

BUAMining
Communities

Every Mine, A Community Cost

- **BUA mining communities** is a social movement which represents over 10 mine hosting communities in and around the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, North West Province. BuaMC exists to unify all its allies, to safeguard and monitor human rights violations, and to enhance fairness and justice in all mine hosting communities within the area.
- The **BUA NEWS** newsletter is a joint venture between **BUA** mining communities and the **Benchmarks** foundation, as **BUA** take part in their community monitoring school programme.

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BUA NEWS

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B U A N E W S

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Road to death

Kroondal road is separating Ikemeleng from mining houses is the most busy road in Ikemeleng. The road experience most traffic in the morning, afternoon and during month end. This busy road passes through the gate of the Kroondal Primary and has claimed more than 5 learners' lives. However it continues to be live threatening as they have to cross it on daily basis. Concerned residents have volunteered to help children cross the road during schools days to try to prevent any further loss of innocent lives. The road has also claimed 8 lives of mine workers in 2013/14, cars going to the mine use this road because it leads to most mines around the area. This road connects to the

following mining houses, Xstrata, Aquarius and Lanxess, but Anglo Platinum and Lonmin workers also use the road.

A night prayer and cleansing ceremony was performed in 2007 after 5 lives were lost in a period of three months. After the cleansing

ceremony, incidents on the road stopped for four years and few months.

The community urges all stakeholders to eradicate speed humps and install streets lights so that speeding cars may be visible during dark winter nights and early hours of the morning. We further

urge the stakeholders to fund the local school to enable employment of permanent school patrol that will help school children cross the road safe.

By Steven Ramokhula (Ikemeleng)



(Chrome truck from passing from the mine. Photograph by Steven Ramokhula)

Newsletter team note

This is BUA NEWS second issue and it has been made a success by the commitment of the BUA mining communities' monitors and the Benchmarks Foundation. Through monitor's commitment on the Bench-

marks monitoring school were they meet once a month and take up on community issues, write short articles. All this articles are gathered and published on social networks, www.communitymonitors.net website, www.buanews.blogspot.co.uk and soon will be shared by an e-letter. This are powerful stories as their

written from experience. Every mine, a community cost. Hope you enjoy all of this interesting and eye opening articles, and be on the look out for the research report conducted by BuaMC in collaboration with BMF.

(BUA NEWS team-Olebogeng Motene, Amogelang Tabane, Mpho Makgene, Tshepang Molale, Khumo Ntodi, Omphile Rakhudu, Gift Kgomo and Takatso Tontsi)

Impacts of the platinum belt strike

No income, poverty, car repossessions, house eviction were the most common challenges faced by the community of Marikana during the platinum belt strike which started in January this year and lasted until June. During this period the community was living in starvation as they had no income. Lonmin, Anglo and Impala platinum workers were all participating in this strike.

The community depended on NGO'S, donors and churches to hand them basic food and essentials. They received food parcels from Gift of the givers on regular basis, and several churches would donate food, clothes and baby food and diapers. This caused a steer as they receivers of the parcels would queue for hours and fight over queue positions and food parcels.

“It is very strange and painful to see our parents being pushed by youth in long queues just for a bag of maize meal so that their chil-

dren sleep with full tummies. The one way to put an end to poverty and this strike is for the management of all this mines to reach an agreement with the workers and the AMCU union” said Marikana resident who is a Lonmin employee and requested to remain anonymous as he feared being fired after the strike.



(Gift of the Givers handing food parcels to workers in Marikana. Photograph from Daily Maverick website)

Due to no income school children suffered as they were kick from

school as their parents were unable to pay school fees and transport fares. There were times were some families would sleep without food, and children suffered more as they were unable to participate in class or even attend. “My son’s primary school fees are R520 and R350 transport per month, during the five months strike my husband

and I were unable to pay for his fees this lead to the headmaster suspending him from school. We had to get a loan, we now in debt” said Mrs Mokoena, who is an employee of Lonmin and her husband an employee of Anglo American platinum.

