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Nyakallong Community in Free State to Protest Against Harmony Target Mine

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Members of Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) Nyakallong Branch along with LMCDF Nyakallong and Consortium Nyakallong will be staging a protest outside the gates of Harmony Target Mine in the Free State.

The community of Nyakallong has been enduring harsh conditions due to the mine's inconsiderate practices. Of particular concern is the Voelpan Tailings Dam which causes flooding in the community during the rainy season.

These floods have filled houses and streets with human waste and sewage water. Houses and infrastructure continue to decay and collapse while the mine does nothing to accommodate those affected. The mine promised to build houses for the affected members but has since failed to keep their promise and the community remains in dire and unbearable conditions.

Last year, the community engaged with the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Municipality's Local Economic Development and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) for an oversight and no single intervention has occurred to date.

On 19 March 2023, Harmony Target filed an interdict against the community, restraining them from blocking the mine entrances, stop operations or cause any harm to the property or persons involved. We believe this pervasive interdict amounts to abuse of court processes, especially considering its broad scope which will stop protests of any kind from happening within the community, including peaceful protests. This is a direct violation of the right to protest which is enshrined in the Constitution.

It is also common knowledge that MACUA-WAMUA led protests are against the destruction of property or causing harm on anyone. Therefore, there was no reason for Harmony to abuse court processes to avoid the community's grievances. MACUA condemns in the strongest possible terms this behaviour from Harmony Target Mine and we call on the mine to attend to the grievances of the community. It is time for accountability. The protest will continue until the mine provides satisfactory answers.

Details of the protest:

Date: 26-28 June 2024

Location: Harmony Target Mine, Free State

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