

Memo 29/08

Fraudulent science

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One of the definitions of '*fraud*' in the Oxford English Dictionary is '*a thing not fulfilling what is claimed or expected of it*'. It is within that context that I produced this memo. This is not an attack on individuals. It is an exposure of fraudulent scientific practices and the conclusions drawn from them, on a matter of major national and international importance.

There is another associated word. It is '*gullible*', which is defined as '*easily persuaded or deceived*'. What South Africa and the world are experiencing is a combination of fraudulent science, a gullible public and ambitious politicians. It is a potentially explosive situation. Efforts to follow the conventional route to expose the fraud via refereed papers in recognized scientific journals are fruitless when the response is that thousands of other scientists disagree.

It is most unfortunate that the South African scientists involved in climate alarmism have followed the example of the international community. Their policy is to neglect the fundamental requirements of scientific enquiry and vilify all those who disagree with them. But history tells us that extremism has a short shelf life. They have gone too far. *The tribes are becoming restless*, to use another historical phrase, now that the consequences of adopting the recommendations become apparent.

There is a growing and very perceptible groundswell of public and scientific opinion that is questioning the very basis of climate alarmism. The alarmists are no longer dealing with a gullible public and ambitious politicians.

Here in South Africa, we are going through turbulent times. Honest, conscientious and knowledgeable scientists have a professional and moral duty to examine the scientific basis for the alarmist claims and report their findings. The most efficient method to publicise their results is the Internet. Others can use the information to complement their own studies. The rising tide of knowledge will become unchallengeable.

This is the route that I have followed.

Breakthrough

Ever since I became involved in this climate change issue, way back in 1993, I reported that there is no evidence in the data to support the alarmist claims. The other side insisted that their computer models were infallible and that I was wrong. I did not try to prove that they were wrong. I just kept reiterating that there was no evidence in the data to support their theories. This was also my 93-page message to the Stern Review. I printed it on the front page in a large, bold font so that he could not miss it.

Then, the recent fierce debate on the mechanisms driving the greenhouse effect attracted my attention. It became increasingly clear that there were problems with the IPCC's position on

energy transfers and the greenhouse effect. I described this in the three e-mails that I distributed last week.

Then, as so often happens, the breakthrough came in the hours just before dawn as the brain cells start coming to life again. In 2002 I started studying the large and comprehensive hydrometeorological database that I had assembled, searching for evidence of unnatural climate change. I found none. But I never realised that there is information in the database that destroys the foundation of the IPCC's position.

You will recall their basic argument. Increasing undesirable greenhouse gas emissions result in rising global temperatures. These increase evaporation from the oceans. Energy is thereby transferred to the atmosphere. This in turn amplifies the greenhouse effect. All of this results in an intensification of the hydrological cycle: more extreme floods and droughts, etc etc. All of this results in threats to our precious plant and animal species and human life on this planet.

The key process in their argument is the increasing evaporation from the oceans caused by increasing global temperatures. But these temperature increases are only of the order of two to three degrees Celsius.

It was that passage in the minister's announcement regarding the decimation of the animals and butterflies in the Kruger National Park that stirred my brain cells even more. I dusted off my files with all my calculations, dating back to 2002. I searched for my analyses of the South African Weather Services' district rainfall data for the Kruger National Park region. The park is located within districts 33, 34 and 35. I looked at the histograms (always a good place to start). The rainfall records for all three districts cover the period from 1923 to 2000, i.e. more than 70 years. Lo and behold, there is **no decreasing trend** in the rainfall in these districts. So what is the basis for the alarmist predictions? There is none. The claims are fictitious (*imaginary, unreal, counterfeit*).

Then the brain cells got into gear. What about open water surface evaporation? Evaporation losses from our dams account for some 25% of the inflows, so the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry operates a number of evaporation measurement stations. Some of these have records extending back to the 1920s, and many back to the 1930s. So back to my calcs files I went. In 2002 I analysed 20 of these stations. They all show remarkably small annual variations, and no increasing trends. **There is no evidence of changes in open water surface evaporation that are synchronous with global temperature changes during the period of record.**

This is a body blow for the climate alarmists. There is absolutely no evidence that global warming increases evaporation from open water surfaces, including the oceans. So here at last was the explanation for the lack of evidence of the changes postulated by climate alarmists based on their global climate models. I have attached a *pdf* file that contains the cut-and-paste histograms for evaporation and rainfall. Draw your own conclusions.

So where do we go from here?

