

# Ministers to discuss climate change

TONY CARNIE

PRESIDENT Kgalema Motlanthe and senior ministers gather outside Johannesburg tomorrow for a national summit dealing with the political, moral and technical challenges thrown up by a changing world climate.

About 600 people from the government, business, academia, labour and public interest groups will meet in Midrand for the rest of the week, at the National Climate Change Summit.

Apart from receiving briefings on the latest scientific research on atmospheric changes, delegates will help to shape new laws, policies and tax reforms designed

to soften or ward off the long-term effects of global climate change.

Although South Africa has not been obliged to curb greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, it is expected that the pressure for mandatory cutbacks will intensify later this year, during global climate negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Motlanthe is to open the summit tomorrow afternoon, followed by a video address by Nobel prize-winning scientist Prof Rajendra Pachauri.

Danish Foreign Minister Connie Heldegaard will outline what new global deal on climate change might emerge from the Copen-

hagen talks in December, followed by presentations by South Africa's Environmental Affairs Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Transport Minister Jeff Radebe, Minerals and Energy Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Lindiwe Hendricks, Business Unity South Africa chief Jerry Vilakazi, Cosatu spokesman Bheki Ntshalintshali and SA Climate Action Network adviser Richard Worthington.

Senior scientists of the CSIR and the SA National Biodiversity Institute will also make presentations. The meeting is a follow-up to the first national conference on climate change in 2005.

