

## **Halt South Africa's secretive and expensive Nuclear Deal**

### **Background to SAFCEI's court challenge and renewed concerns:**

SAFCEI and Earthlife Africa's court victory halted SA's nuclear plans in April 2017. Despite claims from government that we will only build at the "pace and scale" that we can afford, recent events indicate that, in a brief window of opportunity, the new Energy Minister, Mahlobo, may attempt to rush through the trillion Rand nuclear deal before the ANC conference in December.

For this to happen, Government might try to force through the following:

- Hastily publish the IRP (electricity plan for the country) which was only due in early 2018.
- Issue a section 34 determination, a decision by Government that SA needs nuclear energy. Made by the Minister and based on the IRP, it could happen in secret.
- Get approval from NERSA (Nuclear Energy Regulator of SA) after tick box public consultation, through public hearings or a 30 day comment period.
- Sign off by Parliament of any draft procurement agreement (like the one SA wanted to sign with Russia but which had not been approved and was stalled by the court victory in April).
- Eskom would then reissue its tender documents, asking for bidders to build 9600MW of nuclear power.

### **How do we hold Government accountable to citizens?**

The Campaign for a Just Energy Future (CJEF) and the Stopnukedeal Campaign, supported by over 60 civil society (including some FBO), labour and business organisations are vigilantly monitoring developments in Parliament and the Department of Energy (DoE).

- Weekly vigils take place outside parliament on Wednesday mornings from 7.30 to 9.00 to bear witness to the President and Cabinet Ministers as they arrive for their Wednesday cabinet meeting.
- Parliamentary Energy Portfolio meetings are monitored in order to keep the public informed and updated on energy planning. Media networks notify the public.
- Lawyers are tracking avenues to challenge transgressions of due process.

## What can faith leaders and faith communities do?

In our call for ethical and transparent governance and civil rights, the witness of faith leaders who hold the moral high-ground in public spaces, is deeply valued. We therefore ask members of the WCRLF and faith leaders and their communities for support.

### We ask you to:

- Endorse the CJEF letter to the DoE, calling for public hearings on our energy future to be held before Parliament closes at the end of November 2017. Letter attached below. Register endorsement through [kate@safcei.org.za](mailto:kate@safcei.org.za)
- Attend and be a faith presence (in religious attire) at Energy Portfolio Committee meeting (at Parliament) Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 9.30 to 13.00 or for as long as your time allows. Public are not allowed to speak but you will be witness to the discussions between the Minister of Energy and parliamentarians regarding the request for public hearings on SA's energy future.
- Attend and be a faith presence at a vigil outside Parliament, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30 to 9.00 followed by a gathering at St Georges Cathedral.
- Attend a debate by members from different political parties on their views on nuclear energy. St Georges Cathedral, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 11.00 to 13.00.

We also ask you to encourage members and congregations to become better informed about energy justice and to participate in public events and vigils. Please note that there will be a public speak out with art and drama outside Parliament during the Energy Portfolio Committee meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

We are mindful that faith leaders are busy people, but we ask you to make a commitment to participate in at least one of the above events. At this time in our history, we need the voice of faith leaders to speak out boldly for energy justice and ethical governance. We also ask you to invite members and congregations to be a faith presence at the events listed above.

With thanks

Kate Davies and the SAFCEI and Campaign for a JUST ENERGY FUTURE teams



For further information please contact:

[kate@safcei.org.za](mailto:kate@safcei.org.za)

[www.safcei.org](http://www.safcei.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/SAFCEI/>

14 November 2017

021 701 8145

# CAMPAIGN FOR A JUST ENERGY FUTURE (CJEF)

Honourable Fikile Majola,  
Chairperson: Energy Portfolio Committee  
National Assembly, Parliament of South Africa  
[fmajola@parliament.gov.za](mailto:fmajola@parliament.gov.za)

24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Honourable Majola,

## **RE: Public hearings on our energy future before 2017 Parliament closes.**

On 29 and 30 November, 2016, after a civil society meeting, a memorandum was drafted by civil society organisations concerned about the government's nuclear deal. The document was then handed over to Parliament. A key demand was for Parliament to hold public hearings. We were informed that the memorandum had been handed over to the relevant Portfolio Committee, namely that of Energy.

As Members of Parliament, you are tasked with oversight of the Department of Energy. Since 2014, you have consistently stated at Energy Portfolio Committee meetings that there is a need for public hearings on the nuclear deal. However, your committee has yet to hold any such hearings.

Given the recent Cabinet reshuffle, the public hearings on state capture within Eskom, and Eskom's application for further tariff increases, we re-assert there is an urgent need for public hearings on our energy future.

Civil society voices must be heard by Members of Parliament, our public representatives, on this matter. It is imperative that we plan our energy transition towards a clean and sustainable energy future that provides for affordable energy for all, creates jobs and livelihoods, supports a productive and just economy, and responds to the urgency to reduce climate impacts.

We, the underlying organisations, demand that you hold public hearings on our energy future before Parliament closes at the end of November 2017.

Stopnukedeal Campaign and the Campaign for a Just Energy Future  
Supported by over 60 civil society, labour and business organisations

### Contact:

Liz McDaid (SAFCEI)  
Stopnukedeal Campaign  
Future([liziwe@mweb.co.za](mailto:liziwe@mweb.co.za))  
0217018145

Pooven Moodley  
Campaign for a Just Energy  
[poovenmoodley@gmail.com](mailto:poovenmoodley@gmail.com)  
0713706006

## List of organisations supporting the stopnukedeal campaign

- Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)
- Popular Education Programme
- Karoo Environmental Justice Movement
- Komaggas Association for Communal Property
- Komaggas Advice Office
- Justice and Peace (Catholic)
- Christian Mission Church Khayelitsha
- Healing Church in Zior Khayelitsha
- Hermanus Gateway
- People's Health Movement South Africa
- Green Anglicans
- WCRLF (Western Cape religious Leaders' Forum)
- South African Council of Churches, Western Cape (SACC Western Cape)
- Gun Free South Africa
- Central Methodist Mission
- Quaker Community of Southern Africa
- Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation
- Apostolic Faith Mission Peninsula Region
- Right2Know,
- Earthlife Africa,
- South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
- The Alternative Information and Development Centre(AIDC),
- One Million Climate Jobs Campaign