

Bazooka Radebe - A great tragedy and a travesty of justice

SWC is appalled, and condemns in the strongest terms, the suspected assassination of the Chairperson of the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC) Sikhosiphi 'Bazooka' Rhadebe. Bazooka, from Mdatya village in Amadiba, was murdered at his home in Lurholweni township last night in a hit by two gunman posing as policemen, who shot him in the head at point blank range when he answered their knock at his door.

The Amadiba Crisis Committee is a local community based organization set up 10 years ago by AmamPondo people to resist attempts by the Australian mining company MRC and their local BEE counterpart Xolco, to strip mine along the Pondoland Wild Coast. Mining in the area would result in the destruction of the amaMpondo's homeland, community and way of life.

SWC strongly suspect that pro-mining interests might be behind the assassination, as the ACC under the Chairmanship of Bazooka have steadfastly, fiercely and courageously yet peacefully resisted MRC attempts to gain mining rights to the area. This despite numerous and continuous attempts by MRC and their local BEE partners to intimidate, harass and bribe anti-mining activists into silence and compliance.

SWC calls all civil society organisations and concerned people to condemn, in the strongest way, the anarchy and overrule of democratic and basic human rights that government has allowed to flourish along the Wild Coast by their continued support of the mining endeavour. This despite being told by local affected communities on numerous occasions, and in the strongest way possible, that local people do not support mining in the area.

Donations to Bazooka's family (reference your donation 'Bazooka family'), or to support ACC in their endeavours (reference your donation 'Bazooka cause'), can be made to the following account

Sustaining the Wild Coast

First National Bank

Randburg

Acc no: 62157997639

Code: 254005

Swift: FIRNZAJJ

Physical address: cnr Main Ave/Republic Rd, Randburg