JUKWAA LA MADINI 2018

KWALE MINING CONFERENCE REPORT
The one-day activity took place on September 17th 2018 at the Kenya School of Government in Matuga, Kwale County. Participating organizations included local civil society organizations, faith based organizations, academic institutions, government agencies and private sector institutions working on mining, oil and gas. The target groups included community representatives from Kwale’s four sub counties of Matuga, Msambweni, Lunga Lunga and Kinango.
KEY CHALLENGES FACING KWALE MINERS

1. Disbursement of royalties
2. Public education on the Mining Act
3. Threats of displacement
4. Exploitation of Artisanal miners by middlemen
5. Fate of unsettled evictees
6. Human-wild ife conflicts
7. Information sharing gaps in NEMA.
OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE By David Achero-KLA

- The conference goal was “Getting it Right.” The conference aimed to share information and challenges faced by communities living around the mining areas. Each community in the mining areas had unique problems and that those were the issues that should come out clearly from participants.

- The aim of the engagement was for dialogue, identify challenges and make recommendations and come up with a declaration on how to address the issues raised.
• He urged participants to highlight environmental issues and the concerns of communities using traditional means to do mining. Other issues he urged participants to articulate during the forum were:
  o How the community needs are addressed by the mining companies:
  • How the county government should be involved in the mining process
  • How the county government should be involved in the Community Development Agreements (CDA)
  • Where communities should go at the county level if they have issues concerning extractive
  • The mining act and the status of the royalties meant for the county government and the community
Communities’ Problems around mining
1. Human-Wildlife Conflicts
2. Environmental Degradation
3. Lack of access to education for their children
4. High rate of unemployment
5. Lack of skills among artisanal miners
6. Communities have not benefited from mining activities and are at a disadvantage.
Protection of rights, he told participants, could not be achieved in the absence of unity of purpose. If participants believed that their genuine efforts to enjoy resources which God had placed in their motherland, they had all the rights to resist against the oppressors as resistance against injustice was a constitutional right.

He challenged participants to stop agonizing and organize instead if they expected to access justice. He told those seeking to participate in the mining process to form and register groups as one person could not be given a mining permit.

“Let’s worship God but not beg people for what is rightfully yours,” he concluded.