



CLIMATE CHANGE BILL SUBMISSION

Portfolio Committee On Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

9th May 2023



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- **Local governments** are crucial to addressing climate change.
- As **frontline responders** to the effects of global warming, they must create sustainable development pathways for resilient communities.
- The low carbon resilient society requires a **structural change of enormous scale and speed**
- This requires **joint action** by all sectors of society and levels of government.
- **Coordinating these efforts** and ensuring their coherence within a multi-level governance system is key to driving forward effective, efficient and ambitious climate actions.



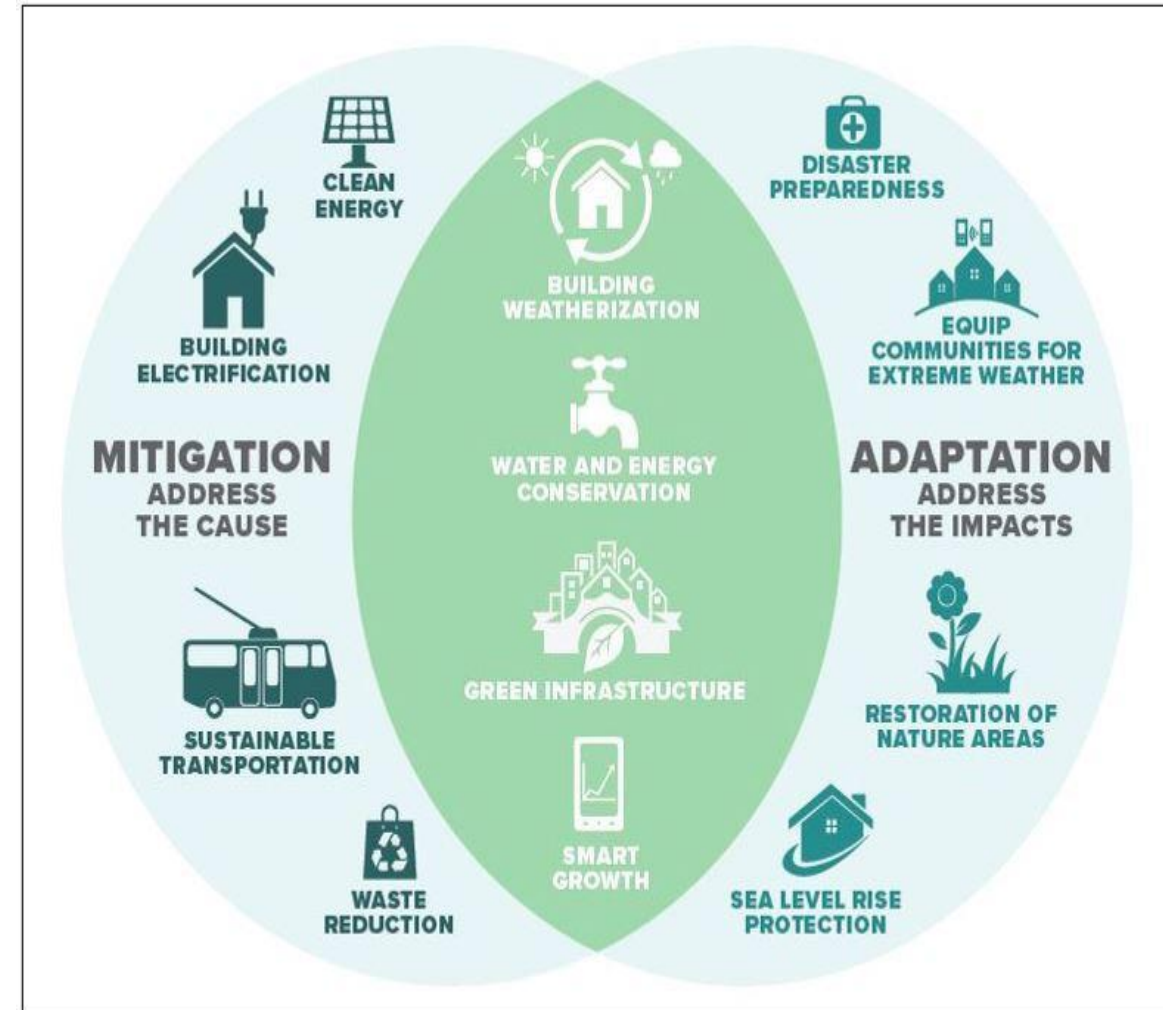
- Climate change is still considered a fairly 'new' term in contextualising the risks posed on municipal development.
- Climate Change Impacts are increasingly becoming recognised as considerable factors that contributes to the decline of municipal assets and the erosion of efforts made by municipalities to provide universal access to services by all citizens since the advent of democracy.
- Climate change will introduce some long-term shifts in the global climate regime, with wide ranging implications at the national and sub-national levels.
- To deal with these changes, integrated, people-based, development planning approaches need to be implemented immediately.
- This need not require lengthy and costly processes.

