



Chaneng

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25°26'29.84" S 27°07'19.76" E elev 1085 m

CHANENG AND MAFENYA

Chaneng and Mafenya are located in the north of Rustenburg not far from the international hotel and casino, Sun City, and the Pilanesburg Nature Reserve.

Mining activities surround the community, with the following companies operating here:

XTRATA MERAPE SMELTERS
STYLDRIFT PROJECT
BAFOKENG RASIMONE PLATINUM
IMPALA 20 SHAFT
ANDRU OPEN CAST
ROSOND DRILL PROSPECTING.
MASEVE (NEW OPERATION) AND WESIZWE PLATINUM



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The people staying in Chaneng are called Bachana (people of Chaneng). Chaneng was founded in the the 1800s by a community who bought their land through selling their cattle. This community, through political transitions, became part of the Bafokeng tribe, today known as Royal Bafokeng Nation. The community of Chaneng initially resided in the North toward the Eland River known as Kgetleng.

This traditional community lived in mud buildings and thatch roofed houses. Traditional doctors were central to health care to the Rabupi community. The burial of loved ones was done in the same areas not far from their place of residence. Land use was at its optimum as cattle and crop farming was the basic way of living. Chaneng farms were located at Boskop-pies farm which is now called Rasimone village.

Women working in the fields and men herding cattle and hunting was the way in which people lived their lives.

Relocation from Rabupi came after a recommendation by kgosi Mokgatle of Bafokeng that during flooding people may drown. The relocation, to the current Chaneng, happened between the years 1839-1900. This was when the Bafokeng Kgosi was becoming more influential and recognized by many communities which bought their farming land similar to the people of Chaneng. Kgosi Mokgatle then deployed one Mr. Molongoane to serve as a messenger who then transcended to be the headman. Malongoane then formed four Makgotla to easily manage the growing community of Bachana. The Makgotla were divided into kgotla ya Matebele , Matuane/Ramogotsi, Phokeng and Setshoane as the leading kgotla.

Since then the system of Makgotla has been important in uniting the community and ensuring effective communication within Bachana.

THE SITUATION TODAY

Though a lot has changed with regards to more reliance on traditional health care system, traditional healers are widely consulted especially for illnesses which are not curable by medical health care system.

Now, Chaneng is a neighbor to Mafenya village which most of its residents have relocated from Rasimone and Chaneng. Their traditional councils are based in either of the two villages.

Livestock farming is the only form of agricultural activity as mining companies have occupied the community farms. Besides farming the community has a variety of improvements including the involvement of women in Makgotla. The youth is now recognised in decision making.

Bachana are now faced with many challenges as a the birth rate is increasing and the population is close to 7000. The population increase is linked to the growth in mining industries surrounding the village.

Today the youth and elders are united in the communities struggles. Chaneng Youth Organisation (CYO) took the initiative to merge with the councils representing our community at large in order to find solutions for the challenges they are faced with and to ensure that any decisions made do not affect anyone in a negative way. The relationship between the CYO, community and council's representatives is stable because all matters arising within the parties are brought/presented and negotiated in attendance of all organizations.

THE BIG ISSUES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ROYAL BAFOKENG PLATINUM DUCKING TO OFFER CHANENG SHARES

Considering the uneven distribution of wealth by the Royal Bafokeng Administration and that land invaded is valuable to sustain the livelihoods of the current and future generations of Chaneng community, Kgotla of Chaneng has put on the table a proposal to be offered a 15 - 30% share in the BRPM (Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine). Chaneng and its three neighbouring communities (Robega, Mafenya and Rasimone), have protested against the unethical business conduct of the mine when it keeps referring the matters discussed in their meetings to the Royal Bafokeng Administration.



Chaneng

Mine subcontractors bring their previously preferred labour, especially from Welkom and foreign countries. On 12 July the RB Platinum announced that in the process only 58 locals (32 Chaneng) out of the total labour force are currently employed despite the January 26th meeting promise, that by mid-March 2011 at least 150 locals will be employed. The total staff complement of Styldrift Project is 509, including locals and broad SA: 155, Rustenburg 154 plus foreigners 142.

The total number of employees of BRPM JV project is unknown but it is not less than 4000, according to information received from a NUM shop steward.

The imbalance in the number of locals employed, in the current Styldrift Project, indicate that there are more inequities occurring in the project.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mafenya

Only four (4) have been employed from Mafenya out of 58 local employees. The youth are the highly unemployed and part of a large population (1200) of Mafenya.

