

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future



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AFRICAN CLIMATE ALLIANCE



WELCOME

Welcome to the #CancelCoal Newsflash where you can keep in the loop with the latest developments in our fight against new coal power in South Africa. With each issue, we'll bring you updates on our landmark legal case, the latest news updates related to the just energy transition from around the world as well as sharing events and a platform for activists to share their hopes and imaginations for a fairer future. We hope you enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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NEWSFLASH

CABINET APPROVES JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

South Africa's Cabinet has approved the Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan (JET IP), aiming to guide the country's shift to a low-carbon economy by expanding renewable energy sources. The plan aligns with the National Determined Contributions presented to the United Nations, addressing commitments under the Paris Agreement and the National Development Plan. The JET IP involves energy sector reforms, the Mpumalanga Just Transition, new energy vehicles, and green hydrogen to reduce carbon emissions gradually while ensuring inclusive economic growth and energy security. Cabinet also allocated funds from the Criminal Asset Recovery Account to combat illegal mining and approved the South African National Petroleum Company Bill. [MORE HERE](#)

JOHANNESBURG NEEDS TO CLEAN ITS AIR TO SAVE LIVES, SAYS REPORT

A report by the Clean Air Fund reveals that approximately 5,300 people in Johannesburg died prematurely in 2019 due to air pollution. If the city addresses its pollution issues with clean air interventions from 2023-2040, it could reduce pollution-related deaths by 2,800 and save \$640 million. Johannesburg's air pollution primarily stems from industry, power plants, biomass fuels, road transport, and mismanaged waste. The city's topography, with minimal wind and pollution-trapping conditions, exacerbates the problem. The report emphasizes the urgency for aggressive measures, as Johannesburg's air quality contributes to lower life expectancy compared to other cities. [MORE HERE](#)

SA'S SHIFT FROM COAL WON'T WORSEN DEBT BURDEN AND PUTS JUSTICE FIRST, SAYS CREECY

South Africa's \$8.8 billion climate finance investment plan, part of the Just Energy Transition Partnership, has been approved, targeting Mpumalanga, a coal-dependent region. Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Minister Barbara Creecy highlighted a "special category for transition" in Mpumalanga to mitigate economic impacts from coal-related closures. The plan includes renewable energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, and municipal support. Despite concerns about job losses, Creecy emphasized justice principles, stating that the transition would not worsen the debt burden. South Africa aims to present the plan at the COP28 summit and seeks at least R1 trillion by 2030 for its green transition. [MORE HERE](#)

'THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WATER; THERE'S A SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL,' EXPERT WARNS OVER UTHAKA ENERGY PLAN TO MINE IN WAKKERSTROOM

The Centre for Environmental Rights argued in court that a proposed coal mine in Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga, threatens a strategic water source in the Enkangala-Drakensberg area, affecting communities, biodiversity, and water supply. The Mabola Coalition, opposing coal mining in the region, claims the rezoning process for mining was flawed, ignoring the environmental significance of the area. The case highlights the tension between mining interests and environmental conservation, emphasizing the need to protect water sources. The judgment, reserved for three months, could impact South Africa's commitment to conservation and climate change mitigation. The broader Mabola case launched in 2017 faces delays. [MORE HERE](#)

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR AT COP'S BIGGEST GATHERING YET, THIS TIME IN DUBAI

As COP28 convenes in Dubai, five crucial issues take center stage. Climate finance is a priority, with developing countries pushing developed nations to meet commitments and seeking \$1 trillion per year by 2030. Loss and damage negotiations focus on the specifics of the Loss and Damage Fund, addressing contributions, criteria, and definitions. Early warning systems' commitment and funding are key, following last year's Early Warning Systems for All on Earth initiative. The Global Stocktake, evaluating countries' emissions reduction efforts, sets the agenda for more ambitious goals. Just Energy Transition Partnerships are crucial for countries shifting from fossil fuels to renewables. [MORE HERE](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE: IS THE WORLD WARMING FASTER THAN EXPECTED?