Regardless that the strike ended few months ago the community is still recovering, as they have to pay back loans they took from banks and loan shacks. And those who had their cars repossessed had to start from scratch. Hopefully in future history won’t repeat itself, as the community of Marikana has experienced this in 2012.

By Surprise Ntlathi (Marikana)

Impact of AMCU strike in Wonderkop

AMCU strike first started on the 10th of August until the 20th September 2012, where Lonmin mine workers were demanding a living wage of R12,500 per month. This peaceful strike turned violent as 2 police, 4 miners and 2 security guards lost their lives on the 12-14th of August. On the 16th of August 2012 34 were shot dead by police and 78 left wounded on this massacre reminded the nation of the apartheid era.

After this incident the President of the Republic of South Africa Jacob Zuma announced the Farlam Commission which is still investigating the incident to date.

AMCU was granted permission by CCMA to strike at Lonmin over wage increment in December 2013. on the 23rd January 2014 the AMCU at Lonmin, Impala and Anglo American platinum embarked on a strike demanding a living wage of R12500 like the Lonmin mine worker did in 2012. this strike took five months with several increment offers

from the companies and rejections from the union.

During this strike the community of Wonderkop was going through a rough patch as a results of no income



(AMCU members at Wonderkop stadium. Photograph by Gift Kgomo)

“The AMCU strike bought nothing but hunger and shame for the people and not only in Wonderkop but SA as a whole” said Johannes Basha a Somalian shop owner and he also said since the strike has being going on with no hope of stopping him and his brother can no longer sleep because of the breakings, they operate like they in jail with the bars closed because when

opened they get robbed and there's n profit anymore because people take things and promise to pay but they don't.

“Life is even harder than it was’said Tumelo Mbopo a resident of Wonderkop. Situation is bad because there's no job opportunities because this mine hire few locals. Another community member said he does not support this AMCU strike because he is really suffering with his 8 year old sister and he is afraid that he may lose his job when the strike comes to an end coz he had some rumors that some plants will close and retrench some workers and he doesn't have money to go to school if that's going happen.

During this five months long strike which ended on the 23rd of June , when the AMCU president Joseph Mathunjwa announced that workers will go back to work on the 25th of June 2014. But thi meant pay back to banks, loan shacks, stores, schools as wprkers had no income for months.

Gift Kgomo.

Reserved land for high school been occupied illegally.

Who is responsible for a new section on reserved space for school? Ike-meleng is located in kroondal and its +- 7 km outside Rustenburg town, now the residents of Ikemeleng can't wait to see a new school in their own community, after such a long time travelling to near schools in the surrounding of Rustenburg communities. High school learners have been walking distances or having their parents enduring high transport costs to near and far schools as education is key for success.

When AQPSA donated money to build a new school in Ikemeleng, the community was rejoicing but did not last long as the is a new section de-

velopment where people have bought stands illegally, and built and continue to build their shelters on this reserved space for the high school, the community has lived for more than ten years without high school, and this has led to uncontrollable marches since they has been announcement that the place is reserved for high school in Ikemeleng.



(Shacks on the reserved high school land. Photograph by Buti Botopela)

The new mass meeting was held on the 17th June 2014 at 16h30 at Kroondal primary school hall where the councilor addressed the issue of a reserved space for new high school, he told the residents to not gather illegal meeting concerning the issue of reserved space, because people will give false statements and also stated that the issue can only be solved if the community can unite and tackle problems without any interference of political organization.

Now it is up to the community to decide whether they will unite and leave politics out of the issue so that they can reach one goal for better future of their children.—

By Buti Botopela (Ikemeleng)

Unemployment in Photsaneng village.

Photsaneng village which is next to Turffontein shaft allocated where there used to be community farms. Community development has been a concerning issue by far, as it is important to have sports facility, community hall to host events. It becomes a difficult when a community does not have such facilities, as they became inactive and less vibrant.

