

Demands for #UprootTheDMRE Nationwide Mobilisation

Organisations who would like to sign on and endorse this set of demands, please email your organisation's name to the secretary of the Climate Justice Coalition alex.lenferna@350.org

This set of demands will be delivered to the national offices of the DMRE in Tshwane as part of the Climate Justice Coalition's #UprootTheDMRE mobilisations happening across the country. Find out more about the mobilisations happening across the country from September 22nd at UprootTheDMRE.org

Partners taking action in other parts of the country can use this in their own actions, when they deliver memorandums and demands to their local targets. Feel free to add the names of relevant government targets for your local circumstances and also to deliver alongside your locally relevant demands when submitting.

Please can the host organisations that are organising events in different provinces add their relevant contact details at the end, so that the relevant local offices can be in touch with you. Feel free to contact us if you do get responses and want to coordinate or discuss them.

Begin letter:

To the Parliamentary Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Gwede Mantashe,

As the Climate Justice Coalition and the undersigned partner organisations, we are mobilising during the week of the 22nd of September in actions taking place across the country under the banner of #UprootTheDMRE. We do so because the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) under the leadership of Minister Gwede Mantashe, has been a major obstacle to progress on a just energy and mining future. As part of those mobilisations, the coalition has worked together with groups in labour, mining affected communities, youth, energy and environmental justice to develop these demands.

We are facing interconnected social, economic and ecological crises, which require us to transform our archaic and harmful energy and mining sector to ensure a more socially, economically and ecologically just future. We need transformative action now, which we are demanding. We summarise our demands with the following bullet points, and list the full demands below them.

1. The leadership and structure of the DMRE must be transformed to fulfil a mandate for an inclusive socially, economically, and ecologically just energy and mining future. Mantashe must step aside to allow new progressive leadership.
2. A rapid and just transition to a more socially owned, renewable energy powered economy, providing clean, safe, and affordable energy for all, with no worker and community left behind in the transition
3. No to new polluting, corrupt and expensive coal, oil, and gas projects. Reject the corrupt, costly and unnecessary powership program. We demand One Million Climate Jobs instead.
4. Communities must have the right to say no to mining projects, that includes free, prior informed consent, the upholding of social labour plans, and the right to sustainable alternative modes of development.
5. Minister Mantashe and the DMRE must stop blocking and inhibiting Eskom's transition to renewables. We need a Green New Eskom driving a just transition to a more socially owned, renewable energy future.

We demand that the DMRE and related decision makers: Let people decide

The DMRE must uphold and respect the standard of **free, prior and informed consent** for all communities impacted by mining and energy projects. This must be included in all practices of the government and corporate projects.

There must be strict penalties for any company that is found to transgress free, prior and informed consent procedures. As stated in NEMA chapter 1, “the participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured”. The DMRE must put in place rigorous and robust monitoring and compliance measures to ensure all exposed communities are afforded this right and strict penalties for any entities who contravene it. Mining rights should not restrict community access to land.

Communities must be given the **right to say no** to all mining and energy-related projects. They must be given the authority to deny these developments if they believe it poses a threat to our health or wellbeing as is enshrined in section 24 of our constitution. This includes the right to a sustainable and just alternative forms of development.

Corporations must be held accountable and have their licence to operate revoked for failing to deliver on their social labour plans or for violating other laws and regulations resulting in harm to the wellbeing of their workers, surrounding communities and ecosystems.

Implement an action plan for a just transition

The DMRE must urgently, inclusively and transparently develop and implement a just transition plan that includes:

An immediate **redirection of regressive subsidies for coal, oil, and gas**. Funding must be redirected towards a mass rollout of clean and renewable energy generation to provide affordable access to electricity beginning with low-income households.

The Integrated Resource Plan must be reviewed to **remove constraints on renewable energy, work to phase out all existing fossil fuel generation sources in line with South Africa's fair share of keeping global warming 1.5C, and contain no new fossil fuel generation build**.

Polluting corporations must be made to pay for their damage caused and held accountable for ecological restoration through the implementation of taxes and a vigorous and transparent application of the Financial Provisioning Regulations. Workers must be provided with safe working conditions in ecological restoration projects and in the rehabilitation of mining areas.

Robust just transition policies must be put in place to protect workers and communities who would otherwise be negatively impacted in the transition, so they can be a thriving part of a more socially and ecologically just future.

A mass skills, jobs and training programme to create opportunities for the people of South Africa. It must be guided by the **One Million Climate Jobs campaign** and prioritise youth and women. These jobs must guarantee adequate living wages and financial support must be offered to displaced workers during the transition.

A Green New Eskom - in line with the demands of the Green New Eskom campaign, we demand that the DMRE expand Eskom's mandate to allow it to rapidly build out renewable energy & energy storage. They must not block Eskom's transition.

A restructuring of the leadership in the DMRE to provide a platform in which to engage with and meaningfully include youth, mining affected communities, workers, unions, and civil society. Officials within the department must be investigated around irregular and corrupt deals

Policies and incentives to **enable socially owned renewable energy** so workers, communities, small-to-medium businesses, and families can own and benefit from clean energy.

Economic development plans must **prioritise public and ecological health and wellbeing as well as gender and racial equity**.

Stop the pollution and destruction

In line with what science shows is needed to avert the worst of the climate crisis and avoid devastating ecological degradation that harms communities, the DMRE must deny all new onshore and offshore oil, gas and coal exploration, fracking and mining projects.

The DMRE must say no to any new power stations powered by coal or fossil gas. Investments in power generation must be confined to renewable energy sources.

The DMRE must reject the expensive, unnecessary and polluting Powerships program. It must also stop support for Special Economic Zones for fossil fuel-based energy programme with emission intensive activities, such as the Musina-Makhado SEZ.

List of organisations supporting and endorsing:

African Climate Alliance
African Climate Reality Project
Alternative Information Development Centre
Assembly of the Unemployed
Botshabelo Unemployed Movement
Climate Justice Coalition
Collective Movement
Cry of the Xcluded
Eastern Cape Environmental Network
Extinction Rebellion South Africa
Fossil Free South Africa
General Industrial Workers Union of South Africa
Goldfields Community Forum
Green Connection
International Rivers
Makause Community Development Forum
Marikana Youth Development Organisation
Masihlangane Communications
Middelburg Environmental Justice Network
Mining Affected Communities United in Action
MACUA Disake
Newcastle Environmental Justice Alliance
Palestine Solidarity Aliance
People on Purpose
Project 90 by 2030
Public Health Association of SA, Climate, Energy and Health, Special Interest Group,
Right to Say No
South African Green Revolutionary Council
South African Federation of Trade Unions
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Support Centre for Land Change
Tosunga Banninga
United Front
Waterberg Women's Advocacy Organisation
Women Affected by Mining United in Action
Women Revolutionary Council
XR Vaal Letseme Regenerative
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