

ITEM C 75/03/15

ANNEXURE A

**QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR IN TERMS OF RULE 22 OF THE RULES OF ORDER**

**COUNCIL MEETING : 25 MARCH 2015**

South Africa is currently experiencing a great deal of uncertainty with regards to energy security. The citizens and businesses of this country are being negatively affected by Eskom's inability to guarantee a reliable supply of electricity. Could the Mayor please outline what the City of Cape Town is doing to ensure:

1. That Cape Town is energy secure?
2. That businesses do not leave Cape Town because of the erratic electricity supply?
3. That the impact of load shedding on citizens is minimised?

**Cllr S Diamond (DA)**

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**REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO QUESTION FROM CLLR S DIAMOND FOR COUNCIL MEETING 25 MARCH 2015**

It is clear that the national process of energy supply has not been able to secure an assured supply of energy to the City economy. The revival of load-shedding is the most visible evidence of this problem. The impact on our city economy is severe and costing businesses in lost production, wasted effort and materials and lost sales as well as general disruption to operations. This is inevitably impacting on jobs and salaries. It is estimated that the City could be losing around R1 billion a month due to load-shedding.

Thus, it is important that the City does not wait for the national process to resolve the energy needs.

The City is driving several strategies to diversify our energy reliance on electricity by obtaining a supply of gas into the Western Cape, and by developing renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind power.

For instance, the City has for many years led an energy efficiency programme by reducing the organisation's electricity consumption and partnering with business and civil society to promote energy efficiency. The City also promotes solar water heating for all households in the City. It also allows those with roof-top solar PV to feed electricity into the City network on a net consumer basis.

In addition, the City is working with the provincial government to drive a range of measures to minimise the impact of load-shedding, including reviewing the load-shedding timetables and giving consideration to adapting network operations.

Furthermore, the City has requested a meeting with the Minister of Energy to engage on the steps required to advance the agenda of imbedded generation and the provision of a gas supply. The City looks forward to the cooperation of the Minister and other organs of state in opening the path to the stabilisation of energy supply to the City and the growth of that supply to advance economic growth and jobs in our city.

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