Our community experience high rate of unemployment and it gets worse every year. We are not empowered because half of the community is jobless and it is a mine hosting community. It's a sad situation because others cannot cope with the situation and find comfort in alcohol and drug abuse as they find this activity as the only solution to forget about their challenges. Unemployment affects one economically, socially, physiological, all this may results in youth or affected party being involved in illegal activities or violence.

There are no community jobs creating projects. We see the youth dropping out of school at secondary level with hope of being employed at local mines, this is a results of companies operating in and around our com-

munities having Grade 10 known as standard 10 and grade 12 as minimum requirement to most general work positions. And when they cannot employment they resort to alcoholism and becoming dj's.

And because raising a child is community's responsibility, as a community we should inspire children to show leadership, skills and talents regardless of the socio challenge we face. Start in schools by involving learners to participate in sports, healthy lifestyle and nutrition, skill development programmes. Hopefully this will lead to a more innovative generation which do not depend on the government which is failing us and mining companies in our communities.

I call upon leaders to establish empowering sustainable projects, which will create employment and allow the community to show case their ability, talent and creativeness. This can be achieved and decrease the rate of unemployment but only if the community leaders, schools, churches and the community at large work together.

By Tshepo Motswadi (Photsaneng)

Unemployment in Chaneng.

Unemployment is a very serious socio economic problem in the country. South Africa citizens are trying everything to make end meet and survive. The community of Chaneng situated 45 km North of Rustenburg, surrounded by several big mining companies Impala and Anglo to mention few. Total number of mining activities taking place in and around Chaneng is 7 and counting as they mushroom overnight. But yet unemployment rate is very high in this community especially Bachana youth. Few migrant workers said that local residents are lazy to work, they are not hard workers, they only

work for a month or few after getting paid they don't return to work and the migrants see this as survival of the fittest because they take their job seriously, committed as they are breadwinners and have big family to look after as they say. In true sense it survival of the fittest because locals whom are mine employees state that they are placed in unpleasant positions to drive them to quit so that they are seen as lazy.

A 29 year old Chaneng resident man named Baba Loo said that, "I finished my matric in 2004 is now almost 9 years and I have never worked before, I'm living with my mom, brother and my two neph-

ews' who are schooling and no one is permanently working we survive by piece-jobs and my mother's pension". He said that he had sent CVs to different mines but no luck, he also said that the BRPM (Shaft sinkers) took them to Welkom in 2011 for Drill Rig Operator for two months and after finishing the course, BRPM told them that their certificates were invalid, they also taken to Abet for two months to study level 1 and 2 Math's and English, after completing they were offered a JSE contractual job, they were also offered an RDO course for 1-6 months and were threatened that if they do not enrol for this course their contract will be terminated.

They were about 25, "my hopes were high that I will finally get a proper job and help my family, but now am stuck again" said Baba Loo.

A worker who doesn't want to be named said he has been working at the mines for 9 years, he said he is dedicated to his work but the supervisors don't care about the workers safety. Its production first and safety last. He also said he doesn't know his job description and the treatment is very bad, and communication is a challenge because of culture diversity. He said black management are being intimidated by the whites and local says they don't work well with migrant workers due to cultural ethics, and language diversity.

A car wash owner said that business this year is very slow and strikes on the other side makes things worse, he said last year he used to wash at least 5 cars a day now in a week he washes about 3 cars, its better only during month end and busy weekends, he has four casual assistants and pays them R10 for every car washed, he pays these monthly expenses rent R400, electricity R150. Due to the lousiness of the business he is unable to afford food and clothing compared to when business is running smooth.

Unemployment affect us all especially in our community, grandparents are becoming "breadwinners" because their children are not employed and are un-

able to enjoy their pension or buy themselves valuable goods. These leads to youth committing crime, developing stress, and dropping out of school trying to look for employment to help provide for their families. When the mines started to operate the community was happy that at least there will be employment opportunities but locals are mostly employed on short term contracts (6-12 months) and after that it's back to square one.

