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Bye bye Brian – next, the Eskom board

The Save South Africa campaign welcomes government’s decision to remove Brian Molefe as CEO of Eskom.

The decision is, as government says, “in the best interests of government, Eskom and the country” -- and confirms the value of civil society and other protests against underhand attempts to manoeuvre him back into office.

Given the rot at Eskom, however, and the pivotal role the power utility plays in funding state capture, we believe government should go at least one step further and remove the entire board. Its complicity in state capture and corruption – not to mention the nefarious extra-mural activities of chairman Ben Ngubane – means the board must be the next target for letters of dismissal.

Government, and Public Enterprises Minister Lyn Brown in particular, should also not fool themselves into thinking that the “problems” at Eskom will go away with Molefe. There is an intricate web of crooks in place, including former acting CEO Matshela Koko, and Minister Brown must not be tempted into considering him as a replacement for Molefe. To do so will spur another round of protest, at a time when government has more than enough public anger to deal with.