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FEBRUARY 2019 SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:

<http://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Monthly-Sustainability-Legislation-Update-February-2019.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

CLIMATE GOALS: BP announced that they would disclose how its business strategy will be aligned to the Paris Agreement climate goals. They announced that they would support the calls of a group of institutional investors for the company to broaden its corporate reporting criteria. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 1 February 2019.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/bp-pledges-to-align-its-business-with-global-climate-goals?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Climate+change+will+change+the+colour+of+Earth+s+oceans+by+the+end+of+the+21st+century+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+5th+February+2019

ZERO EMISSIONS: The President of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada, announced that they have launched "The National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050" which will see them become one of the first nations to completely decarbonise. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 26 February 2019.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/costa-rica-launches-plan-for-zero-emissions-by-2050?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Costa+Rica+launches+plan+for+zero+emissions+by+2050&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+26th+February+2019

CLIMATE ACTION AWARDS: The 2019 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards are now accepting entries. The awards are open to organisations, cities, industries, universities, governments and those involved in taking leadership on the most innovative projects in the

field of climate change. The deadline for applications is 30 April 2019. **Source: BizCommunity dated 12 February 2019.** <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/702/187255.html>

PROTECTED AREAS: The Africa Protected Areas Congress was launched at Nairobi National Park's historic Ivory Burning site in Kenya. The Congress brought together African leaders, citizens and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature and promoting sustainable development. **Source: BizCommunity dated 15 February 2019.** <https://www.bizcommunity.africa/Article/410/628/187418.html>

TAILINGS DAMS: After the second collapse of a tailings dam in Brazil in the last three years the BHP Group have called for the creation of an independent international body to oversee the construction, integrity and operations of tailings dams worldwide. **Source: Mining Weekly 3 dated 19 February 2019.** <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/bhp-calls-for-international-body-to-oversee-tailings-dams-2019-02-19>

HUNTING BAN: The Botswanan government is considering lifting a ban on big game hunting in the country, which would include the hunting of elephants. The government believes the lifting of the ban would "*promote conservationism*" and prevent further conflicts with humans as the elephants cause problems with small-scale farmers. **Source: Environmental Law Association (ELA) Newsletter 7 dated 22 February 2019.** <https://allafrica.com/stories/201902220784.html>

PUBLICATIONS

REDUCING FOOD WASTE: The Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) and the World Resources Institute on behalf of Champions 12.3 have released a report entitled "*The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Restaurants*" which outlines ways in which the food industry can save money while reducing food waste. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 14 February 2019.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/reducing-food-waste-in-restaurants-can-provide-financial-opportunity-report?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Thousands+of+UK+students+strike+over+climate+change+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+15th+February+2019

ENERGY OUTLOOK: The "*BP Energy Outlook 2019 Report*" shows that the demand for renewable energy is growing and will be the main source of global energy by 2040. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 15 February 2019.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/renewable-energy-will-be-main-source-of-global-energy-by-2040-finds-bp?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Thousands+of+UK+students+strike+over+climate+change+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+15th+February+2019

ELECTRONIC WASTE: The Basil Action Network (BAN) has released a report entitled "*Holes in the Circular Economy: WEEE Leakage from Europe*" which has found that Britain is the worst offender in Europe for illegally exporting toxic electronic waste. **Source: Climate Action Programme dated 7 February 2019.** http://www.climateaction.org/news/uk-named-worst-in-europe-for-illegal-electronic-waste-exports?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UK+CO2+emissions+down+37++since+1990+-+Climate+Action+News&utm_campaign=CA+Newsletter+8th+February+2019

NATIONAL

GENERAL

CARBON TAX: The Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, during his annual national budget speech on 20 February 2019 announced that a carbon tax on fuel of 9c per litre on petrol and 10c per litre on diesel will become effective from 5 June 2019. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 20 February 2019.** <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/budget-carbon-tax-2019-02-20> The Carbon Tax Bill has been passed by the National Assembly and is now under consideration by the National Council of Provinces. **Source: Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG) dated 19 February 2019.** <https://pmg.org.za/bill/858/>

