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Memorandum

Are we doing enough about global warming?

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TV presentation

Most of you probably saw the TV programme with this title last night, as well as the half-page article in the Sunday Times, and possibly the full-page article in last week's Rapport. I guess that very few of you are old enough to remember Goebels, the German propaganda minister in WWII, saying that the bigger the lie, the greater the number of people that are likely to believe it. This is what happened last night.

A thoroughly unsavoury aspect was the inclusion of a senior minister of religion on the discussion team. Were the organisers so insensitive to the consequences of the recent cartoons that resulted in an international outrage? What would the position have been if a cleric of a non-Christian faith presented a dissident view? What was the automatic reaction of non-Christian viewers to the programme? Introducing religion into the discussion was thoroughly reprehensible. It was a tactic to support the views of the alarmists regardless of the implied consequences. This was a propaganda ploy, pure and simple.

There were of course the repetitive views of that smoke stack belching smoke into the atmosphere, a starving child in his mother's arms and lots of dead fish, etc, but these are not proofs of global warming. They come from the SABC's library of striking visual material.

What some of you may have noticed is that all of this propaganda was founded on the assumption that global warming is BAD and is caused by industrialists whose only objective is putting more money in their pockets.

There was one very sensible question from a youngster in the audience who pointed out that trees absorb carbon dioxide but there was a national programme in South Africa to destroy all alien vegetation in order to conserve water supplies. The irony of this is that a UK study published last week showed that an increase in CO₂ reduces the vegetation's water demand, and so increases runoff and river flow. This is one of the many beneficial effects of global warming that are conveniently overlooked by scientifically dishonest climate alarmists. There are many others.

The real world

Last Friday my wife and I travelled to Johannesburg to visit a friend. We left at 10.00 hoping to miss the early morning traffic but we had to travel all the way from this side of Midrand into Johannesburg in low gear with traffic in the two lanes beside us travelling at the same speed.

This is one of the consequences of our country's increasing prosperity with vehicle sales at an all-time high. This has placed an increasing demand on petrol. In this

morning's newspaper the petrol filling stations are threatening to take the petrol suppliers to court for the petrol shortages and loss of income.

The banner headline in this morning's newspaper is the emergency steps that will have to be taken to restore electricity in the SW Cape. This has very serious consequences because Eskom apparently has little or no backup power generation facilities. Our country is prospering and these are some of the symptoms and consequences.

Close your eyes

Please close your eyes and visualise two scenes side by side. On the left are the three lanes of traffic all the way from Midrand to Johannesburg and all the exhaust gases that are belched into the atmosphere. On the right are a dozen or so penguins on Marion Island, and below them plants growing in glass cylinders in a laboratory. This was the only evidence of the adverse consequences of global warming that was produced during the TV show.

Should motor vehicle owners be forced to spend more of their incomes on expensive energy-saving vehicles and fuels, in order to restore the penguin population of Marion Island and protect the Kokerbooms in Namaqualand?

DEAT in the hot seat

The DEAT representative on the show was in the hot seat. What is the government going to do about global warming? His answers were challenged. Serves the DEAT right. If they had not banned me and others from the Midrand Conference, the representative would have been able to answer the question by informing the viewers that global warming has a **beneficial** effect on South Africa's climate. There is a direct and undeniable linkage between global warming, melting ice sheets and an increase in South Africa's rainfall.

There is no believable evidence that global warming has had, or in the future will have, an adverse effect on the prosperity of the people of this country.

The only absolute certainty is that the measures proposed by the climate alarmists will dramatically increase the cost of electricity. This will be passed onto the consumers. Goods imported from the USA, China, India and Australia who are not signatories of the Kyoto Protocol will be cheaper. Our industries will be forced to close. New industries will go elsewhere. Unemployment will increase. All of this is based on the suffering penguins of Marion Island and the Kokerbooms of Namaqualand.

The lion sleeps

Another recent newspaper article was related to the copyright of the music *The lion sleeps tonight*.

Regrettably this aging lion does not sleep well at night because he cannot rid his mind of the thought of all those unpatriotic, self-serving "scientists" who are prepared to

see our wonderful country and its peoples suffer so that they can generate more research funding.

They should get off their bums and walk through the slums of Alexandria and other informal settlements as I have done on many occasions. They should ask themselves whether or not their selfish, unfounded and unscientific propaganda will lead to the improvement of the quality of life of these people or increase their suffering? On one occasion two mothers in Alexandria pleaded with me: '*Help us please.*' I will not let them down.

Regards

Will