RUSTENBURG COMMUNITY REPORT 2011

DEFENDING OUR LAND, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS
The Bench Marks Foundation is proud to be associated with the production of this first community report on the impact of Platinum mining in Rustenburg.

The Bench Marks Foundation has had a long relationship with the communities of Rustenburg. In 2007 we produced the first report (Policy Gap 1) where we reviewed the Corporate Social Responsibility of mining corporations operating in Rustenburg. In 2011 we produced our second study to review the changes since our first 2007 report.

In implementing our 2011 study we drew local community groups as active participants in the research. This Community Report is a product of this process.

We believe that a system of regulation (government laws, regulations and monitoring institutions) is important to make private corporations accountable and responsible. However this system of regulation will not lead to real changes without the organised, informed an active monitoring by the community at large and specifically the local community directly affected.

The Rustenburg community groups have identified a programme for action in 2012. The Bench Marks Foundation is committed to supporting the group in implementing this programme.

The Right Rev Dr. Jo Seoka (Chairman)

Mr. John Capel (Executive Director)

We wish to thank the following organisations for supporting the Bench Marks Foundation Monitoring Project:

- Bread for All, Action Aid South Africa, the Foundation for Human Rights, Norwegian Church Aid, NIZA (Nederlands Instituut Zuidelijk Afrika), IANRA (International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa) and Development and Peace (Canada) who supported the project directly and our core funders: Christian Aid, EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) and ICCO (Interkerkelijke Organisatie voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking) who made this work possible.

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Our purpose in writing this report is to highlight the suffering and hardships of Rustenburg communities resulting from the practices of mining companies.

Community activists from different villages met regularly from February to September 2011 in order to discuss ways we can gather information and to review the information collected towards writing this report.

In the first meeting key individual community challenges were identified and more information was collected to substantiate the challenges after this session. Photos of the identified issues were taken and presented in the following joint meeting.

A draft report was produced after another presentation was made by individual communities for final review. More photos and interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders, where possible with mine workers.

In working together to develop this report we have greatly not only learnt more about our communities and the problems they face, we have also developed our skills and our capacity as organisations.

We faced many difficulties which reduced the scope of this report. We worked on a small budget which restricted our ability to increase the number of community groups and our travel across communities to visit sites. We had a limited number of cameras and most communities did not have access to computers to prepare our reports. It was difficult for us to access statistics and information from corporations and government offices as these involved lengthy applications and officials were not very cooperative.

We are very grateful to the Bench Marks Foundation and the resource people who gave us support and guidance in preparing the reports.

The following organizations from five different Rustenburg communities were involved in writing this report:

- Chaneng Youth Organisation and Mafunya Youth Organisation team totaled a number of 15 activists.
- Marikana Development Organisation and Enviro Kids involved 10 environmental activists.
- Ikemeleng Environment Organisation: Participated in the process having 5 activists actively involved.
- Luka Environmental Forum had 5 activists from their organisation.
- Tlhabane Youth Organisation involved 4 comrades in the community report.
MINE PROMISES AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS A LIE.

The reports from the different communities show that CSR is a lie.

Mines make a lot of promises when they enter and when they make social labour plans. In their reports they talk about how much they are doing for the community as part of their CSR. As a community we experience arrogant mine officials, who use their resources to avoid community organisations and only deal with individuals whom they can control. When they set up community projects they do not consult with the community but only selected individuals. We see many projects which have failed or which simply serves a few individuals.

Mining companies initiate most of these projects which are mainly intended to impress their shareholders and go into their glossy annual reports to satisfy their public image. Rarely do the projects develop the lives of the communities as they are determined by the corporate world and not by the communities.

GOVERNMENT IS FAILING THE PEOPLE

We are disappointed that the Department of Mineral Resources, which represents our democratic government has failed to protect the community. They simply do not enforce the MPRDA. This government body has grown to become a partner with the mines and has not played their role as custodian of community lives.

Rustenburg communities are finding it difficult to understand why they should continue to vote for the government which does not have their interest at heart, especially considering the roles which they (Department of Mineral Resources, Environmental Affairs & Water Affairs) are abandoning in favour of the mining industry.

COMMON ISSUES ACROSS RUSTENBURG

In all the local community reports the following problems are common:

UNEMPLOYMENT

All communities suffer very high rates of unemployment and poverty. This is in spite of being located in the one of the richest land in the country and the world.

DESTRUCTION OF TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Families in Rustenburg subsidised their low incomes over the years through small vegetable gardens and keeping poultry and cattle. Much of this has now been destroyed by the expansion of mining. Worse still when mines take away farming land they give them no compensation or alternate land.

UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

A tiny group in the community get business opportunities and are growing wealthy while the majority of people grow poorer.

WATER, NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION

All communities in Rustenburg suffer water problems due to contamination of the rivers and boreholes. Mine blasting, giant air-conditioners for mine shafts and the network of railways that run across Rustenburg expose people to noise at all times of the day and night. Dust blows from the increasing number of tailings dams causing respiratory problem in the community.

INFLUX OF MINE WORKERS IN VILLAGES

The mines do not provide housing for mine workers. These workers then find cheap accommodation in the villages thus dramatically increasing the population. This has led to an over-crowding of the transport and health services, an increase in the number of taverns and new social problems which the villages never had in the past such as crime and prostitution.

CRACKED HOUSES

All villages around the mines complain of cracked houses which are caused by blasting and underground vibrations.

RELOCATION

Many families have been forced to move out of the homes they traditionally occupied and where they had settled down to make way for mining expansion. The compensation given to these families is very low and does not cover the full scale of the losses they experience.

DESERTIFICATION

Already we see areas of Rustenburg, where mining has ended, turn into little deserts.

DISEASES INCREASE IN MINING COMMUNITIES

We believe very strongly from our personal family experiences that mining has brought an increase in diseases. We now see diseases such as asthma, TB, HIV infections, sinusitis, which we had not known in the past.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS ON THE INCREASE

All our communities are experiencing high levels of social problems which did not exist prior to platinum mining. There is growing youth alcoholism and drug taking, increase in crime and teenage pregnancy.

THREAT OF XENOPHOBIC CONFLICT

The high rate of local unemployment and poverty in our community has led to a situation where local people are resentful to the presence of people from other countries working or seeking work on the mines. The mines have set people up in relationships of potential conflict.

UNSCRUPULOUS COUNCILLORS

Most communities see their councillors as individuals who are serving their personal business interest and do so using unscrupulous methods.
While we suffer many hardships, this report is a testimony to the fact that we have not given up hope of change. Generally the affected and participating communities are strengthening their relations and regular interaction to strategise in defending their environment, land and human rights.

