

**Press  
Release  
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South African Institute of Race Relations  
*The power of ideas*

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**Eskom's collapse: a lesson on government failures – IRR**

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) takes note of the deeply worrying claims made by Eskom board member Busisiwe Mavuso in a parliamentary committee hearing yesterday.

"There are decisions that we know we have to be making as this board, but the shareholder (the government as represented by Minister Pravin Gordhan) quickly comes in and says that you can't do that because it is politically inconvenient," Mavuso said.

That Eskom, an economically vital State-Owned Enterprise (SOE), is subject to dangerous political interference will come as a shock perhaps only to the President. South Africans know that political interference in government-run entities is a hallmark of such organisations that makes their proper functioning impossible.

This knowledge is the basis of the fear harboured by the almost 50 000 South Africans who've joined the IRR in its campaign to ensure that the destruction wrought at Eskom will not be repeated in the South African healthcare sector.

An Eskom-style collapse of healthcare, due to political interference and mismanagement, is a very real threat were the government achieve its goal of implementing the National Health Insurance (NHI) policy.

The deadline for public submissions on NHI is 29 November and the IRR urges all South Africans to [join](#) it in its fight against a policy that will have disastrous consequences for everyone, and not achieve the goal of improved healthcare for all, least of all for the most vulnerable South Africans.

In the painful and damaging collapse of Eskom, South Africans can see the consequences of government-control over vital elements of life in South Africa. The failure of Eskom results in damaging bailouts and load shedding.

The real danger of the NHI is that it will result in life shedding. South Africans must use this opportunity now to say “No” to the NHI.

**Ends**