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 Date: 2011/10/06 05:27 PM
 Subject: Climate change response White Paper(Submission)

11.NCCWP.22

Dear Ms T. Madubela

The following refers to the subject above mentioned that is climate change response to White Paper.The following is the discussion thereto.

Topic : The role of children and youth to correct and prevent(reduce) climate change

Themes : 1.Education of children at schools on Ecology

- 2.School projects on ecosystem
- 3.Application of school knowledge in the environment
- 4.Involving communities in solving the problem of climate change
- 5.Role of out-of-school and youth in reducing or prevent climate change
- 6.Role of Higher Education through research and others
- 7.Role of government,NGOs,business,etc... in support of leaners projects
- 8.Support of educational programmes by the international against climate change
- 9.Role of traditional leaders and religious leaders
- 10.Commitment of the public against climate change

Conclusion

Children and youth are vital members of the society and future generation.To that end,it is critical for their involvement in the mainstream phenomena like solving the problem of climate change.One important resource for knowledge is the school.Therefore is important to invest in children's education and am encouraged by the South African government in regarding Education as a priority.Given wide curriculum in schools,critical interalia, is study in the Life Sciences without its knowledge will be catastrophic results in the history of humanity,that is,life will be in danger as it is with climate change.Before proceeding,need to state that I have been a teacher of the matric class in Biology for ten years as well as was subject head in the subject mentioned.I now am in the rank of Senior Education Specialist in Social Services.This submission is through the mandate as a public member of South Africa.Through relatively good knowledge in Biology, of late in Education is categorised as Life Science.It is from my historical

background in Biology I discuss from ecological perspective, part of biological studies. Ecology as a study of the ecosystem which is the interaction of biotic and abiotic entities informs our understanding of the processes of nature and dangers to imbalances of systems. The danger we globally face now is climatic change to the disadvantage of the FAUNA and the FLORA as well as geo-systems. It is in education on Ecology to children, will be appreciation of our environment and its systems thus empower them to tackle problems like that of climate change.

In the process of ecological studies, the teachers in their teaching programmes should accommodate activities in the form of projects so as to widen practical knowledge of the learners and practical involvement in the environment which sustains them. The projects might be from excursions visit museums, zoos, botanical gardens and aquaria. Therefrom should work on work sheets provided of what they have researched on. The teacher on individual bases guide the learners towards the outcomes and finally assess the work of each learner. In the learning and teaching process the teachers spell out the purpose or objective of the project in question like that whose theme is climate change.

From knowledge acquired in school in theoretical and practical bases, learners may further be required in projects that are community based and assessed and evaluated at school. Involvement of the learners in the environment might be in the form of planting trees which provides oxygen to animals and humans and in metabolic processes reduce atmospheric content of Carbon Dioxide which have toxic effect and contribute to the rupturing of the Ozone layer exposing the earth to sun rays destructive to human cells. Calling gatherings to teach/interact with members of the community to discontinue use of toxic substances which are a danger to the ecosystem which in the end affects the stability of climate for the worse. Participation in sports by children and youth will divert their attention from drug and substance abuse which often result in unacceptable behaviour which often result in destruction in the society. Children and youth should organise campaigns in cleaning the environment with the help of business community, the government and other stakeholders. Stability and flourishing environment in all walks of life, cannot be destructive to itself but contribute positively to the biotic and abiotic components in life. That is interalia, the world can be a better place to live in. As adults in becoming, the children in involvement in environmental activities develop sense of responsibility and care of the fellow citizen and to all of the world. That is, critical outcomes in OBE satisfied. In all these activities the learners in formal education develop responsibility and strategies of involving social disadvantaged (the vulnerable, at risk children and children in conflict with the Law) in the mainstream activities should be mapped out.

As mentioned in the preceding paragraph to this, out-of-school children and youth have a role to play in all mainstream activities with all their inherent rights. As mentioned earlier, drug and substance abuse result in reckless behaviour which lends itself to harm of the environment, the behaviour common (from research) in out-of-school children. Marginalisation of out-of-school children and youth from whatever reason is in fact harming part of humanity expected to restore stability on this earth and further in the world of Geo-physics. In the year 2008 I attended a two weeks in Belgium for a course on the rights

of the children attended by participants from 36 countries. That empowered me to advocate children's rights in this harsh world. The point I reiterate is the potential contribution of vulnerable and at risk children in the process of Nature Conservation, therefore crushing such children, abuse part of assets of the South African community

As a fact, resources and reservoir of knowledge of formal education is in higher education. Therefore theories and systematic knowledge filter down the level of Basic Education in schools and higher education continue to empower the society through research. It is at the level of higher education theoretical concepts about climate change are discussed and those institutions are well placed to connect to the international world through research.

As mentioned earlier, any activity in modern world which should not necessarily be, is driven by money. In a holistic spirit, learners and vulnerable children out-of-school can afford better life when monetarily assisted to further the agendas of environmental conservation and its prosperity. The government, business, NGOs and all stakeholders should invest in the young for posterity and care of the young from all the money commanded from various institutions is an appeal to afford slice to the projects of children in solving the problem of climate change. Of course should be mutual interaction for the good of humanity, the planet earth and the Universe.

As mentioned earlier South Africa is not a political island but part of the family of nations, the United Nations. With comprehensive programmes and resources, the UN in the spirit of justice and goodwill should or continue to help poor countries in fight against climate change for the worse.

In South Africa there is substantial number in population of poor people who among other things use natural resources for their socio-economic survival like chopping trees in harm of the bio system as well as create imbalance by consumption of critical species in the biosystem. Therefore, the traditional leaders are well placed in terms of their representation in parliament to make a difference in rural area. There is structure in the universe and we are parts of the structure. When one part is negatively affected, so is the rest of the structure. Therefore all members of the "South African organism" should commit themselves in solving climatic change for the better so as to give life to the "South African organism". The concept of God and religion I personally believe in have the answer to climate change because God is above science. Before closing just to allude that last year I was invited by education portfolio committee in national parliament for presentation and learnt that the presentation should be short. On a light note wonder as to whether this submission is short.

In conclusion to say, we are people of the world, citizens of the universe and as human family globally, let us hold hands, team towards holding back the imminent danger of climate change.
Thank you

Looking forward to your response regarding the submission

Kind regards
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