The research and the writing of this report has helped local community organisations come together not only to better understand our problems but to make action plans for 2012.

We have agreed to implement the following programme of action in 2012:

- Hold workshops on key issues and affecting the people of Rustenburg. This should include a workshop on the "nationalization debate".
- Launch campaigns on specific problems we have identified in this report.
- We will embark on targeted community driven social and infrastructure development projects.
- We will launch a regular newsletter to keep the local community informed.
- We will use social media such as blogs and Facebook to inform the larger world on what is happening in Rustenburg and get support for our actions.
- We will spend time on strengthening the network in Rustenburg and liking with organisations elsewhere in the country, the Africa region and the world.
- We will hold capacity building workshops to develop the skills of our local community organisations.
- In implementing the above activities we will in 2012 ensure that a larger number of women activists are drawn into the programme and that what ever issue we take up we will ask the question: in what way does this affect women and girls in our community.
Chaneng and Mafnya are located in the north of Rustenburg not far from the international hotel and casino, Sun City, and the Pilanesburg Nature Reserve.

Mining activities surround the community, with the following companies operating here:

- Xstrata Merafe Smelters
- StylDrift Project
- Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum
- Impala 20 Shaft
- Andru Open Cast
- Rosond Drill Prospecting
- Maseve (New Operation) and Wesizwe Platinum
**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The people staying in Chaneng are called Bachana (people of Chaneng). Chaneng was founded in the the 1800s by a community who bought their land through selling their cattle. This community, through political transitions, became part of the Bafokeng tribe, today known as Royal Bafokeng Nation. The community of Chaneng initially resided in the North toward the Eland River known as Kgetleng.

This traditional community lived in mud buildings and thatch roofed houses. Traditional doctors were central to health care to the Rabupi community. The burial of loved ones was done in the same areas not far from their place of residence. Land use was at its optimum as cattle and crop farming was the basic way of living. Chaneng farms were located at Boskop-pies farm which is now called Rasimone village.

Women working in the fields and men herding cattle and hunting was the way in which people lived their lives.

Relocation from Rabupi came after a recommendation by kgosi Mokgatle of Bafokeng that during flooding people may drown. The relocation, to the current Chaneng, happened between the years 1839-1900. This was when the Bafokeng Kgosi was becoming more influential and recognized by many communities which bought their farming land similar to the people of Chaneng. Kgosi Mokgatle then deployed one Mr. Molongoane to serve as a messenger who then transcended to be the headman. Molongoane then formed four Makgotla to easily manage the growing community of Bachana. The Makgotla were divided into kgota ya Matebele, Matuane, Ramogotsi, Phokeng and Setshoaane as the leading kgotla.

Since then the system of Makgotla has been important in uniting the community and ensuring effective communication within Bachana.

**THE SITUATION TODAY**

Though a lot has changed with regards to more reliance on traditional health care system, traditional healers are widely consulted especially for illnesses which are not curable by medical health care system.

Now, Chaneng is a neighbor to Mafenya village which most of its residents have relocated from Rasimone and Chaneng. Their traditional councils are based in either of the two villages.

Livestock farming is the only form of agricultural activity as mining companies have occupied the community farms. Besides farming the community has a variety of improvements including the involvement of women in Makgotla. The youth is now recognised in decision making.

Bachana are now faced with many challenges as the birth rate is increasing and the population is close to 7000. The population increase is linked to the growth in mining industries surrounding the village.

Today the youth and elders are united in the communities struggles. Chaneng Youth Organisation (CYO) took the initiative to merge with the councils representing our community at large in order to find solutions for the challenges they are faced with and to ensure that any decisions made do not affect anyone in a negative way. The relationship between the CYO, community and council’s representatives is stable because all matters arising within the parties are brought/presented and negotiated in attendance of all organizations.

**THE BIG ISSUES FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

**ROYAL BAFOKENG PLATINUM DUCKING TO OFFER CHANENG SHARES**

Considering the uneven distribution of wealth by the Royal Bafokeng Administration and that land invaded is valuable to sustain the livelihoods of the current and future generations of Chaneng community. Kgota of Chaneng has put on the table a proposal to be offered a 15 - 30% share in the BRPM (Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine). Chaneng and its three neighbouring communities (Robega, Mafenya and Rasimone), have protested against the unethical business conduct of the mine when it keeps referring the matters discussed in their meetings to the Royal Bafokeng Administration.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Chaneng

Mine subcontractors bring their previously preferred labour, especially from Welkom and foreign countries. On 12 July the RB Platinum announced that in the process only 58 locals (32 Chaneng) out of the total labour force are currently employed despite the January 26th meeting promise, that by mid-March 2011 at least 150 locals will be employed. The total staff complement of Stylidrift Project is 509, including locals and broad SA: 155, Rustenburg 154 plus foreigners 142.

The total number of employees of BBPM JV project is unknown but it is not less than 4000, according to information received from a NUM shop steward.

The imbalance in the number of locals employed in the current Stylidrift Project, indicate that there are more inequities occurring in the project.

Mafenya

Only four (4) have been employed from Mafenya out of 58 local employees. The youth are the highly unemployed and part of a large population (1200) of Mafenya.

Mines claim that locals lack skills, qualification and experience and are therefore not employable. It has been proven that the subcontractors employ Lesotho residents mostly because they accept low wages and are prepared to work under poor working conditions and racist employers, as they constantly employ workers who are unskilled and iliterate whom they could easily get from the affected communities.

Prior to operations, mining companies do not avail relevant training for the members of the community to benefit from job opportunities in mining.
ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Air quality

The carbon emissions in Rustenburg are high. The emission levels in the city concentrated by mining and smelter activities are unknown to the Chaneng and Mafenya team. However, the BRPM JV management mention that they are using dust buckets to measure the air quality levels. The mine claims to be emitting below the set standard and levels. Since the mining operations started, health problems such as asthma, TB and sinusitis are increasing.

Polluted water

In 2009 SRK Consulting reported in a local community meeting that the underground water is polluted and a message must be sent out to all affected communities to alert them not to consume water from boreholes. The reason for this alert arose after SRK had tested the water and results proved high levels of nitrate in underground water.

Following the unconfirmed reasons for a cause of high nitrate levels, Kgotla of Chaneng on 22 September 2010 requested the national Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) to conduct a test on the water and further provide reasons for the cause of high nitrates in our underground water. To date, the department has not even bothered to come and present the test results for unknown reasons, despite the community's follow-up.

HEALTH CARE

A visit to the clinic on weekdays indicates an inadequate amount of facilities and staff members to deal with the influx of the local community and its backroom dwellers.

