

AGM, BASF, Mannheim/Germany 29 April 2016

Speech of Bishop Jo Seoka

Honorable Chairperson and the Board Members,
Respectable Shareholders, Ladies and Gentleman:

Greetings to you all from the Miners and Workers
in the Platinum Belt in South Afrika!

One year ago I had the privilege to have been part of the Annual General Meeting of BASF' Shareholders here in this city. Since then my knowledge of the German language hasn't really improved. That's the reason why I request that you allow me to briefly address you in English. I will then immediately hand over to my translator to tell you in German what I have written in my speech for this important shareholders meeting.

I am here once again to report you from the aftermath of the Marikana massacre on the 16th of August 2012, where 34 mine workers, working for the mining company LONMIN were shot. You – the BASF – are as the largest customer of platinum from South Africa directly connected to this event.

In my speech at the Annual General Meeting last year I invited you to come and see for yourself the living, working and environmental conditions of the people around Marikana. The Bench Marks Foundation wanted to assist you by organizing this tour. As a foundation, working with the trade unions, we wanted to support you in being an actual role model of a responsible and sustainable acting along the whole supply chain. Unfortunately you haven't paid any attention to our invitation.

One year ago you announced to wait for the report of the commission of the Marikana massacre, since it is difficult to get an impression from a distance. This would be one reason more to follow our invitation.

For almost a year we waited for your reaction. Shortly before our meeting here today, we were told upon our request, that BASF did an audit in December 2015 at LONMIN.

The results of the audit were rather surprising for us: It claims that LONMIN solved almost all problems except minor issues regarding to environmental questions.

This audit was based on the initiative "Together for Sustainability", which was founded by BASF amongst others. We know that except cosmetic measures nothing was done to improve the living conditions sustainably for the mine workers, who were on strike in 2012 and again 2014 because of these very living conditions. The bereaved relatives were not compensated, the call for higher wages were not met and the living and the inhumane working conditions have not been changed. Consequently we are deeply surprised and shocked by the outcome of the BASF audit.

This raises the question: How did you come to this result in your audit of your supplier LONMIN?

Together for Sustainability is a voluntary Audit-agency of the global Chemistry-Industry, which has the task to support companies in implementing the UN Global Compact guideline for supply chain accountability.

There are two obvious consequences: Firstly, the result of this guideline is that LONMIN brightened up its report for sustainability. Secondly, BASF seems to be more willing to believe the LONGMIN report instead of facing the reality in South Africa. One year ago we stated that LONGMIN struts with accomplishments that not accord with reality, for example with the construction of 6000 houses, which LONGMIN is obliged to build. However, only 3 out of the 6000 were built.

We ask you: How are you able to get an impression of the actual situation on the basis of glossy brochures and letter of intents, since it is proofed that this reports do not correspond to reality?

The head of the CSR department of BASF reported repeatedly that BASF supported LONMIN in optimizing its fire department. This cannot be the only results of an audit at LONMIN which claims to consider the UN Global Compact guideline. BASF seems to be part of a system, in which firms are saying by using glossy brochures and reports that they are working on a solution for this problems. We say they do not. We say BASF is part of the problem.

You are complicit in the unchanged and intolerable circumstances in Marikana.

For BASF the self-presentation as a responsible company, which works globally for a better world, is the key of its corporate identity. You - as members of the board - have to think about, if you want to risk losing this image. If you want to risk to be mentioned in the same breath as the clothing discounter kik, which is confronted with law suits before a german court, because of the intolerable situation at its Pakistani suppliers.

As I said before I am inviating you once again to Marikana. There you can see for yourself the working and living conditions of the people, who mine the Platinum, which BASF uses.

To see the conditions, which neglects human dignity of the platinum miners and their families and violates the integrity of creation.

We ask you: Will you follow our invitation?

After my speech you will also hear two of the Marikana Widows, who have lost their husbands in the 2012 massacre. Two woman: One of them is not even even regarded as „affected“ by LONMIN, because her husband was employed by LONMIN through a subcontractor. The other out of sheer poverty accepted the so called offer by LONMIN to take a job as a cleaner and is now sweeping the floors at the offices of the management, that has been found co-responsible for the killing of her husband.

We are asking you, the chair of BASF: will you in the light of these circumstances accept our claim for an immediate compensation fund for the surviving dependants of the massacre, as proposed by us?

If not, we are asking you: How will you explain the rejection of this proposal to us and to your shareholders?

And we are requesting you, the shareholders of BASF, when it comes to voting, to follow your conscience and your hearts!

I thank you for your attention and may the almighty God we with you!