



democratically engaged, active and responsible

Eskom Debt Relief Bill
Public participation
6 April – 21 April 2023

dearsouthafrica.co.za

Eskom Debt Relief Bill

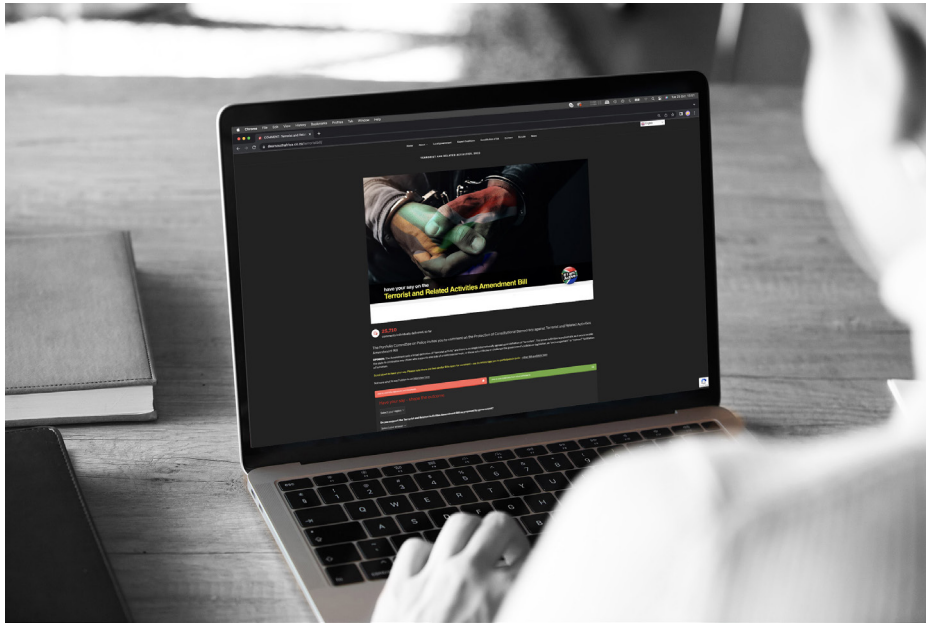
What is Dear South Africa?

- non-partisan
- non-profit
- facilitates public participation
- assists the government at all levels (no charge)
 - informing
 - facilitating
 - reporting
 - collating data
 - matrix summaries
 - feedback
- assists NGOs



- over **250** completed campaigns in five years
- over 4 million individual submissions delivered
- over 1.2 million subscribers
- nationwide participation
- local, provincial, municipal participation campaigns and surveys
- full digital online and mobile platform
 - over 1 million page views a month
 - over 6 million emails delivered a month
 - over 250,000 social media followers

Eskom Debt Relief Bill participation campaign



DearSouthAfrica.co.za hosted a participation project through a mobile and online platform to facilitate, educate and encourage public participation and comment to shape this Bill.