Currently there are no doctors in the clinic, no ambulances, poor management and poor patient treatment. At the time of writing this report the district Department of Health had not issued the official statistics of the Chaneng Clinic user health status. Chaneng Clinic is currently used by all four communities: Chaneng, Mafenya, Rasimone and Robega.

CRACKED HOUSES FROM MINE BLASTING

Chaneng

When the Stylidrift project was planning its development phase in 2009, the management conducted a cracked-house survey across 100 houses within a one-kilometre radius. The results of the survey suggested that the houses in Chaneng are poorly built in general. This suggests that the mine will not take further responsibility for damage which may be reported to be linked to the mining operations by the Anglo/ Bafokeng operations.

Mafenya

Mafenya is largely constituted of houses built during their relocation from their original area, Lekgoropane.

During the relocation, the BRPM JV management and RBA promised the community better living and properly constructed houses. Unexpectedly, the houses are now cracking and BRPM JV are not taking the responsibility to repair or rebuild the houses.

Now, the community is facing another mining development by Platinum Group Metals and Wesizwe Platinum JV, called Massive JV. This project’s management has conducted a cracked-house survey (in June 2011) which aims to establish the impact which the mine may cause to the houses near its operations. The results can be that the Massive project can exonerate them from the already existing damage of poor workmanship by the Anglo Platinum & RBPlat’s BRPM JV.
On 30 September 2011, community leaders of Chaneng received good news when the North West Regional office of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) announced that Royal Bafokeng Platinum (RBPlat) had been officially stopped from conducting its infill drillings.

This decision followed after a series of community protests which had stopped the drillings.

The urge to stop the exploration drillings started when the community complained about lack of consultation and engagement by the drilling companies and its authorisers. In addition to the exploration drillings, which was intended for expansion of the Styldrift Shaft, the community felt that the new shaft which was under development, was not benefiting them in any way, despite being on their land, and in addition to that, unlawfully occupying their land.

On the 5th of September 2011 this rural Community of Chaneng, based in the North of Rustenburg, went to the drilling companies (Rosond Drilling and Geoserve Drilling) to force them to stop the infill drillings. September 5th was the start of the protest against the entire Styldrift Project, an expansion project of Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM), which is owned by RBPlat.

The protest lasted until September 7th, when the MEC Paul Sebego of Local Government and Traditional Affairs was forced by the tense situation to go down to Chaneng and address a full to capacity Kgotta of Chaneng.

In his address, Sebego committed to first persuading RBPlat to withdraw the interdict which was "interdicting and restraining" Chaneng Youth Organisation (CYO), its Chairperson, his Deputy and Kgotta ya Setshwane (Chaneng) "as well as their members and associates and any person acting or "purporting to act on their behalf from committing… encouraging, supporting, participating in or condoning acts of violence… or assault or threatened assault of employees" of the RBR and BRPM amongst its many orders.

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In this Act, which is applicable only in Rustenburg, the applicant of the protest must submit a letter from the person whom the memorandum will be handed to.

In most cases the meetings which come as a result of this system, are never fruitful and never yield any benefits to the communities, leaving them dissatisfied.

The community of Robega, very close to the squat-ter camp experiences high crime levels more than other communities and this has also led to lawlessness such as mob-justice, child prostitution, teenage pregnancy, mugging and “under cover” sex workers in backroom dwelling - spreading to Chaneng and Mafeny.

Between 2009 and 2011, the communities of Chaneng, Robega, Rasimone and Mafeny have been subject to the most horrible situation of human rights oppression and denied the right to freedom of expression (right to protest) through the “Rustenburg only” Public Gathering Act.

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The mines around Chaneng, Mafeny, Rasimone and Robega generally do not consider the impact of their ‘sleep-out allowance’ in the social health of the community.

Currently the mines have poor worker accommodation facilities. As a result the local communities are experiencing an increase in foreign labour migrants.

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The system has a clear consequence to avoid protest because normally the authorities which are expected to be providing the letter of consent to receive the memorandum, especially RBA, will never provide it but rather call for a meeting to discuss.

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Luka is a village in the north of Rustenburg. We are located at the heart of the platinum mining region. Our great grandparents lost their land to the Afrikaner settlers and bought back areas with their own money. We built our own church and schools, and sunk our own boreholes. We planted crops for our use and every family had a herd of cattle. Platinum mining came into our lives in the 1960’s. We were not consulted about this.

We have lived in Luka for over a century. Now we are surrounded by mines and our land is slowly been turned into mine dumps.

THE FOLLOWING MINES OPERATE AROUND LUKA:

IMPALA PLATINUM MINE AND ITS SUBCONTRACTORS:
OMNIA
MINERAL PROCESS
COMCOR
AND THE MINES IN WHICH THE ROYAL BAFOKENG AUTHORITY HAVE SHARES.
IMPORTANT ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- Cracked houses from blasting and underground vibrations.
- Noise pollution from the shafts, blasting and machinery.
- Air pollution from slime dams and blasting.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS:

- Mines offer no employment opportunities to locals.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

- Housing: A lack of adequate housing and the problem of cracked housing.
- Roads: Roads that are not tarred are being destroyed by mine vehicles. Mine vehicles also pose a threat to community health and safety in terms of dust and accidents. There is also very poor signage.
- Community projects: Mines are not investing in any development projects within the community.

HEALTH ISSUES:

- The influx of immigrants and mineworkers has resulted in the already minimal resources in staff and medicine at the local clinic to be over utilised. This means that the mines are not providing adequate health for their employees. This is brought about by sub-contracting and outsourcing to labour brokers and subcontractors, it is a sophisticated way of externalising the health and safety responsibilities of mining corporations.

ROYALTIES AND LAND ISSUES:

- The relationship between the Luka community and the Royal Bafokeng Authority (RBA) is conflictual. The community feels it does not benefit from royalties.
- The community is in a land ownership contestation with the RBA. The community believes that it is excluded from the processes that lead to the social and labour plans and they do not benefit from these.

IMPALA MINE:

- There is a conflictual relationship between the community and the mining company.

MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS

In May 2003 we set out our demands to Impala Platinum and copied this to several local, provincial and national government offices. The mine did not engage us seriously on these demands. They frustrated us with useless meetings and tried to weaken us. Government did not give us any support on these demands.

