

Climate Change Bill [B9-2022]

Parliament of South Africa is inviting inputs from the public on the Climate Change Bill [B9-2022]. The National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment acting under section 59 (1) of the Constitution, seeks to facilitate public involvement in respect of this Bill and is accordingly inviting comments and inputs from interested stakeholders.

Purpose of the Bill

The Climate Change Bill seeks to craft and implement an effective national climate change response, including mitigation and adaptation actions, that represents the Republic's fair contribution to the global climate change response.

Its overall purpose is to enable the development of an effective climate change response and the long-term, just transition to a climate-resilient and lower-carbon economy and society, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Objectives of the bill

The Bill seeks to:

- provide for a coordinated and integrated response by the economy and society to climate change and its impacts in accordance with the principles of cooperative governance;
- provide for the effective management of inevitable climate change impacts by enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to building social, economic and environmental resilience and an adequate national adaptation response in the context of the global climate change response;
- make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;
- ensure a just transition towards a low carbon economy and society considering national circumstances;
- give effect to the Republic's international commitments and obligations in relation to climate change; and

- protect and preserve the planet for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind.

Why is it important to participate?

Public participation is a democratic process that ensures law-makers listen to the voices of the people when they make laws.

Why is Parliament inviting public input?

Parliament is mandated by the Constitution to ensure that the public is involved in all its processes, including law-making. To satisfy this mandate, the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment is inviting all interested and affected parties to participate in the processing of the Climate Change Bill.

Who must participate and how?

All affected and interested parties, individuals and organised formations are invited to participate in the upcoming public hearings by making an oral submission to the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.

Various departments and organisations were consulted on the draft Bill during the phase prior to tabling the Bill before Parliament e.g. Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation; Higher Education, Science and Technology; Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Trade, Industry and Competition; International Relations and Cooperation; Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; etc.

What happens after you have submitted your inputs to the committee?

The committee will consider all public inputs on the Climate Change Bill for the National Assembly to pass it. The Bill will then be referred to the National Council of Provinces for further deliberation and concurrence. Thereafter, the Bill will be sent to the President for assent and signing into an Act of Parliament.

For copies of the Bill and any further information you can contact the secretary of the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Ms Tyhileka Madubela at:

- Email: tmadubela@parliament.gov.za



Or visit parliament's website at: www.parliament.gov.za

Did You Know?

- Parliament is made up of two Houses, namely; the National Assembly(NA) and the National Council of Provinces(NCOP)
- Parliament is the national law-making body of South Africa
- Bills are mainly introduced to Parliament by the Minister of a specific department
- For a Bill to be passed into law, the President needs to sign it
- Parliament is obliged by the Constitution to get the views of the people before passing any Bill into an act or law.

References:

- 1) Climate Change Bill [B9-2022].