



WHEN THE SUN RISES
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

Mpumalanga Department of Health

**EFFECTS OF ELECTRICITY LOAD SHADING TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES
NCOP
21 FEBRUARY 2023**

BACKGROUND

- Mpumalanga Department of Health is providing health care services to the population of Mpumalanga through 33 hospitals, made out of
 - 2 x Tertiary Hospitals
 - 3 x Regional Hospitals
 - 5 x Specialised TB Hospitals
 - 23 x District Hospitals
- Primary Health care services provided through 233 PHC facilities which are
 - 59 x 24 hour facilities (CHCs)
 - 174 x 8 hour facilities (Clinics)
- The province is also having 18 Forensic Mortuaries of which 17 are linked to our hospitals and 2 (Witbank and Bethal) are housed in police stations

BACKGROUND

- 33/33 Hospitals have functional standby generators, some of facilities have two / three depending on the category of the facility. e.g Our Tertiary Hospitals have 3 Generators
- 59/59 CHC'S have at least one generator.
- 22/233 Clinics have generator each
- Total of 211/233 clinics do not have backup system.
- Electricity of the Health Care Facilities that are in the areas that were previously governed by homelands is directly supplied by Eskom
- While those that were previously belonging to Transvaal Provincial Administration(TPA) are getting their electricity via the municipalities

EFFECTS OF LOAD SHADING

- The provision of services is affected during load shedding especially in the 211/233 (8 Hrs) facilities (clinics) that don't have generators or back up supply of energy.
- The generators are breaking more often and needs to be serviced at a very short interval because they are running continuously
- The department overspend on diesel due to severe loadshedding that was not expected to reach the current high stages
- Some facilities also experience challenge on the supply of water because their water supply is being pumped by electric pressure systems
- Telephone lines are affected making it difficult for community members to reach our EMS call centre
- The Police stations are only connecting their facilities to a backup system at night which leads to our 2 x Mortuaries that are housed in their stations being affected during the day when there is load shading

MITIGATING PLANS

- The Department is working closely with Eskom and Municipalities in excluding healthcare facilities from load shedding
- Three hospitals (Rob Ferreira, Themba and Witbank Hospitals) have already been exempted from Load shedding
- The local municipality of Bushbuckridge has already created direct lines of water supply to Tintswalo, Matikwane and Mapulaneng
- Eskom is still working on excluding some of the hospitals that are directly being supplied by Eskom
- Analysis has already been conducted by Eskom for the exclusion of the 12 hospitals that are being supplied directly by Eskom and estimated the costs to be at R60 200 000.00
- Department is also in discussion with Municipalities who indicated that they needed to conduct analysis and determine the cost implication of excluding health facilities

MITIGATING PLANS

- The province is planning to finalise the pilot of photovoltaic solar system project that was initiated in Mmamethlake hospital by installing batteries that will be able to store the energy for sustainability of energy even during the night
- This financial year we are planning to further rollout mixed energy initiatives to 5 hospitals and 16 clinics.
- All ICU and Theatre are installed with UPS backup system
- The province procured 2 x 400 kVA mobile generators to be able to assist wherever there are failures to kickstart with connected generators
- We have since distributed the cellphone numbers of EMS station managers to all health facilities so that managers can be called directly if there is a need of an ambulance

RECOMMENDATION

That the National Council of Provinces takes note of the report and to assist with inputs to improve the mitigation plan against the negative impact of loadshedding in the provision of Healthcare Services to Communities of Mpumalanga



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NGIYATHOKOZA
DANKIE KE A LEBOGA
NGIYABONGA
NDIYABULELA
INKOMU NDI KHOU
LIVHUHA
Thank you

