



BERGRIVIER STRONGLY REJECTS ESKOM'S PROPOSED 32% ELECTRICITY PRICE INCREASE

Statement by Bergrivier Municipality's Executive Mayor Ald. Ray van Rooy

23 September 2022

As Executive Mayor of Bergrivier Municipality, I simply cannot accept continuous, ridiculously unaffordable proposals by Eskom, for electricity price increases.

Eskom's most recent application to the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa), requesting approval for an alarming 32% price increase in electricity, could again mean that consumers or the public will have to fork out more money for this essential service.

I fully support both, Stellenbosch Municipality and Bitou Municipality, for boldly and publicly rejecting Eskom's latest application. I too reject this application in the strongest terms and am calling for it to be scrapped as a matter of urgency.

The escalating prices of food, fuel and electricity, all essentials for maintaining a dignified life, is directly crippling our residents ability to make ends meet and its further fueling high unemployment levels, poverty and crime. Our residents are so financially constrained that there is literally no more room to cut the household budget anymore. This proposed increase holds dire consequences for residents, our communities and the greater society, as a whole.

In a time where we are experiencing high levels of load shedding (Stage 6), this proposed increase couldn't have come at a worse time. We are being expected to take on above inflation rates for electricity, a service which is being poorly managed and even causing our residents to be without warm water, without any electronic devices (cellphones), without signal (in some instances), without light, for several hours a day. This is unacceptable, uncalled for and unfair!

We strongly urge Eskom to withdraw their proposal and amend it to ensure that it's in line with the consumer price index (CPI). Unfathomable price increases can never be allowed, especially at a time where high levels of load shedding is crippling the majority of households ability to function optimally. We urge NERSA to reject this application.