Mines claim that locals lack skills, qualification and experience and are therefore not employable. It has been proven that the subcontractors employ Lesotho residents mostly because they accept low wages and are prepared to work under poor working conditions and racist employers, as they constantly employ workers who are unskilled and illiterate whom they could easily get from the affected communities.

Prior to operations, mining companies do not avail relevant training for the members of the community to benefit from job opportunities in mining.



ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Air quality

The carbon emissions in Rustenburg are high. The emission levels in the city concentrated by mining and smelter activities are unknown to the Chaneng and Mafenya team.

However, the BRPM JV management mention that they are using dust buckets to measure the air quality levels. The mine claims to be emitting below the set standard and levels. Since the mining operations started, health problems such as asthma, TB and sinusitis are increasing.

Polluted water

In 2009 SRK Consulting reported in a local community meeting that the underground water is polluted and a message must be sent out to all affected communities to alert them not to consume water from boreholes. The reason for this alert arose after SRK had tested the water and results proved high levels of nitrate in underground water.

Following the unconfirmed reasons for a cause of high nitrate levels, Kgotla of Chaneng on 22 September 2010 requested the national Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) to conduct a test on the water and further provide reasons for the cause of high nitrates in our underground water. To date, the department has not even bothered to come and present the test results for unknown reasons, despite the community's follow-up.



HEALTH CARE

A visit to the clinic on weekdays indicates an inadequate amount of facilities and staff members to deal with the influx of the local community and its backroom dwellers.

Currently there are no doctors in the clinic, no ambulances, poor management and poor patient treatment. At the time of writing this report the district Department of Health had not issued the official statistics of the Chaneng Clinic user health status. Chaneng Clinic is currently used by all four communities: Chaneng, Mafenya, Rasimone and Robega .

CRACKED HOUSES FROM MINE BLASTING

Chaneng

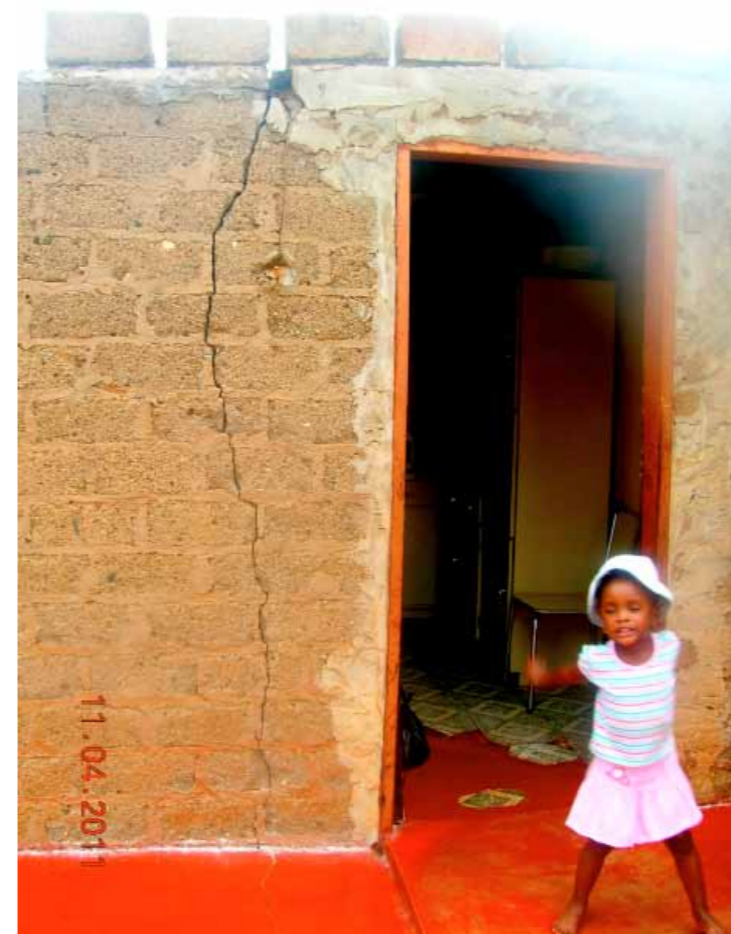
When the Styldrift project was planning its development phase in 2009, the management conducted a cracked-house survey across 100 houses within a one-kilometre radius. The results of the survey suggested that the houses in Chaneng are poorly built in general. This suggests that the mine will not take further responsibility for damage which may be reported to be linked to the mining operations by the Anglo/Bafokeng operations.

