

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future



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

- NEWSFLASH
- ART OF THE WEEK
- ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



NEWSFLASH

HOW SOUTH AFRICA BOTCHED ITS FIRST COAL POWER PLANT TRANSITION

The closure of the last unit in Komati in October last year, the first of its under South Africa's Just Transition Plan (JET-P), has been botched by poor consultation with energy workers and little attempts to create alternative jobs. While Eskom began closure of the power plant in 2017, it only started consulting with workers and the community one month before closure of the final unit in order to announce these plans. This is the same month that a training facility was established on site, with \$487 million secured from the World Bank in order to build renewable energy and battery plants. Rhetoric from the energy and electricity ministers opposing closure, citing need for coal given South Africa's power shortages were inaccurate and aggravated confusion in the community; noted in a study by the Presidential Climate Commission. [MORE HERE](#)

MANTASHE CASTS SHADE ON RENEWABLES AT COP28, STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF BASELOAD POWER

During a plenary session titled "Unlocking Renewable Electricity in South Africa", minister Mantashe cast doubt on South Africa's renewable energy future, expressing doubt on the country's renewable energy future. The minister noted that renewable energy generation was not to be 'unlocked' but was already in full steam with 7500MW already installed and 3800MW already under construction. He stressed that focus should instead be placed on 'baseload'. However, Neil Cole from the Just Energy Transition Project Management Unit in the Presidency noted that it was important to align baseload needs with South Africa's 2030 energy targets, which would require a mix of energy sources as well as decommissioning of coal power stations – guided by South Africa's NDC targets. The minister also raised concerns on financing – particularly whether finance from international partners financing South Africa's just transition would not add to the debt burden of South Africa. Cole noted that COP28 outcome on finance has highlighted that South Africa's clear stance on the need for grant financing in order to fund South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET) with additional commitments amounting to over \$700 million in grants. The country aims to raise this figure to over \$1 billion in grants by 2024. [MORE HERE](#)

KARPOWERSHIP PURSUES POTENTIAL GAP TO REFLOAT RICHARDS BAY PROJECT – REGARDLESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY APPEALS

After two appeals were filed against the environmental authorisation given to Karpowership, a Turkish energy agency, on the basis of inadequate offsets for disrupting the marine estuary and conditionality of environmental authorisation (EA), the energy company has asked for reinstatement of its EA for the Richards Bay site. The environmental authorisation is for a 450MW gas-to-electricity project which has its commercial deadline set for the end of the month. Minister Creecy noted that if the appeal is allowed to suspend the EA and there is no valid EA by the deadline, then Karpowership stands to lose its preferred bidder status and there will be no further project. The Biodiversity Law Center and Center for Environmental Rights have been given until today to file their appeals, which they have cited is a very tight deadline. The future of the project lies in minister Mantashe and Eskom's court who unless an extension is granted, will render the project terminated. [MORE HERE](#)

#COP28: SOUTH AFRICA'S CLIMATE CHANGE REGIME AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION "STOCKTAKE"

As COP28 marks the first-ever Global Stocktake (GST); a critical opportunity for the global community to recourse and accelerate mitigation, adaptation, and financing for climate ambition towards achieving the 1.5 degreethreshold of the Paris Agreement. The GST is a significant moment for South Africa to reflect on implementation of its own climate policies. Dalit Anstey, an ESG knowledge lawyer at Webber Wentzel, notes that the key concern with South Africa's climate policies; although comprehensive, is enforceability. South Africa passed the momentous Climate Change Bill in October which will see a 'carbon budget' being introduced; limiting the amount of GHGs an entity is entitled to emit. It will also be key to implementation of South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET). The GST will overall mark a significant opportunity to address fundamental questions of justice for global south countries like South Africa at COP28 and beyond. [MORE HERE](#)

