

Additional testimonies from affected communities



Walter Steenkamp, local fisherman and community leader in Port Nolloth (impacted by the Boegoebaai project):

"As a fisherman, it's a real threat. We don't want companies like Shell and Total in our ocean because it's going to destroy our livelihoods. If we allow this now, there will be no more fish in our ocean left for our children."

"Our government is selling us out... saying that there are no people living on this ground... But I've been living here for 50 years, and there are a lot of communities on this land."

"They are going to use big boats and vessels to ship our green hydrogen from here. That will have a huge impact on us as fishermen, on our fishing grounds. Our fish will go another way, and we, as fishing communities will suffer."

Elizabeth Slander, a Nama community leader from the town of Sandrift in Richtersveld, (also impacted by Boegoebaai project):

"We are scared we are going to lose our land... That is my biggest concern, that claimed land is going back to the government."

"They say it's a big opportunity to bring green hydrogen into Boegoebaai, to bring massive job opportunities for our communities. That we are going to receive houses, and schools are going to be built for us. They say our children will have a better future with the education they want to offer. But we know it's not going to happen in our towns. We already experienced it with the mining companies. So green hydrogen is not going to work for us."

“We as South Africans aren’t using green hydrogen, so why should it be produced on our land? Why can’t it be developed in Europe or in other countries that need it?”

Andries Joseph, a community elder who was born in Richtersveld and has spent decades working in the region’s diamond mines:

“My ancestors were the first peoples who travelled around here, we are indigenous. ... That’s my area, but I have to go to security to ask [for access]. I can’t go inside on my own.”

“Over my dead body. So long as I live, no development shall happen on that site. It’s holy ground for us indigenous people. It’s not for development.”

Mpho Selemela, Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (impacted by Sasol's and AMSA's projects in the Vaal Triangle):

“People are sick because of the air pollution, with asthma and skin rashes.”

“The water of the plant is so polluted... For fifty years this has been happening. It goes straight to the farms... Now plants can’t grow, crops can’t grow, animals are getting sicknesses.”

“No one from their side or from the government has ever told us about green hydrogen. Most of the communities don’t know. The transition that is coming is not for us. It’s for businesspeople, maybe for their exports and their trade. But for us – we’re damaged.”

Tamila Massike, a farmer and ecologist, Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance:

“I’m planting food, but now I’m struggling to grow vegetables because the soil is already polluted.”

Kenny Matili, Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance:

“I don’t believe that there will be jobs created in this transition into green hydrogen. Are you going to employ me when you know I’m sick?”

“So, you make sure you take people from far communities not affected by this environment degradation – because us, we’re sick.”

“[Green hydrogen] is a way of them trying to profit over the lives of our people”

Surprise Mashishi, Mining Affected Communities United in Action, (impacted by Anglo American's Hydrogen Corridor Valley project):

“They have been building the solar panels and the people have been removed from their areas to other villages.”

“Our parents and our grandparents were fighting and crying because they were not compensated for their stolen lands. The mines stole their lands. Even today.”