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Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd



SEPTEMBER 2021 SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

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

<https://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Monthly-SHE-legislation-update-September-2021.pdf>

NATIONAL

GENERAL

Cabinet's decision to endorse more ambitious Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Target welcomed – The Centre for Environmental rights has welcomed Cabinet's endorsement of more ambitious GHG emissions targets as a step in the right direction toward achieving South Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Climate Agreement. The final NDC update will be submitted to the United Nations prior to the 26th UN Climate Conference of the parties to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Source: Centre for Environmental Rights dated 23 September 2021

<https://cer.org.za/news/cabinets-more-ambitious-climate-target-a-step-in-right-direction>

Letter of Demand calls on Minister Mantashe and NERSA to abandon plans for development of coal-fired electricity – Various environmental and climate justice groups have delivered a letter of demand promising legal action should plans to build a 1500kw coal-fired electricity plant not be abandoned. The letter highlights the detrimental effects this will have on the environment, the economy and society's health.

Source: Centre for Environmental Rights dated 21 September 2021

<https://cer.org.za/news/cancelcoal-coalition-demands-government-cancel-plans-for-new-coal-fired-power-or-face-court-challenge>

Municipal Energy Resilience Fund (MERF) launched in the Western Cape: The Provincial Government in the Western Cape have launched the MERF which

will make close to R13-million available to local Municipalities for research and planning of renewable energy projects.

Source: Engineering News dated 2 September 2021

https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/western-cape-launches-renewable-energy-planning-fund-2021-09-02/rep_id:4136

Green Power for Sibanye Stillwater Platinum Mines (SSPM) – SSPM has conducted feasibility studies on deploying three solar photovoltaic (PV) projects across three of their platinum mining sites which could support up to 175 MW of solar PV power. “We also confirmed that we have adequate substations that will allow the solar PV projects to be directly interconnected into our operations,”- Jevon Martin.

Source: Mining Weekly dated 27 September 2021

https://www.miningweekly.com/article/green-175-mw-power-for-sibanye-stillwater-platinum-group-metals-mines-2021-09-27/rep_id:3650

Compliance with Environmental Laws is essential to business continuity and investment – Compliance with Environmental laws, including the Carbon Tax Act of 15 of 2019 may be costly, but non-compliance may lead to significant operational disruptions and many serious consequences. Companies and industries with stronger environmental, social and governance principles are attracting more investment. The Mining and Natural Resources Sector has acknowledged its impact on climate change and supports the move to renewable energy sources despite the challenges it poses and the costs involved.

Source: Without Prejudice

<https://www.withoutprejudice.co.za/free/article/7365/view>

PUBLICATIONS

Climate impacts in Southern Africa during the 21st Century – Report by Robert Scholes and Francois Engelbrecht Global Change Institute University of the Witwatersrand – This report examines the impacts that climate change will have on life in Southern Africa if we continue on the current “worst case scenario” climate trajectory with a particular focus on changes to long-term weather patterns, agriculture and food security, water availability and biodiversity.

Source: Centre for Environmental Rights – September 2021

[https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Climate-impacts-in-South-](https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Climate-impacts-in-South-Africa-Final-September-2021.FINAL_.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title_7)

[Africa-Final-September-2021.FINAL_.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title_7](https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Climate-impacts-in-South-Africa-Final-September-2021.FINAL_.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title_7)

Climate Change Implications for SA's Youth – A report by Professor Nicholas King – This report examines the devastating consequences the youth of today will face if we continue on our current “worst case scenario” climate trajectory and the effects this will have on the socio-economic and ecological balance in South Africa.

[https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nick-King-Report-Final.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-](https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nick-King-Report-Final.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title)
[title](https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nick-King-Report-Final.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-post-title)

227 Environmental Activists murdered in 2020 – Report by Global Witness entitled “Last line of Defence” dated 13 September 2021.

Source: BBC dated 13 September 2021 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58508001>

Report - [file:///C:/Users/Sam/Downloads/Last line of defence - low res - September 2021.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Sam/Downloads/Last%20line%20of%20defence%20-%20low%20res%20-%20September%202021.pdf)

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

British Airways (BA) partners with Airbus and BP to launch new sustainability plan – BA is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by investing in more fuel-efficient aircraft and sourcing more sustainable aviation fuel. Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) provides an 80% lifecycle carbon reduction compared to traditional jet fuel.

Source: climate Action dated 10 September 2021

https://www.climateaction.org/news/british-airways-launches-new-sustainability-plan-in-partnership-with-airbus?vgo_ee=38IEG%2Fy2McmquoOEHyk4J7tyvx6SylZEBb9EGtM3cv4%3D

A diverse group of countries joins the call to cease coal-fired power generation projects by the end of the year – A group of countries, both developed and developing countries, have announced a “No new Coal Power Compact,” encouraging other countries to stop construction of new coal-fired power plants to help achieve the 1.5-degree Celsius goal.

Source: Energyworld.com dated 26 September 2021

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/many-nations-join-call-for-no-new-coal-plants-ahead-of-cop26/86522948>

Climeworks' Direct-Air capture plant begins removing CO₂ from the air – The plant named “Orca”, situated in Iceland, began operating on 8 September 2021 and will remove roughly 4000 tonnes of CO₂ from the air per year. The CO₂ is then stored underground in huge containers where it will eventually turn to rock. The plant which is powered by renewable energy, is the largest of its kind.

Source: Financial Times dated 8 September 2021

<https://www.ft.com/content/8a942e30-0428-4567-8a6c-dc704ba3460a>

VACANCIES

CANDIDATE ATTORNEY AND JUNIOR ASSOCIATE: Warburton Attorneys Inc, a Johannesburg based law firm specialising in environmental law, is expanding and is inviting suitable applicants to submit their CVs for positions that are currently available at the candidate attorney and junior associate levels. The ideal applicants should already have a Master's degree in environmental law; however, we will consider applicants who are in the process of obtaining their Master's degree in environmental law. Consideration will also be given to applicants who can readily demonstrate that they have extensive experience in the application of environmental law in the South African context. Excellent written and verbal communication skills and a keen interest in environmental law are absolute requirements.

If you meet the above requirements, then please submit a CV together with a short cover letter and your academic record to sam@warburtons.co.za

PARALEGAL: IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd, a Johannesburg based environmental law consultancy, is looking for a para-legal with excellent IT skills and a keen and demonstrable interest in environmental law. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are an absolute requirement for the role.

If you meet the above requirements, then please submit a CV together with a short cover letter and your academic record to admin@imbewu.co.za.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) – Online 11-15 October 2021

26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) – Glasgow 31 October – 12 November 2021

International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Forestry (ICSAEF) - Cape Town – 4 November 2021

IMBEWU'S ONLINE Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) Legal Register Platform. This new SHE Legal Register offering is contemporary and streamlined for easy online access with secure passwords, regular updates, easy navigation, explanations of SHE legislation relevant to your operation, access to a comprehensive searchable SHE legislation database and user-specific functions such as bookmarks.

For more information contact sam@imbewu.co.za or visit <https://imbewu.co.za/she-electronic-legal-registers/>

IMBEWU's environmental note: 6 Ways Everyone Can Be More Eco-Conscious in 2021

<https://biofriendlyplanet.com/eco-friendly-tips/ways-everyone-can-be-more-eco-conscious/>

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