'HUMANITY IS ON THE VERGE OF 5 CLIMATE "TIPPING POINTS", REPORT WARNS

A recently developed report cautions that 5 global paramount "tipping points" are at risk of surpassing the current global warming levels which inherently raises existential concern for the future of humanity. A global team of 200 researchers classified 26 natural processes that are in danger of being permanently interrupted by the climate change crisis including, mountain glaciers, tropical rainforests, ocean currents, coral reefs and ice sheets. The researchers also determined positive tipping points which entail rapid advancements in the flexible use of renewable energy through battery technologies such as electric cars. The report is further in line with the current COP28 negotiations which are occurring in Dubai where civil society members and global leaders are contending with oil executives to reduce global emissions. The developments which have been produced thus far entail engagements from 20 countries to triple renewable energy by 2020. 50 oil companies have pledged to reduce methane emissions and civil society actors are lobbying for the loss and damage fund. The researchers of the report are requesting that nations actively and rapidly engage in phasing out fossil fuels to reduce emissions by conducting more research on the "tipping points" and further applying climate change adaptation measures in line with the Paris Agreement and the Global Stocktake. [MORE HERE](#)

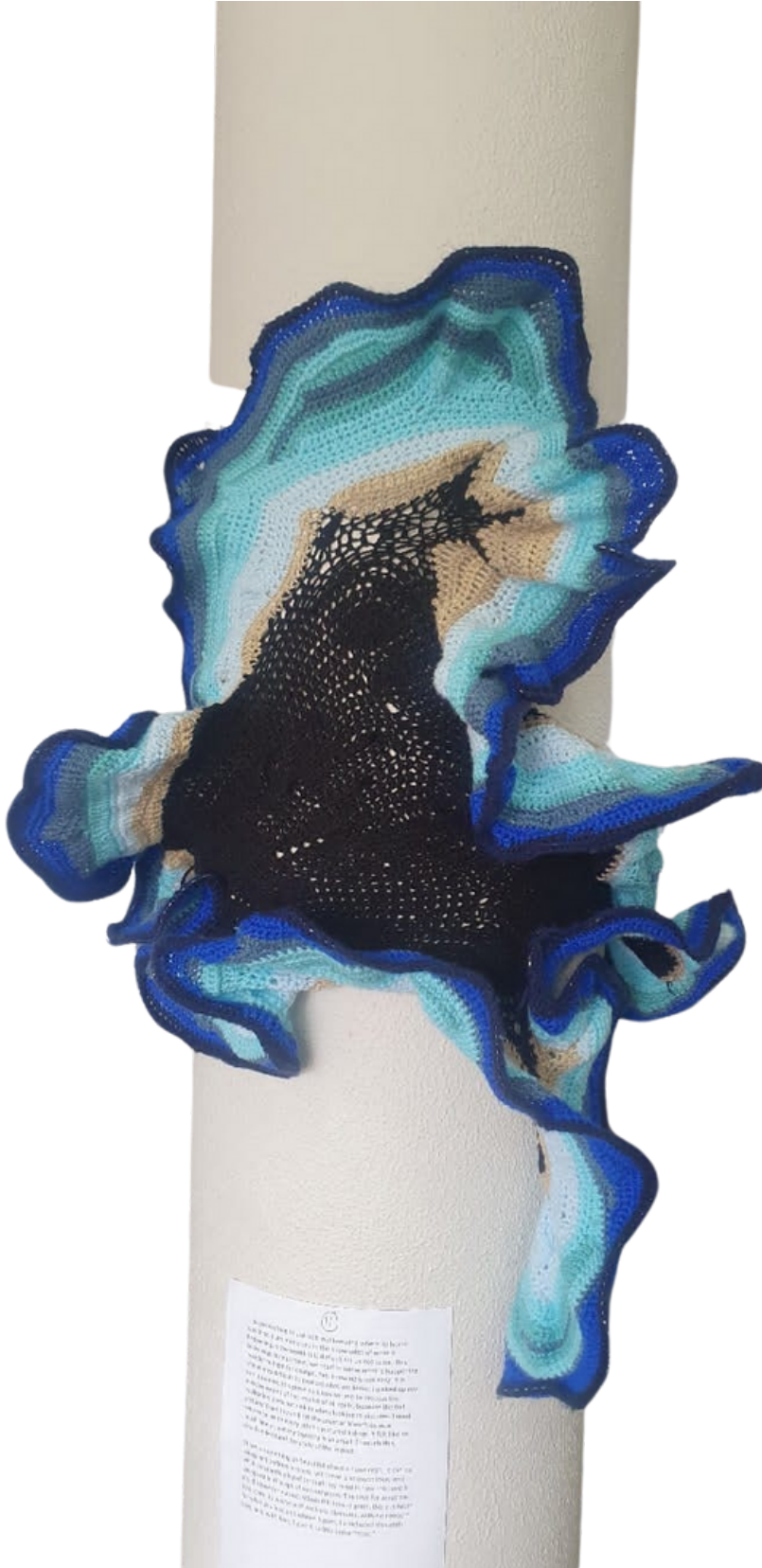
FOOD WE EAT MATTERS FOR CLIMATE, LEADERS AGREE IN FIRST EVER PLEDGE

On day two of the COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai, global leaders across 130 nations agreed on an important memorandum to secure the future of food systems and agriculture. For the first time, the UN annual gathering acknowledged the food that people graze and consume as a fundamental component for global warming. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Raeesah Noor-Mahomed

OIL SPILL



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: RAEESAH NOOR-MAHMOUD

