

# Cell C man says he will see for himself at Telkom

**JEFFREY Hedberg**, Cell C's chief executive, is understood to have confirmed to his staff that he will leave when his contract expires in November, as suggested in *Business Times* last week.

But he did not confirm whether Telkom was keen on hiring him to turn it around and to facilitate its merger with Cell C, as we reported.

Although *Grapevine* understands that Telkom shareholders are still keen, this may only happen at a later stage.

Hedberg is a popular boss and there was some nervousness at Cell C offices about his replacement. To make things easier, it is understood that a replacement has

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already been found from the wider Saudi Oger Group. Cell C's ultimate shareholder.

### Amazing generosity or no choice?

Amazingly, although probably reluctantly, Allan Gray and some banks remain committed to troubled logistics company

Super Group and will underwrite its R1-billion rights offer.

The fundraising is meant to put to bed persistent concerns about its ability to service its R3-billion debt.

Other shareholders may be less generous; this will be the second time they are asked to fork out — last time Super Group raised more than R500-million.

They have had to put up with two years of restated results, massive write-downs, irregularities requiring a forensic review and a destruction of shareholder value.

One wonders why Allan Gray and the banks bother.

### Eskom's only way is up

You just can't win with Eskom. No matter what happens, the solution always seems to be to increase electricity prices; be it the failure to maintain or build power stations, or declining electricity consumption.

One would have thought that the latter would enable Eskom to keep price increases to a minimum.

The state-owned utility is expected to ask for another significant increase in electricity tariffs soon. Last year's increase was 27.5%, although it asked for 53%.

Readers may be interested to know that while residential users are charged 42c per

kilowatt-hour, industrial, mining and international users pay 17c.

### Reminder of a bygone age

An announcement largely unnoticed this week was the retirement of Gavan Ryan as chairman of Coronation Fund Managers.

Ryan, together with David Barnes, started Coronation Holdings in 1992 as a high-performance financial services boutique.

While Ryan has kept a low profile for several years now, *Grapevine* remembers him as someone with vision and intelligence, accompanied by a humility

rarely seen in the heady days of the boom in the small and medium-sized segment of the financial services sector.

### BAT's Du Plessis is in — and out

Jan du Plessis, the chairman of British American Tobacco, is taking on another major international chairmanship — Rio Tinto, the world's third-largest mining group.

But he apparently plans to quit another challenging job in the financial crisis — as non-executive director and audit committee chairman of Lloyds Banking Group. — *Klein@SundayTimes.co.za*

