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Topic

The social, environmental and cultural effects of extractive industries in Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province, Kenya. A case study of (gypsum and limestone) Cement factories and Soda Ash companies.
Introduction

• The presentation will focus on the impact of extractive industries on indigenous people (Maasai) specifically in Kajiado District. The Magadi Soda company which produces Soda Ash as well as the Cement companies will be placed on focus.

• Gypsum and limestone mining is therefore attached to the cement industries.
Context Commonalities between these industries.

• All obtain their minerals from the Maasai Land.
• They all enjoy heavy funding from national and international bodies.
• They are leading mineral producing companies (respectively) both nationally, regionally and internationally.
• Majority of the workers in the unskilled departments (lower carders) are locals while the rest of the professional jobs are dominated by non-Maasai.
• There has been community disquiet on the operations of all companies with some having court cases and protest having been experienced in some. E.g. the Maasai protest of 2005 against the renewal of the Magadi concession lease.
• Both have corporate social responsibility departments (which in most cases are never felt by the community... (and are politically re-warded – e.g. the case of the East Africa Portland Cement)
• They all have no clear environmental impact mitigation plans and strategies.
• All are geared towards profit making.
Differences..

Cement companies
• All the cement companies obtain the highest percentage of raw materials from the Kajiado District, while they are located outside the district. (Kathiani)

Magadi Soda
• It is located in the heart of Maasai land and it is located on the community land, in the name of magadi concession.
History of Magadi Soda Company

• The Magadi Soda company was established in 1911 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of Brunner Mond. In 1926, Brunner combined with three other chemical companies to form Imperial Chemical Industries. In 1991, Brunner Mond Holdings Limited was formed by the acquisition of the and Kenyan soda ash products business from ICI. The soda ash activities of Akzo Nobel in the Netherlands were acquired in February 1998.

• In September 1998, Soda Ash Investments PLC completed the acquisition of Brunner Mond PLC and Brunner Mond shares were delisted from the London Stock Exchange in September 1998. The company was subsequently renamed Brunner Mond Group PLC.

• In December 2005, Tata Chemicals acquired 100% of Brunner Mond, this new partnership placed Brunner Mond and Magadi Soda at the Heart of one of the global leaders in soda ash production. Tata Chemicals Limited is India's leading manufacturer of inorganic chemicals. It also manufactures fertilisers and food additives. Incorporated in 1939, the company has an annual turnover of over $14.25 billion and is part of Tata Group, India's foremost business conglomerate.
Magadi Soda Co. and the community

• The extension of the lease without consultation of the community.
• The continued dependency syndrome that the company has created on the community. E.g. the supply of water using water boozers instead of drilling boreholes that can be beneficial in the future with some benefits on the livestock and human beings.
In 2005 there was a serious community protest against the extension of the lease of the Magadi concession. The community uprooted the railway in protest of what they termed as unconsultative extension of lease and non benefits from the leading soda ash company in Africa.

Though the company has a corporate social responsibility department the benefits to the local community is still minimal.

The employment of the local community is appreciated, though it concentrate most on the unskilled labour.

The local community depends mostly on the company for water, though its not reliable and the Division still remains one of the most hard hit in regards to water shortage. (the construction of the new plant has even worsened the situation with water rationing programme being set.)
• Killing of the lawyer representing the community in the Magadi case, was a big blow to the litigation process. This saw the extension of Magadi concession lease without challenge (another 99 years...)

• Competitive human labor has led to children and women taking care of the livestock back at home as the men are the catch in the laborious industry work..

• The companies' locomotive is severally involved with accidents, with the livestock. No compensation is awarded to the loss.
Gypsum mining….What is gypsum?

- Gypsum is a naturally forming stone that is mixed with limestone and other products to produce cement (..and other products).
- Sulfate mineral whose Chemical formula is: Calcium sulfate $\text{CaSO}_4\cdot\text{2H}_2\text{O}$
Socio-cultural impacts of gypsum mining

- Deaths in the mining sites have occurred occasionally as the mine walls collapse due to poor tools used as well as mining procedures. These deaths are not compensated and they have caused panic in the local community.

- Livestock and wildlife have also been trapped severally in these derelicts.
Cont...

• The mine men are mostly non Maasai. This means an introduction of unfamiliar cultural practices that erodes the conservative Maasai culture.

• The products are mined from the local community are not available at any subsidized price. Their housing for example is still traditional, while perhaps with the provision of subsidized cement some modification could be done.
Environmental.....ecosystem

- Gypsum mining poses a great danger to the ecosystem. Indigenous trees and plants are particularly under threat.
- Together with other factors mining has interfered with wildlife migration patterns. E.g. in Kajiado the wild beast ‘maternity ward’ has been transformed into a gypsum mining site, hence interfering with the annual natural phenomenon.
Environmental...charcoal burning

- Clearing of trees (especially indigenous) has paved way for other environmental hazards like charcoal burning. (besides is an example of an acacia tree)
Environmental ....Carbon emission

• Emissions into the atmosphere are evident in the companies

• Waste materials from these industries interferes with livestock health
Environmental...Pedosphere

- Soil erosion caused by heavy trucks ferrying limestone and gypsum causing gullies and destroying pastures as the dust settles on the grazing lands
- Gypsum waste is very sticky and during rainy seasons it renders the already poor roads inaccessible
Environmental ...flooding

• Flooding of abandoned mines
• This has led to drowning of animals and human beings
Economically….Reduced pastures

• Pastoral lands have been reduced by the extractive industries.
• This has therefore posed pressure on the browsing areas, leading to both desertification and soil erosion.
• When gypsum waste products is spread on grass it suffocates the growth of vegetation hence leaving land bare and barren.
Economically....exploitation

• Though due to the prevailing poverty and pressure from these mega companies, the local communities have allowed mining in their land.

• Middle persons have though dominated the market and the benefits that proceed to the local community remains minimal
Economically...revenue

• Though majority of the products i.e. limestone and gypsum are obtained from Maasai land there is a serious imbalance in terms of compensation, both in monetary terms and in employment. Both in the Portland and in Bamburi cement companies, the recruitment of persons from the Maasai community is curtailed at the very low cadres, despite the increasing number of professional from this community.

• Revenue collected from these giant companies do not as well benefit the Maasai community. Instead they proceed to the neighboring non-Maasai district.

• There is though a little positive note on the provision of jobs, which has improved household subsistence.

• Both the companies are situated just meters away from the border line that separates Kajiado district and Kathiani District, courtesy of a political gerrymandering in the 1970s. This therefore denies Kajiado district the power to collect revenue from these companies.
Recommendations

• It is not only a requirement but a right according to the UNDRIP to have prior and free consent, on the indigenous peoples lands. There is need for a consultative and participatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before any extractive work begins on indigenous peoples lands. It should take into consideration the cultural, social, political, religious as well as economic dimensions (power of the setting). National and international environmental managing authorities should be involved fully.

• Need for mechanisms to compensate the hurting natural environment as well as the community.

• A meaningful, consultative and participatory dialogue in regards to signing of treaties and a clear benefit and environmental protection strategy. E.g. the case of Magadi concession.

• The social responsibility of the mining companies should be clear and practical.
Thanks.......Ashe Oleng’