

Pembani Coal Carolina (Pty) Ltd

RESPONSE ON MR DAN MASEKO'S ISSUE

BACKGROUND ON PEMBANI COAL AND MR DAN MASEKO'S RELATIONSHIP

Mr Dan Maseko started engaging Pembani Coal Carolina ("Pembani Coal"), formerly Worldwide Coal Carolina, at a time when Pembani Coal was dealing with the issue of relocating Ebuhleni families. Mr Maseko requested Pembani Coal to build him a house since he was one of the oldest residents on the farm Groenvallei 40IT Portion 17 which is owned by the Groenvlei Landbougrond (Pty) Ltd represented by Mr Hannes Botha. Mr Maseko was always complaining that people who were not staying on the farm before and who never worked on the farm are benefiting from the mine's relocation project but he has been staying and was working on the farm for the long time. It was explained to him many times that the mine will consider him as an affected family once it operates within 500 metres from his house. He kept on requesting the mine to relocate him to the Ebuhleni families but the mine insisted on its policy and international standards.

CURRENT STANDING WITH MR DAN MASEKO

Pembani Coal started mining at Portion 7 of the Groenvallei 40 IT which is adjacent to the farm where Mr Maseko is residing. Mr Maseko's house is 1.8 kilometres away from the operation and was told that he will be considered in future if the mining operation comes closer to his property. It is also important to note that Pembani Coal is constantly updating its mining plan which informs the proximity to affected families around the area and once it knows exactly which areas are affected then a way forward will be formulated on the affected families. Pembani Coal officials inspected the house after Mr Maseko complained to Mr Elliot Mahlangu and did proper measurements. It was found that Mr Maseko's house is 1.8 km away from the operation. Photos were also taken of Mr Maseko's house and there were no serious damages and it was hard to believe that any cracks were caused by Pembani blasting. However all safety measures are followed when blasting is conducted and Mr Maseko's family is evacuated from the house. A blasting monitor is also placed at Ebuhleni houses since they are closer than Mr Maseko which is about 1.2 km away from the operation.

Mr Maseko came to see Mr Elliot Mahlangu on the 18th of December and told him that his internal wall has fallen. Mr Elliot Mahlangu promised that he will send Mr Stuart Nkambule to come and inspect the house and take photos. Mr Nkambule was busy relocating the other families from the mud house to the newly built house at Ebuhleni. Mr Mahlangu told Mr Maseko that as soon as the relocation is done, Mr Nkambule will come to his house. Mr Mahlangu also told Mr Maseko that measurements were taken from his house to the mining operation and said to him that it might not be the mining operation that caused the wall to fall. He also told Mr Maseko that the mining operation was stopped temporarily at the beginning of November 2013 in that area and has moved to another property, Paardeplaats, which is now about 5 km away from Mr Maseko.

Mr Maseko did not say that the mine was blasting and the wall fell as stated on the e-mail. He claims that the wall was not stable because of the previous blasting. Mr Stuart Nkambule went to inspect the house on the morning of the 19th of December 2013. The photos that he took show that the internal wall was not reinforced and attached properly to the outside walls and that the outside walls of the house were not badly damaged as Mr Maseko claims. It is also expected that a mud house will be damaged as time goes on and renovated timeously. Seemingly people around the mining area don't renovate their houses anymore because they are waiting for the mine to build the new houses. It is also understandable that people who are not within the affected areas will have some issues when their affected neighbours are being moved to newly built houses. It is unfortunate that the mine cannot afford to build new houses for all people especially if they are not within the affected area. It is noted that many families who are staying in the mud houses as Mr Maseko are experiencing such problems anywhere not only around the mining areas, due to current heavy rain falls in the Carolina area. It would be unfair to put blame on Pembani Coal for any damage on the houses that are outside of the affected radius of 500 metres from the operations.