1. A stoppage of the proposed UG open cast with immediate effect
2. Stoppage of the current Merensky open cast with immediate effect
3. A stoppage of the proposed UG open cast with immediate effect
4. Removal of ventilations within a 7 km radius, and operations started after 1997 based on falsified information issued by Impala Mines to government departments
5. Disclose environmental management programme report
6. A demand for free water provision to the Luka community based on the contamination of our underground water supply
7. Free medical examination for every newborn child up to the child’s school-going age on the basis of possible hazards from emissions
8. Free access to Impala Hospital and emergency services
9. Funds to be made available for second opinions on every medical examination
10. Compensate Luka residents for environmental damages caused by Impala mining corporation since 1967
11. Removal and eradication of tailings dams within 7 km of Luka village
12. We demand to be equal partners on all minerals exploited and other mining related businesses in our area
13. Total eradication of unemployment experienced by the local people
14. Demand for Luka community to be direct beneficiaries
15. Impala must assist in the establishment of Luka Community Development Trust
16. Impala Mines must assist in the establishment of the Police Station
17. Impala Mines must grant Luka Community the necessary respect
18. Impala Mines to stop taking Luka Community for granted
The mines tells the world that they consult with local communities. Our experience is that this is not true. This is our story of engagement with Impala Platinum mines.

Ever since the mines came to our village we had problems with the impact of the mine. There were many meetings with Impala by different committees such as the Luka Crisis Committee and the Luka Youth Committee. In one of the consultations we raised the issue of the drying up of the boreholes. The mine agreed that they will pay for the community’s water consumption. Nothing came of this.

In 2003 we were told by Impala that they wanted to talk with the community about the new open casts they were setting up. We learnt that they were required by law to consult with the community. We called a community meeting and the people talked about the many problems they experienced because of the open casts and underground mining. The community decided that it was time to have a committee to speak on their behalf to Impala. A meeting was held in early 2003 in a local school where a committee of 10 was elected. The committee drafted a memo of 17 demands which they wanted Impala to address. An important demand was that Impala should stop all open cast blasting immediately.

Impala called a meeting in their training centre. Before the meeting we went around the community and called the people with a loud hailer. People gathered and we marched through the village and then to Impala where we presented our memo. We also submitted the same memo to the Department of Minerals and Energy, The Royal Bafokeng Administration and the Municipality. But Impala ignored our memo. They went on with their open cast blasting without consulting with us.

We decided that we had to take action. One afternoon a group of us took a kombi to the open pit and we sat down in the pit before the blasting started. The mine was forced to stop its operations. That same afternoon the mine manager from Shaft No 6 called us to a meeting. There he agreed that they will talk to us about our demands.

From 2003 until 2006, we have been sitting in meetings, telling them how we feel. At first, Impala appeared to be taking us seriously but it soon became clear that they were only keeping us talking and not serious about responding to our demands.

We organised the community and held another march. We presented the memo of demands for a second time. Impala then held another stream of meetings. We complained that the meetings were getting us nowhere because Impala was represented by junior officials who had no power to make any change.

Impala then appointed a consultant, Metago Environmental Engineers, to represent them. We took the consultant on a tour of the community to show him the problems we experienced:

- Gravestones destroyed in the explosion
- Cracked houses
- Pipelines, ventilation shafts and power lines which encircled the village blocking us from use of land.

But we did not hear from the consultant on our demands. Instead it appeared that the consultant’s only interest was to get permission from the Department of Minerals and Energy for the company to resume blasting.

We were informed by Impala that they were prepared to establish a community development trust fund as we had demanded however since this not only involved Luka but all mining villages where they were involved, we could not be trustees. Instead the Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng Tribe was to be a trustee.

We were totally ignored by Impala.

We saw a secret memo to the company written by one of the consultants. This memo said that our demands were justified and that Impala should respond to them but Impala must be careful not to give any credit to the Luka Environmental Forum.

In 2009 Impala set up the trust fund and informed us that they wanted more community involved and not only Luka. They wanted to involve Kanana, Pokeng, Lefaraka, Bonjala and Chaneng. We agreed with this because we thought that with more communities we could achieve more. This committee was to be the Impala Joint Community Forum (IJCF). However at the large meeting Impala would not agree with us on a working document that set out the terms of reference.

The strategy in setting up the IJCF was clearly to involve so many different groupings that it would be difficult for us to unite as a community. In this way Impala will control the IJCF. Impala shifted the focus away from Luka; they involved traditional leaders and councillors.

We don’t know what this is.
GOVERNMENT IS NOT HELPFUL

The role of the Apartheid government and the Homeland government was very clear. They were against our people and only looked after the interests of those who played their game. Sadly for us this has not changed in our new democracy. Our government departments and representatives do no listen to our problems. They appear to be on the side of the mining corporations.

We contacted the Department of Mineral and Energy (DME) about our problems as far back as in 2003. The DME would simply write letters, setting out guidelines that the mines should follow. Impala ignored these guidelines. The DME would not do any follow up.

We do not get any support from the provincial and local government. Right now Impala is finding ways to avoid talking with our organisation. They say that we are not representatives, only a councillor can be a representative. They appear to get a lot of cooperation from the councillor.

WATER

We had a very developed system of boreholes which the community built for their own supply of water. Since mining, our boreholes dried up. The little water available was also salty.

When we raised this with Impala over ten years ago, Impala denied that they were responsible for our boreholes drying up or turning salty. However they agreed to bear the costs of our water consumption.

But they did not keep this promise. Now the Royal Bafokeng has asked residents to pay for water. Most people in the community have refused to pay as we felt that the mine should pay.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Over the years we have seen how the mines are destroying our land, air, and water.

REHABILITATION OF OPEN CASTS

There are several open casts which are no longer used for mining. These have not been properly rehabilitated.

DUMP SITES

The dump sites have always been a danger to the community. These dump sites contain bits of coal and wood. This attracted members of the community and particularly children. But the sites also have medical refuse, chemicals and un-exploded explosives. One of our committee members lost a finger in this dump site.

Because of our pressure, Impala covered up this dump with soil. They said that they will monitor the site to see whether it affected the ground water. At our meetings a lady appointed by Impala would give us reports but she refused to hand over any written documents on her studies.
During the winter our sky turns white. On the rooftops, the sides of our houses, the leaves of the trees and on the stoeps, in the houses, on the tablecloth and the furniture, there is this white sand.

You cannot enjoy any leisure outside of your house because of this white sand.

This white sand comes from the tailings dam.

**TAILINGS DAM**

**SMELTERS**

At certain times of the day when they burn in the smelters you can feel the sensation in your nose, and the sky is covered by the blue smoke from the long chimney, from the smelter. Now they do a lot of burning at night.

**CRACKED HOUSES**

Impala through their consultant investigated the cracks in our houses. The consultant issued a report acknowledging that the damages were caused by explosions. But he quickly issued another report saying that the company was not responsible. Up to today, Impala insists that the large number of cracks in Luka houses is due to poor architecture and not blasting.

**CLINICS**

The “sleeping out policy” of the mine and the ending of the hostel system mean that many mine workers are living in backyards of Luka residents. This has led to an overloading of all the community facilities such as transport and the clinic’s resources.