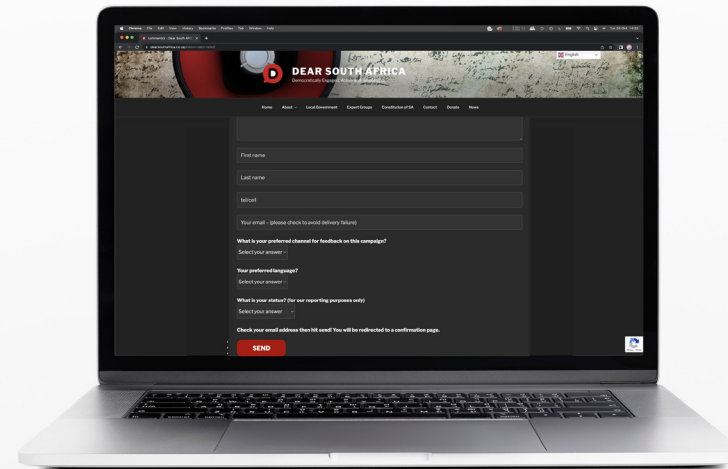
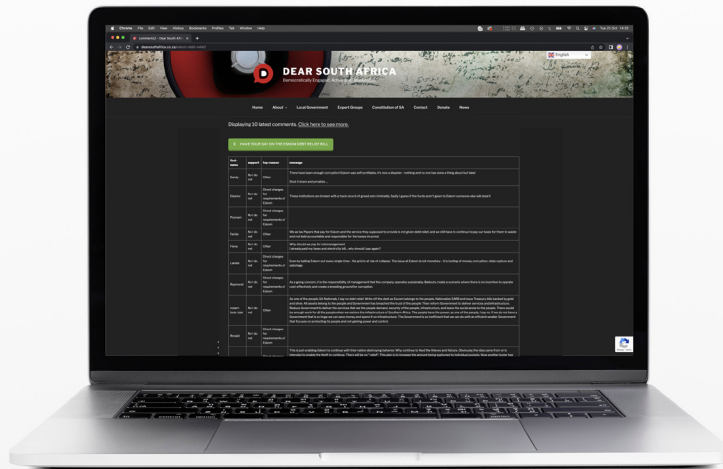
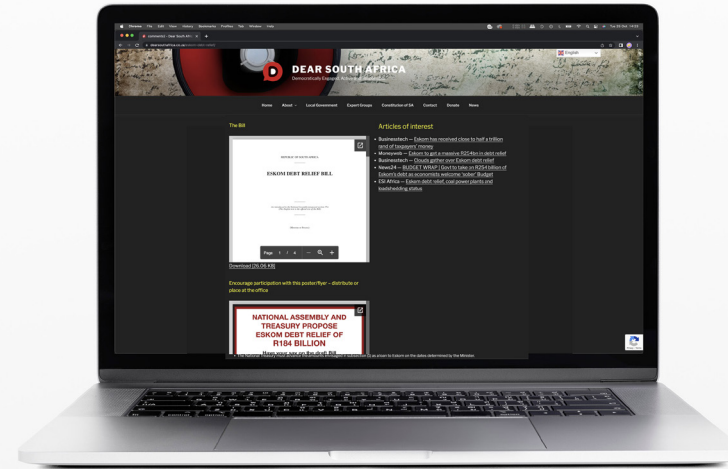
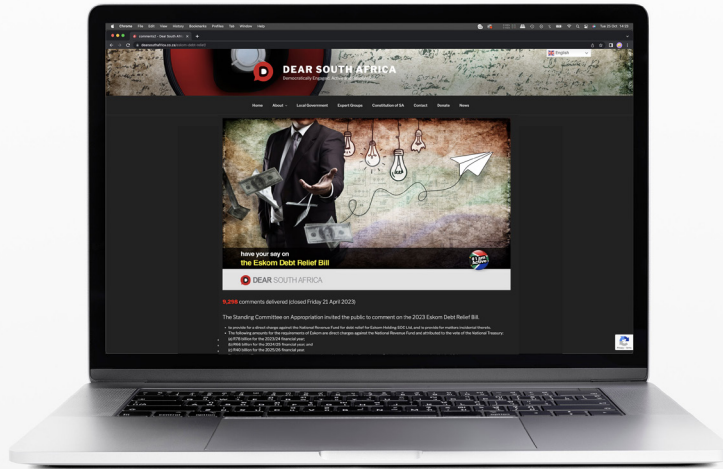
<https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/eskom-debt-relief/>

The following was presented on the online campaign page:

- 1 - the published related documents as downloadable PDFs
- 2 - a live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
- 3 - video summaries

- 4 - links to relevant media articles
- 5 - policy-related questions (presented as multiple choice)
- 6 - a comment facility to for participants to have a say

