



"The Voice Community Representative Council"

(Reg No. 097-943-NPO)

1534 Phumula Location

Vukuzakhe

Volkstrust

2470

ENQUIRIES: THABISO NENE

TEL: 078 334 3843

EMAIL: thevoicecrc@gmail.com

Date: 26 June. 2018

TO:

**The Centre for Environmental Rights
Second Floor, Springtime Studios, 1 Scott Road, Observatory, Cape
Town**

Attention: Ms Catherine Horsfield, Ms Suzanne Powell, Ms Melissa
Fourie

Dear Ms. Horsfield,

**RE: INVITATION TO PRESENT INAN OPEN FORUM COMMUNITY ORIENTATED
PUBLIC DEBATE, #COMMUNITYWANTSTOKNOW, ON THE SOCIAL, ECONOMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND REMEDIATION OF A PROPOSED COAL MINING
PROJECT NEAR WAKKERSTROOM**

The Voice Community Representative Council("the Voice") acknowledge
receipt of your letter dated 25 June 2018.

You are absolutely correct in your assumption that the invitation
letter under my signature dated 20 June 2018 was communicated in my
capacity as Chairperson of "The Voice Community Representative
Council", a Non-Profit Organisation based out of Volkstrust and who
represents the aspirations and voices of the majority of the
communities in the Dr. Pixley Ka IsakaSeme Municipality in
Mpumalanga.

You are also correct in assuming that I consult with Atha-Africa. As
a community member I am fully entitled to consult any party who is
planning activities or job creation activities in the area that we
as the community live in, but also to raise my own and other
community member's concerns and expectations.

The over-riding reason for the initiative that the The Voice proposed, was based on the fact that the local community of Dr. Pixley Ka Isaka Seme has many unanswered questions about the development of the upcoming coal mining project in our Municipality near Wakkerstroom. We have questions, not only for the mining company but also other role players such as the relevant government departments and yourselves as opposers to the mining development. The community is deeply concerned about the multitude of statements that non-residents, the media, and even your organization and the coalition of NGO's you represent have made regarding the community, especially those statements that are seen to be made on behalf of the community. The proposed initiative was in our view an honest attempt to discuss these concerns in an open and transparent manner.

Your organization, in several media statements, has claimed that the proposed development will "pollute and contaminate surface and ground water; deny local communities....access to water" and will have "National implication."


We, the local community, that is a directly affected party, regret that you and your coalition partners have chosen to shy away from explaining your "claims" to us.

We deeply regret CER and your coalition partners' decision not to attend the #COMMUNITYWANTSTOKNOW initiative and can't help to be suspicious of your refusal to attend such an important meeting, especially since you are always portraying CER and your coalition partners as organizations that are acting in the best interest of communities such as ours. We cannot help to wonder if CER and the people that you represent really do have the community's best interests at heart.

We take note of the CER's invitation and we have no problem or fears in attending the meeting.

We pray that you may have a change of heart and do decide to attend the #COMMUNITYWANTSTOKNOW initiative, and we can assure you that the community will be very appreciative and accommodating, should you or your coalition partners change their minds. The COMMUNITY REALLY WANTS TO KNOW.

Yours sincerely



Thabiso Nene
078 334 3843
thevoicecrc@gmail.com

Copies to:

1. **ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST**
2. **FEDERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**
3. **BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA**
4. **WWF SA**
5. **EARTHLIFE AFRICA**
6. **GROUNDWORK**
7. **MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY NETWORK OF SOUTH AFRICA**
8. **ASSOCIATION FOR WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
9. **BENCHMARKS FOUNDATION**