We did some research and found the following overloading in our clinic. In 2005 a total of 15 294 patients attended the clinic. This figure rose every year: 35 293 in 2008, 39 579 in 2009 and up to 46 803 in 2010.

This increase is not from original residents as their numbers have not increased. It is due to contract workers and the families of mine workers who are not covered by the mines. The number of patients has increased but the staff and facilities of the mine have stayed the same.

This overcrowding is one of the points where conflict develops between local residents and mine workers and their families from outside the community.

**MAN MADE STREAM**

Impala has built a man-made stream reaching from the minerals processing plant down to the dam and river. Our cows drink this water. Many have become sick and some have died. We do not have the resources to prove this through scientific testing.
Ikemeleng is an “informal settlement” near Kroondal in Rustenburg. Ikemeleng started as a farm in the 1960’s. The people of Mahermane and Baphalane lived here long ago.

The farm used to be a place where workers from the white area of Kroondaal were settled because the laws of Apartheid would not allow them to live in the white area. Soon Ikemeleng was used to dump farm labourers who were chased off white farms.

When the mines came into the area in the 1990’s many migrant workers built their shacks in Ikemeleng. The mines did not provide housing for them. Soon more people moved in looking for work. They came from different parts of South Africa and from countries such as Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. Somali people came and began setting up tuck shops in Ikemeleng.

According to a census in 2004, we are told that there were 1358 households. But we believe there are more houses then this. There are over 5000 residents in Ikemeleng.

Ikemeleng is situated in the middle of many mining operations. There are 5 big mining companies around us:

SAMANCOR
ANGLO PLATINUM
AQUARIUS PLATINUM
XTRATA
LONMIN
IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

HOUSING SECURITY
We have lived here for many years, from 5 to 50 years and we don't have ownership of our plots. We live in shacks with no proper housing.

MIGRANT COMMUNITY AND CONFLICTS
We are a very mixed community with many people who are migrants and not properly settled here. This leads to many conflicts.

NO BASIC SERVICES
We don't have water, we rely on delivery by tanks, a bilharzia river and contaminated boreholes. We don't have proper toilets, some have buckets, some make drop toilets, many use the bushes. We don't have electricity, and we don't have a system of removing rubbish.

CLINIC
We have a mobile clinic which comes twice a week and attends to a few people, but need a proper clinic.

UNEMPLOYMENT
Most of the people are unemployed. There is no skills development programme for young people.

DANGEROUS ROADS
There are many road accidents because of the busy road near us. The roads inside Ikemeleng are bad.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
There are no recreational facilities for young people, who spend their days just hanging about.

CRIME
There is a lot of crime and violence especially around the taverns. Prostitution and HIV aids is increasing. Young women, as a way of surviving, are providing sex for money to migrant mining workers, this opens both of them to HIV/AIDS.

WE DON'T HAVE TITLE DEEDS AND DON'T KNOW THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

We have been hearing since 2003 that there are plans to make Ikemeleng a formal settlement. It is 8 years now and municipal officials keep changing their story and all we get is promises before elections.

In 2009 we were told that we could get title deeds for the land we lived on, but nobody could show us how, where, or whom to get it from. Many residents share stands and they fear that when people are given RDP houses, they will be left out. But the municipality will not sit down and talk to us properly. They make their decisions somewhere else then they tell us. This makes us angry.

All we know is that because we are not formalised we do not fall in the budget of the council. Therefore they can’t provide us with basic services such as water, electricity and rubbish collection.

At an imbizo with the Mayor held in our community on the 15th September 2011, the Human Settlement representative said that they already have approval for RDP houses for Ikemeleng but there are delays because they still have to lay water pipes, and this delay is because people are not moving to make way for the pipes to be laid. Every year that goes by we hear another story why there is a delay.

We fear that there will be a lot of conflict when the RDP houses come because it is only for people with green IDs (South Africans). Many people who live in Ikemeleng are foreigners.
Many people in Ikemeleng are unemployed and they live in poverty not able to feed their children. Ikemeleng is also a place where mine workers find cheap accommodation because the mine does not provide accommodation for them. These are men with no families. These men pay young women who are desperate for money for sex.

SEX WORK

Sex work and sex workers are people who stay in the community. They came like all the residents of Ikemeleng from other places looking for work. They don’t find work. Some come with their boyfriends. They have problems with their boyfriends. They are dumped. Sex workers are around 18 – 26 years old. Some sell their body for booze, some for R50. At every tavern you can find plus minus 5 sex workers.

These are some cases that we know about sex work.

- I have a relative who stays with his girlfriend. He earns 3000 per month. He gives his girlfriend R1000 for buying toiletries and food. The mother of the girlfriend is a domestic worker. The girl is 17 years old and does not have any children. My relative is 29 years old he has two children and another family in Taung.

TAVERNS

In our community there are a lot of taverns surrounding our villages. These are dangerous places. There is a tavern next to the community office side. Every month end someone dies here. There is no security to prevent the violence. Many dangerous weapons are found in this tavern. According to the law all taverns must be closed before midnight but this tavern opens until morning non-stop.

YOUTH CRIME

In our community there is a very high percentage of crime caused by teenagers. Teenagers have nothing like art and culture to keep them busy. Since we are next to the mines, the children only think about money. Above this, many children are using drugs which they can get from the taverns, and they are even allowed to buy alcohol in the taverns.

People in our community do not know each other. They come from many countries, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho besides South Africa like the Eastern Cape. Almost every day new people get to stay in our community building their own shelters. So we don’t know who is permanent and who is not, who is a criminal and who is a decent citizen. We don’t know the backgrounds of people. During the night we hear sounds of guns.

- Young girls in Ikemeleng are looking for money. So they build relationship with workers. Some mothers encourage them to have boyfriends. I know a girl who is fourteen. She still goes to school, Tshukudu High School. Her mother allows her have a boyfriend in the mine, because the boy who is 30-32 years of age gives her money, sometimes a R1000.
The Rustenburg municipality has been wasting money in paying for the people who tender for bringing this water to the residents. They started to lay pipes for bulk water around August 2008. But this construction project for bulk water supply does not appear to be finishing. The project started around the month of August 2008 but even today the project has not yet been completed. Politicians use this project to lobby in the 2009 national elections, saying that they are bringing us water. People have been promised so much that they don’t even know who to believe in.

In August 2010 the community met the contractor. That meeting was held at the local school. The councillor was present and the proportional councillor and the Community Liaison officer of the project. In the meeting, they blamed each other for not completing the project.

The contractor said that the delay was caused because they never got paid for the job and that there were two contracts. The one doing the job complained about the previous contractor.

