



BLACK FIRST LAND FIRST MOVEMENT  
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GENERAL SECRETARY  
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Mr Zolani Rento  
The Secretary  
The Select Committee on Finance  
8 March 2019

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BLF SUBMISSION: CARBON TAX BILL

## INTRODUCTION

1. I am Lindsay Maasdorp, the National Spokesperson of Black First Land First (BLF), and I am duly authorised to represent BLF regarding all matters relating to the subject matter of these submissions.
2. BLF is a Black Consciousness, Pan Africanist movement which embraces a Sankarist leadership ethos. It was born through its revolutionary call on 13 August 2015 and was launched on 14 May 2016. It is registered with the Independent Electoral Commission as a political party and is situated at Office 514 Klamson Towers, 5th Floor, C/O Commissioner & Von Weilligh Streets, Johannesburg.
3. The strategic objective of BLF is the complete destruction of white supremacy and the installation of a system that responds to the total needs of the people. To this end, BLF recognizes that the main contradiction is white supremacy which needs black solidarity for it to be destroyed.
4. BLF regards energy sovereignty as critical to the liberation of black people, and locates the current framing of South Africa's energy sector as anti-black, anti-poor and unable to play any significant role in industrialisation and thus providing quality jobs for the oppressed.
5. Currently, the energy sector is unable to provide enough energy to meet the basic needs, let alone surplus to ensure industrialisation and the creation of quality jobs. This is due to political influence from pro-white monopoly capital, pro-Washington, London and Brussels agents who seek to privatise the sector at the expense of the poor, black oppressed.
6. Thus, the proposed Carbon Tax Bill continues in this line, failing to address either energy sovereignty, the need to industrialise or job creation. Instead it places the burden of combatting climate change on the oppressed.
6. The Carbon Tax Bill is in line with the Paris Agreement. The agreement itself burdens the developing nations with responding to the problem of climate change, while the West refuses to take responsibility for their role in continually destroying the planet, through looting of minerals without care for the oppressed which they have colonised. The latter can be seen in the decision by Donald Trump to withdraw the United State of America from the Paris Agreement, sighting it "as an agreement that disadvantages the United States". The West wishes to continue its looting and decimation of the planet with impunity, while ensuring the burden falls yet again on the oppressed.
7. It is ironic but not surprising that the proposed Carbon Tax Bill comes at a time when South Africa is a leader in achieving its emissions targets, which see it well below the undertakings on global warming, and on target to reach its 42% reduction in emissions by 2025.
8. The Carbon Tax Bill is thus just an attempt by the South African government to further appease the West, while ensuring that white monopoly capital corporations, particularly in energy and mining, do not carry the burden of fighting climate change.
9. In its current form, the Carbon Tax Bill will hit the consumer hardest, as well as small and medium size businesses, directly destroying any possibility of sustainable quality job creation. The impact will be felt by the poor and mainly black people as well as black business.
10. In its current form, the Carbon Tax Bill will see tax rebates for white monopoly capital corporations who simply attempt to phase in emission targets. The likes of Glencore and Exaro who have played a key role in destroying Eskom, will benefit directly from the trade exposure allowance, the performance allowance and others despite the magnitude of environmental damage done by these and other white corporations.



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11. The proposed Carbon Tax Bill will benefit the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Enel Greenpower, Mainstream Renewable Power, SunPower (where Johann Rupert is part shareholder via Total SA), Phuthuma Nhleko owned Phembani Energy and Shanduka Group, Patrice Motsepe's African Rainbow Energy & Power, and others will all benefit not only from selling electricity at 3 times the cost to Eskom, but also from the tax rebates, due to "Green Economy". This is legalised looting at the expense of the poor

12. The proposed Carbon Tax Bill is by no means an attempt to fight climate change, but simply seeks to satisfy the Paris Agreement, while justifying the R1.4trillion IPPs, under the illusion of "Green Economy".

13. In 2016, Germany, which is a leader in renewable energy, spent 25 billion Euros alone, of which the consumer carried a massive 23billion Euros. It's now close to 20 years since Germany decided to "Go Green", spending trillions of Euros, yet they are failing to meet their goal of 40% carbon emissions reduction set for 2020.

14. France on the other hand went nuclear with more than 75% of their household electricity being generated by nuclear and this country is the global leader in fighting climate change. Sadly, it's Africa who suffers.

Niger possesses 7% of the world's uranium. It is the major supplier to France and despite more that 50% of households in Niger being without electricity, France benefits from nuclear energy, both in cost of electricity as well as limitation of environmental impact.

15. The reality is that nuclear energy is the cheapest and cleanest energy source. It can bring energy sovereignty and ensure enough energy to ensure industrial growth and job creation. By governments own admission, nuclear is R400billion cheaper than IPPs, and it produces at least 3 times the energy, and importantly is the cleanest energy source available. Further, a nuclear plant cost could be paid off within 20 years, be fully government owned and the plant would run for at least 80 years.

16. Fact is, the proposed Carbon Tax Bill is the poor footing the climate and economic cost of renewable energy.

17. If the South African government is serious about combatting climate change, ensuring energy sovereignty, industrialisation and creating quality jobs, then it must do the following:

18. Scrap the Carbon Tax Bill, as the cost will be carried by the poor directly. Products such as petrol, oil, and paraffin will be subjected to this tax and they, together with the knock-on food and goods costs, will drastically impact the poor.

19. Scrap IPP's, at a cost of R1.4 trillion they are too costly, they produce a third of the energy on a good day compared to nuclear, and they don't solve the climate change crisis.

20. Urgently increase nuclear energy generation, catering for a minimum of 30% of SA energy needs within 10 years. This will be the cheapest way to ensure energy sovereignty and because it is the cleanest energy source it will be the most meaningful method in fighting climate change.

21. Pursuit of new coal, together with nuclear, and gas it should ensure all South African energy needs are met.

22. Alternative renewable energy model, which directly benefits the poor as well as black emerging business. To this end all new homes, black owned farms and industrial projects should be assisted with renewable energy generation and incentivised where surplus energy is produced compared to home or industrial project usage.

23. Redistribution of stolen land in the hands of 35 000 white families to black people, creating at least 1 million new farmers, and this together with implementation of Alternative Renewable Energy Model alone could see a 42% reduction in emissions target met within 5 years.

24. Nationalisation of mining sector could offset the cost of nuclear energy generation, as well as balance out the emissions produced through mining and together ensure the possibility of industrialisation and quality job creation.

25. The above proposal, places the burden of combatting climate change with the wealthy and ensures the possibility of a sustainable long term plan to ensure energy sovereignty, industrialisation, protection and development of black new and small business and therefore quality job creation.



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26. Finally BLF warns, that should the Carbon Tax Bill be passed, the levels of inequality in South Africa will grow and it is the poor landless black majority who will foot the bill.

Submitted 08 March 2019 by:

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