

Mineral Commodities Ltd's response re: Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

26 September 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Mineral Commodities Ltd respond to:

- The mention in our forthcoming database and briefing note of defamation lawsuits filed by the company against six defenders raising concerns about the Xolobeni mining project, the result of which was to stifle criticism by those individuals and others.
- Our conclusion that this was a clear example of SLAPP since it had an ulterior purpose of silencing criticism and an abuse of the court system.

We also provided the company with the opportunity to comment on the specific paragraph from the forthcoming note, which mentioned the company and its subsidiary.

Mineral Commodities Ltd sent us the following response on the 21st of September 2019:

The notion that the company has deliberately brought so-called 'SLAPP lawsuits' is meritless. We also do not agree that this is how the lawsuits are perceived by South Africans in general. In all instances where defamation matters have commenced, they have been warranted and appropriate. The comments that are the subject of these defamation actions stray outside of the bounds of legitimate debate and constitute infringements of the claimant's rights to dignity, which is enshrined in the South African constitution and its law of defamation.