

## Security? What security?

SOME years ago, this newspaper angered the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa) with our reports of bad security at some of our country's biggest airports, and because we wondered if the laxity was not a tragedy in the making. This week, there was a tragedy – but it could have been so much worse.

A stowaway apparently managed to sneak into the wheel well of a British Airways Boeing 747 jumbo jet which was headed to London from Cape Town.

He was found dead – from exposure to severe cold or lack of oxygen – when the aircraft landed at Heathrow.

According to reports, the person could have been the same individual who was seen to vault the perimeter security fence at Cape Town International Airport at around the time the BA jet was preparing to take off.

The reports said the intruder was spotted by airport security personnel who gave chase as the person ran towards the aircraft. The man is said to have disappeared after the security details gave up the chase for "safety reasons" as they were close to a plane with its engines running.

What is astounding is that, despite the grievous breach of security – and the evidence that an unknown person had got close to an aircraft carrying hundreds of passengers – that the flight took off at all. British Airways says that its pilots were only informed about an hour after take-off about the incident, and that there was no indication that the man was aboard the aircraft.

Had the man been a terrorist or suicide bomber, this incident would have had bloody consequences.

This should not be allowed to happen again and there must be a full inquiry.

## When the smiles died...

WHILE it lasted, the whole "hippo in the swimming pool" saga provided many South Africans with a welcome diversion from the harsh current realities.

But, sadly, the story of Solly the hippo didn't have a happy ending and many of the light-hearted comments dried up at around 11 yesterday morning with the reports that the animal had died before he could be rescued.

The recriminations have already started: shouldn't something have been done sooner? Why did the vet take so long to get there? Was the animal in such stress it would have died anyway? And, of course, there will be the voices which wonder: why devote so much time and energy to rescuing an animal, amid far more pressing needs?

Whatever the truth, people did try to help an animal in distress – distress caused by people.

It's a pity that it ended the way it did...

## Withdrawal: the inconsolable crack the unsolvable

HER eyes are blood red. "I-I-I n-n-n-need...," she stammers, but I hush her.

"It will be okay," I say. "It's going to be fine. Let's just get through the night." She's at war with her demons – she's fighting her addiction. We're not taking this one day at a time, we're not there yet. We're not even taking it an hour at a time. It's a minute at a time. Her skin is itchy. She shakes. A sweat moustache has formed above her lip. She drinks some water. Sweats and chills. These are the symptoms of rapid detox – what junkies experience when their body goes into shock from not getting their junk.

"Try to sleep," I say. "I-c-c-c-can't," she cries. "I need..." she says. "Shhh, it's going to be okay," I tell her. "I want..." she says. "Shhh, it's going to be okay." She's in terrible pain. She had tried to go cold turkey once before but the pain had been too much. I buckled before she did. I just couldn't watch her so I crept out in the dead of night to score for her. But buckling is not an option tonight.

The craving is severe. She's raging. "Please," she begs. All I can do is hold her hand and make soothing sounds. She's been hooked for three years. Eventually her exhausted body gives up and submits to sleep. She kicks and scratches. I hold her hand. "It's going to be okay," I say.

She's so fragile, but she's putting up a big fight. I need to be here for her. I solve crossword clues to pass the time: **Withdrawal from frosty country (4, 6)\* and Did cat become a junkie? (6)\*\***

I crack them but the next clue proves unsolvable: **My mud turns into Kevin Pieterse (5)**. **My mud? KP?** It's been such an emotional night I can't think straight. She wakes up again at 1am.



ANGRY UTTERANCES  
**JONATHAN ANCER**

"I want..." she whimpers. "Please! Please!" My heart breaks. Fortunately, though, she isn't awake for long. Her eyes close. I watch her for a while. Her breathing is steady. Another hour goes by. It's 2am. Maybe the worst is over, I think, perhaps the demons she's been fighting are retreating. I'm emotionally and physically drained. My eyes grow heavy. But as soon as they close she wakes up. The demons have struck again – and they're fighting. Her eyes are as big as saucers. She screams. Nothing I do helps. She's inconsolable. "Shhh, it's going to be okay," I say. "It's going to be fine." "GIMME!" "You need something to distract you," I say. "MY!"

I'm desperate. "Let's try to solve this clue: **My mud turns into Kevin Pieterse (5)**." "DUMMY!"

The inconsolable cracks the unsolvable. She may be going through rapid detox but my three-year-old daughter is a genius. The answer is DUMMY (an anagram of "my mud" – "turns into" is the anagram indicator – gives a word that describes KP). And even though she solved the clue I resolve never to go on holiday to the middle of nowhere without my daughter's dummy again. Ever.

