

DMR SAMRAD Portal Only Serves Mining Interest - NOT PUBLIC

Towards the end of 2011 the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) launched a new portal web site called [SAMRAD](#) to **speed up processing of applications** and make information on mining and prospecting applications available to the general public. Unfortunately the outcome 10 months later reveals a portal that only serves the interest of mines and mining companies.

According to the SAMRAD web site “**SAMRAD ONLINE** is the **South African Mineral Resources Administration System** *where the general public can view the locality of applications, rights and permits made or held in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act* (Act 28 of 2002), (The MPRDA), and where applications in terms thereof can be submitted electronically.”



There is a link on this web site saying Section 10 Notices but when you click on it all you get is a page with a search box which always yields blank results. For those who do not know what a section 10 notice is, a Section 10 notice is a public document, this document is created by the DMR when they have issued an instruction to an applicant to proceed with a public participation process. A section 10 notice tells you who the applicant is, what the applicant wants to mine,

what locality and properties fall under the application and what date comments are due and where comments are to be sent to.

Unfortunately right now the task of getting the section 10 notice to the affected landowners falls upon the applicant or his consultants. Sadly mining consultants use every tactic possible to let as few people as possible know about the application so that very few people attend their meetings. They then submit their documents of their public participation process to the DMR saying they have followed the law and voila they get issued a licence. Just one community in [Magaliesburg](#) is well aware of these tactics as they have been party to 3 prospecting applications spanning 10 months in which the law has not been followed but rather manipulated to serve the interests of the applicants and the DMR and objections lodged in this regard to the DMR fall upon deaf ears.

The DMR is mandated BY LAW to serve the interests of the public but they do no such thing yet they have all the time in the world to answer phone calls and emails from anyone seeking to start a mine. In a reply to landowners of Magaliesburg who requested all section 10 notices since the SAMRAD system went online, the response from the DMR was that this information is NOT accessible on their web site (despite the Section 10 notices link) and that the public are welcome to come and view the notices on their notice board at their office in Braamfontein, Johannesburg. If that is not a big “go get stuffed” message then we do not know what is.

As far as the entire DMR web site goes, there is actually little if anything on their web site that serves any public interest. Many of their published email addresses do not work including their enquiries@dmr.gov.za email address which has not been working for months already despite being reported to them several times already. They stupidly even have a poll on their web site asking what people think of their new web site which probably cost the taxpayer millions of Rands. In this poll, 63.7% of people say it's worse than before and 22.9% say it's no different, so essentially 86.6% people think it sucks just like it did before. I think we can say this was taxpayers money well spent (sarcasm).

Why are section notices so important? Because they actually inform the public of what prospecting or mining activities are taking place or proposed to take place. Many communities are ambushed by mining consultants who manipulate and transgress the law to serve their own purposes, the DMR does absolutely nothing about this so it is up to the public to watch what is going on. For all you know there could be a prospecting right on your land right now and you were never informed about it.

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