

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future



WELCOME

Welcome to the #CancelCoal Newsflash where you can keep in the loop with the latest developments in our fight against new coal power in South Africa. With each issue, we'll bring you updates on our landmark legal case, the latest news updates related to the just energy transition from around the world as well as sharing events and a platform for activists to share their hopes and imaginations for a fairer future. We hope you enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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NEWSFLASH

COAL'S DEADLY TOLL – MPUMALANGA COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF SICKNESS AND SUFFERING

Community members and activists from Mpumalanga shared their harrowing experiences of health issues caused by living near coal mines and power stations at the Community House town hall in Cape Town. Testimonies, part of Open Secrets' "The People's Hearing on Energy Profiteers," revealed the underestimated and widely misunderstood health impacts of coal mining, processing, and burning. Speakers emphasized that despite political claims, unemployment persists due to health-related issues linked to coal pollution. The event aimed to prioritize human and environmental rights in addressing the energy and climate crises. Community advocate Happy Skosana stressed the importance of educating people about their constitutional rights for a healthy environment and emphasized the need for a just energy transition to address health and unemployment issues. [MORE HERE](#)

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSMISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA'S ENERGY BLUEPRINT

The CEO of the South African National Energy Development Institute (Sanedi) has raised concerns about the South African government's plan to install 14,000km of transmission lines by 2032, essential for expanding the electricity grid. Sanedi's CEO, Titus Mathe, questions how Eskom, the national power utility, will achieve this, given its historical slow pace—it took nine years to install 4,300km. The transmission line expansion is part of Eskom's strategy to enhance energy supply and integrate more renewable energy. Mathe calls for clarification in the draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2023, urging transparency before the end of the public consultation period. He also emphasizes the need for explicit statements on power station closures and compliance with carbon emissions rules. Environmental groups have requested an extension for public comment, expressing concerns about limited participation. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy is yet to respond to these concerns. [MORE HERE](#)

'NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US,' MINING-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES DEMAND IN PROTEST OUTSIDE DMRE OFFICES

Mining-affected communities from various South African regions protested outside the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) head offices in Tshwane. On February 8, 2024, hundreds gathered, chanting "Nothing about us, without us," demanding inclusion in decisions about mining in their areas and access to socioeconomic benefits. The Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) and supporting organizations called for scrapping the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) to ensure communities have a say and receive benefits. Despite a legal provision for consultation, the MPRDA grants the DMRE minister decision-making power, causing dissatisfaction. Protesters cited forced removals, lack of consultation, and economic exclusion from mining benefits. The call for prior and informed consent and complaints about non-compliance with social and labor plans by mining companies were highlighted. The DMRE's response is awaited. The protest also featured political commentary urging voting alternatives to address long standing issues. [MORE HERE](#)

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN DEADLINE EXTENDED BY A MONTH

Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe has extended the deadline for public comment on the draft 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) by a month, now set for March 23, 2023. The draft, outlining the country's energy future, faced criticism for reducing renewable capacity compared to its 2019 version. Mantashe aims to avoid rushing the process and welcomes thorough input. The plan proposes delaying the shutdown of some of Eskom's coal-fired power plants to mitigate economic impacts. The Minerals Council highlights a lack of clarity on revised dates in the IRP and underscores the crucial role of the export market in preserving mining jobs amid challenges, including a logistics crisis and negative sentiment towards coal. [MORE HERE](#)

ENERGY COMMUNITY MUST SCRUTINISE IRP 2023 – SAWEA

The South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) is calling on the energy community to thoroughly analyze the revised draft Integrated Resource Plan 2023 (IRP 2023) and provide constructive inputs for improving the country's energy future. SAWEA appreciates the information sessions hosted by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, emphasizing the need for a clear and realistic implementation plan to address the current energy crisis. SAWEA seeks a holistic approach to energy planning, urging the Department to articulate a comprehensive list of assumptions and consider alternative scenarios. The association believes a more ambitious IRP 2023, accommodating consistent wind energy technology, will drive industry growth and contribute to South Africa's energy security. A member engagement session is planned to gather sector-specific feedback for the DMRE. [MORE HERE](#)

THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAS TRANSFORMED THE IMAGE OF MINING

The urgency to reduce global carbon emissions and address climate change has transformed the public perception of the mining industry, according to Rohitesh Dhawan, CEO of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM). Speaking at a panel discussion in Cape Town, Dhawan highlighted a fundamental change over the past two years, as society now recognizes the importance of mining for the energy transition. He emphasized ICMM's mission to make responsible mining the norm and the effort to align various environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards to create a consolidated performance standard for responsible mining. Sibanye-Stillwater CEO Neal Froneman emphasized the mining industry's role in decarbonization and the need to integrate sustainability into business strategies. Froneman highlighted Sibanye-Stillwater's focus on green metals production, recycling, and resource stewardship for a sustainable and attractive future. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Mbongeni Buthelezi



Q&A

How do you believe art can contribute to positive social change?