By Mpho Makgene (Channg)

Unemployment in Marikana

Unemployment is a phenomenon where people who are not working cannot find a job. The unemployment rate in the country eased to 24,1% in the fourth quarter of 2013, from a revise of 24,5% in the 3rd quarter as reported on the 11th February 2014 by Statistics South Africa. It's an improvement of 0,4%.

Unemployment in Marikana is still growing as more learners have matriculate, graduate and drop out from different education institutions. More people coming to Marikana looking for employment in mines.

I spoke to Steven Masika on the 19 May says he has always lived in Marikana, "I matriculated here, and went to the University of Johannesburg to study metallurgy, but I am still not employed. And I did a relevant course for working at a mine". There are not enough opportunities like internships, programmes, and other means to give people skills and experience to work at mines, so getting a job as a graduate in mines around our community is really hard.

People depend on mines to hire them, especially the community members. Banks come here with people

placed already, only shops like Jet, ShopRite, and others employ locals, and there is no real career at those shops.

"I stopped working at the mine so I can get my money and buy a taxi, so that I can make better money. Now my taxi is not working, it's a problem getting it on line to work like others; many others are struggling like I am. I want to job hunt again" says a 65 years old Jabula Masilo. I spoke to him on the 20th of May 2014 at 12:51. This usually happens that people leave their jobs to see if other opportunities like business won't work. Some do, some don't, so they become unemployed.

I also spoke to Micheal Micheal on the 20 of May 2014 at 13:13. Who stated that he only came here to look for a job at the mines and has been struggling for long, and the strike is also a problem. "I came from Free-Sate to look for a job here, at a mine nowhere else. It's been 9 months now."

We also see strikes going on. Mines letting some workers go, Samancor had to let more than hundred workers go because of a wild cat strike. The growth of unemployment in Marikana is part of us.

By Takatso Tontsi (Marikana)

Thekwana leadership is disturbing community development

Thekwana is about 20km from Rustenburg; it is surrounded by mining operations which are under giant companies such as Anglo America, Aquarius, Glen- cor and Lanxess. These operations are causing many negative impacts to communities, e.g health, over- population, and dust from the waste dams which cause TB, sinuses, asthma, HIV/AIDS and also af- fect psychological health which leads to domestic and substance abuse and other type of abuse.

Thekwana is under Royal Bafokeng Authority which was adopted it during the apartheid era as it was stated by Cash Nape who is one of Turfontein farm land buyer. Royal Bafokeng Authority is illegally benefiting from the mines around Thekwana whilst the community is suffering. Royal Bafokeng Author- ity is ruling Thekwana community by using RBA councilors and acting Kgosana who has been nomi- nated by Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi personally.

Our leader Jacob Molohe Petlele who was regarded as a rogue leader was taken to old age home to be neutralized by concoction of medication. His distant relative living in Paardekraaal 25km from Thek- wana, was imposed as Kgosana of Madibana. The

acting Kgosana and nominated RBA councilor are going back and forth on community issues without their consulting nor mandate. Meetings are held at Kgosana's yard with few elders from the community who are Kgosi's sympathizers.

There are no community halls, recreation facilities and other developments to show that they are min- ing host community. Mines are extracting tons of platinum daily but they are ignorant about their community responsibility instead they are giving shares to government officials, traditional leaders and friends and family who waste it on their opulent lifestyle.

People from Thekwana are neglected on employ- ment and procurement opportunities to make them submit to the RBA which does not care about their development. Government is also supporting this as since the beginning of ward councilor's term noth- ing capitalized in Thekwana in terms of develop- ment yet we are couple of months to the next ward councilor's elections.

Being neglected and abused like that I think it is time for the community to be active and join com- munity monitors, BuaMC, MACUA, IANRA and SANCO to stand and fight for their rights.

