

## **The Bench Marks Foundation Supports NUM March in Rustenburg**

Media Release by Bench Marks Foundation  
Bench Marks Foundation supports NUM march  
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The Bench Marks Foundation has expressed its support for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)'s march in Rustenburg today, Wednesday 17 March 2008. The mineworkers are protesting Anglo Platinum's alleged 'narrow social and labour plans'.

According to media reports, the miners demand that Anglo Platinum puts into practice the contents of the social and labour plans negotiated last year with the Chamber of Mines. The miners are also concerned about the lack of development of infrastructure in the labour-sending areas of the Eastern Cape and Limpopo where most of the miners come from.

Bench Marks Foundation's chief executive, John Capel, said the protest did not come as a surprise.

"Bench Marks is not at all surprised by NUM's protest as corporations rarely consult properly with its labour force or affected communities in respect of its social and labour plans.

"The Bench Marks Foundation's reports, 'Policy Gap 1' and 'Policy Gap 2' have shown that these plans are products of negotiations with local governments so as to align the plans with Local Economic Development (LED) and Industrial Development Plans (IDP) process, which allows local governments to claim corporate social and labour plans as evidence of their own service and infrastructure delivery," Capel said.

The Foundation says these plans are often constructed in highly secretive circumstances until they are submitted to the Department of Minerals and Energy.

"Even then it is difficult for communities and its workers to have sight of such plans. The Bench Marks Foundation would support a process that is fully inclusive of community and labour participation in the drafting and adoption of social and labour plans before they are submitted," Capel said.

Media reports quote NUM as saying the march is not intended to disrupt any productivity but to get the message across to Angloplat.

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