- The impacts of severe storms, wild fires, hail storm, lightening, and tidal waves on the built environment **threatens both the operational life of infrastructure and results in irrecoverable destruction to assets** that are already poorly maintained.
- There **is a shift towards full integration** evidenced by the move of mainly metropolitan municipalities to producing long-term climate change response action plans.
- There is some degree of **stagnation at the district and local municipal levels**, attributable mainly to :
 - limited resources and capacities to conduct climate risk and vulnerability assessments
 - limited access to resources for implementation of climate response actions



- Municipalities are areas of major economic development and places where the complexities and challenges of rapid population growth, urbanization, food and water insecurity, and service delivery collide with climate change impacts.
- As frontline providers of core infrastructure services, they are where policy implementation and community engagement happen, therefore, what municipalities do and how they respond to climate change will affect the extent and pace of the broader transition to sustainability.
- Local government should thus be at the heart of South Africa's climate change action and the just transition agenda which will have profound implications for the future competitiveness of municipal economies and livelihoods of their citizens.

- Local governments have crucially important roles to play in responding to spatially specific climate impacts and coordinating climate action and just transition measures in their municipal areas.
- Ensuring universal access to basic services such as clean energy, potable water, sanitation, public transport, a clean environment, education, and health care.
- Empowering individuals, communities, ward committees, unions, and civil society organizations to engage in discussions around the transitions that lie ahead (including the creation of new economic clusters), and incorporating their inputs into decisions



Mitigation, Adaptation and Cross Cutting Strategies

- Lack of technical capacity and financial resources to handle additional workloads associated with mainstreaming climate change response and Just Transition imperatives in planning, budgeting, infrastructure investment and service delivery
- Lack of relevant localized data on climate change to identify climate impacts, transition impacts, and vulnerabilities in a municipality, along with adaptation requirements, as well as developing local climate action plans and integrating these into IDPs, infrastructure investment and service delivery
- Municipal finance mechanisms that prioritize short-term ‘least cost’ options, rather than looking at life cycle costs
- Political and planning time-frames that are predicated on short-term outcomes, rather than the longer-term view necessitated by climate change



- SALGA circulated communication giving municipalities the opportunity to submit written comments that contributed to the local government submission.
- A municipal consultation session was held on the 27th May 2022, to allow additional discussions and comments.
- The purpose was to consolidate municipal submissions on the Climate Change Bill, to be approved by SALGA Governance structures and presented to parliament as a local government submission.



- The Climate Change Bill gives us – **the Legal duty to Act**. It is the basis for the country to respond to climate change. The act will position the country to become an African leader in tackling climate change.
- It also establishes the framework and support South Africa's commitment to global climate change agenda.
- The Climate Change Act will formalise SA's approach to tackling both on mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (increasing resilience to climate change).
- The Act will help in national risk assessments that will result in an Adaptation Programme that must address the risks.
- The Act will build a strong foundations required for government, organisations and civil society to respond to climate change.



