### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT THE OPTIMUM COAL MINE

# BRIEFING TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

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mineral resources & energy

Department: Mineral Resources & Energy REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **Presentation Outline**

- □ Background
- ☐ Optimum Social Labour Plan (SLP)
  - **✓** Kwazamokuhle Community Healthcare Centre
- □ Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)
- □ Conclusion

### Background

- Glencore and Ingwe Coal Corporation group of mines, which later became BHP Billiton (BECSA) transferred their assets in terms of Section 11 of the MPRDA to Optimum Coal.
- The assets included Optimum Coal Mine, Brakfontein Mine, Koornfontein Mine and Idwala.
- Optimum Coal Mine was acquired by Tegeta Exploration & Resources (Pty) Ltd through a sale transaction with Glencore in 2016 and a Section 11 consent was approved authorizing Glencore to transfer Optimum to Tegeta in April 2016.

### Background....Cont.

- Optimum Coal Mine held various coal Mining Rights which are 264, 265, 266 and 267 and they were later consolidated into one Mining Right (267MR) which was issued for the period of 20 years from 05 June 2008 to 04 June 2028;
- When Tegeta acquired the operation, they had to resume the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), Mine Economics (ME) and Social and Labour Plan (SLP) commitments.
- Optimum was placed under business rescue and the Region was notified on 01 March 2018;

# **Optimum Social Labour Plan (SLP)**

- Optimum Coal Mine had an SLP which was approved as part of the Mining Right issued from 05 June 2008 to 04 June 2028.
- SLP guidelines provide for SLPs to be reviewed every 5 years from date of issuance of the Mining Right. The Optimum Coal Mine mining right cycles are as follows:
  - Optimum SLP cycle 1 (2008-2012) implemented successfully by the then MR Holder (Glencore);
  - SLP cycle 2 (2013-2017) was approved, however not implemented to the latter by Tegeta;
  - SLP cycle 3 (2018-2022) is long overdue and has not been submitted by the company.

### Optimum SLP...Cont.

- An audit inspection was conducted in February 2018 on SLP cycle 2 (2013-2017) and the company reported 550 permanent employees and 1 938 contractors.
- The main areas of non-compliance were the incomplete LED Projects and backlog on the implementation of HRD programmes.
- An Order in terms of Section 93 was issued instructing the company to submit an implementation plan addressing the noncompliance within 60 days ending May 2018 and such plan was to the DMR and never implemented.