WATER: The City of Cape Town (CoCT) Metropolitan Municipality has failed to publish water quality tests for 2 years even though Cape Town's scenic beaches are sometimes contaminated by bacteria from sewage. In January 2018 the City stated that their report format was being aligned with new water quality guidelines and would be presented to sub-councils before the end of 2018 which unfortunately has not yet happened. **Source: ELA Newsletter 7 dated 15 February 2019.** <https://www.groundup.org.za/article/city-fails-publish-water-quality-tests-two-years/> The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will lead a R7 million water quality testing project entitled "*Improving Ocean Governance in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*" in the Zwartkop area in Port Elizabeth. **Source: Engineering News dated 20 February 2019.** <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/dea-to-undertake-r7m-water-quality-testing-project-in-pe-2019-02-22> The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), during the final sitting of its inquiry into the contamination of the Vaal River System, was informed that there is still unlawful spillage, mainly sewage, into waterways that run into the Vaal River. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and Remediation Intervention Team Commander, Colonel Andries Mahapa, informed the inquiry that the repair of the Sebokeng water treatment plant was expected to be completed by April 2019. **Source: Engineering News dated 20 February 2019.** http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/industries-and-municipalities-contribute-to-vaal-river-pollution-sahrc-hears-2019-02-20/rep_id:4136

AIR EMISSIONS: All existing industries in South Africa, including Eskom's coal-fired power stations, were supposed to comply with a set of minimum emissions standards by April 2015 with stricter standards coming into effect in April 2020. Eskom has again requested that 10 of its coal-fired power stations be exempted from the air pollution emission regulations and noted that some of their operations will never be able to comply. Eskom has also declared its intention to apply for "*rolling-postponements*" – a term used to describe the continuing five-year postponements until all stations have been decommissioned. The Life After Coal Campaign has submitted a letter of objection to Eskom's latest postponement application. **Source: The Daily Maverick dated 11 February 2019.** <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-02-11-eskom-wants-to-dodge-air-pollution-rules-again/> Nedbank announced that the initial proposal to fund the construction of the Thabametsi and Khanyisa independent power producers (IPPs) has lapsed and will not be renewed. **Source: Fin24 dated 30 January 2018.** <https://www.fin24.com/Opinion/nedbank-withdraws-funding-for-new-coal-ipps-20190130>

CAPE TOWN ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT: The CoCT has requested the North Gauteng Court to treat the pending court proceedings between the CoCT, the Minister of Energy and the National Energy Regulator of South Africa as urgent. The CoCT has applied to purchase clean energy directly from independent power producers. **Source: Engineering News dated 26 February 2019.**

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/cape-town-to-petition-court-to-allow-electricity-purchases-from-independent-producers-2019-02-26>

ENERGY: The Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe, announced that the Draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) would be finalised shortly after the National Economic Development Labour Council meeting held on 5 March 2019. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 19 February 2019.** http://www.miningweekly.com/article/radebe-says-irp-to-be-finalised-in-march-and-promises-to-address-ipp-issues-soon-2019-02-19/rep_id:3650 The Minister also confirmed that his Department has no intention of renegotiating the power purchase agreements (PPAs) for renewable energy projects procured in 2011 and 2012 but would look at "refinancing" some of the projects with the interest of lowering the cost of the plants to consumers. **Source: Engineering News dated 24 February 2019.** <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/radebe-on-ipp-2019-02-24>

MINE SAFETY: The Department of Mineral Resources Chief Inspector, David Msiza, announced that mine fatalities in 2018 had decreased to 81 deaths compared with 91 deaths in 2017. **Source: Mining Weekly dated 1 March 2019.** <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/mine-fatalities-decrease-by-10-in-2018-2019-03-01>

RHINO POACHING: The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Nomvula Mokonyane, has outlined the progress her Department has made since the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management of Rhinoceros Approach covering the period 1 January – 31 December 2018. **Source: BizCommunity dated 14 February 2019.** <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/628/187389.html#more>

INDIGENOUS VEGETATION: The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has provided the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning with R4.1 million in funding to help combat the illegal clearing of indigenous vegetation in the Cape Winelands District. **Source: Engineering News dated 14 February 2019.** <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/sanbi-provides-r4m-towards-stopping-illegal-vegetation-clearing-in-cape-winelands-2019-02-14>