What came out very strongly from the LG engagement are the following:

- Lack of consideration for the local municipalities in terms of the category A, B and C municipal roles.
- The Bill needs to differentiate municipalities per category and not assume roles are the same in Metros, Districts and Locals.
- The Bill does not take into account whether the municipalities have the necessary skills, expertise and capacity to achieve the 1year timeframe for undertaking climate change needs and response assessments
- The need to review timelines for municipalities to undertake climate change needs and response assessments based on capacity needs and existing assessments.
- The need to ensure that there is financial, technical and capacity support to enable local government implementation of the Climate Change Bill.



Comments

- Municipalities are not differentiated per category, the Bill assumes roles are the same in Metros, Districts and Locals.
- The Bill does not provide any mechanisms of implementation through partnerships with tertiary institutions, traditional authorities, or NGO's
- In terms of alignment of laws and policies, there is no reference to existing frameworks and their review & application (e.g. SPLUMA)
- There is no clarity as to how committees will be reporting to the parliament, it is suggested that there must be an obligation for the said minister to report and feed into the NCOP.

Suggestions

- The description of "Municipalities" should be added onto the definitions and be inclusive of the type of municipal categories so that the Bill caters for differentiation of municipalities i.e. category A, B & C, because municipal functions differ in Metropolitan, Districts and Local municipalities.
- The Bill must provide harmonisation across spheres of government
- Composition of committees must be representative of sectors, research & academia, organised business, organised civil society and traditional authorities

Comments

- The one-year timeframe for the development of National Adaptation Strategy does not give provision for budgeting for the development of the climate change needs and response assessment by Mayors.
- The Bill does not take into account whether the municipalities have the necessary skills and expertise to achieve the 1year timeframe for undertaking climate change needs and response assessments

Suggestions

- Review timelines for municipalities to undertake climate change needs and response assessments based on capacity needs and existing assessments.
- Bill must make provision for funding and capacity support for local government to play their roles.
- Municipalities require empowerment through funding and capacity building to implement their climate change response implementation plans.

National Adaptation to Impacts of Climate Change



Comments

- There is no clarity on who will be responsible for the enforcement of this greenhouse gas emission standards.
- It is not clear on whether standards will be removed from the Air quality Act: minimum emission standards?
- *“The National adaptation strategy will be aimed at achieving the following-“that point (e) should be added, for an objective that will speak to the “transition to renewable energy” and job creation/loss impact that will result from moving away from dirty industries to greener renewable energy.*

Suggestions

- The Act must be clear on the designation of a Climate Change Officer just like the Air Quality Officer and Waste Management Officer.
- The Bill must serve as a tool to prohibit developments that will regress the countries progress towards net zero, include mechanisms that will allow developments to be sustainable.

Comments	Suggestions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is No mention of the Carbon Tax, incentives and disincentives, as well as the fiscal measures - under general, penalties are too conservative (proposals for ring-fencing Carbon Tax revenues and cross-investment/subsidisation of low emission development in cities) • The Minister must review and revise budgets within a <u>reasonable</u> time if the national GHG inventory demonstrates an increase in emissions above the national trajectory. • There is no requirement for cities/municipalities to conduct inventories to measure their individual contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister should gazette the national GHG emissions trajectory that are inclusive of Local Government. The Sectorial emissions reduction plans should be developed in consultation with municipalities. • There must be clear timeframe defined, not “Reasonable” • Ensure that there is no potential duplication of the Air Quality Management Act. • MECs and Mayors must support implementation of Sector Emissions Targets (EMTs) by preparing and implementing Climate Change response plans. • There is a need for cities to also conduct GHG inventories and measure percentage of their contribution.

Portfolio Committee to note this submission from SALGA with the following recommendations :

- Ensure that there is financial, technical and capacity support to enable local government implementation of the Climate Change Bill.
- The Bill should give guidance to the financing mechanisms for climate change response implementation. The minister should provide a strategic approach for implementation of adaptation and mitigation.
- The Bill must be explicit in stating the percentage of the country emissions reductions by 2050.
- The Bill should limit provinces to oversight role and ensure that municipalities are involved in the implementation of climate change actions.
- The Bill must aim to address structural inequalities in society particularly those faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities and the groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and specifically gender-sensitive and gender-responsive policy programs need to be incorporated in all national and local climate action plans





Thank You



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