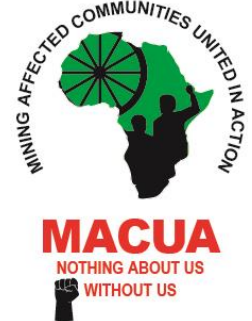


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MACUA Condemns Ongoing Racial Oppression and Demands Justice for Young Black Men and Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 04 November 2024

MACUA has noted the recent arrest of hundreds of young black men in the North West Province and call on the South African State to end the ongoing colonial legacy of Eurocentric racial oppression of young black men.

While MACUA stands opposed to illegal mining, we call on the South African state to end the practice of only targeting poor black men whose only crime is needing to find ways to put food on the table as South Africans struggle to survive with extreme levels of poverty and inequality.

MACUA has brought several cases of illegal mining to the attention of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR), but because these mining activities are undertaken by white and foreign “investors”, and in some cases state owned entities, these illegal mining operations have been allowed to continue unhindered and allowed to flight the profits out of the country, leaving communities and the poor in dire poverty.

The current Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) makes it virtually impossible for black youth (men and women) to earn a living from the vast mineral wealth of our country, and instead, oppressive and exclusionary legislation, is used by the state, to dish out mining licenses to foreign investors, who in turn take the profits out of the country and which leaves the average South African poorer and affected communities impoverished.

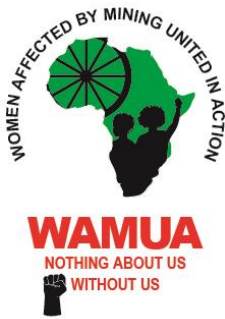
The State will point to the value of taxes derived from mining, but the truth is, and we have exposed this in multiple reports, the taxes are not used to develop local communities and instead government entities and politicians enjoy the benefits of these taxes in their excessive salaries, pensions, travel and housing perks.

It is time to stop the colonial legacy of criminalising the black body and we call on all South Africans to stand with MACUA as we demand that the MPRDA be amended to allow communities who are directly impacted by mining operations to benefit from the activities which take place on their land.

When communities seek solutions with mining companies and with the state, they are criminalised, interdicted and assassinated.

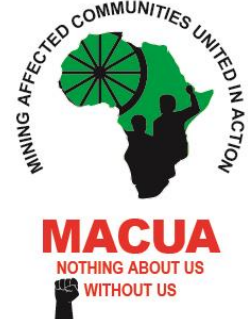
**Stop the colonisation of the Mining industry.
Arrest the real Illegal Miners.**

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We call on communities across the country to join us on the 14th of November 2024 as we march to the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources to deliver our mandate to change the MPRDA.

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