relations with our Electricity Ministry and further support the newly formed department to accelerate the Minister's objectives. The progress made over the past two years should be celebrated. It has taken collective effort, determination and collaboration across the public and private sectors, but the next phase will be even more demanding. The foundation under the ERA has been laid, but now we must build upon it. 2025 must be the year we shift from planning to execution, the year we move the needle from commitments to measurable outcomes. The world is watching, investors are ready, and South Africans deserve a power system they can rely on.



If reforms and investment are not accelerated, South Africa risks a renewed electricity crisis by 2028.

In this opinion article, Energy Council of South Africa CEO James Mackay argues that the recent shock return of Stage 6 loadshedding does not signal a return to the dark days of 2023. However, he also warns that without accelerating reforms and investment, South Africa could face a renewed crisis as early as 2028.

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Energise Mzansi campaign to empower South Africans on energy transition

The Energy Council of South Africa has launched a nationwide campaign to empower South Africans to gain a better understanding of and engage in the energy transition. South Africa has committed to lowering carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 and usher in a green economy.

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Energy Council of South Africa assures South Africans that the recent loadshedding was a "once off measure"

CEO of the Energy Council of South Africa, James Mackay, said he was confident that the recent return of loadshedding was a "once-off measure." This comes after Eskom implemented stage six load shedding on Sunday, 23 February (2025).

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- 3 - 5 March:** Africa Energy Indaba
- 5 March:** South Africa Wholesale Energy Market Roadmap Review
- 21 March:** Human Rights Day
- 25 March:** Energy Council Leadership Forum
- 25 -27 March:** Solar and Storage Live Africa



Energise Mzansi is Live, and South Africans are Joining the Conversation

The conversation around South Africa's energy future just got louder. Energise Mzansi is live, and in just two weeks, it's captured the attention of industry leaders, businesses, and everyday South Africans. The response has been clear - there's a real demand for factual, transparent and accessible insights into the country's energy transition.

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