Just Transition

Youth Employment Service (YES)

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Tashmia Ismail-Saville


50 000+
WORK
EXPERIENCES

1,367 +
CORPORATE
REGISTRATIONS

R2,7 billion +
in Youth salaries

YES Impact

Opening Statement of Chair Kathy Castor Hearing on ‘‘Solving the Climate Crisis: Building a Vibrant and Just Clean Energy Economy’’ Select Committee on the Climate Crisis July 28, 2020

As you will hear from our witnesses, **climate solutions are economic solutions,** and they have helped develop platforms to put workers and families first, addressing injustices in vulnerable communities with an eye toward building a recovery on a stronger and more equitable foundation.

YES has received few requests to place youth into low carbon economy jobs

- “the concept of ‘just transition’ has so far gained relatively little traction outside rich, highly developed countries in Western Europe, North America and Australasia.”
- https://www.gov.scot/publications/transitions-comparative-perspective

the ILO has initiated a pilot programme to enable less developed countries to adopt and implement employment and social policies in support of national commitments on climate change, using the Just Transition policy framework and the related ILO guidance.[21] This work began **in Ghana,[22] the Philippines[23] and Uruguay[24] in 2016.**

Meanwhile, other developing countries have drawn up ambitious decarbonisation strategies that explicitly reference ‘just transition’. In its ‘Plan de Descarbonización’, for example, **Costa Rica** notes that it will identify “best practices in the field of just transition and produce plans relevant to the sectors exposed to the greatest impacts”

UK low carbon and renewable jobs

Local Government Association says in a separate report that nearly **700,000 direct jobs** could be created in England's low-carbon and renewable energy economy by 2030, rising to more than **1.18 million** by 2050

Coronavirus: Home insulation 'could create cheap jobs'

By Roger Harrabin
BBC environment analyst


CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY/AVALON

Unions and jobs

Case study:

Yorkshire and Humber region

- Highest concentration of the UK's foundation industries and coal and gas power stations in the UK.
- No UK region has a bigger carbon footprint than this, because of the energy these industries either supply or use
- Major power plants like Drax, as well as steel, cement and chemical works, glass manufacturers, and heavy energy users in brewing and food manufacture..
- Up to 28,000 people work in these major plants& 3to 4 times as many in their supply chains.

Educating workers

- The course is designed to stimulate responses to the question: "*How to protect and develop our foundation industries and deliver the jobs, skills and training for a just transition to a low carbon economy?*"
- To equip trades unions and workers with information and ideas about how to respond to the implementation of the Government's Industrial and Clean Growth policies.
- One thing is for sure – 'business as usual' is not a viable strategy.

Case Study: UK Yorkshire/ Humber region The course educates union reps and hence workers on the following:

- Identify industrial and energy policy in the region and in each sector represented on the course
- Review what national and international climate change policy means for your workplace and the region
- Review trade union policies - regional, national and international
- Map the region's energy use
- Understand why a Just Transition is central to your workplace and to the region's future job security and economic strategy
- Evaluate renewable energy and energy reduction options where you work
- Assess the implications for skills and training where you work
- Develop a negotiating strategy with your employer
- The course is open to all interested trade union participants, and those acting as workplace reps in industrial workplaces in Yorkshire and Humber will particularly benefit.

YES 4YOUTH .CO.ZA

World Bank: opportunity in green tech economy /SMMEs is $1.6 trillion

Only if government, and private sector work together on building the skills needed to unlock

YES Lens:
Without the skills, no jobs

Skills mismatch cripples just transition

Policy

- Certainty
- Clear timelines
- Govt, labour business partner on execution
- Execution by govt on policy
- Ease of doing business index SA dropped for 82 to 84

Investment

- Companies invest in infrastructure, impact investments
- Invest in skills development
- Transfer industrial IP necc. for skills building
- Fund SMMES and skills programmes

Local impacts

- Local economic development opportunities for SMMEs to participate
- Local knowledge creation
- Local jobs

SA ranks 59 out of 63 countries- Competitive ness ranking

employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa hits all time low in competitiveness ranking

17 June 2020

Faced with sluggish economic growth and in the mist of the global Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa has hit its lowest global competitiveness ranking according to the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) compiled by Switzerland based Institute of Management Development (IMD).

According to the 2020 WCY, South Africa fell by three notches to be ranked 59 out of 63 countries rated by the IMD. The IMD's WCY is an annual report that ranks the competitiveness of 63 selected countries and is recognised internationally as the leading survey of competitiveness between nations. The rankings are drawn from a combination of hard data and an Executive Opinion Survey. Productivity SA is the information partner institute for the IMD in South Africa.

The Chief Economist at Productivity SA, Dr Leroi Raputsoane, says "South Africa's global competitiveness ranking in 2020 marks the lowest rating since the inception of the IMD's yearbook". Dr Raputsoane says, "whereas the country recorded a reasonably good level of global competitiveness between 2000 and 2006 averaging below 40 of the 63 countries, the best being 37 in 2001 and 2005, respectively, South Africa's performance has been on a downward trend since 2007".

The Chief Economist concludes "this is a worrying factor in a country with high rates of unemployment, poverty and inequality and it calls for policy reform to enable a sustainable business environment".

The WCY rates the ability of 63 industrialised and emerging economies to create and maintain an environment that empowers enterprises to generate sustainable value thereby ensuring long term profitability, ability to generate employment and to ultimately enhance the welfare of their citizens. According to the IMD 's 2020 WCY, the drop in South Africa's

Impact of ignoring reality of a low carbon world

- SA already suffers highest unemployment and highest youth unemployment rates, outstripping other countries.
- If locals and local youth are not placed into employment programmes which allow them on the job training and the ability to participate in the building of clean energy projects and clean up, as we transition, we create deeper and further inequalities and lose the ability to use transition as a means to create opportunities for employment and economic transition in local communities.
- Those qualified to do the jobs must be pulled in from affected communities and not monopolised by urban wealthy companies and imported labour as we have seen happen in other sectors such as the import of welders.

Potential and requirements of a well managed just transition

- Successful transitions to environmentally & socially sustainable economies can become a **strong driver of job creation, job upgrading**, social justice and poverty eradication.
- **Skills mismatch** between skills available and those needed for a just transition are one of the biggest obstacles. If workers aren't trained, they **cannot occupy the jobs** needed to make JT happen.
- **Private sector has to invest.** Training must be relevant to their investment needs, must be relevant to their technologies.
- Will they invest without policy certainty when we have moved another 4 places down on ease of doing business –global competitiveness report?

For South Africa we need to invest in

- **Creating jobs menus** for ‘shovel ready’ jobs and those requiring some training-’Shovel ready’ Absorption opportunities for youth with no matric
- Build **short courses** with low entry level requirements allow youth to build accreditation as they work
- E.g. solar installation, home insulation
- ‘Get **private sector incentivised** to invest in infrastructure for training or risk leaving people behind again.