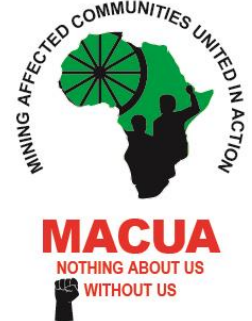


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MACUA-WAMUA to Launch a Groundbreaking Report Exposing Hidden Dangers of Green Hydrogen Industry for South Africa's Mining-Affected Communities

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MACUA-WAMUA will be launching a report on 11 November 2024, titled "Hyped Hydrogen: Hidden Harm," in partnership with ActionAid Netherlands and SOMO. This report highlights urgent concerns about South Africa's emerging green hydrogen sector and the severe risks it poses to mining-affected communities, particularly in Mokopane, Limpopo. As green hydrogen gains traction worldwide as a "clean energy" solution, the report reveals that, for communities already facing the devastation of platinum mining, the energy transition could deepen inequalities under the pretence of sustainable development.

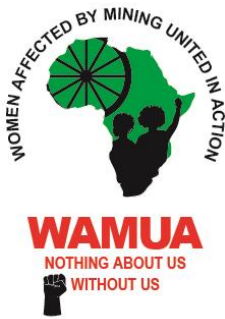
The experience of Mokopane's residents with Anglo American Platinum, one of the world's most profitable platinum mines, reflects the grim reality of mining in South Africa. While mining corporations generate enormous profits, affected communities are left to bear the environmental, social, and economic costs. Despite promises of job creation and local development, the community in Mokopane has to contend with displacement, polluted water sources, severe health impacts and persistent poverty. Women shoulder a disproportionate burden, carrying out unpaid labor to sustain households in increasingly degraded environments.

This report sheds light on the lack of transparency, consultation and accountability that characterises South Africa's mining industry. Despite the community's demand for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and adherence to Social and Labour Plan (SLP) commitments, mining-affected communities are systematically sidelined. Their voices are excluded from critical decisions about the future of their land and resources.

Green hydrogen, which relies on platinum as a key component, requires significant water resources for production. Which is a troubling reality for Limpopo as a water-scarce region where residents already face challenges in accessing clean water. The risk of severe water depletion, compounded by increasing corporate water use, threatens to further disadvantage communities like Mokopane, all while resources are directed into global markets and Northern economies under the promise of sustainability.

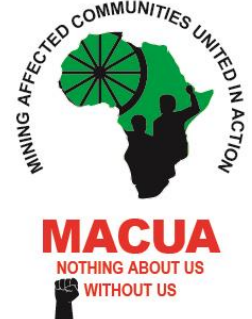
MACUA-WAMUA's report calls for an energy transition that genuinely includes South Africa's marginalised communities and addresses the historic and ongoing injustices they face. A "just transition" must not be another form of extractive colonialism that benefits only wealthy corporations and countries at the expense of local communities. For South Africa's energy future to be sustainable, it must respect the agency, rights, and voices of the people most affected.

Without meaningful engagement with mining-affected communities and a firm commitment to FPIC, the green hydrogen industry risks becoming yet another example of exploitation dressed as progress. Through this report launch, MACUA-WAMUA is amplifying the demands



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of Mokopane's residents and calling for an energy system that prioritises their needs and rights.

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