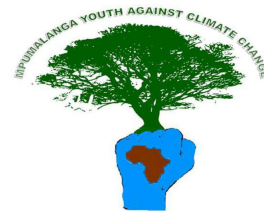


ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ACTIVISM NEWSLETTER ACTIVISM

Volume two by Mpumalanga monitors/ NOVEMBER EDITION

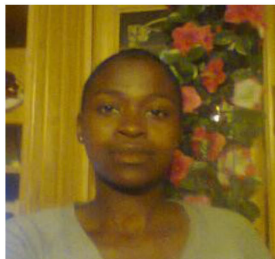


INSIDE ISSUES

1. HORRORS AND SORROWS OF CAROLINA
2. EVRAZ HIGHVELD LYNCHING COMMUNITIES WITH WASTE VANADIUM (mountain of death)
3. THE OLIFANT RIVER IS PRAGNANT WITH BILLIONS OF BABIES OF TOXINS
4. TESTIMONIES/PICTURES CORNER....my life without kidneys
5. POETRY CORNER.....AM THE VEINS OF MY BODY HIGHVELD



PROUDLY DONE BY MPUMALANGA YOUTH AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE (MYACC) SUPPORTED
BY BENCH-MARKS FOUNDATION.....WWW.COMMUNITY.NET/
MYACC4CLIMATE@GMAIL.COM.....072 490 8673/082 702 9099



By Lorraine kukaza

HORRORS AND SORROWS OF CAROLINA

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM!

The true story about water at Carolina. The issue of water started long time ago, the community of Carolina and Silobela started to experience water quality failure from the Carolina water treatment plant which is supplying both the city and the townships of Carolina and Silobela. The municipality stopped discharging water immediately in order to investigate the cause in checking if it was suitable for human consumption by the year 2012. Its amazing cause this problem is still continues even this year by any means necessary the people survive by getting water from a Mosque at Silobela, the municipality tried to provide water through water tankers for cooking and drinking as a short intervention. The residents of Carolina are gratefully because the people at the Mosque are giving them clean water everyday so if it was not for the Mosque surviving will be history. Other water sources are polluted till the extent that even tap water look pinkish.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE!

Caroline dam has been contaminated by underground mining where at outmost the mines are operating without water licences and legislations of legalizing mining activities are not properly been followed like EIA (environmental assessment) where are platform for public participations were not carried. The dam normally spill its dirty toxin in flooding seasons straight to the township of Silobela so the residents went to the department of water affairs with their grievances, for you to fetch clean water you are required to walk 5km? Extraordinary the matter was taken to North Gauteng high court and our local government was ordered to provide clean drinking water and mitigate acid mine drainage and intervene with administrative issues with spheres created by the constitution with this the municipality have been requested to provide socio economic submissions but till this day the matter has been silenced by threats and violence where activist are killed in undergoing the fight against water injustices. We demand accountability from the municipality and that the law must take its cause against mines who are stealing livelihood's and who are violating our section 24 Of constitutional given right in continuity of the struggle water samples where taken then a laboratory tests where done and the results indicated higher content of heavy metals and very low ph readings in approximation of ph 3 acidic levels then the communities where advised not drink or domestically use the water from the Boesmaspruit dam even to touch the dead fishes from the aforementioned source the collected water samples where full heavy metals such as manganese, aluminium, copper, cobalt and other volatile metals which are responsible for kidney failure all this led me to conduct my own social interview with affected residents I started with Jordan Mayaba a loyal community member of Silobela he said tape water taste very bad like chemicals but sometimes we don't have a choice so the Mosque became our saviour for the availability of clean water is a need but the look of things the future will be a nightmare here at Carolina things are becoming hilarious we can not all afford bottled water and the same industries that have contaminated our underground water aquifers are the ones who initiating mechanism of selling us bottled water we cant use boreholes any more because of acid mine drainage they are aiming to generate profit out of our need which is water he said?

In demand of accountability the municipality warned us and told us that they were equally persuaded not to impose costs on water affairs, the office of the chief director and the office of the general of water affairs in Mpumalanga who is in charge of water regulations so tensions between us and them developed they started spying and destabilising our meetings and investigating our houses as well as outside people whom we associate our selves with in helping us addressing this horrors and sorrows of Carolina. Where are we going to get clean water in future if the municipality is shifting its duty to provide clean water to an institution a for sake church if mines are continuously polluting our wetlands and underground water sources blood will be our beverage.



