



Ekasi Development Projects

EKASI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

(Reg: 068-899)

Contact us:

Address: 2791 Goba Street Rockville Soweto Gauteng

Contact number: +27 71 739 5886

Fax: 086 750 3187

Email: ekasiyouth@gmail.com

Presenter: Sidwell Tshingilane

To:

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Ms Tyhileka Madubela (The Committee Secretary)

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Environment Affairs

Input on Climate Change White Paper

About us

Ekasi Development Projects is a registered not for profit organisation which focuses on skills development and education of young people in South Africa. One of our main objectives is to ensure that our local communities are aware of issues around protecting our environment and Climate Change. We have been involved in different awareness campaigns in our local schools in Soweto.

We welcome the proposed National Climate Change Response White Paper and we would like to recommend some issues which are not clarified on the proposed document and make some recommendations. We also concerned on the timeframe given to stakeholders on this White Paper. Eight day was not enough to look at a 48 pages proposal document. We are aware that the committee have apologised in the past days for this.

4. THE SOUTH AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE STRATEGY

Number for time bound

.We would like to propose a short term implementation of three years instead of five years as proposed by the document. Our reason is that climate change affects us now and we need to speed up the implementation to all South Africans especially the poor and those in rural areas. This people are already affected by Climate Change. We are also proposing:

- Medium term period of ten years instead of twenty years.
- Long term period of planning of 2030 instead of 2050.

We would also like to know that when will be the publication of this White Paper. Our main concern as Ekasi is the issues of policy implementation because people are suffering now not in the next ten years and written in the White Paper. So we need to move fast help our communities.

Gauteng Duduza tornado disaster

The Duduza tornado incident has opened our eyes that we need an urgent climate change disaster fund that will deal with all disasters in South Africa. Once again there was confusion in Duduza on what to do after the disaster. Companies like Sasol, Eskom and other mining companies should be initiating this proposed fund. We cannot negotiate for ever while people are suffering.

Ministry of Climate Change (Recommendation)

The White paper did not mention the issue of creating a new ministry or department that will deal with issues related to Climate Change in South Africa. As Ekasi we would like to champion this initiative. We would also like to propose that there must be provincial directorate in all provinces and all major Metro in this country. This will help to speed up the implementation of the policy.

The South African government should be helping business to take action to reduce their emissions, for example through Clean Business South Africa programme. This will help to increase energy efficiency of South African Buildings and the manufacturing process of our industries, while also helping businesses to commercialise their products and services that address climate change.

Another proposal for energy efficient would be the establishment of South African Carbon Trust. This trust will bring together public and private funding, innovative business approaches and technical knowledge to help business and the community groups to invest in energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

(Recommendations) Skills Development for green jobs

We are also proposing a Skills Training for the Carbon Challenge that will help to develop training programmes and qualifications that will teach green skills and sustainability principles across a number of industries. There is a need to engage with the Basic and Higher Education departments on this issue.

The Green Awareness Programme will help the local households to learn how to go green by providing home sustainability assessments that will help millions of South Africans to improve energy and water efficiently in their homes to reduce green house gas emissions. SABC and Radio 702 are doing this awareness and education, some media houses must come on board.

Another proposal is the Carbon Pollution Reduction which we believe it will be the cheapest way to reduce Climate Change. In terms of cars we would like to suggest Green Car Policy for motor industry that will use latest technology and innovation to come up with electric cars and energy efficiency public transport who contribute a lot in our environment.

As Ekasi we are still concerned about the terms used in the White Paper ordinary people will find it very difficult to understand these terms. Many scientific terms are used here. A Climate train is a good initiative but we do not see it making any impact to our communities.

Community Awareness

We are very worried about the slow process of implementation and awareness. As long as this process is slow then local NGO like us will suffer in terms of resources.

It is vital that local ordinary community are made aware of causes of climate change. Public broadcaster and print media have a major role to play in this regards. The White Paper does not address the issue of prevention measures for communities. People have a right to be advised about what to do when there are signs of heavy rain falls. These measures will help to reduce disasters. Climate train is such a good awareness initiative and thanks to all partners involved.

Government Public Partnerships

We are so disappointed with the National department of Water and Environment. We have been trying to engage with them since April this year. Their public relation is very poor. We have this wonderful outreach programme that needed financial support.