In 2023, unprecedented climate records indicate that the year is set to become the hottest on record. Scientists attribute this to factors such as an unusual El Niño, rapid temperature increases, reduced aerosols from air pollution regulations, a significant volcanic eruption, and declining Antarctic sea-ice. While these influences may contribute to the temperature surge, the world's warming doesn't yet consistently exceed climate model predictions. Some scientists warn that climate change impacts may be underestimated, emphasizing the urgent need to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels ahead of the COP28 climate summit. [MORE HERE](#)

'PRIORITISE CLIMATE NEEDS OF AFRICA' AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PRESIDENT URGES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCIERS AHEAD OF COP28

Ahead of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, calls for international development financiers to prioritize Africa's climate needs. He emphasizes fulfilling commitments of \$100 billion annually in climate finance from wealthy nations. The African Development Bank estimates Africa requires \$2.8 trillion by 2030 for climate commitments, but currently receives only 3% of global climate finance. Adesina advocates urgent global action, highlighting the Bank's initiatives, including doubling climate finance to \$25 billion by 2025 and the \$20 billion Desert to Power initiative for clean electricity in the Sahel. The Bank aims to amplify Africa's voice at COP28. [MORE HERE](#)

WOMEN ARE LEADING THE FIGHT TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE

Women are taking prominent roles in the fight against climate change, challenging traditional leadership. Figures include Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley, advocating financial system reforms for climate-vulnerable countries; Jennifer Morgan, Germany's climate representative, emphasizing cutting emissions and global responsibility; Ève Bazaiba, DRC's environment minister, demanding compensation for protecting the Congo Basin; Barbara Creecy, South Africa's minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment; highlighting injustice and calling for post-2024 financial goals; and Marina Silva, Brazil's environment minister, focusing on Amazon protection and shifting agricultural perceptions. Other influential women include Tina Stege, Maisa Rojas, Wopke Hoekstra, Teresa Ribera, Kristin Tilley, and Steven Guilbeault. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Nkateko Masinga

SEVEN LESSONS ON PHOSPHORESCENCE

I

REMEMBER ALL YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT ABOUT FIRE:
CEREMONIAL BONFIRE, DANTE'S INFERNO, HADES,
THE BURN WOUNDS PRACTICAL IN THE SKILLS LAB.

II

REMINDE YOURSELF THAT THIS IS NOT AN AIRPLANE:
THERE WILL BE NO OXYGEN MASK DESCENDING
FROM ABOVE, NO OPTION TO STABILIZE YOURSELF.

III

RUN TO THE PEDIATRICS WARD. THINK ABOUT WHAT
YOU LEARNT IN PHYSICS: ENERGY TRANSFER, SPEED.
HOLD CHILDREN IN YOUR ARMS. CRY WHEN ALONE.
HOLD SMOKE IN YOUR MOUTH. COUGH WHEN ALONE.

IV

MAKE YOUR MANDATORY CHECK-IN PHONE CALL.
SAY TO YOUR PARTNER, HONEY I'LL BE HOME LATE.
DON'T WAIT UP. SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE FLAMES.
REMEMBER THAT THIS FIRE IS NOT UNLIKE YOU;
FLUORESCENT AND PHOSPHORESCENT; BURNING
BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. THE SCABS REMAIN.

V

WATCH THE FIRE DIE DOWN. NO MORE COMBUSTION.
NO MORE PERCEPTIBLE HEAT. THE SCABS REMAIN.
SOME EVIDENCE IS INDESTRUCTIBLE. SPEAK.

VI

TELL YOUR LOVER WHAT THE FIRE DID TO YOU.
COUNT ON YOUR FINGERS THE ONES IT TOOK.
STOP HOLDING SMOKE IN YOUR MOUTH. HEAL.

VII

TEND TO WHAT REMAINS IN THE AFTERMATH;
REESTABLISH THE SCAFFOLDING OF YOUR BODY,
BRITTLE BUT RELEARNING THE BEAUTY OF WATER.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: NKATEKO MASINGA

NKATEKO MASINGA IS A SOUTH AFRICAN DOCTOR AND WRITER. SHE IS A 2019 FELLOW OF THE EBEDI INTERNATIONAL WRITERS RESIDENCY, A 2018 MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOW, AND A GOLDEN KEY SCHOLAR. SHE WAS NOMINATED FOR A PUSHCART PRIZE IN 2018. HER MOST RECENT CHAPBOOK, PSALM FOR CHRYSANTHEMUMS, WAS SELECTED BY THE AFRICAN POETRY BOOK FUND AND AKASHIC BOOKS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE 2020 NEW-GENERATION AFRICAN POETS BOX SET.

ABOUT THE POEM

SEVEN LESSONS ON PHOSPHORESCENCE, PUBLISHED IN WORLD LITERATURE TODAY (2022), IS ABOUT FIRE SAFELY PROTOCOLS WITHIN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA. MY MESSAGE IS THAT NEGLIGENCE IS CAUSING UNNECESSARY DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE WITHIN A FIELD WHERE OUR AIM IS TO “DO NO HARM”.

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