\*COLD TURKEY: a double definition clue ("withdrawal" is cold turkey and "frosty country" is cold Turkey).

\*\*ADDICT: an anagram of DID CAT ("become" is the anagram indicator) gives a synonym for "a junkie".



## Marikana: Common threads and the true cost of mining

LISA CHAMBERLAIN AND LERATO THEKISO  
Centre for Applied Legal Studies

SHE IS REELING from the recent events at Lonmin's Marikana mine. This is the story of community dissatisfaction with the failure of mining companies to deliver on promises of a better quality of life for affected communities.

Of course, every mine and every mine-affected community in SA has its own history and its own characteristics, but there is a thread of commonality running through this industry that needs to be acknowledged.

There are two burning questions that arise.

First, is the lived reality of mining house commitment to local development matching up to commitments on paper? The answer to this, in an alarming number of instances, is no.

Second, what is the true cost of mining activity? Our regulatory framework has adopted the notion of the Social and Labour Plan (SLP) as the vehicle to address issues of community upliftment. SLPs form part of the environmental management programme that mining companies are required to prepare as part of the process of applying for a mining right.

One of the envisaged objectives of an SLP is to ensure that the holders of mining rights contribute towards the socio-economic development of the areas in which they operate. To achieve this, SLPs are required to contain, among other things, a human resources development programme (which must cover things like skills development, career advancement, bursary schemes and employment equity statistics) and a local economic development programme (which must outline the infrastructure and poverty eradication projects supported by the mine as well as measures to address housing and living conditions of mine employees).

The SLP must also set out details regarding financial provision for the implementation of these programmes. This is the picture on paper. However, the stories of mine-affected communities, like that at Marikana, are all too often stories of the disjunct between theory and practice.

The regulatory framework requires sensitivity to improvement of the quality of life for local communities and mine employees, but commitments on paper often don't translate into tangible benefits.

Lonmin's 2011 Sustainable Development Report makes for interesting reading. Read in isolation, one might come to the conclusion that Lonmin's Marikana mine is in fact a model of socially responsible mining.

For example, Lonmin is a member of the International Council for Mining and Metals as well as a signatory to the UN Global Compact. It also supports the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative.

The Lonmin Charter states boldly that Lonmin "respect[s] the communities and nations that host [its] operations and conduct[s] business in a sus-

tainable, socially and environmentally responsible way".

Some of the values enumerated in the Lonmin Charter include "zero harm" to people and the environment and "employee self-worth", understood as the need to enhance the quality of life for employees and their families.

Lonmin's Safety and Sustainability Policy goes still further and paints a laudable picture which includes respect for human rights, cultural heritage and the indigenous traditions of employees and communities, empowerment of host communities and improvement of their quality of life by

The cracks deepen with concessions that one of the biggest challenges to the sustainability of Lonmin's operation is its relationship with communities and employees.

This must be juxtaposed with Lonmin's assurance elsewhere in its Sustainable Development Report that "[w]e assess the needs of communities and consult with them before implementing any community investment to be able to manage the impacts of operations on communities".

Other identified risks include "poor employee relations due to internal and external factors that could result in

damage is included in an understanding of the "cost of mining".

While such provision is important, the Marikana incident reflects that it is equally important for emphasis to be placed on the sustainable social development of the communities within which mines operate and on the facilitation of reasonable living standards for mineworkers.

As a recent WWF Report on the Financial Provisions for Rehabilitation and Closure in South African Mining highlights, it is clear that the Department of Mineral Resources also has a role to play here by ensuring compliance and playing a watchdog role to the mining companies, to ensure that the rights of those affected by the mining activities are respected.

This speaks to the environmental right enshrined in section 24 of the constitution which highlights the importance of securing an ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development. We cannot ignore the fundamental importance of economic and social development, if any progress is to be made in the mining sector.

The reality is that the Marikana incident is indicative of a common theme in the SA mining industry.

There has been ongoing concern about the breakdown in social relations between mines and the communities within which they operate.

It is unfortunate that the recent Marikana incident reflects that the perception of mining companies as being socially responsible is far-fetched compared with the reality on the ground.

The mineworkers and surrounding communities are not experiencing the so-called benefits of mining in their areas.

The manner in which the issues in this instance are addressed will in all likelihood set a precedent for how other mineworkers and mining-affected communities respond to such issues. It is of utmost importance that the real issues raised by the mineworkers be appropriately addressed and not sugar-coated.

Lonmin should take responsibility for its contribution to the current state of affairs and engage its employees meaningfully, with the aim of reaching an outcome that is reasonable and fair for the parties involved.

It is saddening that so many lives had to be lost in the process of the Marikana incident, and we send our deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones.

