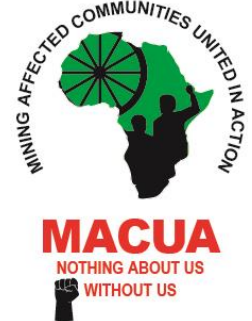


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### MACUA Calls on Government to Stop the Political Games and to Act Immediately

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 06 December 2024

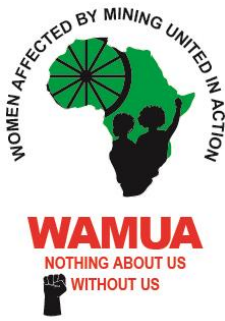
MACUA has noted the claims by the Police that Miners have been exiting from Shaft 10. We have also noted the claims made by the people who police claim exited from Shaft 10, about being held underground by armed men and that food has been appropriated by these men.

The information that people who have exited from shaft 10 appears to be different from the information provided from those in shaft 11 and community members and miners who have worked underground for more than 10 years have raised serious concerns about the veracity of not only the people who are claimed to have exited, but also the information that they are sharing with police and the media.

Community members have raised the following questions:

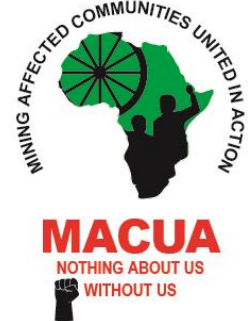
They find it strange that these miners are exiting late at night and that the police are always on hand with the media to interview those who have "exited". This is particularly strange they say, because:

- a. The Incline at shaft 10 requires those who are exiting to exert an immense amount of energy to reach the top and if starving individuals try and exit this way they will almost certainly die as they would not have the energy to traverse the steep incline which requires strength and energy to hold on to the ladders that are old, dangerous and slippery.
- b. Those who have used this exit in the past have suggested that the exit is so strenuous that even fit and well-nourished individuals would need at least 2 to 3 hours to recover from the strenuous activity. Thus, the fact that the media are interviewing ostensibly well-fed individuals who are not physically exhausted raises further questions about whether these interviews are being staged for the purposes of propagating a false narrative to the media and the public.
- c. The community has expressed further scepticism as the media is called at 00h30 at night to interview those who have "exited" yet when people are extracted from shaft 11, the media is not allowed to interview them.
- d. Furthermore, those extracted from shaft 11 are visibly weak and physically depleted in stark contrast to the well-fed individuals. The police have been parading to the media in the middle of the night.



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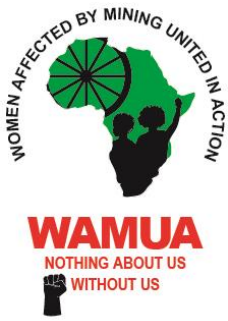


- e. The claims made by those who are claimed to have exited shaft 11 appear to also contradict their own versions and on the other hand they say they are kept at gunpoint, and claim to have been told to go if they so wish.
- f. Furthermore, they claim that 36 men are holding 800 people hostage in a situation of dire hunger and starvation. This seems highly unlikely that 800 people would simply lay down and die without putting up some form of resistance to those holding them captive.
- g. The police themselves have provided contradictory statements to the media, on the one hand claiming that the miners are simply refusing to leave, and on the other claiming that they are being held hostage. If they are being held hostage, then the police have a duty to do everything in their power to free them from those who are holding them captive and should not be allowing the miners to die from hunger and starvation or to stay in custody one minute longer.
- h. The Police have also contradicted themselves by actively assisting the extraction of miners in Sabie but refusing to even lift a finger to rescue the miners who are trapped in Stilfontein. We now have 9 dead bodies and yet the police and the state refuse to rescue the miners.

As MACUA we are gravely concerned by the actions of the police and the contradictory information provided by the police and the manner in which the information is being made public.

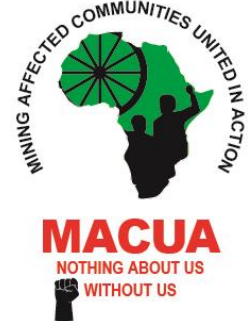
The actions of the police in not only defying the original court order and the way they attempted to subvert the rule of law in that matter, but also in the suspicious way in which they are feeding information to the media raises serious concerns about the bona fides of police actions and we call on the state to urgently start the process of extracting the miners.

It is simply not good enough to sit back and not do anything.



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At the very least we call on the state to allow as many people to be extracted as possible using mechanised equipment so that we can clarify once and for all if people are being held against their will, or if people are refusing to exit. Sitting back and doing nothing and waiting for people to die is not a constitutionally acceptable plan.

For media enquiries and more information contact: MACUA media and communications manager, Magnificent Mndebele at 064 785 9746 or the email above.