



**POTCHEFSTROOM CITY COUNCIL  
MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, 17 January 2003

**POTCH CITY COUNCIL, BLYVOOR REACH AGREEMENT ON POLLUTION CONCERNS**

On Thursday 16 January 2003, representatives of the Potchefstroom City Council and Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mining Company Limited (Blyvoor) reached an agreement on a course of action to address the Council's pollution concerns regarding the Wonderfontein Spruit catchment area.

Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the "sense of urgency, constructiveness and co-operation" that characterised the meeting.

In terms of the agreement, the parties resolved issues relating to:

- **Securing the integrity of the Andries Coetzee (Blaauwbank) Dam Wall**  
Temporary repair work on the Andries Coetzee dam was already completed on 11 January 2003. Dam engineers from Blyvoor as well as Potchefstroom City Council will quality control the completion of remaining work.
- **Containment of polluted water on the mine premises**  
Both parties agreed to compliance with government standards (GN704). Water used by Blyvoor will thus be cleaned up on site before leaving the mine premises.
- **Water use authorisation**  
Potchefstroom City Council will now be involved in all steps of Blyvoor's water use licence application from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). Blyvoor has undertaken to report to the Council on a monthly basis as to the progress made and status of their application. Potchefstroom City Council will now also be involved with specific critical stages of decision-making with regard to the outcome of impact assessments and investigations, determination of the Reserve, establishment of resource quality objectives, etc. in the execution of the water use licence application.  
Blyvoor undertakes to ensure compliance with the terms of the water use licence. A programme to ensure compliance as well as monthly progress reports regarding its implementation will be provided by Blyvoor to Potchefstroom City Council.

- **Monitoring**  
Blyvoor will provide a Monitoring Programme to monitor their impact on water flow and quality, sediments, soil, vegetation, animals and human and will provide data to Council of such investigations within two working days of each monitoring process.
- **Communication**  
The Potchefstroom City Council will be invited to all relevant meetings held between Blyvoor with other authorities during which aspects relating to water quality will be discussed to ensure that communication channels are opened and information is made available.
- **Closure**  
Blyvoor confirms that it has made the necessary financial provisions required by operation of law, for the rehabilitation of the Blyvooruitzicht and Doornfontein mines regardless of closure of those mines.
- **Research Reports**  
Blyvoor will accede to all reasonable requests made by the Potchefstroom City Council for research reports in respect of environmental management that are undertaken in respect of the Wonderfontein Spruit catchment.

Also in terms of the agreement, Blyvoor undertook to actively assist the Council in establishing a process in terms of which all relevant parties and stakeholders attend to the management of environmental issues in the Wonderfontein Spruit catchment area.

The parties have therefore agreed not to continue with the litigation process.

Mark Wellesley-Wood, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Durban Roodepoort Deep Limited (DRD), Blyvoor's holding company, said Blyvoor recognised the City Council's "legal and moral obligations" – as spelled out at the meeting by Executive Mayor Satish Roopa – to protect Potchefstroom's water supply on behalf of its citizens.

In turn Mr Wellesley-Wood said, the company was appreciative of the City Council's "pragmatic" recognition of Blyvoor's "rights to conduct its business; its role as a significant employer in the community; its obligations to its shareholders; and of the need to find permanent, affordable solutions".

Although the drinking water of Potchefstroom currently complies with the strictest international water quality standards, these actions were taken as precaution to protect the drinking water from potential future danger. Potchefstroom residents are again assured that no further water purification is needed within their households.

### **QUERIES:**

#### **For Potchefstroom City Council:**

Mahesh Roopa

Director: Health and Environmental Services

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