



Declaration

South Africa's Parliament and All Political Parties are Carbon Criminals!

9 November 2021

One year ago, the Climate Justice Charter Movement handed over the Climate Justice Charter to the South African parliament and demanded that it be adopted as per section 234 of the South African constitution which provides for charters to be adopted. The Charter emerged from the worst climate induced drought in the history in the country and from deep dialogues with key constituencies in South African society: youth, labour, drought affected communities, social justice, faith, the media and environmental justice. It is very disappointing that the people we elect into these seats in Parliament and whose salaries we pay have ignored our plea for action. We return today bearing gifts to symbolise the seriousness of the climate crisis. The gifts depict the challenges we face in our everyday lives regarding food, energy and water and which are going to worsen with further heating. That is why we also handed over a memorandum, last year, from communities demanding an end to climate harm, pollution, thirst and hunger.

The planet is now experiencing 1.2C warming since prior to the industrial revolution and has 417 parts per million (ppm) carbon concentration in the atmosphere (far from the safe zone of 350ppm). The UN has confirmed we are now living in a world of climate extremes. A young person is going to face 7-8 climate extremes in their life- times. South Africa's climate scientists have warned that we are heating at twice the global average and will be ravaged by more intense droughts, floods, heatwaves, cyclones and fires. That is why we also handed a climate science future document together with the Charter and memorandum to parliament last year. All economic projections expect fossil fuel use and emissions to increase, coming out of Covid 19. The South African government is amongst the top 15 governments in the world driving this. The world needs ambitious cuts in emissions and rapid fossil fuel phase out now. There is no time for tinkering, for indecision and for double speak.

The truth is that the South African government and parliament are failing to come to terms with the seriousness of the worsening climate crisis. While they make big statements at an international stage such as the UNFCCC, back home they are building some of the largest coal fired power stations in the world, support the likes of Sasol -one of the largest emitters of Green House Gases in the world - and are pushing for the Oil and Gas Bill and long term

expensive Karpowerships and even nuclear. This duplicitous behaviour is killing our people. The health consequences for communities is devastating including living in polluted environments with toxic water, contaminated land and without essential public infrastructure to have a livable life according to the constitution. Hence, we declare parliament and all its political parties carbon criminals!

The Climate Justice Charter - supported by 260 organisations - provides a visionary pathway to a deep just transition and lays the basis for a climate emergency approach. The Climate Justice Charter points us towards a feminist, decolonial, deeply democratic and emancipatory ecological systems change. There are no sensible reasons why it should not be adopted by Parliament, except for them aiding and abetting carbon criminality.

It is time to advance a transformative and deep just transition led by grassroots women, the working class, the poor, the precarious middle class and the most vulnerable in our society. If we fail to rise to the challenge of this task, we do not have a future. Parliament, listen to the people and do the right thing, adopt the Climate Justice Charter! If not present and future generations will judge you harshly. Moreover, we will explore all legal avenues to stop your carbon criminality and will put every effort into ensuring 2024 is a climate justice election in South Africa.

Links

Link to Climate Justice Charter in all eleven languages: [Click Here](#)

Link to Climate Science Document: [Click Here](#)

Link to October 16 2020 Memorandum of demands to parliament: [Click Here](#)

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