NET ZERO WASTE RATING: The Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) and Sun International have introduced into the property sector Africa's first Net Zero Waste Rating. Sun International's Wild Coast Sun achieved their Net Zero Waste (Pilot) certification in January 2019 and is the first on the continent to receive this rating from the GBCSA. **Source: The GBCSA dated 25 February 2019.** <https://gbcса.org.za/the-green-building-council-south-africa-sun-international-mark-the-first-net-zero-waste-rating-in-africa/>

PUBLICATIONS

AIR POLLUTION: The Life After Coal Campaign has released an international report, written by U.S coal plant expert Dr Ranjjit Sahu, which is based on Eskom's own monthly reports of the emissions from its coal-fired power stations. The research shows that over a 21 month period until December 2017 Eskom's coal-fired power stations exceeded its already-weak licence conditions close to 3200 times. **Source: Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) dated 25 February 2019.** <https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Eskom-plant-exceedances-of-AEL-Limits-Ron-Sahu-Nov-15-final.pdf>

COAL IPPs: In an attempt to set aside the environmental authorisations for the two preferred bidder coal-fired power stations under the

Coal Baseline Independent Power Producer Programme ("the Coal IPPs"), the North Gauteng High Court has ordered government to deliver crucial documents relating to the judicial reviews instituted by groundWork and Earthlife Africa. Once the outstanding documents have been received then the main review applications can proceed, which would allow the applicants to have an opportunity to supplement their founding affidavits. **Source: CER dated 7 February 2019.** <https://cer.org.za/news/court-orders-government-to-disclose-records-on-coal-power-plants>

WATER STRATEGY: The CoCT has released its draft "Cape Town Water Strategy" and have requested the public to submit written comments and recommendations. **Source: Engineering News dated 15 February 2019.** <http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/City's%20Draft%20Water%20Strategy%20opens%20for%20public%20comments>

GREEN TRANSPORT: The Department of Transport has released the "Green Transport Strategy for South Africa 2018-2050". **Source: ELA Newsletter 7 dated 15 February 2019.** http://www.transport.gov.za/documents/11623/89294/Green_Transport_Strategy_2018_2050_onlineversion.pdf/71e19f1d-259e-4c55-9b27-30db418f105a

FOOD SYSTEM: The World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA) has released a report entitled "Agri-Food Systems: Facts and Futures" which states that a fundamental overhaul of our current food system is needed to mitigate the current threat to the environment and human health. **Source: WWF-SA dated February 2019.** http://www.wwf.org.za/our_research/publications/?27341/agri-food-systems-facts-and-futures

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

IMBEWU WORKSHOPS

MINE CLOSURE AND RECENT CASE LAW WORKSHOP: 9 April 2019 in Johannesburg. R2750 per delegate, excluding VAT. Please contact Lulu Lewis on 011 214 0660 or at lulu@imbewu.co.za for more information or go to: <http://imbewu.co.za/services/>.

ELA NORTH WEST BRANCH GUEST LECTURE BY PROF BENJAMIN RICHARDSON (ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA): 25 March 2019 starting at 14:00 at Warburton Attorneys offices entitled: "Can beauty save nature? New thinking on aesthetics and Environmental Law in South Africa". Registration closes on 18 March 2019. Please contact Ms Angela van der Berg, ELA North West Regional Rep at angela.vanderberg8@gmail.com or Dr Germarie Viljoen, ELA North West Regional Rep at Germarie.Viljoen@nwu.ac.za for more information.

NATIONAL

RUSTENBURG MINING AND INDUSTRIAL EXPO: 27 March 2019 at Sibanye Stillwater Platinum Mines in Rustenburg.

THE SOLAR SHOW AFRICA 2019: 26-27 March 2019 in Sandton.

ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE AND LANDFILL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: 27-28 March 2019 in Johannesburg.

W12 FUTURE OF WATER CONFERENCE: 14-17 May 2019 in Cape Town.

INTERNATIONAL

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY: 18 March 2019.

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FORUM EUROPE: 12 March 2019 in Paris, France.

WORLD WATER DAY: 22 March 2019.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: 27 March 2019 in Cape Town.

EARTH DAY: 22 April 2019.

IAIA19: 29 April – 2 May 2019 in Brisbane, Australia.

CITES CoP18: 23 May – 3 June 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: WORLD ASSOCIATION OF MINING LAWYERS: 9-11 June 2019 in Marrakech, Morocco.

IMBEWU's environmental note: 5 ways our food supply chain will transform in 5 years:

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/185/187403.html#more>

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