Community water conservation

5.6 Human Settlements – Urban Settlements

This the biggest challenge in Gauteng. There is a need to speed up development of rural areas. This will reduce migration to urban areas. There are also the issues of space available in Johannesburg. We need to set up a temporary shelter for Climate Change victims and refugees in all major cities. This will help us to have less expensive adaptation strategy. We would also like to request the National Human

Settlement department to install water tanks in all new RDP developments as from the next financially year.

Job Creation and EPWP

This is the major challenge in the entire government departments so we hope that the White paper is realistic about creating green jobs. The President promised that 2011 will be the year for job creation but instead we lost jobs. The White Paper should be more realistic on this issue. We also feel that EPWP employment is not sustainable.

Small Business

Promoting small business in the environment and greening sectors will help to create sustainable employment.

Adaptation

Africa and South Africa need to have a political will on adaptation because poor countries will be more affected by Climate Change. Therefore we recommend a pro-poor adaptation policy urgent when Team South Africa negotiates at the Cop17 in Durban.

Community Recycling Programme

We would like to see the policy promote the social enterprise and small recycling business which can create sustainable jobs. Environmental co-operatives should be supported in this sector.

The Transport Flagship Programme

Parliamentarians need to promote the use of public transport. I have noticed that it is happening here in Parliament. There is another issue of changing attitude to our people to use public transport. But the Transport department need to put systems in place in developing our public transport. We are also worried about the slow support of electric and gas cars in South Africa. We need more environmental friendly vehicles.

The Renewable Energy Flagship Programme

Lack of funding and support from government side will not help us to move forward, so there is a need for a political will from the government. We can have a wonderful South African Climate Change Policy but implementation of it is very crucial. Companies also need to play their role. We would also like to applaud the Deputy President Denmark Wing energy Project. This will help to create green more employment among youth. Minister Molewa sounds passionate about social mobilisation and government commitment but we need to see actions now.

Nuclear Energy

As Ekasi we say no to nuclear energy and we fully understand that South Africa is a developing country. We do not want the Japan Tsunami to happen to our next and future generation. We are agree with Environment Minister that South Africa is still a developing economy but we feel that regarding coal and Eskom and we suggest that we must introduce a carbon-capture and storage (CCS) technologies this help to reduce Green House Emission (GHG).

5.3 Agriculture and commercial forestry

The Climate Change Response Public Works Flagship Programme:

Its is very sad that people in Soweto are not willing to do vegetable gardens at their backyards. At the same time you have the issue of food high prices and shortages. We worried about lack of government support to crop producers. In this regard we request the Department of Agriculture to put aside some funds to assists farmers who are affected by climate change. If we fail to do that the rural people and the poor will suffer because food prices will rocket.

National Disaster Management Council

This institution need to improve public relation because ordinary people we represent in township like Soweto do not know about this centre. They must also have a capacity to deal with disasters nationally.

Woolworths success story

We would like to congratulate Woolworths South Africa for being a leading retail company to champion the greening and environmental friendly initiative. Their trucks are eco-friendly, the staff members are being trained to save water and energy. This is unlike what you mentioned Mr Chairperson about Plein Street wasting electricity. Government need to lead by example in energy saving.

Transport and Road Construction

Rea Vaya BRT project have also caused floods in Soweto especially in Orlando. They have not done proper drainage systems when construction the roads. Some of the road constructions have disturbed the Wetlands. Since we are hosting the Climate Change in December we hope that Durban will come out with innovative transport service that is environmental friendly like delegates electric cars .We need to lead by example. I understand that the current electric project in Cape Town is struggle with funding and we strongly believe that government should parastatals like IDC should come on board to assist.

8.2 The Water Conservation and Demand Management Flagship Programme

There is a success story in the Midvaal municipality whereby they came up with a huge social awareness about how important for communities to save water. This have worked for them because they managed to save more than R60 million per. Other municipality should follow this example.

In the forestry we would like to propose the zero deforestation in South Africa and the world s intact tropical forest by 2015.

Empowering Provinces

Provinces and Municipality need an urgent support from the National government in terms of resources. These guys work directly with the people so they must be capacitated to deal with these issues. We like to support the proposal made by the Committee Chairperson of name and shame all those who continue to emit our environment.

Lastly we would like to encourage all South Africans to

Save tomorrow today. It is not about the us now it's about our future generations.

Thank you