

Amadiba Crisis Committee 2016-07-18: **MRC "disinvests", but now tell us: WHO IS TRULY BEHIND THE 'XOLOBENI PROJECT'?**

The Australian company Mineral Resource Commodities has announced it is "disinvesting" from the so called Xolobeni project on the Wild Coast. MRC speaks about the violence blocking them. We, the land right holders, have peacefully denied MRC and its "TEM" company access to our land for mining. Who has responded with violence? Who has been shooting at homesteads? Who has repeatedly used bush knives and knobkerries against locals and even against journalists? Amadiba chief Lunga Baleni, made director of TEM in September, threatened our Headwoman and elders to "enter by force" to drill on our land 22 February. TEM had to give up that plan again. This was one month before the assassination of ACC chair Bazooka Radebe. He led the successful mobilisation that day.

Friends of the Amadiba community in Perth, London and Cape Town marched and picketed in solidarity at the time of MRC's Annual General Meeting in May. The community got support from solidarity petitions from 108 countries after the murder of our Bazooka. For this we are for ever deeply grateful.

But today we are deeply concerned. Who will provide MRC hundreds of millions of rand to buy its destructive project? Why is MRC not simply withdrawing and close down "Xolco", "Keysha" and "TEM"? MRC announces in fact that it is still leading a process towards mining. MRC continues to conspire behind our backs with state institutions like DMR, as well as for funding.

We note that MRC speaks about "South Africans" taking over and about "BEE". To this we once and for all must say:

For ten years we have said No to mining, whatever its colour it takes. It does not matter even if you bring your "Blacks". Our land is not for sale! We want to develop our agriculture and tourism. Your mining is not development. It is destruction of our land. It is killings and violence, no matter if it is black or white.

We demand that the financial statements of XOLCO, TEM and Blue Bantry are made public. Who are their true shareholders? Who owns the anonymous "Corporate Law Services" involved in all these dark companies and in "Keysha"?

The "Xolobeni project" should not be sold to anyone. It is a worth-less project and must be closed. Instead we fear: state funds are now about to be used to fill the coffers of the corrupt and violent MRC. And the same people remain in the shadows.

We tell them: We will celebrate the day when you lose your blood money. That is the day when it is declared that there will be no mining on the Wild Coast and real development can start.

Your game will not work here in Pondoland. Try something else.

iMining ayiphumeleli! Long live the spirit of Bazooka Radebe!

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The Umgungundlovu Traditional Authority and the ACC are represented by Richard Spoor Inc. in Johannesburg and LRC in Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg.

For legal issues in the coastal Amadiba community struggle against mining:

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