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Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Sybilla Hilzinger-Maas

For the attention of: Mr. Dirk Du Toit
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Dear Madam,

RE GOODHOUSE NORTHERN CAPE

1. I have had no reply from my previous correspondence
2. Instead I have been contacted by a gentleman who claimed to be preparing an opinion for the Nth Cape Government regarding whether the land at Goodhouse vests with the Land Bank, the local

council at Springbok (NamaKhoi Council) or the Minister of Land Affairs.

- 2.1. I explained to him that the land Bank have no valid lease with respect to the clients I represent because my clients have current leases with the council that pre-existing any lease the Land Bank may subsequently, (and quite obviously, illegally) have obtained.
- 2.2. I explained that the local council is simply the Minister of Land Affairs' administrative assistant with regards to the day to day administration and management of the land as the land is held by the minister in trust for the community until formal transfer to the community in question ensues.
 - 2.2.1. I also explained that the land was supposed to be transferred in terms of legislation going as far back as 1989 and again in 1991 and 1998.
- 2.3. I have heard nothing since from anyone.
3. Today my clients informed me that one Mr. Mothibi from the Northern Cape Government wishes to discuss a new project with the farmers at Goodhouse but that he expressly wished to exclude any advisors of the farmers from the meeting.
 - 3.1. My clients wanted to know what could be gained by the meeting as it excluded the person they have appointed to protect them from what has manifested as chronically persistent attempts at further exploitation by government.

3.2. Mr. Mothibi was unable to provide any coherent answer.

4. As stated in my letter of Wednesday, April 20, 2005

4.1.1. *I think the position should be absolutely clearly understood here. The government has completely lost the trust of my clients at Goodhouse and any attempt for the government to try and muscle in on a project already in existence at their own instance (and with the support of the IDC provided the land is transferred) will simply muddy the waters all over again.*

4.1.2. *The fact that the minister has again circumvented their advisor has of course simply served to further destroy the Nth Cape Government's credibility.*

4.1.3. *Your are encouraged to check these impressions with Mr. Cloete as it will serve only to clarify matters even further than they are at present.*

4.2. *All that is needed here is for the Minister of Land Affairs to instruct that the farms upon which my clients have statutory rights to title on be now transferred to the Group One Trust, as indeed happened in the adjoining region of Witbank.*

4.3. *The longer this is delayed, the more impetus will be lent to the existing impression that the delays are being used to starve the legal land owners off their land in order that the government may allocate the land to persons of their own choice instead.*

4.4. *Such a scenario will without any doubt see the community break off all communication with the state and look to forms of financing their defense against the state as opposed to development finance, simply because that kind of finance is always available in such situations the world over. As stated to the deputy minister, I shall not get involved in that kind of funding as I am prohibited by my licenses from dealing with the type of Jesuit based*

conflict financing driven by political outcomes crises management strategies.

4.5. *I trust that the Deputy Minister is able to fully grasp the extremely serious implications of these developments as they stare us in the face at this time and that he will see to the transfer of the land immediately.*

5. In addition to the above developments: -

5.1. The local banks and other financing institutions have started suing my clients for non-payments. The results are poignant: -

5.1.1. People who were making it in a dessert region before the state got involved and ruined them financially have now lost their forms of transport.

5.1.2. Prominent Community leaders are facing the prospect of losing their homes and become part of the homeless. These people are too old to start over in life.

5.1.3. Children with vast potential have to forego the chance of getting properly educated because there is no money not only in their immediate family but also of the other families hit by this politically fermented disaster.

5.1.4. People are starting to starve because the last of the livestock they spent 30 – 40 years building up is being used as emergency food.

6. How long, Mr. President and Deputy Minister will you let this utterly despicable situation persist?

6.1. You are well aware of the situation and well aware indeed that people are suffering grossly.

6.2. Is it your strategy to obtain control of land at the cost of so many lives?

6.2.1. If that is your strategy you need but confirm it by ignoring this correspondence and then sirs, it shall be added to the heady heap of similar indictments that will be published in the first world as an exposure of the wicked tyranny at foot at your command.

7. Please note that I state for the record here and now that I deeply abhor having to take this tone with you both in this letter. However, I am also at pains to point out that I am simply compelled to address you in these terms because I know of no one that will not abhor even more, my negligence to do, so in the stark light of the gross human suffering that lays squarely at your feet in this instance.

7.1. Gentleman, you need to do something about this now or I doubt you will be able to deal with the inevitable damage control (on all fronts, political, legal, commercial and social) that will without a doubt need to be engaged in should you fail again.

Yours truly,

Izak Labuschagne