

Memorandum by the MCEJO members of Mpukunyoni community

We, as members of Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organization (MCEJO) are living in conditions similar to that of apartheid as our land has been stolen from us by the Tendele coal mine. We don't have land for grazing and farming as we used to. We are being relocated without fair compensation. Our livestock are dying in the Tendele coal mine and houses are cracking due to mine blasting without compensation.

We are breathing toxic coal dust every day. Our health is affected due to breathing dust. We need our health to be inspected to check how much of the damage we have already suffered.

Our graves were located without proper identification for us to do our rituals. We are now living in fear as the mine incite violence in our community, applying a divide and rule strategy. The mine is claiming to be benefiting the community but there is nothing to show for it. We are tired of Tendele coal mine bullying us. We want peace in our community and respect for human rights.

We are making the following demands:

- That the mine to stop inciting violence in the Somkhele areas affected by the Tendele coal mine. The Somkhele coal mine incited violence in the Ophondweni area by promising to pay the balance of the compensation to the families agreeing to relocate, as soon as the other families declining the compensation offers agree thereto. This resulted in the Mthethwa family being targeted and shot at in their own home with a hail of bullets. This also resulted in the killing of Mam Ntshangase as she was also opposing to the expansion of the Somkhele coal mine in the Opondweni area;
- We demand that the Somkhele mine to repair all the houses that had developed cracks due to their mine blasting. We have also noticed that ever since the mine arrived, many houses located next to the Tendele coal mine have been living in peace due to the noise coming from the mine;
- We demand the Somkhele coal mine to rehabilitate its open cast in the Dubelenkunzi village;
- We also demand the mine to fulfill all the promises it had made to the community;
- We further demand the mine to stop its expansion plan in the Ophondweni and other targeted areas. The Somkhele community subsists itself from livestock and crop farming. Since the arrival of the Somkhele coal mine, the local economy has declined as the mine grabbed the farming land from the community and drove the community to poverty;
- It is the demand of the community that the mine must consult the community on the issues of the mine NOT the traditional council.
- That the mine must fully repair and properly mark the community graves they relocated;
- That the families who lost livestock due to the Tendele coal mine must be fully and fairly compensated for the loss suffered;
- That the mine must declare all payments made to the Ingonyama Trust Board for the surface lease agreement.

The Tendele coal mine must respond to the demands within 14 (fourteen days) 07th March 2022.

Conveners:

1. **Mr. Israel Nkosi**
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2. **Mr. Billy Mnqondo**
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Signed at the Tendele coal mine gate on the 24th of February 2022.

Signatures



Somkhelo coal mine representative duly authorized
to sign on behalf of the mine.



Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organization (MCEJO)