

PRESS RELEASE

Renewed load shedding sees Hire It power up genset sales

20 February 2019: From gensets specifically for the construction industry, to open-set petrol back-up gensets for residential and small office applications, Hire It (Natal) (Pty) Ltd. has a range of solutions to assist its customers in dealing with the fallout from renewed load shedding.

The resumption of load shedding in February has resulted in a dramatic increase in demand for reasonably-priced solutions for homes and small offices in particular. Hire It's sales division, Tool Time, has filled this specific niche with the Honda FA6500 genset.

This is a 5.5 kVA genset with electric key start, AVR, a large fuel tank, and a wheeled frame. The Honda FA6500 is a medium-duty machine designed especially for the residential market, and represents a perfect balance between price, features, and quality.

"As a dealer for Honda, Yamaha, Hoffmann, and more, we offer back-up on all of the gensets that we sell. We are able to handle warranties, servicing, and have access to spares. Gensets have a 'carry-in' warranty, which means the customer needs to bring the machine to us to evaluate, or we charge a call-out fee," Hire It Sales Director **Richard Fraser** reports.

Advising on appropriate maintenance, Fraser stresses that gensets should be run at least twice a month to ensure they remain in good running order. Gensets should also be serviced every 100 hours of run time, or at least once a year. The main issue in terms of maintenance is fuel degradation, as petrol and diesel becomes stale over time.

In a sealed tank, petrol will last around six months, and diesel for up to a year. If the petrol or diesel goes stale, it will have a sweet smell, and actually goes quite sticky. If this gummy fuel enters the carburettor, the genset will not run. Electric-start or automatic gensets also pose the problem of flat batteries. Here the alternator charges the battery when the machine runs. Smart charges are also available that can top up batteries over time.

Commenting on the impact of renewed load shedding, Fraser reveals that Hire It has supplied a diverse range of industries, from chicken farms to aluminium fabricators, industrial laundries, and chroming plants. "We are seeing businesses and industry really starting to feel the effects of load shedding," he adds.

The gensets available for the construction industry in particular are rugged and basic. These 'no-frill' units are usually recoil-pull start, with no automatic voltage regulator (AVR) capability. Ranging in size from 2 kVA to 10 kVA, these are ideal for operating large power tools on building sites for extended periods.

Open-set petrol back-up gensets, on the other hand, are the most cost-effective option for residential and small office applications. Ranging in size from 2 kVA to 13 kVA, these do feature AVR in order to be able to run sensitive electronic equipment like television screens and computers.

Available in pull-start and electric key start versions, these gensets have large fuel tanks for longer run times, and wheeled frames with handles for convenient transportation and handling. A large muffled exhaust assists in reducing the high noise level.

Petrol-driven inverter gensets are small and quiet units, ranging from 2 kVA to 5.5 kVA. These use a petrol engine to create DC power, and thereafter inverting it to AC current, which allows for maximum efficiency.

The main application is to run sophisticated electrical equipment where noise and space are a factor, such as in the film industry, marine inspection, and ambulances, to name a few. "We have sold these units to complexes and estates where noise is an issue, with great success," Fraser reports.

Silent water-cooled automatic diesel gensets offer a complete power generation solution, and are large, permanent units that hence are more expensive. These can be housed in a weatherproof, sound-reducing canopy because the engines use radiators for cooling. They can be fitted with automatic changeover switches (ATS), which changes over to generator power and switches the unit on automatically. Hire It also stocks a range of silent diesel gensets ranging from 10 kVA to 500 kVA.

"There are many types of gensets and applications, and the prices vary wildly," Fraser points out. Important factors for customers to consider is what size generator is required in terms of kVA, petrol or diesel, automatic, electric key or recoil start, and budget, as silent gensets are substantially more expensive.

If electronic equipment is to be run off the genset, then AVR is mandatory. It is also important for customers to ascertain if the supplier offers back-up and has an adequate spares inventory. This is vital, as gensets often only have a one-year guarantee period.

A word of advice from Fraser is for customers to be wary of small petrol gensets that feature ATS. "Unless this is a reputable brand, I would steer clear of them. Small petrol engines require an automatic choke to start up automatically. Apart from the premium brands, a lot of Chinese imports have very unreliable systems," he concludes.

Ends

Notes to the Editor

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About Hire It (Natal) (Pty) Ltd.

Hire it is a tool hire company specialising in the hire, sales, and repair of equipment for the building and construction industry, with branches in Pinetown and Springfield. Founded in 1981 by Doug Fraser, the company has over 37 years' experience in the tool hire and equipment sales industry. With son Richard Fraser carrying on the legacy, the company is set to grow throughout Durban, and to continue selling nationwide.

Our hire fleet covers a wide range from breakers and concrete mixers to floor sanders, water pumps and generators. We sell tools and equipment through our sales division called Tool Time. We use our extensive experience to advise our clients of the best, most reliable products.

We are agents for Honda, Husqvarna, Yamaha, Makita, Bosch, Hoffman, and more. Our-fully fitted workshop handles servicing and repairs of the full range of tools and equipment in our hire fleet, from power tools and breakers to gardening tools and generators.

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