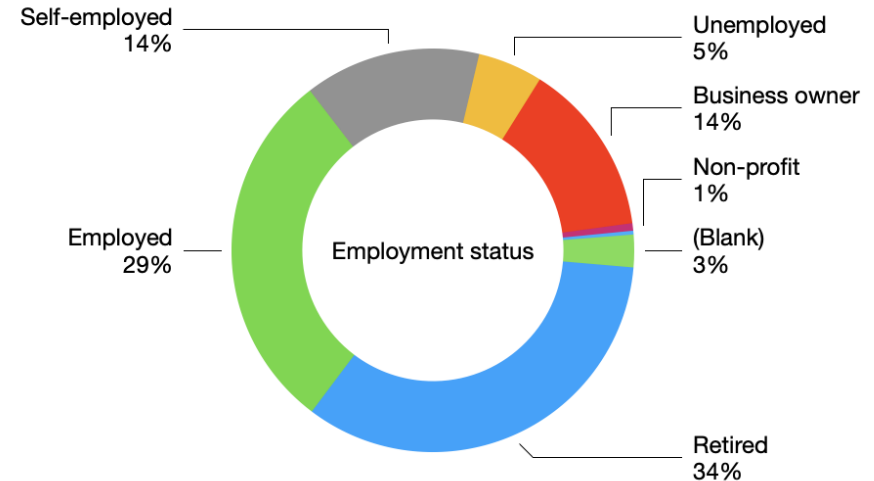
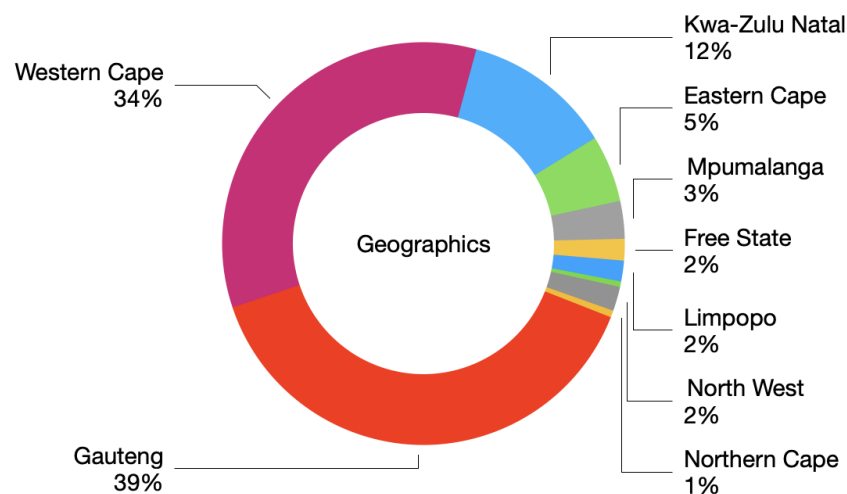
Eskom Debt Relief Bill participation campaign



- Each public entry was individually delivered to Mr S Buthelezi, MP, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Appropriations (National Assembly), c/o Mr D Arends at daarends@parliament.gov.za.
- To accurately reflect public comment, campaigns are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is available as an Excel file.
- A total of **9,298** comments were received by the set closing of 21 April 2023 (included in the Excel file and supplied PDF).

● Geo-location




Comments originated from all provinces with the greatest input arising from Gauteng, followed by Western Cape and KZN. Participation demographics can be further broken down into comment options (yes, no, not fully), employment status, top reason, municipality, city or town, language, and more.