Mafenya

Mafenya is largely constituted of houses built during their relocation from their original area, Lekgoropane.

During the relocation, the BRPM JV management and RBA promised the community better living and properly constructed houses. Unexpectedly, the houses are now cracking and BRPM JV are not taking the responsibility to repair or rebuild the houses

Now, the community is facing another mining development by Platinum Group Metals and Wesizwe Platinum JV, called Massive JV. This project's management has conducted a cracked-house survey (in June 2011) which aims to establish the impact which the mine may cause to the houses near its operations. The results can be that the Massive project can exonerate them from the already existing damage of poor workmanship by the Anglo Platinum & RBPlat's BRPM JV.



OUR STRUGGLE



MINE'S NON-EXISTING HOUSING POLICY A PROBLEM OF THE COMMUNITY

The mines around Chaneng, Mafenya, Rasimone and Robega generally do not consider the impact of their 'sleep-out allowance' in the social health of the community.

Currently the mines have poor worker accommodation facilities. As a result the local communities are experiencing an increase in foreign/ labour migrants.

The community of Robega, very close to the squatter camp experiences high crime levels more than other communities and this has also led to lawlessness such as mob-justice, child prostitution, teenage pregnancy, mugging and "under cover" sex workers in backroom dwelling - spreading to Chaneng and Mafenya.

LAW ENFORCERS ACTING AS OPPRESSOR

Between 2009 and 2011, the communities of Chaneng, Robega, Rasimone and Mafenya have been subject to the most horrible situation of human rights oppression and denied the right to freedom of expression (right to protest) through the "Rustenburg only" Public Gathering Act.

In this Act, which is applicable only in Rustenburg, the applicant of the protest must submit a letter from the person whom the memorandum will be handed to.

This system has a clear consequence to avoid protest because normally the authorities which are expected to be providing the letter of consent to receive the memorandum, especially RBA, will never provide it but rather call for a meeting to discuss.

In most cases the meetings which come as a result of this system, are never fruitful and never yield any benefits to the communities, leaving them dissatisfied.

COMMUNITY PROTEST STOPS MINE EXPLORATION DRILLING

On 30 September 2011, community leaders of Chaneng received good news when the North West Regional office of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) announced that Royal Bafokeng Platinum (RBPlat) had been officially stopped from conducting its infill drillings.

This decision followed after a series of community protests which had stopped the drillings.

The urge to stop the exploration drillings started when the community complained about lack of consultation and engagement by the drilling companies and its authorisers. In addition to the exploration drillings, which was intended for expansion of the Styldrift Shaft, the community felt that the new shaft which was under development, was not benefiting them in any way, despite being on their land, and in addition to that, unlawfully occupying their land.

On the 5th of September 2011 this rural Community of Chaneng, based in the North of Rustenburg, went to the drilling companies (Rosond Drilling and Geoserve Drilling) to force them to stop the infill drillings. September 5th was the start of the protest against the entire Styldrift Project, an expansion project of Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM), which is owned by RBPlat.

The protest lasted until September 7th, when the MEC Paul Sebege of Local Government and Traditional Af-

fairs was forced by the tense situation to go down to Chaneng and address a full to capacity Kgotla of Chaneng.

In his address, Sebege committed to first persuading RBPlat to withdraw the interdict which was "interdicting and restraining" Chaneng Youth Organisation (CYO), its Chairperson, his Deputy and Kgotla ya Setshwane (Chaneng) "as well as their members and associates and any person acting or "purporting to act on their behalf from committing... encouraging, supporting, participating in or condoning acts of violence... or assault or threatened assault of employees" of the RBR and BRPM amongst its many orders.

Sebege committed to ensuring that the mining company protested against will be called together with all affected parties to a meeting which would take place within five days to address all concerns which the community of Chaneng had with the Royal Bafokeng Platinum mines.

The RBPlat thus far are employing delaying tactics. They keep extending the timelines and do not adhere to the commitments agreed upon. This will surely not be a report which MEC Sebege will be happy to provide to the community of Chaneng.

Though one pleasing report is that the community's will to stop the exploration drillings was achieved "but not worth wine toasting," said Chairperson of CYO-Joseph Magobe.