

NOTES ON INFORMATION SHARING MEETING ON THE INSITU LEACHING AND SMELTER UPGRADE PROJECT HELD WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN MUFULIRA ON THURSDAY 15 TH APRIL 2004 AT THE MUFULIRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Mopani called an information-sharing meeting with stakeholders namely Civic Leaders, Government Officials, Non Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisation and Workers Representatives on projects that Mopani is embarking on in the immediate to medium term.

Upon presentation of the In Situ Leaching and Smelter upgrade project plans presided over by the Chief Services Officer, the following questions/issues were raised:

ON SMELTER UPGRADE

- 1. A question was posed as to whether MCM had any plans to put up a plant to treat slimes.**

Response: Options were considered in collaboration with KCM who produce slimes, but it was found to be cheaper to export the slimes than construct a new plant after the closure of the plant in Ndola. It was further clarified that fears on funds externalization through such exports or indeed the export of copper and cobalt were unfounded as both MCM's main accounts (Kwacha and Dollar) were in Kitwe. All the copper, cobalt and Slimes were sold at the gate of the mine in USD and this money is banked locally and has contributed largely to the stabilization of the exchange rate over the last two years.

- 2. MCM was requested to state the exact date when people of Kankoyo Township would be free of SO₂ as this would encourage farming. Further that MCM should consider releasing some idle land to the community for farming purposes.**

Mopani Response: 100% fixation of SO₂ would require a lot of complex technical options, which would also be difficult to operate and maintain. However plans were on board for a second acid plant by 2008. However, total capture of SO₂ was not possible. The commissioning of the first acid plant in December 2005 would control and eliminate to a great extent the emission of SO₂ and dust.

On the land issue, it was pointed out that any land not committed to immediate use was availed to the community for contractual seasonal farming activities.

MCM was not in a position to contribute in a big way to road works but would rather influence decision makers to resurface the roads especially

the Mufulira – Sabina road, which the company had been resurfacing for the past three years. Another viable option to consider was the railway system to cope with increased production.

- 3. Clarification was sought as to whether production of acid at the Acid Plant would produce acid rain.**

Response: It would not.

- 4. Would MCM have a deliberate policy for the major contractors on the US\$ 90 million project to sub-contract local contractors?**

Mopani Response: The main contractors were likely to come with their own top level staff but would require local input at lower levels. Some local contractors had already been engaged. Other opportunities would arise, e.g. accommodation and other related services.

- 5. An inquiry was made as to whether MCM had any plans to entice Congolese Mining Companies to send their copper to Mufulira as opposed to Namibia for processing.**

Response: MCM was glad to take advantage of the presence of the MP for Kankoyo to reiterate their bid to government to waive duty on copper concentrates coming into the country for purposes of treating more concentrates from DRC.

- 6. Concern was expressed on the likelihood of scaling down labour once the project was completed.**

Response: The current smelter had 569 employees while the proposed smelter upgrade would require more. However should some employees become excess, they would be moved to the Converters. Further training for employees was on going both locally and abroad (Philippines and Australia).

- 7. A request was made for MCM to encourage contractors to set up offices in Mufulira and not Kitwe.**

Response: At the height of the project, it would only be prudent for the contractors to be close to site as most operations will be 24 hours. There was therefore need to make suitable residential accommodation available in Mufulira as well.

- 8. A request was made for MCM to consider assisting the Kansuswa community by way of awarding them a contract to supply silica as the township had huge deposits of silica.**

Response: MCM was ready to deal with cooperatives as long as they met the company's supply criteria.

The MP, Hon. Fidelis Chisala thanked MCM for the initiative to interact with stakeholders and making them aware of both the company's short and long term plans. He also pointed out that the meeting proved that the Company had serious investors and who were here to stay. He called for continuous interaction with the community to foster togetherness. The inclusion of an acid plant in the plans indicated the company's concern for a cleaner environment. He further pledged to present the issues raised, particularly that of waiving duty on copper concentrates to Parliament.

The Mayor thanked MCM and expressed gratitude for the new projects. He also made special mention of the impending farm project for ex-mine employees whose would enhance the development of Mufulira and improve the people's social and economic welfare. He also indicated that the civic and government doors in Mufulira were open for collaboration. He called for assistance on road works.

The CSO thanked all for responding to the invitation and for their invaluable contributions.

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