

Eskom will cut power to municipal areas in debt

Article By: Staff Reporter

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Eskom is set to schedule several cuts to power to various municipalities due to electricity bills being in arrears.

The municipalities are those which have so far failed to honour payment agreements they made earlier this year. According to Eskom around 42 municipalities, out of 62 who received payment plans at the end of May, will be affected by these cuts.

The situation deteriorated further in June, with overdue debt increasing to R11.54 billion.

As a result, Eskom has decided to restart the debt collection process as per the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA).

Eskom issued 58 default letters, or notices of intent, in June, and these were followed with 22 public notices in July and August.

It stated that when it previously implemented the PAJA process in November 2016, it saw a steady decrease in outstanding debt – until it put the process on hold in March 2017.

“Municipalities which fail to settle their bills at the appropriate time will face disconnection from September and October”, said Eskom.

This is not the first time Eskom has threatened to cut off municipalities’ electricity supply.

In 2015, several municipalities in the Free State owed Eskom almost R2 billion and it threatened to cut their power.

Five municipalities have already been cut-off for failing to honour their debt repayment commitments.

Following the interruption, Eskom reported it received payment from the municipalities in arrears.

Eskom said KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State, and the Western Cape are the only provinces which currently have no municipalities facing disconnection.

The municipalities below, however, are scheduled to have their power supply interrupted on the dates listed.

| Province | Municipality | Planned Interruption Date |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Gauteng | Emfuleni | 03 Oct |
| | Mogale City | 25 Oct |
| Limpopo | Thabazimbi | 21 Sep |
| Mpumalanga | Msukaligwa | 09 Oct |

| Province | Municipality | Planned Interruption Date |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | Mkhondo | 09 Oct |
| | Thaba Chweu | 09 Oct |
| | Govan Mbeki | 09 Oct |
| | Dipaleseng | 09 Oct |
| North West | Ditsobotla | 27 Sep |
| | Lekwa Teemane | 11 Oct |
| | Mamusa | 11 Oct |
| | Naledi | 20 Sep |
| | Tswaing | 20 Sep |
| | Kgetleng River | 20 Sep |
| Eastern Cape | Raymond Mhlaba | 13 Sep |
| | Inxuba Yethemba | 13 Sep |
| | Walter Sisulu | 13 Sep |
| Northern Cape | Siyancuma | 18 Sep |
| | Siyathemba | 18 Sep |
| | Renosterberg | 18 Sep |
| | Thembelihle | 18 Sep |
| | Tsantsabane | 18 Sep |
| | Kai Garib | 18 Sep |

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