



EFF WELCOMES THE HIGH COURT RULING SETTING ASIDE SHELL WILD COAST EXPLORATION RIGHT

Saturday, 03 September 2022

The Economic Freedom Fighters welcomes the High Court decision to set aside the exploration right granted to Shell to conduct a seismic survey of the Wild Coast.

The judgement handed in the Makhanda High Court reverses the right granted by Minister Gwede Samson Mantashe and exonerates our long held stance that the scramble for profits must never cloud the voice of communities.

The Department should never have granted any rights to anyone when communities and activist groups had stressed overtime that not enough public consultations and engagement with the different stakeholders affected had ensued and that they rejected the attempts by Shell to blow up the Wild Coast.

The High Court found that decisions were not made procedurally and that the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy together with Shell, failed to comply with the relevant legislative requirements. This is classical of an ANC government department that is captured and serves the interests of British and European Multi-National Enterprises instead of preserving our natural environments and safeguarding our people's lives.

Instead of listening to the people's concerns, the Department's authorisation would have caused an irreparable harm to the communities of the Wild Coast. The livelihoods of poor citizens and the cultural practices of surrounding communities would have grossly been affected.

We commend and hail the committed activists and community members that stood firm and refused to be bullied by government and big corporate companies that have their sole interest over that of communities.

We call upon the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to stop incurring legal costs and that delinquent Minister Gwede Samson Mantashe must be held liable for legal expenses as a minister who takes improper decisions that are always costly to the department, deviating millions of Rands that could have been used to service the ailing Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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