MINISTER RAMATLHODI SUCCESSFULLY FACILITATES ROAD MAP TO RESOLVE THE MOGALAKWENA MINING COMMUNITIES’ DISPUTES

Mineral Resources Minister Advocate Ngoako A. Ramatlhodi (MP) has successfully facilitated the crafting of a road map to resolve the dispute between the Mapela mining communities and Anglo American’s Mogalakwena Platinum Mine. The road map follows the two day engagements that the Minister held with leaders of the communities, traditional authorities, organized labour, the Limpopo Department of Education, Mogalakwena local municipality, Waterberg district municipality, Human Rights Commission and the mine’s management.

The signed road map outlines the following:

1. Seritarita Secondary School will be opened on Monday, 14 September 2015.
2. All blasting schedules closer to Seritarita Secondary School must be discussed and agreed upon between community leaders of Leruleng and Scheming and should not interfere with the learning process.
3. Agreements entered into between Anglo American Platinum and the relocated villages must be revisited for the purpose of implementation.
4. A task team must be established with immediate effect, composed of representatives of all affected villages.
5. All grievances raised by affected communities must be attended to by the task team.
6. The principle of no work, no pay will not apply in this case since this emanates from community protests. No employee shall be victimized or subject to any discrimination. This should not set precedence.
7. All labour disputes arise from the recent protests must be discussed between Anglo American Platinum, Department of Mineral Resources and Organized Labour and the resolutions must form part of this Road Map.
8. The 1993 Lease Agreement between the affected communities and the mine must be revisited by the Task Team and Anglo Platinum.
9. Legacy projects should be identified that will benefit the communities.
10. The South African Human Rights Commission will continue to engage representatives of the villages that are not represented to ensure that they join the task team.
11. The South African Human Rights will liaise with stakeholders to ensure that the task team meetings take place.
It has been noted that not all Mapela community representatives were present during the crafting of the road map however, it has been agreed that those communities not represented will be allowed to participate in the task team set up by Minister Ramathlodi.

The Minister has urged the platinum rich communities and the mine to work together to ensure that the agreed road map is implemented for peace and stability.