

Michelle Higelin
Executive Director
Level 2, Suite 2, 10 Mallet St
Camperdown NSW 2050
Michelle.higelin@actionaid.org
(02) 9565 9111

18 October 2018

Mr David Crawford & Mr Graham Kerr
cc South32 board of Directors and lead team
Level 47, 108 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Crawford and Mr Kerr,

Re: Klipspruit mine social audit and meeting request

We are writing to request a meeting to discuss the impacts of South32's Klipspruit mine on the Phola community and surrounding areas.

ActionAid is a global women's rights organisation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication in more than 45 countries. ActionAid works to address a broad range of socio-economic, political and environmental issues that have a particular impact on women.

In South Africa, ActionAid works with communities affected by extractive industries, with a particular focus on the gendered impacts experienced due to coal mining. This includes partnering with the Phola community, which is directly impacted by South32's Klipspruit mine.

In the past six months, a local women's organisation in Phola, the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum, has been conducting a "social audit" of the Klipspruit mine and South32's operations in the town of Phola. A social audit is a community-led process that facilitates public participation in the monitoring of government or corporate service delivery and activities.

During the social audit process, communities study government or corporate documents and compare them to their experiences. In the case of mining-affected communities, a social audit allows communities to compare their experiences to the commitments made under mining companies' "social labour plans."

As part of their social audit of South32's Klipspruit mine, the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum has conducted a baseline survey, consisting of in-depth interviews with 144 women residing in Phola. This survey found:

- 91% of respondents were not aware of a mechanism that exists to represent the views and needs of the community in liaison with South32.
- 96% of respondents were not aware of the existence of a social labour plan.
- 85% of respondents have noticed an increase in gender-based violence since mining has begun in their area.
- In addition to increases in gender-based violence, concerns include:
 - Water and air pollution
 - Cracks in houses as a result of mine blasting
 - Unemployment and non-employment of community members
 - Health impacts such as tuberculosis
- 92% of respondents say they have raised issues with the mine, and 143 out of 144 rated the responsiveness of the mine's management as either "poor" or "very poor".

We understand that South32 is committed to high standards of managing environmental, social and governance risks, and is further obliged under international human rights law and frameworks to uphold the rights of women and communities affected by its operations. As such, we trust that this matter will be considered a priority by senior management and Directors of the company.

ActionAid understands that South32 intends to secure approvals for a mine expansion that would extend the life of the Klipspruit mine, and to ultimately divest ownership from its South African coal operations. ActionAid urges the Board and Executive to ensure that the concerns of the community are fully addressed before any expansion of the mine proceeds, and prior to divestment.

Representatives of the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum who are conducting the social audit will be visiting Australia from the 13th - 23rd of November, and we request that South32 Directors and senior management meet with ActionAid and representatives of the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum during this time. They are tentatively planning to be in Perth from November 21st - 23rd.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



Michelle Higelin
Executive Director
ActionAid Australia