

To NERSA

Re: MYPD

We, as a group of young rural women from around Lephalale in Limpopo, the Matjoba (“Flowers”) group, we are saying ‘no’ to the increase in Eskom tariffs for the following reasons:

- Most of us are not working and we cannot afford electricity to begin with as it is now. If it increases even more, it will be unaffordable;
- If we cannot afford electricity we are forced to cook on open fires which has a lot of negative health impacts; children suffer to study at night, etc.
- Our home industries such as dress making and baking is impossible without electricity, robbing us of jobs.
- We are already suffering from the indirect costs of Eskom building Medupi Power station. There has been corruption and gross mismanagement and we have to pay for it. That’s not right. There are huge air quality impacts, with children getting asthma and allergies and especially old people suffer from bronchitis and lung infections. There is dust pollution because of increased traffic in our rural areas and the township. There is a rise in unemployment, crime, sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy and school drop out.
- An increase in electricity tariffs will also increase the costs of basic food stuffs. Face it, when electricity increases, everything increases. This will increase the cost of living and this hits the poorest of the poor the hardest.
- In the mean time, Eskom is delivering electricity to neighbouring countries and big industries. This means ordinary households pay the most, subsidising the rest. We simply cannot afford this.
- In the meantime, Eskom is being investigated for corruption and other criminal charges. Why should we be paying when the fat cats steal the money.

Matjoba Young women