RAEESAH NOOR-MAHOMED (THEY/THEM) IS A 21-YEAR-OLD SOUTH AFRICAN INTERSECTIONAL ACTIVIST. RAEESAH BEGAN THEIR ACTIVISM IN 2019, DOING PERFORMANCE ART PROTEST PIECES TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS. IN 2020 THEY BOYCOTTED SCHOOL EVERY FRIDAY UNTIL LOCKDOWN TO DEMAND FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY. THEY HAVE SINCE ATTENDED COP26, COP28 AND TWO CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPS, AND HAVE RECENTLY FINISHED THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, MAJORING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES, THEATRE AND ANTHROPOLOGY. MOVING FORWARD, RAEESAH PLANS TO COMBINE THEIR PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH THEIR LOVE FOR THE ARTS AND CONTINUE WORKING ON FINDING WAYS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECT WITH PEOPLE ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS, USING ART AS A MEDIUM FOR COMMUNICATION.

Q&A

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO USE YOUR ART FOR ACTIVISM?

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF HUMANITY, ART HAS BEEN USED AS A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION. ART HAS ALSO ALWAYS BEEN A FORM OF RESISTANCE, A WAY TO SPARK CHANGE. MY LOVE FOR THE ARTS, THE POWER IT HOLDS, AND THE DEEP CONNECTIONS IT FOSTERS, IS WHAT MOTIVATES ME TO USE MY ART FOR ACTIVISM

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE WITH THE ARTWORK YOU ARE SHARING?

I AM IMMERSSED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US NOT TO BE. THIS KNOWLEDGE IS IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ORDER TO FIGHT FOR CHANGE. YET, KNOWING IS NOT EASY. IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO PROCESS WHAT WE KNOW. I PICKED UP MY YARN TO CREATE THIS PIECE AS A WAY FOR ME TO PROCESS THE MASSIVE EXTENT OF THE IMPACT OF OIL SPILLS, BECAUSE THE FULL REALIZATION DOES NOT SINK IN WHEN LOOKING AT PICTURES. I USED PICTURED FROM THE SPILL OFF THE COAST OF MAURITIUS AS A REFERENCE. WITH EVERY STITCH I PICTURED A DROP. IT FELT LIKE SO MUCH LABOUR, YET MY TAPESTRY IS SO SMALL. THROUGH THIS, I COULD UNDERSTAND THE SCALE OF THE IMPACT.

THERE IS SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL ABOUT A HAND CRAFT. IT CAN BE A LONG AND TEDIOUS PROCESS, YET THERE IS SO MUCH LOVE, AND WHAT CONSTANTLY PLAYED THROUGH MY MIND IS HOW THIS LOVE IS BEING LOST IN THIS AGE OF CONSUMPTION. THE LOVE FOR WHAT WE DO, THE LOVE FOR NATURE. WHEN THIS LOVE IS GONE, THERE IS ROOM TO DISCARD, TO WASTE WITH RECKLESS ABANDON, WITH NO CONCERN FOR WHAT YOU LOSE AND WHERE IT GOES.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE FOLLOW YOU?

INSTAGRAM: @PURE.RAE.OF.SUNSHINEE

LINKEDIN: RAEESAH NOOR MAHOMED

FACEBOOK: RAEESAH NOOR-MAHOMED

