



Press Release
31 October 2018

Call for Civil Resistance against ANC Government's Blanket of Secrecy around Climate Science and Our Possible Extinction

Convene People's Parliaments to Discuss the UN-IPCC 1.5°C Report and Input for a Climate Justice Charter for South Africa

A week ago over 50 organisations, now joined by FEDUSA, SAFTU and several other organisations, sent an [open letter](#) to President Cyril Ramaphosa calling on him to convene an emergency sitting of parliament to debate the most recent UN-IPCC report on 1.5°C heating and its implications for South African Climate Policy. Up to now we have not received a formal response from the Presidency nor the Speaker and Secretary of Parliament.

We would like to re-iterate our demand to the President, the Speaker and Secretary of Parliament as this is a matter of life and death. The prospect of the extinction of the human race and other life forms cannot be treated as 'business as usual'. The present Climate Bill is not going to be a solution for South Africa, especially if the government plays host to coal fired power stations for countries, like China.

Globally, governments are taking action on climate change. The Spanish Government has just taken decisive action to stop coal mining and has agreed to invest in mining communities as part of the transition. The German government has also set up a commission with unions and mining affected communities to reach consensus on ending the use of coal and devising transition strategies for coal mining communities. The New Zealand government has banned off-shore drilling for oil and gas. South Africa needs to learn from this and do the same. Parliament needs to have the debate informed by these experiences to drastically cut our emissions and stop the extraction of fossil fuels.

We are also aware of the emergence of a campaign in the United Kingdom called the 'extinction rebellion' involving academics, workers and ordinary citizens willing to engage in mass civil disobedience to stop our extinction. We are inspired by this and will also be moving in the direction of disciplined mass civil resistance including going to jail,

if necessary, until serious action is taken to ensure systemic change to address the climate crisis.

Hence we are calling on the organisations that have endorsed our open letter and the wider South African public to do the following:

(1) As a first step in mass civil resistance against the ANC governments blanket of secrecy around climate science, we say convene people's parliaments in your communities and workplaces to discuss the climate science and deep just transition. Let's remove the blanket of secrecy and learn about the impacts of coal, gas and oil. Even if the President agrees to convene parliament we must continue with people's parliaments at the grassroots. Use the following tools:

This two-page summary [document](#) with key points of the IPCC report.

This short [animation](#) that can be screened on hunger and the climate crisis.

The Coal Kills [Report](#).

(2) We are calling on all South African's to participate in the twitter referendum we have initiated regarding our call to the President to convene an emergency sitting of parliament to deliberate on the UN-IPCC 1.5°C report. Please go to @safoodsov to vote and retweet the referendum.

(3) Send us your ideas for a mass civil resistance campaign to stop the corporate and government caused climate extinction of life. We will roll out this campaign next year including during the national elections given that none of the parties take climate change seriously. We will also consider approaching the courts – like in the Netherlands – to force legal reductions in carbon emissions, the Human Rights Commission, the Public Protector and other important legal institutions. Send your ideas to copac2@icon.co.za. Also let us know if you are willing to volunteer your time to make this mass civil resistance campaign happen.

(4) Send in your input for the Water and Climate Justice Charter for South Africa which would be adopted at a Peoples Assembly in 2019. There are systemic solutions to solve the climate crisis. Let us know what needs to be done to ensure a deep just transition that sustains life in a heating world. Send your inputs to copac2@icon.co.za.

Feel free to use the following tools to facilitate a conversation in your family, amongst friends, in the community, in your organisations and workplace:

[Water Sovereignty activist tool](#)

[Water Sovereignty animation](#)

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