



Press Release by the Bench Marks Foundation

Policy Gap 12: “Waiting to inhale”: A survey of Household Health in Four Mine Affected Communities

Wednesday 23 August 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bench Marks Foundation invites you to the launch of our latest research study, Policy Gap 12: “Waiting to inhale”: A study on household health and wellbeing in four mine impacted communities located in the East and North of Soweto situated closely to the reef in the central and western basins of the Witwatersrand. Historically this reef was one of the most intensely mined areas on the planet, with mines like the Crown Mine producing almost half of all gold ever produced in the world.

This Report, Policy Gap 12, marks ten years of the Bench Marks Foundation Policy Gap Reports on mines and communities in South Africa. 6 communities, 450 households were surveyed using an intensive historical investigation, interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions. The communities of Riverlea, Diepkloof, Meadowlands and Doornkop (Snakepark) formed the core of the investigation. The study looks at the history, geology, the economics and politics of mining and what impact the industry has had on households’ wellbeing, health and safety. This report is also about the evolution of Soweto, in relation to the development of mining and of Johannesburg as a racial and class segregated city. This report will shed light on many health challenges faced by Soweto residents because of a long history of mining near the township.

We look forward to your attendance as we release this report and to further engage with you on our recommendations.

The venue of the report launch will be on the 29th August 2017 at the Empowerment Centre, Nasrec Rd, Riverlea, Johannesburg, at 11.am.

ENDS

Bench Marks Foundation is an independent non-governmental organisation mandated by churches to monitor the practices of multi-national corporations to

- ensure they respect human rights;
- protect the environment;
- ensure that profit-making is not done at the expense of other interest groups; and
- ensure that those most negatively impacted upon are heard, protected and accommodated within the business plans of the corporations.

The Foundation was launched in 2001 by the Rt Rev Dr Jo Seoka who chairs the organisation and by member churches of the SACC.

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