



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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SOUTH AFRICA: COAL'S LETHAL LEGACY

VIDEO

LUKAS DRIVING IN HIS PICK-UP

LUKAS ON FARM

LUKAS ON CAMERA

CLOUD OF COAL DUST NEXT TO
LUKAS' FARM

HERD OF COWS

AMATEUR SHOTS

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Lukas Maseko used to dream of owning his own farm. And when the apartheid regime in South Africa fell in 1994, his dream finally came true. At first, things went well for Lukas on his farm. (15)

LUKAS MASEKO: (In Local Dialect) M

"I used to pack up my truck with pumpkins and go to the highway to sell them. The drivers would stop and buy them." (7)

NARRATION:

But, in 2008, his troubles started as the abandoned coal-mine adjoining his farm re-started operations - (PAUSE) (BOOM) (10")
shattering not only Lukas' tranquillity, but also his dream. (4.5)

As the mines blast to access the coal seams, dense clouds of choking dust smother everything in their path – like this blast caught by an amateur filming close by. (11)

DUST CLOUD Lukas' house is now so damaged, he and his wife can't live in it ... (4.5)

LUKAS' WIFE DINNA ON CAMERA DINNA MASEKO: (In Local Dialect) F
"The noise is very loud and the house is cracked. The whole house shakes." (5)

LUKAS AND DINNA WORK ON THEIR LAND ... and his crops and half his cows have died, he believes from the coal-dust and the polluted ground-water. Water from the mines has seeped into his water-supply, leaving it undrinkable. (12)

MCCARTHY ON CAMERA TERENCE MCCARTHY: (In English) M
"We are heading for a catastrophe in the future." (1.5)

TERENCE WITH MICROSCOPE NARRATION:
Terence McCarthy, Professor of Geology at Wits University, in Johannesburg says that the water affected by coal-mining is toxic and a grave threat to the health and livelihoods of not just Lukas // but to millions of South Africans. The entire country's future water supply, he says, is now in jeopardy. (21.5)

PEOPLE ON STREETS OF PRETORIA

MCCARTHY ON CAMERA MCCARTHY: (In English) M
"We are destroying the ecology of our main river system, and there is nothing we can do about it except stop mining." (4.5)

COAL MINES NARRATION:
But many argue that South Africa's mining sector is essential as coal is a critical source of both

POWER STATIONS

export income and employment. Ninety percent of the country's electricity supply comes from the burning of coal. (14)

AERIAL SHOTS

NARRATION:

AERIAL SHOTS OF COAL-MINING
ACTIVITY

So mitigation efforts are underway in South Africa to clean up the impact of coal mining. (5.5)

GUNTHER ON CAMERA

PETER GUNTHER: (In English) M

"Quite simply, any water is treatable // It's never too late, there's always something you can do about the situation." (4)

RECLAMATION PLANT

NARRATION:

At eMalahleni Water Reclamation plant, run by Anglo American Mines, Peter Gunther designed a system, to counteract the environmental pollution from mining, the first of its kind in the world. Now, 30 million litres of contaminated water from three of their mines are treated per day and turned into drinking water for the local community. (22)

GOOGLE IMAGERY

GUNTHER: (In English) M

"I do believe this is a sustainable model going forward into the future that people can replicate." (3.5)

UNFCCC STILLS OF
BAN KI-MOON

NARRATION:

And United Nations Secretary General, Ban ki-Moon, believes the same, hailing this water-conservation effort as one of seven global projects which successfully combat the negative impacts of climate change. (13)

LUKAS AND WIFE AT HOME

NARRATION:

But while experts recognise this is a step in the right direction, for Lukas and his wife, the pollution is so bad they feel they have no option but to leave and start the farm elsewhere. (12)

LUKAS MASEKO: (In Local Dialect) M

“The mine must pay me - I can’t stay here”. (2.5)

LUKAS AT HOME

NARRATION:

GUNTHER AND SHOTS OF
STREAM

Many scientists and activists are calling for a complete halt to mining until an effective and economically viable solution to the contamination can be found. They believe that protecting the world’s water resources is not a choice, it’s an imperative for people everywhere. (17.5)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4.5)