We also appeal strongly to every mining company in SA to reflect honestly on its business practices, its engagement with surrounding communities and its mineworkers.

We urge them to consider the extent to which they are empowering their workers and the local community and whether their interventions are sustainable. Only then can we hope to avoid watching Marikana-like incidents play out across the country and avoid further death in the course of protest: an unacceptable cost of mining in SA.

**"We remain committed to being the safest platinum mine to work at."**

Message from Lonmin chief executive Ian Farmer in the 2011 Sustainable Development Report



APPALLING CONDITIONS: A woman walks in front of her shack with the Lonmin mine in the background. PICTURE: SIPHWE SIBEKO / REUTERS

contributing to their long-term social, economic and institutional development, and the maintenance of transparent and ongoing consultative relationships with all stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Report cites, for example, mine initiatives on the housing front. In 2011, Lonmin met its target of converting 26 hostels into single and/or family units. However, it also aimed to upgrade a further 252 houses at Marikana and managed only 63. In addition, 179 houses have to date been sold to employees through the Marikana Housing Development Company.

But the cracks begin to show when Lonmin estimates that about 50 percent of the people living in a 15km radius of its operations are housed in informal dwellings with little or no access to basic services.

Lonmin further identifies some additional challenges that hampered its provision of homes. These include inadequate water and electricity resources (does this mean that the mine has water and electricity, but the community doesn't?) and "financial constraints as a result of current economic conditions" (does this indicate the true priority placed on provision of housing?).

strike action" and "poor community relations due to internal and external factors [that] could result in civil unrest".

So the writing was on the wall. Perhaps most shockingly of all, Lonmin itself has identified a major risk to its operations as being "the possible withdrawal of our Mining Licences resulting from failure to deliver commitments made in our Social and Labour Plans (SLP) regarding training and empowerment of our employees and communities".

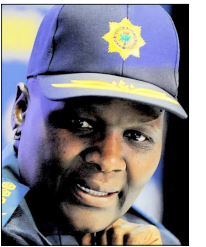
So here we have an explicit acknowledgement from the horse's mouth, of the theory versus practice disjunct when it comes to the implementation of SLPs. This is an important piece of the puzzle as we begin to dissect what has gone wrong at Marikana, to prevent similar occurrences.

Another part of the puzzle is about how we understand the cost of mining activity. Traditionally, the cost of mining has been perceived merely as the operational expenditure incurred by a mining company required for the running of the mine. In the recent past, the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act has broadened this understanding so that financial provision for remediation of environmental

## THIS WEEK IN QUOTES

**We must not be scared of death, because everyone who works underground is as good as dead. The mine is a grave that can bury you at any time.** – An unnamed worker at Lonmin's Marikana mine, quoted in Rapport.

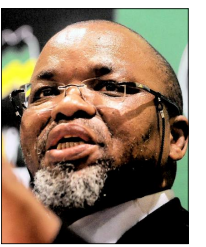
**Our men are hungry men. They are dying underground and they are sick from this work. They must be paid what is fair.** – Busiwe Falu, husband of a mineworker at Lonmin's Marikana operation, quoted in City Press. The miners want their salaries tripled.



**Safety of the public is not negotiable. Don't be sorry about what happened.** – Police commissioner General Riah Phiyega, addressing police officers at the funeral of one of their colleagues, who was killed, allegedly by Lonmin protesters.



**Even though he stole some money, we are still glad we have the stadium.** – Kaizer Chiefs supporter Thamba Sibabane, speaking outside the Nelspruit Magistrate's Court, where the team's manager, Bobby Motau, appeared on charges of fraud relating to the building of the Mbombela stadium.



**Something is wrong with this system of creating layers and layers of business because the primary objective of building a school is made secondary... to creating business beneficiaries.** – ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe on the need for black business to deliver quality if it wants government contracts.

**I just could not take it longer. I am finished. To do this on a Friday afternoon shows you how desperate and tired I am.** – Bloemfontein businessman Christo Hunter, quoted in Die Volksblad, after he chained himself to a desk at the city's power utility Centlec, in a bid to get service.

**What the city is doing to its residents is nothing short of cruelty... people are desperate enough to have given up a day to come to us because they are getting nowhere with the city and its structures.** – DA councillor David Potter after about 5 000 people lodged complaints about billing in Joburg with the party, quoted in The Star.

**The opposition has taken the billing issues too far now and, as the ANC, we will no longer tolerate such insurrectionary behaviour.** – Joburg ANC spokesman Jolidee Matongo's reply.



**He should enjoy all the attention from the girls. I'm a big supporter of friends with benefits.** – Swimmer Chad le Clos's father, Bert, quoted in Beeld. – Sapa

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