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21 October 2009

Idwala's Response to Special Assignment

With reference to your inquiry into the Special Assignment episode of 20 October 2009, we would like to state the following facts to refute any allegations made:

- Lime is not listed as an agent that might cause occupational disease in Schedule 3 of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993.
- In terms of international and national health studies, there is no correlated link between lime and limestone dust and asthma.
- Further, in 1999, the Department of Health instigated a study with the Department of Minerals and Energy into the possible health risks associated with lime and limestone dust. It was found that lime and limestone dust pose no risk to the community other than a nuisance dust.
- The concentration of dust is monitored by local specialist companies, and they have found that the dust in the Daniëlskuil town shows a high concentration of Kalahari dust, not lime or limestone dust.
- Idwala Lime has numerous measures in place to control dust and to maintain dust levels and to control other related health and safety issues including internal and external audits, including certification to Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Services (OHSAS), International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001, ISO 18001, ISO 9001 and National Occupational and Safety Association (NOSA) Platinum Systems.
- Idwala Lime fully explains its ill-health procedure to all its employees.
- In 35 years of operation, only 3 employees have been retired because of ill-health due to asthma.
- On a regular basis every employee has a medical check.
- An annual report to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) is submitted stating all Idwala Lime health-related statistics.
- Idwala Lime is subjected to regular inspections by the applicable authorities and detailed audits are done by the National Quality Assurance (NQA) and the DMR at least once a year.
- Within the local community of Daniëlskuil, the incidence of asthma is not markedly different from any other population sub sector.

Idwala Industrial Holdings (Pty) Limited Reg. No. 2004/003462/07
Directors: N L Sowazi (Chairman) J J B Welsh (Managing Director) W P W Brown
(Deputy Managing Director)
D K T Adomakoh A C De Beer P J Golesworthy* S J MacKenzie J S Myburgh
D van Staden
Alternate Directors: C Kula D A West**
* British ** American

- Idwala Lime supports numerous community responsibility initiatives, education projects and pensioner care through their Social and Labour Plan and Corporate Social Investment (SLP/CSI) projects including:
Pedisinang HIV/Aids Hospice.
Tselopele Children's Home.
SLP projects such as the electrification of low-cost housing.
- The average length of service of an Idwala Lime employee is 16 years, and 50% of employees have over 20 years of service.
- Idwala is not aware of any breakdown in the relationship between the Company, its employees and the community.

Yours sincerely



JAMES WELSH
MANAGING DIRECTOR