



## MACUA & WAMUA - ADVICE OFFICE

Ground Floor, 62 Juta Street  
Braamfontein  
2000  
Johannesburg  
Telephone: 067 720 1594  
Website: [www.macua.org.za](http://www.macua.org.za)



### **MACUA Stands in Solidarity with Bapong Community as They Take Samancor Chrome Ltd to the High Court in North West for its Egregious Behaviour**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 30 January 2025**

The Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) expresses its unwavering support for the Bapong community in North West Province, as the community prepare to take legal actions against a mining giant, Samancor Chrome Limited.

The community is set to appear before the High Court of South Africa, North West Division, on 14 February 2025, to interdict the egregious conduct of the mine which continues to jeopardise the community's health, safety and well-being.

The Bapong community has long endured the adverse impacts of Samancor, which continues to mine near their homes, including blasting activities that pose significant threats to their lives and properties. The community members indicate that the operations from Samancor Chrome Limited have resulted in structural damages, noise and dust pollution, and other serious health risks.

The community has repeatedly expressed its concerns to Samancor, yet the mining company has continued its operations without addressing these issues. This demonstrates a blatant disregard for the health and safety of the people who reside nearby.

The Bapong community's court application seeks to interdict Samancor from continuing with blasting and open cast mining operations until the community's health and safety concerns are adequately attended to. Samancor has deployed ruthless tactics to silence the community leaders, who continue to challenge and demand accountability from Samancor's egregious behaviour, which is a clear violation of human rights of the community.

Samancor has gone as far as threatening, assaulting, interrogating and attempting to murder (shooting at), using violence and force and forcibly transporting the community leaders to



## MACUA & WAMUA - ADVICE OFFICE

Ground Floor, 62 Juta Street  
Braamfontein  
2000  
Johannesburg  
Telephone: 067 720 1594  
Website: [www.macua.org.za](http://www.macua.org.za)



the field and/or mine premises without any apparent reasons. This tantamount to kidnapping and unlawful detention.

MACUA stands firmly with the Bapong community in their quest for justice. We acknowledge the community's right to live in a safe and healthy environment, free from the threats posed by mining activities. The actions of Samancor not only violate the rights of the community, but also undermine the principles of corporate responsibility and accountability.

We call upon the South African Government, particularly the Department of Mineral and Petroleum, Resources (DMPR), to uphold its mandate in protecting the rights of communities affected by mining. It is imperative that the relevant authorities take immediate action to investigate the allegations of violence and ensure that the mining company complies with all health and safety and environmental regulations.

MACUA urges all stakeholders, including civil society organisations, human rights advocates, and the public, to rally behind and show solidarity to the Bapong community as they demand justice and accountability from abusive mining corporations like Samancor. We must amplify their voices and demand an end to the exploitation and abuse faced by mining-affected communities at the hands of greedy corporations that have no regard or respect for the needs of host communities.

The upcoming court proceedings represent a critical moment for the Bapong community and, by extension, all communities facing similar challenges across South Africa. It is a testament to their resilience and determination to stand up against corporate malfeasance.

MACUA remain committed to supporting the Bapong community and will continue to advocate for their rights and the rights of all communities affected by mining activities.

For media inquiries, please contact the head of communication and media at MACUA-WAMUA Advice Office, Magnificent Mndebele at 064 785 9746 or [Magnificent.Mndebele@macua.org.za](mailto:Magnificent.Mndebele@macua.org.za)