The councillors said that they would meet with us after the new budget was passed. Now there is a new councillor.

On the 15th September 2011 the Mayor met the community with councillors and other representatives. They told us that we would have water by December 2011.

The question still remains: when will the people of Ikemeleng drink the water from their taps? Its either the municipality or the mining companies around us who can provide the answer, “cause we are waiting to quench our thirst before moo fire a go burn.”

Ikemeleng is a place situated between mining companies, making it extremely busy during the day. People are travelling from Rustenburg to Xstrata and Murray Roberts Cementation shaft, and others heading to Waterfall or to Bleskop Hospital and mines.

The worst part about this busy road is that the cars travel very fast. When drivers from Ikemeleng join this road they risk accidents.

Students who go to school outside Ikemeleng have to cross this road and are at risk. This road has claimed many lives and several people have been hit by motor vehicles as they try to cross the roads.

People graze their cattle and goats nearby. These cattle stray on the road. Many herds of goat have been lost. The goats also cause accidents.

The Municipality and the Mines are well aware of this problem. They have tried to organise a patrol to help kids cross. But they are not serious; they do this on a volunteer basis and only for a short time during school hours.

The municipality promises a lot of changes such as traffic lights and speed humps. But they say in the near future. Yet in the rich white area close by they already have speed humps. What are they waiting for, a child or few children to die? Is our life cheap?

The community have suggested that traffic lights will be the only solution.

ROADS INSIDE IKEMELEN

The roads in Ikemeleng are not tarred. During rains it is impossible to travel from one section to another. This makes it impossible for local businesses to get their goods in and even for water sellers to bring water. This places our lives in danger. Emergency vehicles are not able to reach people in rainy season.
THE TOILET PROBLEM IN IKEMELENG

The community of Ikemeleng does not have a proper sewage system. Some people have the bucket system, others dig their own pit toilets. Many people are forced to use the bushes. Our group talked to the community about their problems.

THE BUCKET SYSTEM

It was in 2006 when the residents from one section of Ikemeleng heard about their removal in making way for the expansion of the open cast mining. Aquarius platinum mining was visibly at the fore in pursuing the residents move. Plenty of the promises were made but never fulfilled. One of the promises made was that temporary toilets will be used for the period of six months. This was an agreement reached during a meeting with the community. Soon the people were told that houses will follow with water and sanitation. People were very happy thinking that soon after their removal, things will be as was said to them. But the situation got worse because the companies who got the contract to empty the buckets did not do their job.

That is how the bucket system was introduced in Ikemeleng. We interviewed residents who used the bucket system. This is what they said:

- Winter time is better than summer. In summer there are a lot of worms in the buckets and flies all around. The people who come to drain the toilet don’t come on time. The bucket overflows. We cannot lock the doors of the toilet because many people share the toilet. At least 3 houses share one toilet.
- The buckets fill up very quickly. In summer there are more flies. Three households are sharing one toilet, this means that more than thirty people are using one toilet. In three days the buckets are full.
- Children are opening it easily. The toilet pot can easily fall down. The children get sick because of flies that come from the toilet every day. Other toilets are seven meters away from the house. So from our houses we get the stink of the toilet. Many are forced to find alternatives such as the bush to relieve themselves because sometimes there are queues for the toilet.
- They are more than ten and they are using one toilet. Some of them have children and the toilet is situated outside the gate. During the night they are afraid to go to toilet, because they can be harmed, raped or either killed. Summer is bad for them to go to toilet because of flies and worms.
- The toilets are next to the road, during the weekend, people, especially women are afraid to go to toilet because people are strolling around their street. They can be raped or robbed. Children are playing around the toilet and it can easily fall down, because the doors are not locked.

THE PIT TOILET PROBLEM

No sewage system caused decay in our Ikemeleng community. After many years of what we called democracy many hoped that it would better their lives but nothing has changed so far. People have dug pit toilets close to their house. During the rain the pits fill with water and the faeces runs through to the streams nearby. When the day becomes hot the pits fill with water and the faeces runs through to the streams nearby. When the day becomes hot the faeces runs through to the streams nearby. The streams fill with water and the faeces runs through to the nearest place for the employees to live in. The one reason is that there is not enough accommodation for them.

As our village of Ikemeleng is one of the places that has been affected by this migrant workers tension between the non-citizen with the citizen is very rife when it comes to sharing the little resources that we have as a community.

CONFLICT OVER WATER

As we are living in this situation whereby we still have to queue for water for almost a day this is where you hear of the most heated talks between people; locals and foreigners. People boast of being better than others in terms of being citizens. You also hear people who are entitled to vote expecting to be the first to be served.

CONFLICT OVER HOUSING

If they give people RDP houses in Ikemeleng this will be a cause for conflict among people because many foreigners will get houses because they now have South African papers.

CONFLICT WITH TRADERS

People who are doing business in Ikemeleng are not good in the way they relate with others because they claim that they pay tax while others don’t, seeing it unfair because they stand to lose while others benefit unfairly.

As mining is depending heavily on migrant workers, this results in Rustenburg being one of the towns affected by the influx of people who comes from different places in search of employment. Thus emerges places like informal settlements that become the nearest places for the employees to live in. The one reason is that there is not enough accommodation for them.
MARIKANA
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Marikana as a town was formed around the 1870’s. The people were later forcibly moved by the Apartheid government to Wonderkop in the 1960’s. White farms established themselves with assistance of the government who built the Buffelspoort dam. Platinum mining began around 1976 and since then Marikane has become a place of mine shafts, squatter camps and badly built RDPs.

Marikana town is 30 minutes drive from Rustenburg

The following mines operate in Marikana: Xtrata, Lonmin, Carisa, Aquarius, MPC, Grinaker, IMM, Angloplat, Letwaga Crushers and Tharisa which is 20 years old.

IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Lack of Housing
- Squatter camps
- Air pollution
- Water: bilharzia has been found in streams in close proximity to squatter camps. There is no signage next to bilharzia infected streams
- Farmers are complaining about impact of mines on their water
- No signage on roads
- Noise from blasting and mine operations
- Cracked houses
- Poor and over-utilised health services, small clinic
- High Unemployment
- High Crime
- Corrupt police
- Lack of schools, children have to travel long distances
- Roads destroyed by mine vehicles avoiding toll road in need of repair
- No recreation facilities
- No old age home
- Destruction of agricultural land by mining and landlessness
- Local government failing
- Flow of sewage from Lonmin mine settlement into streams
- No consultation between mines and the community
- Forced relocations by mines

Marikana West and RDP housing settlements are enclosed by farms, mining activity and informal settlements.

