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**Speech Delivered by Ouma Makofane during the  
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**G**reetings to you all. Let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this meeting and my school for their generous support through-out.

I will be talking to you about climate change, which is a serious global issue that indeed will lead our future generation to face difficulties because of low resource availability and ultimately animal and plants extinction if no actions are taken.

Climate is defined as the average weather and variability pattern over a certain time span and a specific area. Weather refers to the short term atmospheric conditions such as temperature, cloudiness, wind patterns and so forth. Hence weather can change in just a few hours while climate can take years, decades or centuries to change.

Climate change is attributed directly or indirectly to human activities that alter the composition of the global atmospheric gases. Most of us are not really sure what causes climate change.

Well, according to Avis et al. (2008) and Dube et al. (2004), climate change is a result of global warming which is defined as the average increase in temperature near the Earth's surface. Global warming is caused by deforestation, burning of fossil fuel for energy purposes, industrial activities and veld fires.

All these contribute to an increase in greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. These gases contribute significantly to enhanced greenhouse effect which is the main cause of global warming (Opie 2009, Winter et al. 2009) and hence climate change. These gases are again responsible for destruction of the ozone layer which is vital for temperature regulation. High accumulation of gases in the atmosphere interferes with radiation of energy that affects prevailing ecosystems.

Clitheroe et al. 2006, Avis et al. 2008, and Isaac et al. 2009 noted that the effects of increased global temperatures and climate change includes:

Droughts, wild fires, desertification, tropical storms, increased diseases, malnutrition, floods, loss of income, tsunamis, anthropogenic events, extinction of plants and animals and pollution.

People's attitude towards climate change is evident as seen in the Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol (Clitheroe et al. 2006). However success depends on the rich countries' willingness to implement these strategies as they compromise development or economic generation. Amongst other resolutions, people are encouraged to be creative including recycling of products, changing light bulbs in their homes to compact florescent bulbs, use alternative transportation, using solar energy, plant more trees.

Developing countries find it hard to solve this as they are trying to create jobs for their nations. It makes it hard for these strategies to work. Countries like Mozambique and South Africa are trying to create jobs. But how can you create jobs while nature is in danger, bearing in mind that nature is the only reliable source of sustainable jobs and economy.

In conclusion, climate change pose a serious challenge to the environment. The environment we destroy because of carelessness is our life. So change for the environment. Stop and think before you act because life comes once.

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