

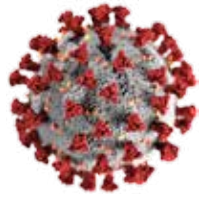


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LOCKDOWN



DAY 106

MORE NAILS IN SUPER
RUGBY COFFIN
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— FOUNDED 1857, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA [IOL.CO.ZA] FRIDAY, JULY 10 2020 —

■ ECONOMY

Power cuts to cripple businesses

Load shedding could cost more jobs

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THE possibility of load shedding could be the final straw to break the back of businesses already struggling under the lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to business leaders and economists.

Eskom announced yesterday that after a tripped unit at Medupi power station was restored to operation, one unit at Tutuka power station was yet to be restored as another unit at the same station went down. A third generation unit also tripped at Kendal power station.

"Any additional breakdowns will compromise Eskom's ability to supply the country through the peak demand period of 5pm to 9pm. This constrained supply situation may persist through the weekend," said Eskom.

The power utility said teams were hard at work trying to return these units to service.

Finance and Economic Opportunities MEC David Maynier said: "Businesses in the Western Cape are already hard-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant health and economic crisis. Add to this an electricity crisis, and this will certainly be the final blow for many businesses already on the precipice of closure, resulting in further job losses in the Western Cape. That is why we are doing everything we can to build energy resilience in the Western Cape and support businesses to beat load shedding."

As lockdown regulations started easing gradually, more sectors of the economy started opening. However, many businesses have been closed for

nearly four months getting almost little to no income.

According to Mayco member for economic opportunities and asset management James Vos, the country's economy could be at risk to lose up to R4 billion due to load shedding.

"The negative impact of load shedding on the economy in Cape Town cannot be understated. My mission is to find ways to make it easier to do business in Cape Town and I am deeply concerned about the impact of these rolling blackouts on SMMEs and larger companies especially in the food and beverage industry and manufacturing sectors," said Vos.

He said load shedding could result in major job losses.

"When the power is cut, so are businesses sales. Likewise, when conveyor belts come to a halt at factories, so does production output causing massive financial losses. The electricity outages especially compromise the catalytic industries, and result in job losses," he said.

According to economist Dawie Roodt, the added strain of load shedding for businesses could land the country in a longer period of recession.

"We are in serious economic trouble. The demand for electricity was supposed to be lower during the lockdown. You have to look at this in the context of a business owner if you are lucky to open your doors but can't trade because of load shedding it becomes a case of a double whammy for business owners," he said.

Last month Statistics SA announced the economy continued to contract in

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■ WEATHER



A MAJOR cold front has made landfall in the Western Cape. | HENK KRUGER African News Agency (ANA)

Havoc halts search for child, rescuer in canal

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THE search for a child who fell into a canal in Belgravia Estate, Athlone, and the man who tried to rescue her had to be called off this afternoon due to the poor weather conditions.

The City's Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to the incident in which a child had fallen into the canal near 8th Avenue, Belgravia Estate.

Fire crews from Ottery and Epping fire stations and divers from Roeland Street fire station were dispatched to the scene. When they arrived, residents told the officer in charge that a man had jumped into the canal as well.

This happened as strong winds and heavy rains cause roofs to collapse and street were flooded were witnessed as the first cold front hit the province, causing heavy rains and strong winds throughout the province yesterday.

“Do what you can to reduce electricity consumption”

Anton Bredell
MEC

The SA Weather Service predicted disruptive snowfalls over high-ground of the Cape Winelands and more heavy rains over the Cape metropole, Cape Winelands, Overberg and escarpment of the West Coast district today and tomorrow morning.

A truck driver was seriously injured and two passengers slightly injured after their truck was blown over by strong north-westerly winds on the

N2, near Somerset West.

The City warned of possible power outages and delays in service requests.

Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning MEC Anton Bredell urged the public to heed the early warnings and limit the amount of time spent outdoors over the next few days.

"It is going to get cold and very wet. We have also been alerted to the fact that the national electricity grid is under extreme pressure with load shedding a possibility. Do what you can to reduce electricity consumption.

"Consider livestock and small animals that may be exposed to the elements and try to limit the amount of travel over the next few days," Bredell said.