The Lonmin Mine operating less than a kilometer from the Marikana West RDP housing settlements donated the high mast light in 2008. They did not properly transfer this asset to the Marikana Municipality. When the light stopped working in 2009 the Municipality could not take responsibility for the light as they say that this is not part of their assets.

The community before the installation of the lights had problems of crime like house breaking, theft, rape cases and mugging of residents at night but the problem is recurring since the light went off.
UN-MAINTAINED SEWER SYSTEM:

The blocked sewer lines and overflows out of the sewer lids pushes the waste into the streams in the surrounding areas. The streams around the community have been verified as being contaminated with bilharzia by Lonmin Mine in 2009. The water in the streams are used by some community members to bath and wash clothes. Little children swim in this river. The bilharzia threat and the sewer waste increases the health risks which includes those of water-borne diseases.

In October 2010 an eight year old young boy had contact with the water from the stream near his mother's house in the RDP settlement and shortly after the incident the boy’s skin started peeling. Since then he continues to have an itchy penis.

“LIVING OUT ALLOWANCE” AND BLOCKED SEWERS

One of the big reasons for blocked sewers in Marikana is that there are more people living in yards than was planned for. This increase in the number of people is due to the mines. The mines and mining contractors do not provide houses for their workers. They give them a living out allowance. Since there is no rental accommodation in Marikana people rent little rooms in the backyards of existing houses.

The living-out allowance of the mining industry is around R1800 per month and R800 for construction company employees. With this amount of income they cannot afford suitable accommodation, food and transport. This results in the mushrooming of squatter camps which are havens for health risks, crime and environmental degradation.

LIVING OUT ALLOWANCE AND SQUATTERS CAMPS

Squatter camps are a common sight in Marikana with the likes of Skierkerlik, Storm Huse, Brampie, Group Five, Donkerhoek, Big House, Phatsima, Erasmus, Mahomvane, Madrateng, Medithokwa, Tshiling, Swart Koppo, Nkaneng (Wonderkop).

Squatter camps increase due to flawed housing policies applicable in the mining industry (the living-out allowance housing policy), low wages paid by industry and companies contracted to the industries. These contracted companies do not have housing for their employees as they move from place to place time and again.

Squatter camps are a horrible sight and undermine human dignity and rights as there is no delivery of services such as water, sanitation and waste collection.

CARTRIDGES OF EXPLOSIVE ON THE STREETS

After a thunder storm disaster in the RDP settlement the road was built in the community with rocks from the mine dumps. The rocks were crushed for road surfacing. The community is now discovering the explosives cartridges which can be risky to residents if they are detonated. In addition to this the chemicals used to manufacture these explosives could be dangerous.

NO WASTE COLLECTION:

Dumping is not regulated and there is no waste collection by the municipality. Waste is dumped along river banks and contaminates the water. Waste is also burned. All this affects the health of the community. Some companies are dumping medical waste in the bushes.

Waste is everywhere and rot produces horrible smells which eventually attracts flies, known for transferring diseases.

Squatter camps are not safe in that young women/ girls looking for ever elusive employment in the mines away from their guardians/parents end up in prostitution. This results in unsafe sex practises as men use their financial supremacy to dictate terms and conditions in the transaction. The weakness of these girls lies mainly in the food, accommodation and so on. Hence the increasing rate of HIV and AIDS is at a shocking level around mining communities.
MINING POLLUTION

AIR (DUST) POLLUTION

According to Lonmin Environmental department they have dust suppression systems on their tailing dams and they monitor the level of dust from the tailings dams. In 2009 we saw a cloud of dust coming from the direction of the new Karee 4 shaft. John Molubi called the mine on their arrival and they all went to where the dust was coming from, the mine shaft ‘Karee 4’. The tailing dams did not have the dust suppression system; we proceeded to the dust bucket in the township (RDP). The bucket was full of water despite the fact that Lonmin claimed to monitor the air pollution.

WATER POLLUTION

Streams around mines are contaminated by tailings dams which are lying everywhere. Mines claim to maintain these tailings dams but this so called maintenance takes place on top only by means of dust suppression if any. Many of these methods use watering. This same water seeps into the ground and end up contaminating the ground water.

Sewage flows into the rivers as a result of poor maintenance. This poses a serious health risk. Suspected cases of water borne diseases have been reported mainly involving children as young as 8 years who happen to swim or live around the river.

NOISE POLLUTION

The residents from RDP and neighboring informal settlements complain about the noise from Karee 4 shaft that goes around the clock.

POLLLUTION FROM THE SMELTERS

People in the village of Wonderkop are worried that the sulphur dioxide pumped into the air from the smelters and other industry is causing health problems in their community. Residents from Wonderkop complain about pollution from the smelters. They complained to the mines but the mines insist that their smelters do not cause any pollution.

CRACKED HOUSES

Residents who have been living for a long time in the area say that since the mining started they have noticed cracks in their houses. When this is raised with the mine, the mine says that this due to the weak construction of their houses. The residents say that these cracks are caused by underground vibrations, a sign of mining.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Residents complain that the mine doesn’t want to employ them, since 2008 the mine has not employed anyone from the Unemployed Workers Forum. Recently there have been big unrest among the unemployed which led to battles between with mine security and the police. Residents insist that since mines have disrupted their lives they must provide jobs for them and not bring in outside labour. This has placed the local community in conflict with migrant labourers.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WONDERKOP

The village of Wonderkop is surrounded by many mine shafts owned by Lonmin and contracted companies. There is a lot of economic activity around the village. This economic activity brings workers from many African countries in search of work. The unemployment rate swells very fast in Wonderkop in an amazing way. The large number of unemployed young men in the village has led to many problems. People no longer feel safe themselves due to the increasing rate of crime as people are killed, robbed, injured and many are affected by sexually transmitted infections.

There have been several marches (strikes) against Lonmin demanding employment. The company responded by employing an agreed number of people. As time goes it was found some communities were left out. This led to further unrest.
Mining Companies when they apply for mining rights, make a lot of promises. They agree to set up community projects to assist people in their socio-economic development. They start projects but they don’t give these projects full support and many of them collapse.

Lonmin has been operating for more than 20 years, but their CSR has achieved very little in addressing greater social impact compared to the wealth they accumulate over these years of their operations. All of the projects initiated by the company for the community have collapsed and dismayingly failed. The objective of local economic development has failed. The communities need to be prepared for the harsh realities of times beyond mining.

Aquarius has been here for years but has done no development for the communities so far. Failures of the projects earmarked for the community is caused by the attitude of the companies: to do for, rather than with the community. This entrenches the mine management style alien to the communities and imposes mine management over the community project.

In Marikana we have two projects that was started and then collapsed in Lapologang by Aquarius Mines and the Gili Lonmin Kibbutza farming project by Lonmin.

