



29 August 2020

To:

President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa

Speaker of Parliament, Ms Thandi Modise

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mr Solomon Tsenoli

A Final Warning – Launch of Climate Justice Charter and National Day of Action to End Hunger, Thirst and Climate Harm - 16 October 2020

In October 2018, the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and allies made a public call to the State President to convene an emergency sitting of parliament to deliberate on the 1.5 °Celsius report of the UN-IPCC and its implications for the countries climate policies and the deep just transition. The IPCC study sounded the alarm bell the loudest on the looming climate crisis. It was an attempt to gain attention of world leaders and publics to ensure decisive action on the greatest challenge we face as a species. President Ramaphosa ignored our call. Yet climate science is giving us our final warning about a looming catastrophic future if we do not act now to mitigate and adapt our societies.

South African climate science is even more telling. It confirms that we are heating at twice the global average and are designated a hot spot. If the world overshoots 1.5 °Celsius in the next five years, South Africa will heat at 3 °Celsius, bringing collapse to our livestock, crop production and extreme weather shocks will intensify. South Africa will become hotter, drier and should expect more multi-year droughts. The climate science future facing South Africa is a consensus position of our leading climate scientists. A document summarising the climate science, prepared by some of our leading climate scientists, is available here: https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Climate-Science-Doc_June-2020.pdf

Yesterday, in an online peoples' assembly convened by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign, a historic step was taken for the country, with the launch of the Climate Justice Charter for South Africa, available here: <https://www.safsc.org.za/climate-justice-charter/>. The Climate Justice Charter emerges out of six years of campaigning, during the worst drought in South Africa's history, by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre. It has been informed by grassroots input from water stressed communities, the media, labour, faith based communities, youth, climate scientists, academics, women's organisations, environmental and social justice organisations, as well as, think pieces by leading activists. A conference held in November 2019 consolidated a draft which was then placed online for public comment. A final round of public input was provided at a Climate Justice Assembly held on 16 June 2020. This document is the outcome of this process of dialogue and climate justice resistance, affirming peoples' systemic

alternatives for a deep just transition. It heeds the final warning of climate science and calls for immediate action at all levels of South African society to advance the deep just transition.

Yesterday's assembly also confirmed the call for a national day of action on 16 October 2020, to end hunger, thirst and climate harm and for the convening of an online assembly to engage parliament. This will be when we hand over the Climate Justice Charter to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and all leaders of political parties demanding parliament adopt the Charter as per section 234 of the South African constitution. This constitutional provision provides for charters to be adopted to strengthen our constitutional democracy. This online assembly will be led by communities facing hunger, water stress, pollution and the many concerned by the worsening climate and other socio-ecological crises facing our society.

We call on all living in South Africa to take a stand and build the Climate Justice Charter movement. Climate Justice is about addressing all of the crises we face as a society, including Covid-19, but through addressing the most dangerous challenge of planetary heating caused through the continued extraction and use of oil, gas and coal. The system change envisaged through addressing the worsening climate crisis will create a more just, democratic and caring society. Sign this petition in support of climate science, the Climate Justice Charter and our demand that parliament adopt the charter as per section 234 of the constitution: <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/together-we-can-help-ensure-parliament-brings-an-end-to-water-problems-hunger-and-pollution>

Together we can ensure a deep just transition now and secure the future of all.

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