By Kennedy Phalose (Thekwana)

Chaneng village has turned into a loxion due to poverty, where as it surrounded by several platinum mines. As the area is a tribal land au- thority the yard are 90 metre length and 45 metre breath were there can built a house and a smaller one for fire or tools and cultivate back yard. We do not know whether to say Ub- untu or suffering has brought this to our community, as almost each house has back room dwellers. Our back- yards are now mineworker's home and diversity is easily found in our backyards, which in most cases may clash with the landlord or yard owner's customs. Tenement is the most popular eco-

nomie development for us as the community; these back rooms are rented out from R400 to R1000 de- pending on the standard of the room. These leads to one households having more than one families which leads to water shortage and electricity cut off which affects the rest of the commu- nity even those who do not have ten- ants. This is a sensitive topic as it's a survival measure and a way to gener- ate income. "We are unemployed, and it's worse because even our chil- dren are unemployed. We can't all be sitting under the tree with any food at the end of the day. Its better we use the space for trees to build rooms to rent out and make money" said anonymous. However there are community mem-

bers whom are against renting out of rooms as they feel they will left with white elephants when the life span of mines surrounding the community ends. "I will never have trains (backrooms) in my yards; they make the yard look unorganised. And these tenants are messy they just leave their trash everywhere; pour dirty all over the yard. I'd rather depend on my pension money" said a 68 year old woman living with her granddaughter. Her granddaughter reckons that building rooms to rent out may assist them finan- cially. This has divided the community and its sad because mine have life span, what will happen when they close down?

By Tshepang Molale (Chaneng)

Wonderkop village given away for R2000.00

Wonderkop village: famously known for the Marikana Massacre that took place on the 16th of August 2012, is surrounded by the mining giant called Lonmin Platinum Mine, which on the beginning of January 2014 was on a “no work! No pay! Strike” that lasted for five months. The strike caused a lot of commotion, disturbance to residents, as well as a lot of crime in the village, as residents of Wonderkop depend solely on the Lonmin Mine for employment.

Even though the village is surrounded by a mining giant, Wonderkop still has a high rate of unemployment, the number increasing every year as people from different places relocate to the village looking for jobs. The youth of Wonderkop are constantly tricked with job promises that are never fulfilled. “When you are not working, you are more than willing to take any opportunity that comes your way hoping that something positive will come out of that” said *Ontlametse Mosito (not actual name) one of the youth residing in Wonderkop.

The Bapo ba Mogale tribal authority has taken advantage of vulner-

ability shown by the residents, offering to help the youth of Wonderkop Village with employment by introducing part time projects that will keep them busy in the meantime while they are searching for employment, such projects involved a two day door to door campaign that took place during the month of June employing up to 800 youth, whereby their job was to get signatures from residents, each person earning a payment of



R1200.00 for five signatures.

(Picture taken in Wonderkop by Amogelnag Tabane)

Then on the 24th of July 2014 a second project was introduced, this one requiring twenty house numbers whereby, people were required to go house to house giving away 20 pamphlets writing

down names and house numbers of people they gave the pamphlets to. In this project each individual received a payment of R800.00 when submitting the list of houses they went to. Signatures of participants were required every day on the register that was signed on the week of the project, not knowing that those signatures will actually be used against them when the Bapo ba Mogale wants to claim Wonderkop Village.

Wonderkop is a community that has been known for its independence, falling under the Bapo ba Mogale tribal authority but, still able to make decisions on its own without taking orders from the Chief of Bapong. Until now that it has come to light that there was nothing for mahala, The Bapo ba Mogale was actually aiming at taking CONTROL of Wonderkop village. The Bapo ba Mogale manipulated the whole situations knowing exactly, that the unemployment rate is very high and the people attending the market at the community hall will not hesitate to sign documents if it is in relation to them getting jobs.

Unemployment has been used as an advantage to take away the land of our forefathers.

By Amogelang Tabane .

Plasma TV theft, a disturbing factor

A disturbing factor that is tormenting residence of the Mafenya village. Plasma theft is the –in thing this current century. It is said that the reason they are stolen is to have a powder used in the drug cocktail. House breaking and theft of luxury plasma television sets has become a prevailing crime in a small village called Mafenya .according to members of the community these perpetrators don't break in whilst house hold members are not there even when families are sleeping they break in through windows, this

leaves people wondering will they ever be safe or will they ever want to upgrade their homes in this situations?