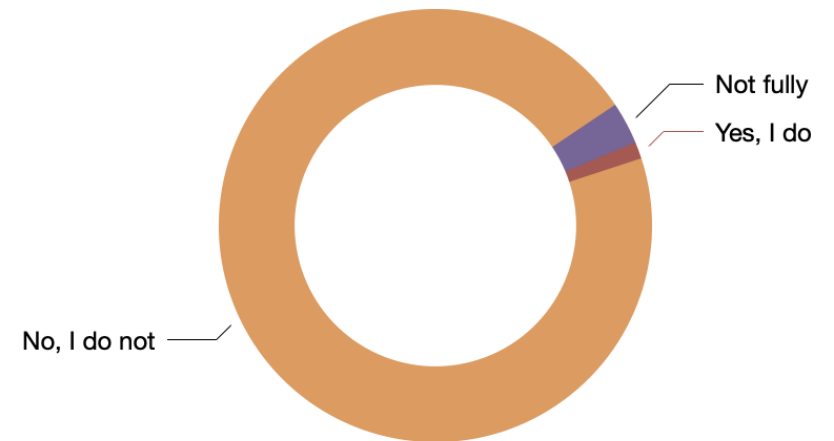


Eskom Debt Relief Bill

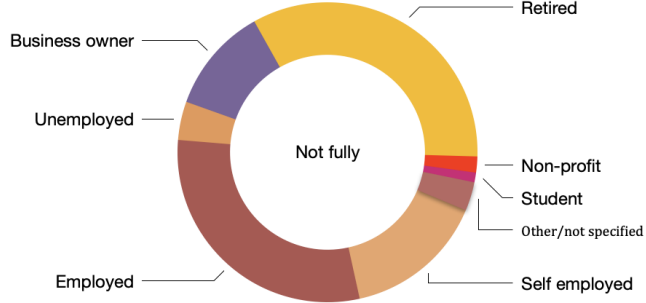
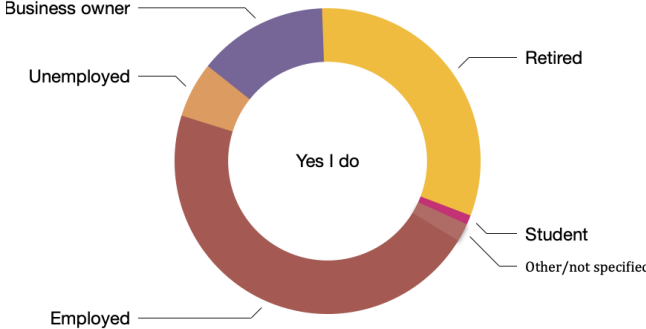
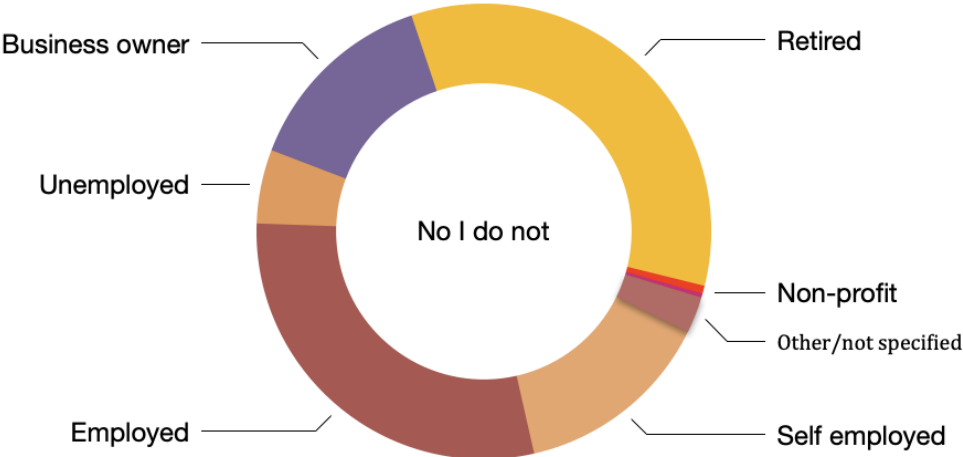
campaign data – questions presented

- 1. Do you support the 2023 Eskom Debt Relief Bill as proposed by government?