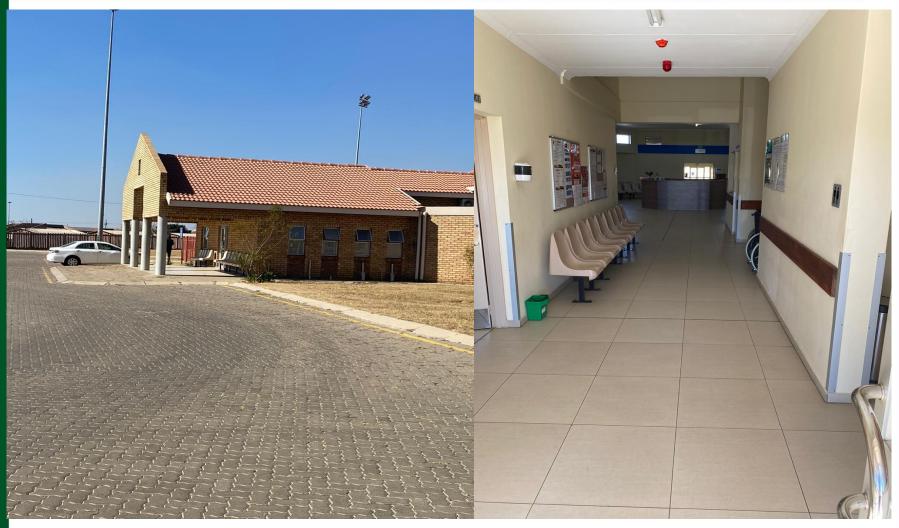
### Optimum SLP...Cont

- Subsequent to that all employees were placed on special leave in December 2018 to April 2019 and employment contracts were terminated;
- In May 2019 the company was then placed under care and maintenance;
- The company re-commenced mining operation in November 2019 and currently employs around 80 contract employees who are mining a mini-pit;
- It is predicted that more than 120 ex-employees will be recalled by August 2020 to mine addition two mini-pits;
- There were delays on the construction of Kwazamokuhle community healthcare centre, and company was issued with a Section 93 Order for non-compliance. The project has been completed and handed over in June 2019.

# Kwazamokuhle Community Healthcare Centre



# Kwazamokuhle Community Healthcare Centre...cont



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILTY:**

- For the financial year 2016/2017 environmental liability was R1, 545, 178, 791
   .44;
- During the inspection conducted in 2019 (at the time the mine was already placed on care and maintenance) the environmental liability was estimated to be around R1, 865, 604, 908. 00;
- The company had an Environmental Rehabilitation Trust with an amount of R 1, 743 563, 913. 58. The said amount was transferred into the Department's environmental trust account and as at the 22 May 2019 the amount was R 1,750, 585, 938.10 due to accrued interest;
- This implies that Optimum has an environmental liability of approximately R 112, 040, 995.58 (R112 million) financial provision shortfall. A notice of intention to issue a compliance notice was sent to the company to remedy the shortfall.

#### **CONCURRENT REHABILITATION**

- Optimum was behind schedule with rehabilitation. Upon acquiring the assets, Tegeta made a proposal to commence the rehabilitation backlog in March 2017 and it was accepted by the Regional Office.
- According to the rehabilitation plan a total area of 8539.8 ha has been disturbed; about 1281.93 ha is unavailable for immediate rehabilitation (these areas include offices, ramps and final voids).
- Based on the proposal, the company was to conclude rehabilitation by end of March 2022;
- On 07 March 2017, the DMR conducted an inspection to confirm the status quo before rehabilitation work commenced where the commitment was presented for the second time.

#### **FOLLOW- UP INSPECTION**

- A follow up meeting was conducted on the 08<sup>th</sup> February 2018, and during the meeting it was confirmed that only 17ha had been rehabilitated since the submission of the plan.
- Based on the engagement of 08<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the company was issued with a notice
  of intention to issue a compliance notice to inform the Department why they were not
  complying with their commitments and provide reasons for their non-compliance within
  seven (7) days from receipt of the notice,
- The Company requested adjustment to the timeframes and the timeframe was extended to the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2018,
- Another site inspection was conducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

#### FINDINGS OF 5 JUNE 2019 SITE INSPECTION

- No mining activities were taking place;
- There was no implementation of measures such as dust management measures and water monitoring; and
- There were no measures to prevent / manage spontaneous combustion on the discard dumps and coal stockpiles.

#### STATUTORY REPORTS

- The company had not been submitting the update / review of its financial provision as stipulated in Section 24(P)(3)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) for the financial 2017/2018;
- The company has not submitted the performance assessment report for the approved EMPr / issued EA as stipulated in section 24(Q) of the NEMA;

#### REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT

- A notice of intention to issue a compliance notice in terms of section 31L of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) was issued requesting the company to provide reasons why the Department should not issue a compliance notice to direct them to submit:
  - The annual financial provision review in line with section 24P (3) (a) and (b) of NEMA,
  - The performance assessment report to the approved EMPr /issued EA as stipulated in section 24(Q) of the NEMA;
  - Implement measures such as dust management measures and water monitoring; and
  - Implement measures to prevent/manage spontaneous combustion on the discard dumps and coal stockpiles.

### **CONCLUSION**

- The company continues to be under business rescue;
- The company continue to be non-compliant with SLP and EMPr;
- The Department will continue to monitor the company's compliance.

# End



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