



## **MEDIA RELEASE :**

### **Disaster Management, a Just Energy Transition, and Climate Finance tops the agenda as President Ramaphosa calls for a social compact and rapid implementation of a Just Transition**

**NO EMBARGO, 26 MAY 2022 14:00**

**PRETORIA**

President Cyril Ramaphosa today called for an acceleration of the country's climate response and urgent action towards a just transition.

Opening the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting of the Presidential Climate Commission (which the President established in December 2020, as an advisory body on South Africa's pathway towards an inclusive, decarbonised economy and society), the President emphasised that a new pathway to respond to climate change impact and opportunities is both necessary and inevitable.

"A just transition needs to be our departure point when addressing climate change. Poor people, workers, the unemployed and rural communities are the most vulnerable as our economy transitions to a low carbon future. We have to find ways to protect jobs and protect communities as our country navigates carefully through the shift away from fossil fuels," said President Ramaphosa.

The meeting discussed amongst others, the state of disaster in KwaZulu Natal after recent floods, the Just Energy Transition Partnership announced at COP26, and a roadmap for the Just Energy Transition for South Africa. The Commission also adopted the Just Transition Framework, which sets out a shared vision for the just transition, principles to guide the transition, and policies and governance arrangements to give effect to the transition.

### **A call to the International Community to Support Relief Aid Efforts and post Disaster Reconstruction**

eThekweni Mayor Mxolisi Kaunda reflected on the April 2022 Kwa-Zulu Natal floods and State of Disaster. The Mayor shared the eThekweni preparedness, disaster response, and reconstruction lessons, to help guide future disaster response measures.

Introducing the matter for consideration, Commission Deputy Chairperson, Valli Moosa besmirched the failure of the developed world to support relief-aid and reconstruction efforts in poor countries who continuously bear the negative impacts of climate induced disasters.

“The attention with which the west has given to the Ukrainian war and other conflicts has made our natural disasters look like they were not created by the rich countries from their exploitation of our finite natural resources. The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis that deserves the same attention from those that have caused it and whose economies and societies have flourished from its exploitation and beneficiation,” said Mr Moosa. “We call for disaster responsiveness, global solidarity and material support to the victims and development aid to those countries, peoples and cities that need to be rebuild,” added Moosa.

The PCC pledged to support the eThekweni Metro Municipality and other communities across the country in their advocacy efforts to raise their plight for global disaster relief aid and importantly to work with all stakeholders on matters relating to their long-term planning and responsiveness to climate change and similar disasters in the future.

#### **Climate Finance must be Just and transformative**

Mr. Daniel Mminele (Head of the Presidential Climate Finance Task Team) provided an update on their work, outlining critical steps in the finalisation Just Energy Transition Partnership.

“The energy transition will be central to our work in 2022, as we work alongside the PCC and our global partners to finalise the details of the \$8.5bn just energy transition partnership ahead of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt later this year. The just transformation of South Africa’s energy mix is crucial for energy security, eliminating energy poverty, and reducing emissions - with innovation and investment not only in electricity generation, but green industrialisation in various sectors central to our transition imperatives and economic reconstruction,” said Mminele.

The Commission reiterated that meaningful climate funding should enable workers to find new jobs and to retrain, for communities to develop new livelihoods, to support community projects to deal decarbonisation, including community renewable energy projects. These financing mechanisms should also provide for tackling issues of health, education, and environmental rehabilitation amongst others.

#### **Just Transition Framework approved for Cabinet sign off:**

The PCC was established to build a social compact around the just transition and advise the government on the country’s climate change response and pathways, including by developing a Just Transition Framework for the country.

Following the recent multistakeholder conference on the just transition, the PCC today unanimously approved the Just Transition Framework and called on Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy to lead its presentation to Cabinet for consideration.

“While the Framework is not an implementation plan, it does present an organising frame for us to coordinate and plan our efforts around the just transition. It is a foundation for more work to follow, underpinned by significant mobilisation towards activities that improve social inclusion and help reach our climate goals” said Valli Moosa, Commission Deputy Chairperson.

“We know that there is no perfect blueprint for what this transition must look like. But, from the perspective of government, we do know that this Framework can help to identify and create opportunities in a greener and more inclusive economy...I am happy to present this framework to the President soon, as reflection of the voices and aspirations of the people of South Africa,” said Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy.

The commission collectively hailed and committed to hold the framework as the beginning of a social compact around the just transition, requiring collective action and pulling toward a shared vision, with a high degree of trust between all parties.

**A full livestream video, agenda, reports and presentations of the meeting are available on our website [www.climatecommission.org.za](http://www.climatecommission.org.za) .**

**PICS : Delegates at the Just Transition Conference , 6 May 2022, Credit PCC**

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For more information: Blessing Manale Head : Communications and Outreach  
[blessing@climatecomission.org.za](mailto:blessing@climatecomission.org.za) or +27 73 036 5381  
Mr. Rorisang Moseli - Media & Stakeholder Liaison: [rorisang@climatecommission.org.za](mailto:rorisang@climatecommission.org.za) or +27662317284