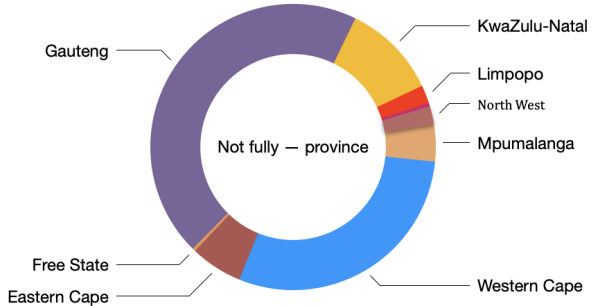
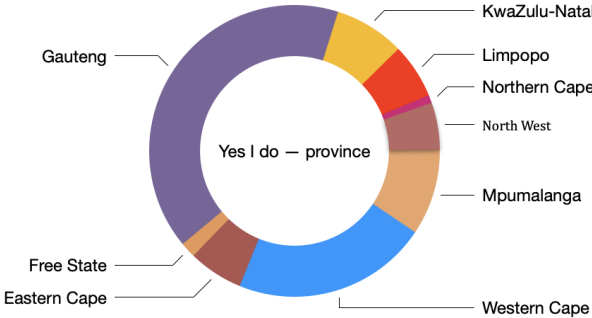
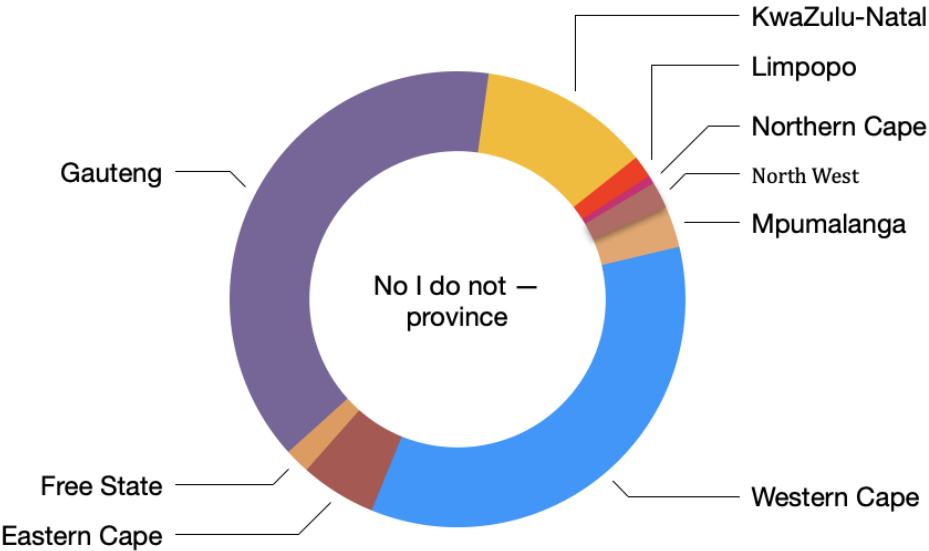
	Yes, I do	[115 selected]	1.25%
	No, I do not	[8,799 selected]	95.61%
	Not fully	[289 selected]	3.14%



● Selection by employment status

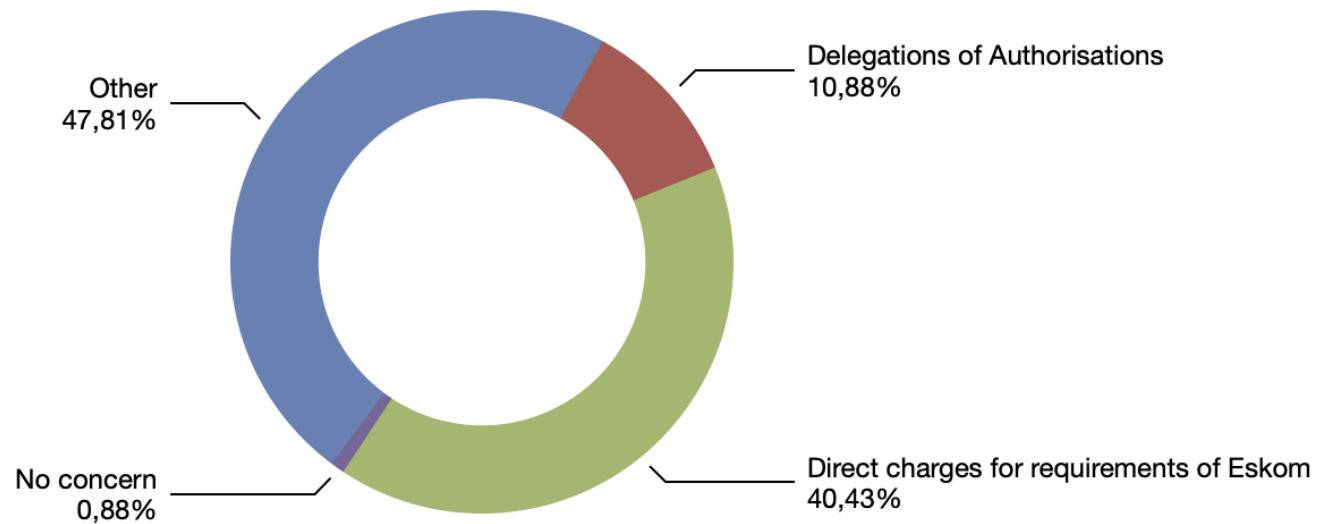


- Selection by province



● 2. What is your top reason?