EVRAZ HIGHVELD LYNCHING COMMUNITIES WITHWASTE VANADIUM (MOUNTAIN OF DEATH)

Emalaheni is known as an employment harbour by many outlanders it is situated in Witbank, Mpumalanga province where two communities (Vosman and Santa) village) are faced with a huge problem of huge ambiguous Calcine waste disposal facility (WDF) that covers 35 hectares with height of 38 meters and an estimated 18 million tonnes of Calcine classified as hazardous waste with ratings that is due to the soluble vanadium leaching from Calcine to the environment and causes sinus and respiratory illnesses lastly polluting our Olifant river. People

are sick and tired of this WDF and they don't know where to go and whom to tell, we met with NJ Masango a community member who has been staying at Santa Village for approximately 7 years told us that this stockpile is killing people more especial when the wind blows where vanadium particles get blown straight into nostrils and houses every one is suffering with sinus and bronchitis he said. On the 13th February 2013 14h20 pm Evraz Highveld did a presentation to NUMSA stakeholders in updating them about the WDF project where on page 6 Evraz Highveld (E.H) set the following objectives for the WDF that they will "Reduce financial and environmental liabilities two zero" over the next 10 years supposed to be started from 2013 and they agreed that they will secure the soluble vanadium also that they will comply with the relevant environmental legislation especially provisions of the national environmental management waste act 52 of 2008 clause 3, section 17-18 recycling, re-use recover of waste and remediation of contaminated areas clause 8 and once the operational phase commence the liability is expected to be reduced to zero by 2028 E.H said on their phase(1) that on 30 April 2012 they were supposed to have concluded contract with the operator. On 31 March 2013 they were supposed to have ensured all approvals and authorization are exalted then on 31 May 2013 they were expected that a demonstration plant would have been constructed.

On 31 January 2014 the stockpile removal plant would have been design and installed with all necessary supportive infrastructures and services then lastly on the 31 Of October 2014 the stockpile that compose of Iron, Calcine and Vanadium interventions and removals would have been started but everything Highveld have said is all lies and they must be taken to high court because they have violated the national environmental management waste act (N.E.M.W.A) 59 OF 2008 clause 3 section 17-18. E.H must be held accountable much by all affected parties for breaking other environmental legislation also to the communities Highveld must pay reparations in form of recreational facilities and monetary pay everyone who is currently staying in this two communities inhaling their vanadium and Calcine from the WDF because the constitution is safeguarding of right so E.H can make huge profit over the expense of our healthy but it is not above the law drastically measures must be taken before Emalaheni sink down to be a ghost city with caves of fire that have been cause narrow minded individual who are escalating with riches whiles the poor are becoming lower than poorer.

This coalition with E.H has opened our eyes to other environmental externalities that are cause by the same corporate like the refusal of coming with an emission reduction plan to lower emissions and the release of toxic waste to our nearby Olifant river and in covering their waste pipes with forest making us fools at a sunny day, the time for environmental justice has come corporation's are the mega cause of classism, land grabbing, modern slavery and underdevelopment till the day where the poor will have nothing to eat but only to eat the rich.

BY Thabo Nncube



The Oliphant river is pregnant with billion babies of toxins

The Oliphant river is now a reflection of our greed and ignorance as it enter my community "VOSMAN" in trinity's from different tributaries and different sources of contamination like a sleeping giant that rises with no clean banks but over polluted with toxins of heavy metals and stinking swaps covered with reeds that are acting as nature contamination river purifiers. The state of the river water quality of the Olifant is beyond being filthy worse with its great tales of aquatic invertebrates once told now fading, all its drainage basins, pans and wetlands are now nailed by acid mine drainage till this day we no longer see endemic fish species and frogs due to mining through or use of its pans for storage and evaporation of saline mine water resulted further in loss of typical birds like hornbills and fly catchers over the grasslands after grazing livestock's are forced to drink all the heavy soluble toxins that is carried by the Olifant river to its lower sub streams.

