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We're *not* changing the climate

Today sees the start of another round of destructive nonsense on global warming: the National Climate Change Summit at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand opens this morning. If successful, which fortunately is unlikely, it will propose a plan to harm our economy and our environment by trying to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in order to please rich ideologues in the West.

It is difficult in a few words to explain the utter scientific drivel of the theory that mankind is changing the world's climate in a dangerous way. The best comparison is with Europe in the 16th century when all misfortunes (floods, droughts, disease, crop failures) were blamed on witches' spells. Today the modern witch-finders blame these on man-made global warming.

There is no scientific evidence that the slight warming of the 20th century (about 0,6°C) was not perfectly natural, no different from previous warming spells over the last ten thousand years, when carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels were lower than now.

CO₂ is a natural, wonderful, life-giving gas; without it, we'd perish. Since the 19th century, we have increased its level in the atmosphere but it is still extraordinarily low in the life of our planet. CO₂ is a minor greenhouse gas, whose only significant absorption band is already saturated. It has never been seen to affect global temperatures (although obviously temperatures will affect it, because colder seas dissolve more of it).

The overwhelming scientific evidence is that global temperatures are driven by variations in the Sun, especially as they affect the formation of low clouds. CO₂ has little if anything to do with it.

I can almost guarantee most of the speakers at this summit will have no training in the physical sciences nor a basic grasp of thermodynamics and heat transfer, upon which understanding of our climate depends. Instead they will parrot the discredited nonsense of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), the high church of global warming propaganda.

Most attending, such as President Motlanthe and Minister van Schalkwyk, are scientific innocents, simply accepting the claptrap of rich Western climate alarmists. On behalf of our country, our planet and our people, I urge them to seek the truth and reject this deceit.

South Africa has desperate environmental problems – of water pollution, land degradation and the ravages of mass poverty. This climate change fable is an expensive and destructive diversion from real problems.