Residents were reminded to call the City's Public Emergency Communication Centre for weather-related emergencies on 021 480 7700 from a cellphone or 107 from a landline.

■ COVID-19

Winde cancels presser on doctor's advice

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PREMIER Alan Winde yesterday cancelled his regular Thursday digital news conference on advice of his doctor after developing a "slight fever as a result of Covid-19".

Winde said: "As I have type 2 diabetes, I am monitoring myself closely. My blood glucose levels were also higher than usual this morning, determining the decision to take due precautions and rest."

The topic for the cancelled digital news conference was to have been an update on the province's response over the first 100 days of the lockdown.

Winde was to have been joined by Health MEC Nomafrench Mbombo and Keith Cloete, head of provincial health.

Winde, who had also been excited to speak about the province's diabetes risk response during the conference, previously said: "I will also use the opportunity to share medical expertise on diabetes as a high-risk category during Covid-19. As I am diabetic, this is something very close to my heart."

At last week's news conference, Cloete said the province had launched an action plan targeted at diabetics, particularly those who test positive



Alan Winde

for Covid-19.

Cloete said the plan involved daily calls to monitor those who had been infected but were not admitted to hospital.

Winde also opted to skip yesterday's scheduled President's Co-ordinating Council meeting, choosing to be represented by DG Harry Malilla and "other members of the Western Cape government".

Before he took medical advice to rest, Winde had said in a social media post: "I also look forward to meet-

ing with President (Cyril) Ramaphosa online during the scheduled President's Co-ordinating Council meeting on Thursday afternoon, and will be chairing our second Cabinet meeting of the week on Friday morning, which takes place on MS Teams."

The Good Party's Brett Herron said: "I am sorry to hear that the premier has tested positive for Covid-19. I regret that he has fallen ill and wish him well as he rests up and recovers."

"I welcome that the premier has traced his contacts. It is important that we all strictly adhere to the health protocols. I encourage all traced contacts to isolate so that they can prevent any further spread of the disease, and to make use of government-provided facilities if they are unable to isolate effectively in their own homes," Herron added.

In May, Gladys Bakubaku-Vos, the ANC's provincial spokesperson on social development, was hospitalised with the virus.

Upon leaving hospital Bakubaku-Vos urged South Africans not to stigmatise those who contract Covid-19.

Langeberg Municipal Mayor Hendrik Jansen died in hospital on Tuesday while being treated for Covid-19-related pneumonia.

■ REGULATIONS

Restaurants fight for on-site liquor consumption

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THE Restaurants Association of South Africa (Rasa) is not backing down from a fight with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to lift the ban on the on-site consumption of liquor at restaurants.

According to Rasa, businesses are pleading with Minister Ebrahim Patel to have a meaningful engagement with them on why the selling of alcohol at restaurants remains prohibited.

Rasa chief executive Wendy Alberts said: "We are asking to engage with the minister on this because many of our restaurants have chosen not to open its doors because of this."

"Restaurants pay for a liquor license and it's very expensive and they stand at risk of losing it if it's not used."

Alberts said the Department of Trade and Industry has not been forthcoming with information.

"R10000 for this liquor license is a lot of money and many of the restaurants have gone through terrible financial difficulties."

"They are pushing this delay and they are punishing us. We have been respectful and we have adhered to all

the regulations, but they still choose to ignore us," she said.

As of July 1, restaurants have been allowed to reopen for sit-down services under stringent health protocols. This after being closed for nearly four months.

However, alcohol and buffets remain prohibited at restaurants.

In a letter sent from Rasa's attorney's to Patel it stated: "The request for reasons was made to the minister in his capacity as a member of Cabinet who is in charge of the regulations surrounding the sale of on-site consumption of alcohol."

"In terms of Section 27 (2) of the Disaster Management Act (DMA), there must have been consultations between the ministers of the Department of Trade and Industry and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) where the restriction and regulations to be imposed would have been discussed and agreed on."

Rasa has given the ministry seven days to respond to the letter.

The Department of Trade and Industry was unable to respond to questions at the time of going to print.



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CAPE TOWN **11/14°**
37km/h NW winds.
JHB **5/19°** DBN **14/27°**



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