

## **BASF challenged to share responsibility for the Marikana Massacre**

### **Bishop Jo Seoka welcomed by BASF Shareholders at Jubilee Annual General Meeting in Germany**

The address of South African Bishop Jo Seoka at the BASF Annual General Meeting in Mannheim, Germany, in which he demanded reparation payments for the families of the killed miners from 16th August 2012 in Marikana was well received by the shareholders. Because it was not known to the majority of the shareholders, that BASF is the main customer of Lonmin, some were surprised at the news and supported the demands of the Bishop.



Jo Seoka at the BASF Shareholder's Meeting. More pictures on: <https://basflonmin.wordpress.com/fotos/>

Before the start of the shareholders meeting the chairman of the supervisory board of BASF, Jürgen Hambrecht, welcomed Bishop Seoka and the filmmaker Maren Grimm, who was co-organizing the South African visit in Germany together with Markus Dufner, managing director of the Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany. After Seoka's impressive and challenging address about the Marikana Massacre, the living conditions of the workers and the responsibility of BASF as the main customer of Lonmin, a lot of applause was given by the shareholders. (Read the whole speech of Bishop Seoka here:

[https://basflonmin.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/joseoka\\_basf\\_30\\_04\\_2015.pdf](https://basflonmin.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/joseoka_basf_30_04_2015.pdf))

Several shareholders spontaneously referred in their speeches afterwards on the facts Seoka presented. "It is a disgrace to know that the majority of the people, who dig out the world's most

the 21st century. It's a disgrace that BASF, which bought for 450 million Euros platinum group metals from Lonmin in 2014, did nothing to share responsibility up to date."

Another shareholder found it cynical that the CEO claims that the company is globally linked yet on the same breath say that they could not do anything because of the 'distance'. This does not make any sense in a world of technology which makes communication simple and fast, especially for the world's biggest chemical enterprise.

In his answer, the CEO of BASF, Kurt Bock, said, that "the BASF board is appalled at what happened in South Africa, but it's hard for them to judge from the distance". The CEO also said BASF could not do anything since the report of the Marikana Commission of Inquiry is not yet made public. Therefore BASF couldn't contribute anything to the demanded fund of 3,4 million Euro towards the families of the deceased.

After the shareholder meeting Bishop Seoka commented: "I think that BASF listened carefully, appreciated the fact that I came a long way to present the facts to the shareholders. Notably the shareholders seemed to have been uninformed about the relationship between BASF with Lonmin in South Africa." Seoka pointed at the contradiction in the management's statement: "They said they knew about the situation but because of 'distance' they could not give a clear judgment."

Markus Dufner added: "Ethical Shareholders will observe what BASF will do after the report will be released. We are also keen to know what BASF will do if the report won't be released."

Bishop Seoka, who is also chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation, extended an invitation to BASF and its shareholders to come to South Africa and have a first hand experience of Lonmin's operations so that they can engage Lonmin factually and constructively on its way forward.

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See also: [basflonmin.wordpress.com](http://basflonmin.wordpress.com), [www.bench-marks.org.za](http://www.bench-marks.org.za), [www.kritischeaktionare.de](http://www.kritischeaktionare.de)