



EFF IS ENRAGED AND DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEATH OF 17 IN ANGELO DUE TO GAS LEAK CAUSED BY ILLEGAL MINERS

Friday, 07 July 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is enraged and demands accountability for the death of 17 people in Angelo informal settlement due to gas leak caused by illegal mining activity. A group of illegal miners attempted to open a gas canister containing hazardous nitrogen oxide, leading to the release of toxic fumes that proved fatal upon inhalation.

Additionally, following exposure to the toxic nitrogen oxide gas, eleven patients, including a two-month-old child, were admitted to the hospital for medical treatment. Tragically, three children have also lost their lives as a result of this incident. Our hearts go out to the affected families during this difficult time.

It is even more concerning that the community of Angelo informal settlement raised alarms to the local South African Police Services (SAPS) in the early hours of the morning of the 05th of July 2022, only for intervention to arrive at night when the first community members began collapsing.

The Angelo informal settlement, located near the Witwatersrand gold mine, has been plagued by the presence of illegal miners, leading to a surge in violence and shootings within the community. The sound of gunshots has become a nightly occurrence, a grim reminder of the ongoing issues related to illegal mining activities.

The issue of illegal miners who are prone to violent and grotesque acts, demands immediate attention and action, however, under the current government it has proved impossible. It is deeply concerning that despite their involvement in the Mdlalose Tavern killings and the rape of young women in Krugersdorp, these individuals were released, highlighting a failure to hold them accountable for their heinous crimes.

These illegal miners are part of syndicates with established intricate networks that extend into the local community, and infiltrate corrupt sectors within law enforcement. The far-reaching nature of their operations underscores the urgent need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to dismantle these criminal networks and hold all involved parties accountable.

The use of explosives in mining operations not only creates unstable environments but also poses a significant threat of frequent ground collapses. Additionally, the contamination of water sources and the subsequent displacement of communities further exacerbate the alarming situation. This scenario represents a ticking time bomb of potential catastrophe.

Mining corporations have gravely shirked their duty to adequately close down and rehabilitate abandoned mines, prioritising profit over the well-being of our environment and local communities. It is imperative that we hold these white capitalist entities accountable and demand sustainable mining practices that prioritise the preservation of our environment and the betterment of our communities.

Additionally, the government's pace in sealing mine holes remains frustratingly slow. ANC leaders will be at the forefront of these tragedies leading to short-lived clamour, yet it repeatedly results in a lack of concrete action, zero accountability, incomplete investigations by the SAPS, and the National

Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) refusal to prosecute. We are now acutely aware of this disheartening cycle, where promises of justice fade into empty rhetoric.

Fellow South African citizens, the time has come for us to declare "enough is enough." We deserve nothing less than safety and the fundamental right to secure and dignified homes. Our children deserve a government that prioritises their well-being and ensures their journey to adulthood is nurtured and protected. We demand immediate action against illegal miners who terrorise our communities and they must know they will face the full might of the law should they undermine South African law enforcement.

The state must never live in fear of individuals who endanger the lives of our people in any way or form. We demand unwavering accountability and justice for all victims in Angelo.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS


Sinawo Thambo (National Spokesperson) 072 629 7422


Leigh-Ann Mathys (National Spokesperson) 082 304 7572

 communications@effonline.org

 <http://www.effonline.org>

 @EFFSouthAfrica

 @EFFSouthAfrica

 Economic Freedom Fighters

THE YEAR OF MASSIVE

POLITICAL EDUCATION AND VOTER REGISTRATION

TO REGISTER TO VOTE: **DIAL: *134*20024#**