

As the joke goes, we could not even enjoy the SONA 2023 as many of our tax-payers and responsible citizens, paying their electricity bills was load shedded at the time. On a positive note, taken from the empty promises is that there was no real new promises made. The cadres will focus on current challenges, i.e., Eskom. One week later and their yet still no sign of the new project leader, to be disguised as the Minister of Electricity.



- Government has just over a year to secure a new pact with the US in order to import nuclear fuel for Koeberg power station. A key license to get the fuel was withdrawn after the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between the US and South Africa expired on 4 December after 25 years. Source: fin24.com.
- Foreigners are rushing out of South Africa's rand bonds, while locals can't get enough. Foreign investors have been net sellers of government debt every day so far in February, offloading a cumulative R31 billion, according to daily flows data reported by exchange operator JSE. Over the same period, demand at the weekly bond auction has surged, with Tuesday's sale drawing the most orders in almost two years. Source: moneyweb.co.za
- Public sector unions representing nearly 1 million civil workers confirmed on Thursday 16 Feb 23 that they will embark on a full-blown strike indefinitely this month, intensifying their fight against government's unilateral implementation of a 3% wage increase.
- South Africans will next week (on 22 February) find out exactly what the impact of crippling load shedding has been on the tax base, when Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana delivers his annual budget.

Since the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) in October, the energy crisis has deepened, with citizens having faced bouts of up to Stage 6 load shedding.

Being without power for several hours several times a day has become the norm, and some South Africans have been investing massive amounts in alternative energy solutions to keep their lights on – and their sanity.

ENSAfrica tax specialists believe it's time for government to consider offering tax deductions on the high capital costs of installing appropriate power systems for personal use, that can also supplement the unstable electricity grid.

South African food prices increased at the fastest pace in almost 14 years in January, when the state power company intensified rolling blackouts. Annual food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation quickened to 13.4% from 12.4% in December, Pretoria-based

Statistics South Africa said Wednesday in a statement on its website. That's the highest rate since April 2009, it said.

During a recent PSG Think Big webinar, South African Revenue Service (Sars) Commissioner Edward Kieswetter was asked about relief for ordinary households – either in the form of a tax rebate or a value-added tax (Vat) zero-rating on investments in alternative energy solutions such as inverters, generators, or components of solar technology.








Kieswetter said although National Treasury and the minister of finance are responsible for tax policy, he believes the allowance for business investments was introduced at a time when government was not “as consciously aware” of the extent to which the energy crisis would regress and what other instruments were needed to respond to it.

Kieswetter says he has already engaged with Treasury officials to consider what additional provisions can be made to provide relief for people who are forced to make investments to become more independent from Eskom.

ENSAfrica says the incentive could be similar to the program that supported the installation of solar geysers to reduce pressure on the grid, while creating capacity for more generation. Source: moneyweb.co.za

- Stubborn inflation in the United States hit Wall Street on Tuesday, while the London stock market struck a record peak close to 8 000 points.
- The JSE's All-Share Index is hovering at 80,000 points, and the rand weakened to R18.28/\$ on Friday Morning 17 Feb 2023.
- South Africa's biggest business group urged President Cyril Ramaphosa to use an upcoming cabinet reshuffle to improve the performance of a government that's been slow to deliver on promises of economic reform.

In the letter seen by Bloomberg News, Business Unity South Africa (BUSAs) slammed the performance of Ramaphosa's administration in areas ranging from energy policy to safety and security. Source: dailyinvestor.com.

Market Indicators and Returns as of 16 February 2023					
Equity Index		Spot Price	Month to date Return	YTD	Last 12 Months
JSE (All Share)		80,227.19	0.90%	9.8%	4.9%
SP 500		4,090.41	0.3%	6.5%	-8.6%
FTSE		8,000.60	3.0%	7.4%	5.4%
DAX		15,478.80	2.5%	10.2%	0.8%
CAC 40		7,344.17	3.8%	11.6%	5.7%
Nikkei		27,696.44	1.4%	6.1%	0.9%
Shanghai		3,249.03	-0.2%	5.2%	-6.3%
MSCI Emerging		1,011.14	0.2%	5.8%	-18.7%
MSCI Developed		2,790.63	4.00%	-6.9%	-8.8%
Commodity		Spot Price	Monthly Movement	YTD	Last 12 Months
Gold \$		\$ 1,836.80	-4.7%	0.7%	-1.8%
Brent \$		\$ 84.78	-0.9%	-1.4% <sup>1</sup>	-7.8%
Indicators		Spot Price	Monthly Movement	YTD	Last 12 Months
ZAR/USD		\$18.18	4.3%	7.0%	21.2%
ZAR/GBP		R 21.75	1.4%	6.4%	6.7%
ZAR/EUR		R 19.38	-1.7%	7.0%	13.7%
CPI		6.9%	January 2023		
Prime Rate		10.75%	Repo Rate	7.25%	

- Remember to visit our website for fact sheet data: [www.cumulusrp.co.za](http://www.cumulusrp.co.za)