	Other	[4,400 selected]	47.81%
	Delegations of Authorisations	[1,001 selected]	10.88%
	Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	[3,721 selected]	40.43%
	No concern	[81 selected]	0.88%



Eskom Debt Relief Bill

campaign data – demographics

● Top reason by Status

	Submitted
▼ retired	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	1556
▶ Delegations and authorisations	350
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	1185
▶ No concern	30
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▼ employed individual	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	1202
▶ Delegations and authorisations	307
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	1162
▶ No concern	23
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▼ self-employed	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	623
▶ Delegations and authorisations	119
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	547
▶ No concern	14
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

Eskom Debt Relief Bill campaign data – demographics

● Top reason by Status

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▼ unemployed individual	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	230
▶ Delegations and authorisations	51
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	194
▶ No concern	5
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▼ business owner	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	636
▶ Delegations and authorisations	136
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	505
▶ No concern	5
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▼ Non-profit	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	30
▶ Delegations and authorisations	3
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	22
▶ student	
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▼ student	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	10
▶ Delegations and authorisations	4
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	14
▶ (blank)	

	Submitted
▶ retired	
▶ employed individual	
▶ self-employed	
▶ unemployed individual	
▶ business owner	
▶ Non-profit	
▶ student	
▼ (blank)	
top-reason:	Count (All):
▶ Other	113
▶ Delegations and authorisations	31
▶ Direct charges for requirements of Eskom	92
▶ No concern	4

● **HOWEVER**

High level data and statistics do not reveal the full picture — and can be misleading.

- Comment by comment analysis
- Broad category analysis

Eskom Debt Relief Bill

campaign data – word analysis

- **Word cloud** — unfiltered (minimum word frequency of 450)



Eskom Debt Relief Bill

campaign data – word analysis

- **Word cloud** — most frequently used words

Filtered words:	money	3,000
Eskom	corruption	2,620
pay	government	1,662
all	debt	1,610
more	tax	1,457
ANC	people	1,230
just	electricity	1,194
any	corrupt	880
South	taxpayers	838
Power	stop	801
again	country	798
enough	relief	719
need	payers	675
being	funds	643
now		
only		
back		



In response to question 1

- **“Yes I do support the Bill” – summary**

Of the “Yes, I do” comments, the participants are mostly concerned over the consequences of a failing national electricity producer, dire consequences for the South African economy, loadshedding for many years to come, and a concern over inconsistent renewables. Further comments are raised over concerns surrounding much-needed maintenance to eliminate breakdowns.

In response to question 1

- **“Not fully support the Bill” – summary**

Of the “Not Fully” comments most participants are in favour of Debt Relief, however, major concerns are raised surrounding the elimination of corruption, mismanagement, recovery of stolen funds, transparency, accountability and a change in “non-payment” culture.

In response to question 1

- **“No I do not support the Bill” – summary**

Of the “No, I do not” comments, participants raised concerns over corruption, mismanagement, constant bailouts, a lack of convictions, and political interference. Solutions include a strong call for privatisation, a reduction of employees, employment of skilled individuals and recovery of Municipal debt.

In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Yes I do”**

Reason; Other

1. I fully and strongly support Eskom a debt relief bid. If Eskom doesn't get financial aid, how would the problems surrounding South Africa be resolved regarding electricity supply?
Many of us, including me are unemployed, disabled and live alone, cannot afford anything, unless we receive handouts. We're not that irresponsible yet driven to utter despondency by circumstances. *Popi*
2. Additionally, there must be monitoring of the use of funds as well as award of tenders to prevent any irregularities. *Nolundi*

Please note these are partial comments for presentation purposes only. The full, unabridged comments are in the accompanying report and within the spreadsheet. All documents are available on the platform at this link <https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/eskom-debt-relief/>

In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Yes I do”**

- Reason; Delegations of Authorisations**

1. Funding Eskom is crucial in saving what is left of our economy. Our country and its people livelihood depends on electricity. This energy crises takes away jobs as many companies are closing down. So the sooner Eskom relief is granted the better for every citizen; businesses and investor interest. *Pinky – business owner*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Yes I do”**

- Reason; Direct charges for requirements of Eskom**

1. I support this bill with conditions. If Eskom management is restructured, and clear goals are set as to how they will tackle the corruption. As a provision, I think that people should pay Eskom directly in regions where municipalities do not have clear audits. In turn, Eskom can reimburse these municipalities. It is key that revenue is collected directly from the consumer and Eskom then allocated part of that revenue back to municipalities. This way it is impossible for Eskom to go into debt. People who do not pay do not get service until they do.