Fraudulent science

Perhaps I was naive, but after I distributed last week's memos I sincerely hoped that at least some of the more moderate climate change scientists for whom I have the greatest personal respect, would provide some indication that it was time to start talking. They remained silent.

Unfortunately, it is almost too late for scientific co-operation. The minister has already made his decision. It will be very difficult for him to change his mind.

It is not difficult to apportion blame for this situation. The handful of climate extremists were given a free hand when the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism chose to rely on their alarmist views, and ignore protests from those of us in the engineering and other applied sciences. Our peer-reviewed papers, articles in scientific publications and technical reports were ignored. Now our nation has to bear the consequences of the fraudulent science on which the minister based his decision.

Fraud

The minister's advisers were not only aware of my papers, articles and technical reports, but I also provided them with the data that I used in my calculations. Reactions during the past few years indicate that they were well aware that my conclusions were fundamentally different from theirs. Why did they repeatedly refuse to sit around a table to discuss our differences on a matter of great national importance?

Did they replicate my simple analyses? The answer is obvious. They deliberately ignored carrying out these analyses, and relied on the output of the clearly inadequate mathematical models instead. Alternatively, and more likely, they carried out the analyses and chose to suppress the results. They obviously did not carry out the fundamental requirements of scientific analyses. This is to verify their prediction methods by comparing the outputs with real world data. There is a wealth of long, reliable records for model calibration and verification studies.

Now South Africa has to suffer from this thoroughly unprofessional behaviour. Our minister, acting on their advice, has chosen to implement costly and fruitless measures to control our greenhouse gas emissions, when the money could be better spent on improving the quality of life of the poor and helpless people of this country.

The solution

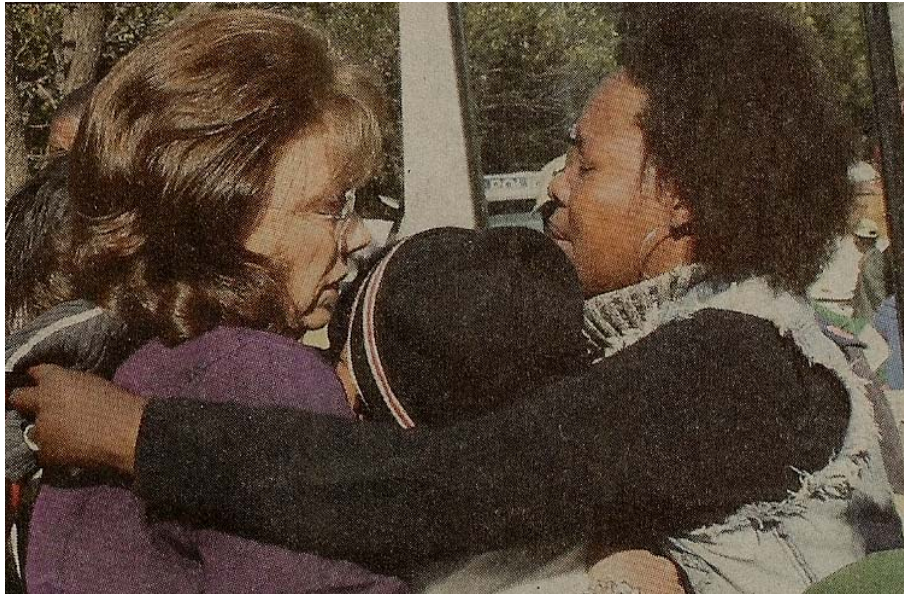
Sooner or later, their machinations will become public knowledge. People's lives and livelihoods are at stake. Bearing in mind my prediction of imminent severe drought sequences, there is an urgent need for the appointment of an independent, high-level multi-disciplinary body to review this whole issue as a matter of urgency.

This is as far as I am prepared to travel along this road at this stage. I sincerely hope that the climate alarmists and the organisations that they represent realise the inevitable consequences if they continue with their present unpatriotic strategy. Above all, they should appreciate that I will not remain silent should they continue with their fraudulent practices.

Human tragedy

A family of five, including three children were burnt to death when their shack caught fire. Onlookers offered their sympathies.

Relieving the plight of these people should be our nation's priority, not those fruitless emissions control measures based on fraudulent science and political ambitions.



I CAN NO LONGER REMAIN SILENT.

Regards

If you wish to follow a more philosophical trail, I suggest that you seek the origin of the Zulu expression Babanango (baba nango). A town in KZ Natal has this name. Some of us heed this call.