I have a responsibility as an artist to make a contribution using my art as a vehicle to make a difference in the world.

What message are you trying to share with the piece of art you've shared with us?

The ultimate objective of my art is to create evoke , inspire and motivate.

Where can people follow you and/or see more of your work online?

Instagram: @buthelezimbongeniart

LinkedIn: Mbongeni Buthelezi

Facebook: Mbongeni Buthelezi

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: MBONGENI BUTHELEZI

Buthelezi has been working on and developing a unique technique of art making using discarded plastics of a certain quality in a melting process, he paints in imposters solid forms burnt with a heat gun onto a thick, roofing-plastic surface. He has created a new form of painting, a so-called plastic painting. His unique paintings are often larger than life. He is able to work realistically and abstractly, with the technique being extremely detailed. After completing his studies at the African Institute of Art he enrolled for a teacher training programme at the Johannesburg Art Foundation, which he completed in 1998. He then participated in the Standard Bank Arts Festival as a guest artist. This was followed by studies at University of the Witwatersrand where he graduated with an advanced Diploma in Fine Arts. He was then invited to the Artelierhaus Hoherweg in Düsseldorf for an artists residency and in 1999 was again invited to the Vermont Studio Center in New York for four Months and took part in a big South African group exhibition at the Museum for African Art I'm New York. Other residencies included the OMI international Artists center in New York and the Barbados Community College as guest artist, Kunist Rain Stylt-Quelle Tantrum(Stylt island) and Wiesbaden, Germany. Born in KwaZulu-Natal and raised in Springs, Buthelezi has moulded these worlds together and tries to make sense of his rural upbringing with an urban existence. The subject matter of his paintings includes a series called "childhood", where he experiments with figurative images and games on the township, and explores the images used in textbooks that were stereotypical during his school years. His work is almost biological because following from the childhood series is the "jazzing it up series", "Black and white series" and the "Winter in Kliptown series". One is almost able to sense this artist's daily woes, which are evident in his titles, "The church My mother used to go to", a work about his late mother, a landscape with a dusty atmosphere, typical township church structure and two ladies dressed in red and white. He is able to capture an atmosphere very well in a way that is not expected from the process of work he uses. In South Africa he has had shows at the at the LizamoreGallery, Everard Read, Johannesburg Art Gallery and Spark Gallery just to name a few. He also represented South Africa at the Cairo Beinnale in 2007 and The Second international Beinnale for contemporary Art in Prague, and participated in both the Johannesburg Beinnales. Buthelezi held his museum travelling exhibition in South Africa starting at the Pretoria Museum, William Humphreys Museum in Cape Town, Red Location in Port Elizabeth, KZN SA Durban, Oliewenhuis Museum in Bloemfontein and ended in Kimberly. Currently preparing for an exhibition in Bayreuth in Bavaria Germany. Buthelezi has just returned from Maldives where he was invited by Coco Resorts to produce a few commissioned artworks, take part in an Art Residency, run workshops and an exhibition with the idea to raise awareness to the environment. In February to March 2020 Buthelezi collaborated with the Bayreuth University and the IWALELWA-HAUS in an outreach program that included mostly masters students teachers, as well as kids from the surrounding schools in Bayreuth, Germany. Da Vinci Hotel and new Leonardo Hotel at the Mandela Square in Sandton, Johannesburg commissioned Buthelezi to do two waste art murals in these spaces namely ; 35*4 m and 10*10m in dimensions respectively. Buthelezi has recently collaborated with Nestlé Smarties, an international confectionary brand. For the first time Nestlé Smarties has come up with a 100 % paper recyclable packaging in its Smarties products which is an important aspect in today's world in trying to solve the problem. Currently working on numerous projects including the United Nations, Buthelezi held his last Solo Exhibition in 2021 at the Pencil Club in Durban. Recently invited by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the United Nations to participate and contribute at COP27 in Sherm El Sheikh in Egypt for 2022. His art was also licensed for reprinting on several items during this event, water bottles, note pads and wall art projections.