



public enterprises

Department:
Public Enterprises
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

GOOD PARTY POLITICKING ON VITAL ENERGY ISSUES

PRETORIA 07 MARCH 2023. The Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Pravin Gordhan takes exception to the Good Party's Secretary General Brett Herron's commentary on Newzroom Afrika alleging, without providing facts, that the Minister liaises directly with Eskom officials without informing the Group Chief Executive Officer or the Board.

Minister Gordhan condemns in the strongest terms Mr Herron's unfounded allegations. The Minister is not in a position to "micromanage" employees of a power plant.

"The DPE will definitely hold Eskom's board and Management to account so that we do not have the damage to the economy or the disruption of family life. Nor will the Minister tolerate corruption or "eating" in any form. This is in line with the best of corporate governance," said Minister Gordhan.

The Minister urges Mr Herron to avoid joining the "echo chamber" created to distract from the real reasons why the coal powered plants are underperforming.

"Mr Herron has made unfounded allegations against me without offering any substance to his allegations. His attempt at analysis was poor at best and imaginative at worst. I condemn these unfounded allegations with the contempt."

"As the shareholder representative on behalf of Government with oversight responsibility over six SOEs, the Department is required in terms of the Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) between the Department and the SOEs to seek clarity and more information on the challenges facing our SOEs," said Minister Gordhan.

"Certain senior managers failed to manage the existing power plants that produce over 80% of SA's energy requirements. The energy challenges in the country have made it necessary for the Department to play a more "activist shareholder" role so that the Department is adequately informed of the current challenges faced by Eskom."

"However, my discussion with the Boards of SOEs, including Executive management (Group Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer as members of Board) are guided by good corporate governance principles and a Memorandum of Incorporation signed between DPE and the SOEs."

"Talk of interference and micromanagement is unfounded and seeks to distract the Department from fulfilling its shareholder oversight role," said Minister Gordhan.

The DPE and the Minister do not apologise for continuously insisting that the Eskom management must do whatever it takes to reduce load shedding.

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