

Hon Sahlulele Luzipo

Chairperson
Portfolio Committee Minerals and Energy
National Assembly
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19th April 2021

Dear Honourable Luzipo,

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE RISK MITIGATION INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME

According to Parliament's programme for Tuesday 20th April 2021, your committee is due to receive a briefing on the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP), and specifically the choice of the Karpowership projects as preferred bidders in the evaluation of the bids from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

Civil society organisations and communities all along the coast of South Africa have raised significant concerns about this choice of "emergency" power; which will tie us into fossil fuels for at least a further twenty years. Given that this choice of energy is expensive, provides little opportunity for local content and undermines the just energy transition, we believe that Parliament must investigate the decision to award preferred bidder status to Karpowership. This investigation should include: how a foreign-owned company was able to circumvent local content rules; and the fact that its application processes have not involved meaningful public participation with the people of South Africa, particularly disadvantaged communities. The impact of these powerships will affect all South Africans through their impact on electricity prices over time.

We request that Parliament hold public hearings into the RMIPPPP. We do not believe that Parliament can be fully informed, if it only receives a briefing from DMRE. As our parliamentary representatives, you are, of course, required to consider the inputs of civil society – and particularly impacted communities - in your oversight role of holding the executive accountable.

Yours for environmental justice,

Liziwe McDaid – The Green Connection
Avena Jacklin – groundWork
Sherelee Odayar – South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)
Nicole Loser – Centre for Environmental Rights
Robyn Hugo – Just Share South Africa
Glen Tyler-Davies– 350.org
Carmelita Mostert – Diazville/Saldanha Fishing Community
Maia Nangle – Masifundise
Jackie Sunde - One Ocean Hub Research Project, Dept. of Environmental and Geographical Science
Gary Koekemoer – WESSA Algoa Bay
Owen Ndidi – Eastern Cape Environmental Network
Sandy Camminga - Richard Bay Clean air association
Judy Bell – Frack Free South Africa

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