

SCRIPT KENYA FLUOR SPAR

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PRESENTATION

A loss of 400 jobs, and 10,000 people affected.
That's the result of the discontinuation of Kenya Fluor Spa in Kenya.
The company produced fluorspar necessary for making steel and aluminum.
Because of the economic downturn the world demand plummeted by 75 per cent.
Therefore Kenya Fluor Spar felt the need to cut the production.
Since they are the only employer in their region, the whole local community is affected.
Here there is no government to jump in with stimulus packages,
and the new jobless are left with themselves only.

BETA LENGTE 2'00"

WIDE GREEN VALLEY WITH MINE, DESERTED MINE, FLUOR ORE, DESERTED MINE
Kenya Fluor Spar lies on the bottom of this remote valley in central Kenya.
Honderden arbeiders per dag haalden hier brokken fluor-erts uit de grond,
maar sinds de productiestop is hier geen mens meer te bekennen.

SOUNDBITE WALKING THROUGH MINE

MAN IN WOOD HOUSE, BABY GESTURING, COUPLE SITTING ON YARD, CHICKENS
400 employees are at home now with their families.
For months without any allowance.
The Chebet family lives on savings, and selling poultry.

QUOTE FRANCIS CHEBET [FROM KISWAHILI]
(deep sigh). Life is full of problems. We cannot afford schoolfees, and have no money to buy anything.

SOUNDBITE RIJDER DOOR VERLATEN DORP VERLATEN MARKT, VROUW IN LEGE WINKEL

Nu zijn nog veel meer mensen in de vallei de dupe van de productiestop.
Want de 400 getroffen gezinnen deden hun boodschappen bij de honderden
marktkooplieden,
en eigenaars van kleine winkeltjes,

die nu allemaal nauwelijks klanten meer hebben.

SOUNDBITE DRIVING THROUGH DESERTED VILLAGE
DESERTED MARKET, LADY IN EMPTY SHOP

SOUNDBITE LADY [FROM KISWAHILI]

There is no business.

SOUNDBITE HAMMERING

MEN AT CAR PART, MAN FIXING TIRE, TWO CHILDREN ON THE STREET

The same applies to small businesses, like this garage.

Ben Kosgei, welder and father, says life is tough.

QUOTE BEN KOSGEI

There is nobody to repair tires.

There is no lorry working here.

All lorries have gone now.

This lorries are now parked at the gate.

Left behind by jobless drivers.

SOUNDBITE QUITE FACTORY BUILDING, PRODUCTION HALL, SET UP DIRECTOR

The machines to extract fluorspar from the ore are switched off.

The director says it's all related to the collapse of the export.

QUOTE NICO SPANGENBERG, MANAGING DIRECTOR KENYA FLUORSPAR

The suspension of our operations is basically a lack of market demand at the moment brought about by the current global economic crisis.

GV VALLEY WITH MINE, STRAWLING DOG, MAN WITH DOG

For everybody here it is to be hoped the economy will catch up soon.

Like for the master of this dog.

He was a porter, and still comes here everyday.

QUOTE MICHAEL KIAMBOI [UIT KISWAHILI]

Kenya FluorSpar helped us all with work here.

SOUNDBITE CUDDLING DOG

MAN SITTING IN MINE

Since economic recovery still seems faraway.

It could take a while before maybe the mines reopens.

ENDS