

Statement of the Amadiba Crisis Committee 2015-11-04

The lies of the Australian mining company MRC

In a recent newsletter [attached] "Mining Responsibly in Co-Existence with Society, Culture, Heritage and Environment" Australian mining company Mineral Commodities Ltd ("MRC") misleads its Australian shareholders about MRC's present activities and its gloomy future in South Africa.

It is impossible to deal with all the rubbish the copy-writers have written when sitting in Australia. But it was difficult for them. There is, for example, no Koekenaap school "in Xolobeni". This school is located in Vredendal, Western Cape. A ward councillor in the municipality SLP committee informs us that this is one of the projects blocked by MSR's CEO Gary Thomson for over a year. He thinks SLP obligations are too expensive. In MRC's silly bed side story we recognise as usual the silver tongue of the gunman from the evening shooting 3 May in Xolobeni, MSR's BEE director Mr Zamile Qunya, who is "empowered" by MRC and is feeding Australia with lies.

Solidarity with our brothers and sisters at Tormin

The local leaders at Tormin can put the record straight to the democratic public. Let it be told: the Amadiba Crisis Committee stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters at Tormin, including the people from Xolobeni who are far away from home. We just want to ask MSR Director **Mr Maxwell Boqwana**, whom we reported to the police for forging 3000 signatures "in support of mining" here in Xolobeni in 2008: As the chair of National Association of Democratic Lawyers South Africa, don't you know that an average working time of 220 hours per month, half of them at night, is in breach of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act? As the new CEO of our former President Thabo Mbeki's Foundation, shouldn't you be more careful with your reputation?

MRC falsely "reports" mining on Wild Coast now is supported

The DEDEAT of Eastern Cape describes the situation in its November 2014 Diagnostic Report over Wild Coast development: *"Surrounding communities are unanimous in their opposition to the mine, as it would require moving communities away from the area, destroying their livelihoods in the process, and potentially causing irreparable damage to the surrounding environment and curtailing any hopes of developing a viable ecotourism industry in the region over the medium to long term."* Nothing has to be added. We are not poor as long as we have land.

MRC falsely "reports" that the blocked EIA studies in Xolobeni is a success

Access to our land has been denied MRC's partner TEM ever since April. At a meeting 20 October with 287 land right holders present (lawyer's attendance register) at the Umgungundlovu Traditional Authority, TEM's consultant Mr Piet Badenhorst came with 3 specialists. He tried to explain why he had been in breach of customary law and protocol for six months. He asked to do an EIA. Access to our land was not granted. The guests were politely asked to leave. We refer to our lawyers for the unusual legal situation. Candidate Attorney Johan Lorenzen from Richard Spoor Inc. was present. The whole meeting has been recorded.

MRC falsely "reports" about its consultation with the local royal family.

Chief Lunga Baleni, his wife and the Headman of the inland Amadiba area (not affected by the mining application) have been made Directors of MRC's BEE partner "XOLCO". "Director" Baleni is

now driving a MSR company car. He is ridiculed by the community. This is the work of MRC. Under our customary law our Chief cannot sell our land. An AmaMpondo chief cannot support a project that the community opposes. He must represent the will of the community.

MRC falsely “reports” about the successful work of a “steering committee”.

On the 4 June, a meeting was held at the Umgungundlovu Traditional Authority facilitated by the station commander of the Bizana police station, Mr Hintsu. 25 traditional leader and members of the ACC steering committee had prepared a suggestion to stop the violence instigated by Directors of Xolco. They too participated, led by Mr Z Qunya. This was after the temporary interdict decision taken by the court in Grahamstown after 3 May: Five named Xolco directors were prohibited from bring fire arms to the community, among them Z Qunya and his new business associate Chief Lunga. Five committees with three members were elected, one for each village. As a courtesy and to bring them on board, Qunya’s people were given a seat in each committee, even if this was completely out of proportion. The committees should oversee that no cars would enter the land to prepare for mining. Station Commander Hintsu, declared his approval at the end of the meeting and summarised this decision, declaring: TEM’s new mining application has caused the violence. Letters stamped by the police should be given to the committees, to show mining intruders why a committee is standing in the road. No letters came from the police. MSR employee Mr Qunya intervened secretly after the meeting. As a result, there is no steering committee and has never been. Also this whole meeting has been recorded.

The future of MRC in South Africa

The protection Mr Mark Caruso of MRC still enjoys from friends and business partners at high levels of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and in ANC will no doubt reach an end. There will be officials and Comrades who feel that the personal risks have become too big. Or their conscious will tell them to do the right thing.

There will never be any mining on the Wild Coast.

This statement will also be sent to the Australian embassy and to Australian media.

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For legal comments: *The Traditional Authority, Amadiba Administrative Area, Section 24 (coastal) and the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC) are represented by **LRC** in Cape Town (contact Henk Smith) and **Richard Spoor’s office** in Johannesburg (contact Richard Spoor)*