Where am staying the river is polluted by Trans-Alloys and Evraz Highveld on its left enclosing side to compass my community with hidden toxic pipe that are realising this billion of intoxicated babies. Evraz Highveld waste pipes of impurities of Arsenic, vanadium and iron are covered with trees and mini coal stockpiles other toxins are being realise to a mouth of a river basin that connect itself with the Olifant. In summer as the river cleans itself through flooding, that natural cycle get locked by washed waste from waste disposal facility of Trans-alloys as it drag itself towards my community where sewage waste stinking with pampers and decomposed human faeces that await to load themselves on its flow. Moving on right hand side of a these great river that is hugging my community so terrible that is where a trinity sources of contaminations are found. First the is a Farrobank waste water plant purification plant that is constantly realising methane unmonitored by the ANC local municipality, the waste from this plant look greasily and oily everyday it fall out of the plant straight to the stream mixing with another waste pipe of heavy metals coming from Farrobank, Samacor and Vanchem chemical plant three Ferro metal industries who are employing environmental inspectors to hide evidences of their pipes polluting the stream then the is a sewage pipe that is caring much of stinking waste coming from upstream communities that also connect itself with to the other pipes for destruction of marine lives and our livelihoods.

In minimisation of the problem Mpumalanga youth against climate change have adopted the whole stream in caring of a study to initiate strategies to future prosecute all of this industries that are braking environmental rights of the stream, communities will be mobilized all involved culprits in polluting of the stream will be held accountable and reclamation of the stream marine life will be exalted by any means necessary already we have done our mini SASS stream assessment scoring system in general measuring the quality of water in the river, its healthy and composition of micro invertebrates that are living water of the river.

AM THE VEINS OF MY BODY HIGHVELD

Bethal is my heart source
Am the long stretched one
Named after the elephants that
Commonly drank from banks
Obalule in zulu
Elefant in Afrikaan
Eloquently addressed by English
Settlers as OLIFANT RIVER
Rio dos Elefantes in Portuguese



On my topography I once transported
Uncontaminated blood on rolling gently
Sloped hills to cut through the Drakensburg and enter into featureless Lowveld regions after my body
Highveld with cool escalating temperature on my escarpments

Nailed with dolomite aquifer that are drilled with acid mine drainage to highly erodible soils, worsened by intensive
Mining, echoed by cultivation and over grazing to destabilize my banks to be swiped by brooms of floods that drug my meanders
With corporate waste along my Kruger national park stomach, stirred toxins through hidden pipes to hydrologically disturb the
Integrity of my tributaries

Loss of my physical
Numerous pans and wetlands
Turbidity of my blood merged by alien species of wattles and pine
Thermal power stations butchering the cords of my spine
Extensively exploited but my silence is not golden
Demands of irrigation hits my catchments with fallacious economy of a few
Egos of Eurocentric minds, self proclaiming conversation to squeeze profits
Out of the rich while distancing my beautiful view for the poor



I am the veins that tomorrow will transport both man carcasses and vultures
That died of dehydration
Where are my clean aquifers...my perennial tributaries ...ecological species...my
Favourable wetlands...few tears of questions am asking to many hypocritical
Smiling faces of industries ...municipalities...power stations ...communities and
NGO'S.....
A RIGHT TO BE MYSELF AND PURE IS ALL I REQUIRE



How dare you...?

By: Bernard Sibande

How dare you... you left me in the cold when you found gold,
You discovered my coal and left me with a big hole,
You bumped into my platinum and you never gave me some,
Where are my diamonds?
I thought you were a darling,
how dare you...?
You found warmth when I suffered through global warming
My seasons are altered...
Sacrificed in the alters of the Anglo, alternatively America
I am crippled by climate change whilst you promise corporate responsibility,
Where's your cooperation?
How dare you...?
I want to be Frank but fracking!!! You must be joking...
You sweet talk me with science... some nonsense nuclear energy,
Russia wait, I have my own suns, river and wind,
I'm strong enough,
How dare you...?
You took my assegai made me an assassin,
In all my nine provinces no gal,
Where is your sense of humour?
You built me Santa for our honeymoon, are you nuts?
Where are my bees?
How dare you...??? How dare you...???

