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Mmaditlhokwa and Lapologang Villages in North West Demand Justice from Tharisa Mine

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The communities of Mmaditlhokwa and Lapologang in Marikana, North West, will be protesting today to demand immediate action from Tharisa Mine in response to the severe environmental damage and human rights violations caused by its operations. The communities will deliver a memorandum to the mine's management, calling for urgent measures to address the harm inflicted on their environment and well-being.

The community members are deeply concerned about the destructive impact of Tharisa Mine's blasting operations, which have been conducted alarmingly close to their homes, compromising the safety and structural integrity of their houses. The constant vibrations from the mining operations have disrupted daily life and the communities are urging the mine to adopt best practices to minimise these effects.

The communities are demanding an immediate halt to these dangerous practices. We are calling for Tharisa Mine to take responsibility for the water contamination and air pollution resulting from its activities. The community members insist on proper water quality monitoring, effective dust suppression and prompt remediation of any environmental damage to protect their health and livelihoods.

The communities are also demanding that Tharisa Mine respects their right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their concerns are addressed before any further mining activities or expansions occur. The lack of consultation on the mine's Social Labour Plan (SLP) compliance has also been raised, with the community insisting on clear and effective communication on all matters impacting their lives.

Tharisa Mine must be held accountable for failing to fulfil its promises of local economic development and employment opportunities. The communities demand that the mine prioritise the hiring of residents and ensure that community development initiatives are effectively implemented to benefit the well-being of the people. The communities are calling for an end to all forms of harassment, threats and violence against those advocating for environmental justice and human rights.

They are demanding that Tharisa Mine provides a safe and enabling environment for peaceful activism. Tharisa Mine will be given seven days to respond to these demands. The communities of Mmaditlhokwa and Lapologang are determined to hold the mine accountable and will escalate their actions if their concerns are not addressed within the given time.

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