The majority of Municipalities cannot be trusted with these monies, they are being paid by consumers and not paying Eskom. There should be no middleman. Only municipalities with a clean audit and good record of paying their Eskom bill should be allowed to collect from the consumer. *Mark – employed*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Yes I do”**

Reason; No concern

1. I know the purpose of this survey is to rally support against the bill, but I believe it's necessary for me to balance that view too - Eskom is losing the confidence of the markets, and the ability to raise outside debt (where they can, it's at ever-higher rates). If we don't look the reality in the face - we will be paying more either way, and worse, we force Eskom to keep tariffs low then we may end up with a failed utility. The only thing worse than a corrupt and failing utility is a completely failed one, and if it can't raise funds, bankruptcy is a real possibility. That'll be an expensive problem to solve. *Christopher – business owner*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Not fully”**

Reason; Other

1. Eskom can only receive a loan from taxpayers if the company is privatized as the government should not be in business. They should provide capital for huge startup projects from the taxpayers and this entity should refund the loan to the fiscus after which it should be run for the benefit of the taxpayers by an organization that is not profit only orientated but operational stability orientated. *Jakobus – retired*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Not fully”**

- Reason; Delegations of Authorisations**

1. The mess created as a result of gross mismanagement and blatant corruption has brought ESKOM on its knees. To keep the lights and with that trying to rescue the economy, financial injection is required but it looks like that again there will be no accountability and control on the expenditure which will cause lots of the fund again will be misappropriated and pilfered. This “Relief “ expenditure should only be allowed under strict independent supervision (Auditors), hence my “Not Fully” answer. *Len – employed*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “Not fully”**

Reason; Direct charges for requirements of Eskom

1. I suggest that we lower Eskom’s proposed direct charges against the National Revenue Fund by 50% and increase electricity tariffs by 25%.

By increasing tariffs (i.e. making electricity more expensive to consumers directly) the revenue generated by Eskom will increase immediately, and increase pressure on those who can to install privately owned energy generation capacity.

A large payout in the form of a loan whenever there is a crisis will not work as well as a long-term change in the basic cost of electricity. *Dane – employed*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

● **Suggestions from “No I do not”**

Reason; Other

1. Debt relief - does not get us anywhere. We are still sitting with:
 1. A Eskom which has too many employees; (huge wage bill);
 2. There are still many Power stations not operating at full capacity;
 3. There is no clear plan on the future use of coal, etc; the continued use of coal will impact on South Africa's exports to the European Union in the coming years - SA Government has to consider the impact on businesses that are reliant on exports - should the European Union ban our exports because of our carbon footprint;
 4. The silence is deafening on NuclearPower stations;
 5. What about the fraud and the cartels operating out of Eskom;
 6. What about holding the various construction companies liable for shoddy workmanship and those in procurement and ultimately poor oversight.
 7. Eskom debt should be restructured - not funded. *Naomi – business owner*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “No I do not”**

- Reason; Delegations of Authorisations**

1. I couldn't complete this yesterday because I didn't have internet connection because Eskom cut off our power. How ironic when the topic under discussion is the bare-faced cheek of the government to expect South Africans to prop up Eskom. Under no circumstances whatsoever should this arrangement be permitted. I object with every fibre of my being. Eskom should be broken up and privatised. There will then be no need for any bail-outs. *Rosemary – retired*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “No I do not”**

- Reason; Direct charges for requirements of Eskom**

1. Enough bailing out Eskom. Companies, municipalities and government departments must be forced to pay up. No free electricity. Everyone should contribute however small an amount. No payment has become endemic in SA. *Michael – retired*

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In response to question 2 (top reason)

- **Suggestions from “No I do not”**

Reason; No concern

1. Hereby I decline the insanity of this R184 billion loan which will have a major affect on the tax payers, putting South Africa in more debt is putting the people of S.A in the gutter for the enrichment of the ruling government, who has proven to the nation how they master international loans to their personal benefits.... NO!!!