On the night of July the 2nd 2014 the incident happened while they were sleeping. One of the family members where the broke in told me that there was no sign of anything else stolen except for the plasma, no window was broken nor the door they still wonder how these people got in the house without making noise. In a similar case it was found that the perpe-

trators managed to break an entry in the neighbor's house also with aim of stealing yet another plasma screen on the very same night but with no luck, the plasma was fitted on the wall of the house sadly because they were frustrated broke the plasma screen which no use to the owners.



(Plasma tv, phogragh by by Khumo Ntodi)

”This are our belongings leave them alone” said the owner of the house hold who has been hospitalized for weeks, returning to her house to see such tragedy had occurred in her yard. No arrests have been made as of yet.

It is urged and advised that residents should switch off completely their plasma screens at night because thieves use various devices to detect whether there is plasma in the house or not.

By Khumo Ntodi (Mafenya)

Never Mined Health Facts.

Did you know?

- Most clinic visitors are female. Most are generally not happy with their clinic's staff treatment and service.
- At most public clinic patients wait for more than six (6) hours before receiving help while some end up not receiving medical attention.
- More than 37. 67% of those who use public clinics are unemployed whilst 28. 63% receive social services grants.
- Out of all respondents, 58% are related to a mine worker and 19. 6% are mine workers.
- 60% of the respondents are aged below 45. 40% of these are youth aged between 16- 35.
- Off all the respondents, 69.5% visit a clinic for regular treatment. Most patients are on TB, HIV/ AIDS and other treatment which is usually related to

HIV/AIDS.

- According to the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality IDP report “the mining activities and the associated socio-economic conditions also exacerbate” the HIV/ AIDS prevalence in the district and its impact on the labour force. Corrective action, on this health matter, remains a dream for most of the mining communities.

Over 82% of respondents do not have medical insurance and did not use private medical services.



(Facts from research conducted by Bua Mining Communities in collaboration with Benchmarks foundation.)

Unemployment in Luka Village

Luka is a village in the North of Rustenburg and Located in the platinum mining region. One of the social issues that is affecting everyone in Luka community is unemployment. The rate of unemployment is an indicator of the health of the economy.

Unemployment is happening in every community and across the country. In Luka village most people who are unemployed are school dropouts, even those with or without matric and even people with university degrees or diplomas because there are no job opportunities or any job creation says “concerned member of the community”

When Impala Platinum started mining in the 1960s they promised to create job opportunities and skills development programmes in Luka community and

they have not done that.

This is currently affecting everyone in the community like Ms Rakhudu who is in her 40s, illiterate and a single parent has found a way of fighting poverty by scavenging (recycling) at a local dumping area by collecting waste materials in exchange of money and doing laundry in two households in the community

Poor service delivery by our leaders is one of causes of unemployment. When our Councilor announced that all the unemployed should submit their Cvs at his office to be taken to Impala Platinum, Ms Molefe claims she submitted her Cvs but no luck and she has been unemployed for several years now.

Majority of Luka Residents are unemployed and we have found other ways of making money like selling coldrinks and beers or

having backrooms in our yards and use the money as a source of income to provide for our families even though the money is not enough says “concerned member of the community”

We as a concerned community of Luka have come up with a solution that Impala Platinum should commit into creating job opportunities and skills development programmes. We have been meeting with Impala Platinum and they have agreed to hire Luka Residents, so far we submitted some few Cvs.

We hoping they’ll reply soon, if they don’t we will take further action... I’ll keep fighting for the people of my community until the very last day, for better service delivery “says chairperson of Luka Community”

By Omphile Rakhudu (Luka)

Freedom at last

Bua Mining Communities is happy to announce that the public violence case against the 6 Chaneng ladies was withdrawn on the 30th October 2014 since in has been going on from last year. This is all thanks to the Legal Resources Centre assistance.

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