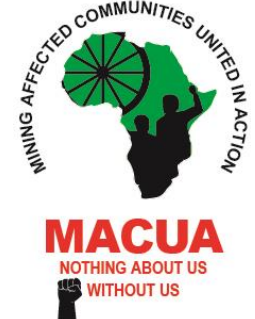


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MACUA-WAMUA Wins an Important Victory Against Ikwezi Vanadium: They Must Go Back to do Proper Consultations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 30 August 2024

The Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) and the Women Affected by Mining United in Action (WAMUA) are pleased with the recent significant victory pertaining our appeal against Ikwezi Vanadium (Pty) Ltd.

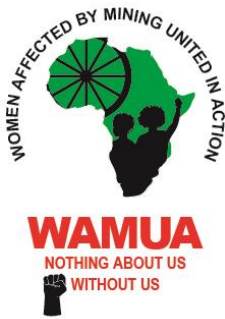
A few days ago, on 27 August, Dr Dion George, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) upheld our appeal against the mine. Our appeal came after the North West regional manager of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) granted an Integrated Environmental Authorisation in 2022 to Ikwezi Vanadium without properly consulting or considering the concerns from the affected community of Mononono and surrounding areas.

The appeal decision upheld our stance that Ikwezi Vanadium failed to conduct adequate and meaningful consultations with the Mononono community, as required by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014. This failure was a major point of contention throughout the appeal process, with the community stating that their voices were not heard, and their concerns were not considered during the mining operations' planning and decision-making phases.

The decision by the DFFE upholds the community's rights to be properly consulted and have their voices reflected in decisions affecting their land and environment. The decision emphasises that any environmental authorisation must be preceded by meaningful engagement with affected communities, especially those in mining areas. It also highlights that Ikwezi Vanadium did not fully comply with the legislative framework meant to protect communities living near mining operations.

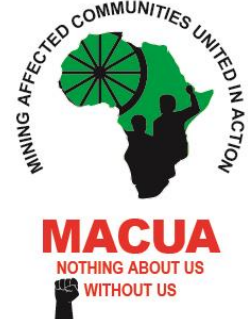
The Minister instructed Ikwezi Vanadium to “ensure that any comments received from Interested and Affected Parties (IAP’s), are objectively considered and responded to, and that IAP comments, as well as responses thereto by the mining company, are incorporated into the final EIA for submission to the DMPR within 106 days for consideration.”

This victory marks a significant milestone in the fight to protect the constitutional rights of communities living near mining operations. As a movement of marginalised and affected communities, MACUA-WAMUA, are committed to holding abusive mining companies and those in authority who disrespect the rights of communities, to account. We will continue to stand in solidarity with the Mononono community and other marginalised and affected communities across the country, and demand



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that the existing laws, which make it almost impossible for communities like Mononono to be heard, to be amended to include stronger provisions for the protection of community rights.

As we celebrate the collective resolve of the Mononono community, MACUA and WAMUA call on the public and the media to highlight the ongoing structural oppression faced by communities like Mononono, and to put pressure on all the arms of the state that seek to keep communities oppressed.

We call on the Portfolio Committee of Mineral & Petroleum Resources to urgently prioritise listening to the voices of the oppressed communities. and to stop only speaking to business and their collaborators in the DMPR.

Despite our repeated requests to the Portfolio Committee, they have continued to ignore our requests to brief them on the dire state of the sector, and they have instead prioritised listening to business.

For too long now, have those who should be the representatives of the people, been more interested in listening to those who own the money, than to the people who elected them.

Osopolitiki Vukani!!!

#NothingAboutUsWithoutUS

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