

Eskom board in for overhaul amid record power outages

Government will make changes to Eskom's board of directors, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) said on Tuesday, 27 September, after load shedding reached record levels this year.



Source: Siphwe Sibeko/Reuters

Saddled with unreliable coal-fired power stations and a mountain of debt, Eskom has struggled to meet electricity demand for more than a decade, constraining the country's economic growth.

"On Tuesday, the minister (Pravin Gordhan) informed the board that a review has been finalised and that the board will soon be reconstituted and restructured," the department said in a statement.

The members of the board will be informed of the outcome of the process and the government will soon deliberate on the restructuring, it said.

Eskom did not immediately comment on the DPE statement.



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Details on board shake-up still to be made clear

It was not clear whether Eskom's board would be entirely replaced or whether some board members would keep their positions in the planned shake-up.

It is currently headed by chairman Malegapuru William Makgoba who took up the post in January 2020 after the previous chairman resigned after another period of major power cuts.

President Cyril Ramaphosa's government has been trying to reform the struggling company to make it more efficient, but progress has been slow.

This year, the most electricity has been shed from the national grid to date, fuelling public frustration and leading to calls for heads to roll.

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