



MACUA & WAMUA - ADVICE OFFICE

Ground Floor, 62 Juta Street
Braamfontein
2000
Johannesburg
Telephone: 067 720 1594
Website: www.macua.org.za



MACUA Condemns Portfolio Committee's Deliberate Exclusion of Mining-Affected Communities from Overnight Visit to Mpumalanga

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 25 February 2025

The Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) strongly condemns the deliberate exclusion of MACUA from the Portfolio Committee on Mineral and Petroleum Resources' recent oversight visit to Mpumalanga. Despite multiple requests for the Committee's programme and prior engagements highlighting our concerns regarding mining accountability, MACUA was intentionally left out of the process.

This exclusion is not an accident—it is yet another attempt by elected officials to silence the voices of mining-affected communities while continuing to protect the interests of the mining elite. The failure of the Portfolio Committee to notify MACUA, despite our formal request for engagement, exposes the continued disregard for the democratic participation of those who suffer the consequences of mining-related injustices.

Moreover, this comes shortly after MACUA formally wrote to the Portfolio Committee on 14 February 2025, exposing how the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources has provided Parliament with false and misleading information that distorts the realities faced by mining-affected communities. We made it clear that the Department has consistently downplayed corporate non-compliance, the environmental destruction caused by mining, and the dire conditions of informal and artisanal miners.

Rather than heeding this warning and taking decisive action to ensure accountability, the Portfolio Committee has ignored MACUA's letter and continues to act as if it was never informed of the truth. By relying on misinformation from the Department instead of engaging directly with affected communities, the Committee is failing in its constitutional duty to provide meaningful oversight.

It is deeply concerning that, during the oversight visit, community members and traditional leaders raised critical issues about mining companies failing to implement their Social and Labour Plans (SLPs)—a legal requirement under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). While the Portfolio Committee expressed its supposed determination to hold mining companies accountable, its own actions contradict this commitment. Excluding MACUA from this process while accepting false narratives from the Department further undermines genuine accountability and exposes the Committee's complicity in mining injustices.

MACUA DEMANDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. An immediate public explanation from the Portfolio Committee on why MACUA was excluded from the oversight visit, despite our request for engagement.
2. A commitment to full transparency regarding future oversight visits, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders, including mining-affected communities, are informed and included.
3. A parliamentary hearing on mining accountability, where communities can directly testify about the failures of mining companies and government institutions.



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4. An independent investigation into the false information provided by the Department, ensuring that Parliament bases its oversight on facts rather than corporate-driven misinformation.
5. Urgent progress on legislative reforms, particularly the long-overdue amendments to the MPRDA, to ensure mining-affected communities are given real decision-making power in mining governance.

MACUA will not stand idly by while Parliament continues to sideline mining-affected communities. If the Portfolio Committee fails to respond to our demands, we will escalate our advocacy efforts through mass mobilisation, legal action and international advocacy.

The struggle for justice in mining continues and MACUA remains steadfast in holding both government and mining corporations accountable.

For media inquiries, please contact the head of communication and media, Magnificent Mndebele at 064 785 9746 or Magnificent.Mndebele@macua.org.za