**Lapologang**

Lapologang is a small township established by Aquarius in 2002, when they moved people off the farms they they had lived on in the Spruitveld area.

Aquarius set up a gardening project where people could grow vegetables for sale and in this way make a living. They set aside land where each family was given a plot of ground to garden. They provided water. But people abandoned these gardens as they were not able to sell their crops.

A poultry project was also set up. People were assisted to keep chickens for sale. The people found that they could not sell their chickens and that they were spending more money feeding the chickens.

A resident from the community said that these projects failed because firstly they were not the ideas of the people but by the mine and that when they were set up the market side was not thought about. The mine simply set up the project to show that they were doing something according to the social labour plan. The mine was not serious about seeing the project through as we all know that setting up a small business of any kind is not easy and requires years of work not six months.

The mine does not work with the community, they work with a few individuals that the Mine officials choose. These individuals only represent themselves and their personal interests. The resident said that when they approached the mine about this, the mine officials said that they were done with the project, they did their share and now it’s left to the community.

There is a high rate of unemployment in Lapologang. In the past where the people lived in Sterkwater, they lived on the farm and they had jobs. After relocation over 10km away, there is large-scale unemployment about 40%. Some time when there is a contract on the mine everybody gets jobs. Then suddenly the contract ends for whatever reason then they are left unemployed again. They have no security.

**Gili Lonmin Kibbutza Farming Project**

In 2005 Lonmin Development Trust called a meeting with the community and told those who attended about their plans to set up a “hydrophonic” agricultural project. They told us that they were spending R32 million rand on the project and that they were doing this with business company Gili Kibbutza SA who would own 26% of the shares in the company. Lonmin will hold the remaining shares. They told us that the aim of the project was to create jobs for local people. At its start the project employed 32 workers.

The project appeared to be going well until we heard stories that there was conflict with the company and somebody had embezzled money.

There was a promise that the company after two years would be transferred to the community. This did not happen.

Then in 2007 the company was closed down. Another company “Bambanani” took over in 2008 but they did not last long. They stopped paying the workers’ wages. In 2009 workers were selling the remaining vegetables to survive. The farm was then abandoned.

The problem in both these stories, the Lapologang Aquarius gardening project, and the Lonmin Farming Project, is that the mines do not involve the communities as a whole actively when they set anything up. They rather work with a few individuals and then tell the community what they are doing. These individuals are chosen on the basis that they will play the mines game and not challenge them in any way. The aim of these individuals is to promote their own personal interests.
RELOCATION OF THE MMADITLHOKOA COMMUNITY BY THARISA MINERALS (PTY) LTD.

In 2008 the Tharisa Minerals mining company demolished the shacks of farm labourers living in the Spruitfontein area. Tharisa bought the farm for mining purposes. They promised that they would rebuild the shacks in another area. But they did not do this. A committee of representatives was formed and reported the matter to the Human Rights Commission. Tharissa then built people houses in a new shack settlement.

Each family was built a two-room zinc house. The place where they built the houses was bare and there was no vegetation. The houses were built on either side of a busy road and this created a problem of safety. The people complain that the old houses they lived in had many rooms. The new shacks only had two rooms. Large families therefore have lost their privacy since adults and children are forced to share the same rooms to sleep in.

People used to keep cattle because they had grazing land. Now they have lost this.

People complained that they were forced to use boreholes and a nearby river for additional water since the water they received from water tanks was not sufficient. The people believe that the borehole and river water was contaminated.

The committee representing the people wrote to Tharissa through their lawyers the Legal Resources Center in August this year. They asked the company to engage with them in a meaningful way.

The company asked the committee to prove it was the representatives of the community. They also said that they had proper consultation with the community and the full support of government, the ward committee and members of the ANC branch in the area.

They clearly did not want to talk with the committee representing the community.
Thlabane is a township just outside the Rustenburg town center. It was built in the 1960’s for black people living in the white town of Rustenburg. Thlabane is located on the side of a large Xstrata Smelter.
MINING RELATED ISSUES

POLLUTION
Fumes from the smelter pollute the air and leads to respiratory problems in the community. We know of a case where a doctor certified that a child’s chest problems was related to the fumes from the smelter. Dust from the slime dam leads to rusting of roofs of houses alongside the graveyard.

XSTRATA WORKERS IN COMMUNITY
Workers from far away live in backyards and in a squatter camp in Thlabane. This contributes to over-crowding in Thlabane and social problems. The sewer system in Thlabane is stressed. Single men living in the community contribute to the expansion of shebeens and encourages prostitution which expose these men and young girls to HIV aids.

TEMPORARY WORKERS CREATE SQUATTER CAMPS
Unemployed people seeking work in Xstrata have created a squatter camp called Yizo Yizo in Thlabane. The squatter camp has led to many problems.
- There are health problems due to the absence of any services (water, sewage etc.)
- There are social problems such as crime
- There is potential for xenophobic conflict since many of the unemployed are foreigners from countries such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique. There has already been a conflict over an allegation that a Zimbabwean gang was active in the area.

XSTRATA ONLY TALKS WITH COUNCILLORS
There is a feeling among people in the community that Xstrata prefers to relate only with councillors and not the community. In community meetings, the councillors object to criticism of Xstrata. People in the community believe that councillors defend Xstrata because they get rewards in the form of money and contracts. There is a case where an asthma case linked to the fumes from the smelter, given to an MP was abandoned because the MP received a contract from Xstrata.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS
We experience many social problems in Thlabane township. We believe that rather than strike up deals with councillors, Xstrata should assist the community to deal with these problems.
- Thlabane, as one of the oldest “townships” does not have proper recreational facilities (parks, sports ground etc)
- Alcoholism is increasing at an alarming rate
- Teenage pregnancy has tremendously increased.
- Many young people resort to drug abuse.
- There is no proper sanitation at all the recreational facilities that are there.
  NB: There are no toilets at all in the so called parks in Thlabane.
- Shebeens outnumber churches in our township.
- Recent funerals are mostly of young people.
- We would like to propose that the Thlabane Sun which has recently been auctioned be developed as a community center.

MANIPULATION OF THE TENDERING SYSTEM
Municipal infrastructure projects such as paving the sidewalks can be used to develop work for young people as well as small business opportunities for people in Thlabane. However these tenders are manipulated by people in the Municipality officials to benefit their friends and themselves.

TITLE DEEDS
The community has been fighting for title deeds for their properties for some time but they have not been successful.

WASTE MANAGEMENT
Waste management is a big problem in Thlabane. This is due to a lack of awareness on the part of the community and a poor service by the council.
Rustenburg community groups
THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE BENCH MARKS FOUNDATION