



9 January 2025 | For Immediate Release

The brave community volunteer rescue team of Stilfontein has exercised extraordinary leadership despite the cruel setback of having their lifeline to miners destroyed

Undeterred in their absolute determination to save lives, the community volunteer rescue team has this morning embarked on the reconstruction of their pulley system. Yesterday the community, supported by MACUA and the Stilfontein Solidarity Committee, ushered a tractor on site to re-install foundational structures in order to get the pulley system underway. While there is still a huge uphill battle in terms of getting the structure back and sending down vital humanitarian aid, this is a powerful step in the right direction.

In spite of overwhelming odds, including an incident yesterday morning with the SAPS, who unlawfully obstructed them, the Stilfontein community is re-asserting their agency and control in leading the humanitarian assistance. The community's message is clear.

SAPS officials, in contravention of the court order allowing the community to send aid to the trapped miners, obstructed the community from bringing the tractor on site, but were brought into line by Lawyers For Human Rights, MACUA's attorneys on the case being brought to the Constitutional Court.

All life that has been saved thus far is owed to this group of volunteers from the Stilfontein community who continue to be exemplars of outstanding citizenry, upholding the values of our constitution, universal rights and Pan African solidarity.

Faced with xenophobic slurs and attacks, as well as, unfounded accusations of criminality, their bravery continues to inspire and anchor the fundamental principles of preserving human life.

The dedicated lawyers from Lawyers for Human Rights continue to pursue a principled legal approach in holding accountable the culpable and egregious actions of the State and mining companies that have chillingly abrogated their duties to take responsibility for this humanitarian crisis where between 800 and 1000 miners that are trapped in Shaft 11 of the Buffelsfontein Mine, Stilfontein face mass starvation and death.

On the heels of an [historic call for Solidarity](#) by the Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions late Tuesday night who, while facing a genocidal onslaught, have published a

heartrending statement of support, the community rescue team is now taking charge and turning the tide after wave upon wave of sabotage and setbacks.

Due to the State and the Mine's refusal to send humanitarian aid to the starving trapped miners and until they take responsibility, we call on the compassion and humanity of all allies, organisations and individuals to urgently assist in the procurement of materials required to assist these heroes, including water and food to be sent down the shaft in the interim, while we critically seek further resources to install a crane and a holding mechanism that can safely rescue miners in the numbers that are required. This situation is dire. Due to State interference, miners have not received any food and water for 2 weeks. Dozens of people are reportedly dead with the toll expected to rise.

Refusing to simply let the miners die, this a call to moral conscience and sanity, we call you to join and support the community's decision to save lives, in whatever appropriate way possible, large or small. As each hour passes, another death becomes a reality.

We call on the public to assist in these rescue efforts by making a donation below. The community is in need of funds to purchase food and water and save lives and MACUA is in need of resources to carry out its ongoing mobilising and advocacy work on behalf of the community. We thank everyone who has generously donated and ask that they continue to do so and to spread awareness about the miners' plight. The amount that we need for food and water alone runs into tens of thousands of rands per day.

To support this cause, donate to MACUA:

Name: MACUA
Account number: 62805769893
Bank: FNB
Branch Code: 250 655
Reference: Stilfontein
SWIFT Code: FIRNZAJJ

OR make a donation on Back-A-Buddy:

<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/campaign/emergency-relief-to-trapped-miners>

Issued by the Stilfontein Crisis Committee

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