Beverly – unemployed

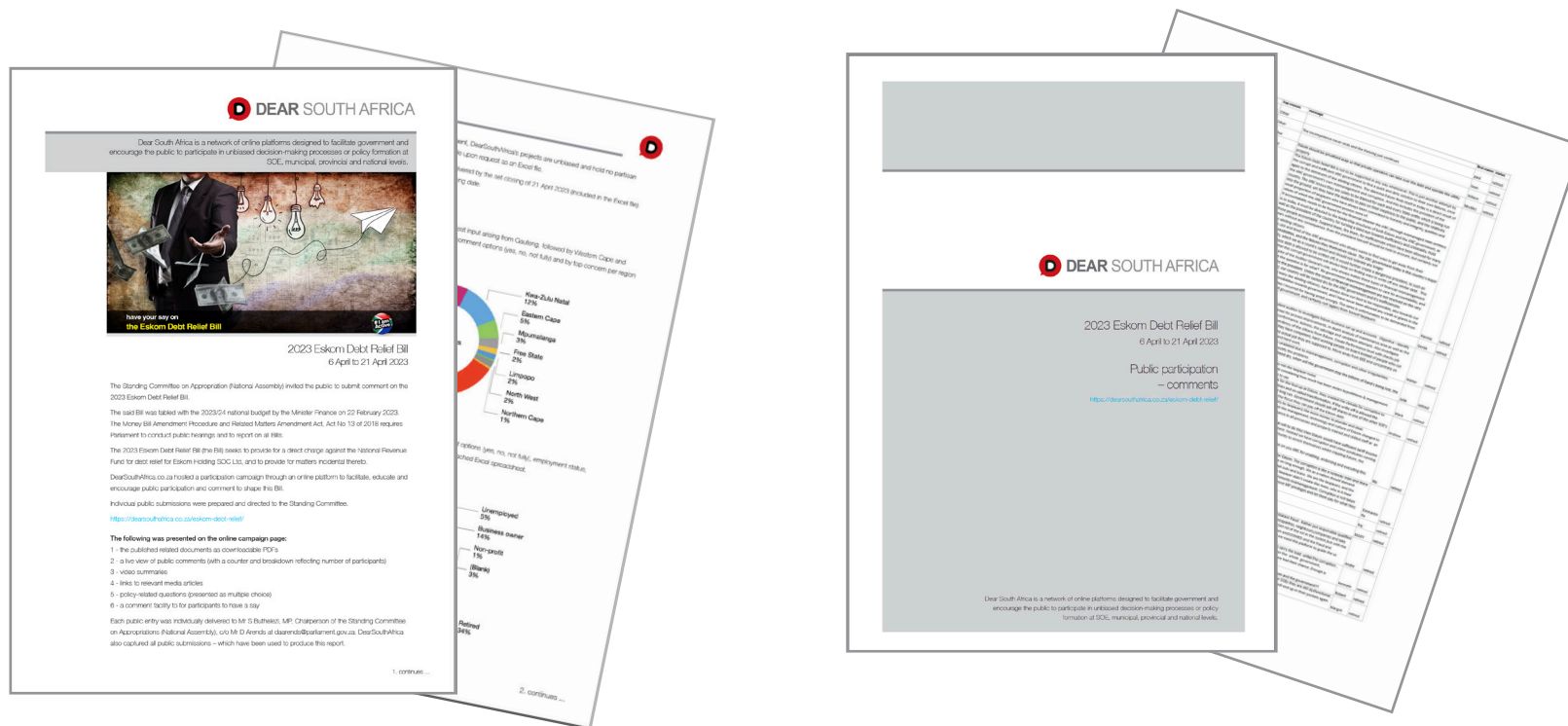
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Eskom Debt Relief Bill

campaign data – comment data

- **Comments and suggestions from all categories**

Available in the full report and PDF of all 9,298 public submissions – attached to this presentation and available at <https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/eskom-debt-relief/>



● Conclusion

1. An overwhelming objection to the Eskom Debt Relief Bill, however, an understanding of the need to keep the lights on.
2. Concerns over mismanagement, accountability, transparency and corruption. Will throwing money at Eskom solve the problems?
3. Suggestions include privatisation, meaningful independent oversight, and skilled employees and management, free from political interference.
4. Public trust and confidence in Eskom's ability and government oversight has eroded.
5. Negative impact of Climate Goals on private investment in coal-fired power stations.
6. Immediate and affordable solutions are required. Twenty-year Karpowership deal must be revisited.



DEAR SOUTH AFRICA

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Thank you

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