



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAPFF to Post Monthly Progress on Samarco Housing Reparations

Companies, communities, and shareholders agree current reparations unacceptable

London 10.00 (BST) The Samarco tailings dam collapsed in Mariana, Brazil on 5 November 2015. The waste released by the dam has caused unimaginable environmental damage and human suffering. One major impact on affected communities has been the loss of housing.

BHP and Vale, the shareholders in the Samarco dam, established the Renova Foundation to provide reparations to affected communities. These reparations were meant to include the re-building of houses. There is a discrepancy in the number of houses to be re-built. The companies and Renova report 490, while the communities report 537, across all of the relevant communities. However, of the houses scheduled to be re-built, the companies, Renova, and the communities all report that only seven have been completed to date in Bento Rodrigues, and the companies report that in total 18 houses have been built across all areas.

The companies, Renova Foundation, affected communities, and LAPFF all agree that this situation is unacceptable. Not only is it unacceptable from a human rights and environmental standpoint, but the delay in reparations is costing shareholders dividends and returns too.

LAPFF would like to see these houses built as quickly as possible. After speaking to affected communities, the great scale of their suffering is clear. After speaking to the companies involved and Renova, it is clear that they will benefit from a speedy and effective reconstruction programme.

Therefore, LAPFF will post on its website every month the number of houses that have been re-built in the three communities of Bento Rodrigues, Paracatu de Baixo, Gesteira, and rural areas in Mariana and Barra Longa to draw attention to the need for speedy reparations.

Cllr Doug McMurdo, Chair of Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, said: "Speaking to affected communities about Samarco is heartbreaking. The fact that the dam collapsed in the first place is a travesty. The fact that so few houses have been re-built five and a half years on is beyond the pale. LAPFF



expects good quality housing to be in place by 5 November 2021, the next anniversary of the dam collapse.”

LAPFF would like to see mining companies learn lessons about the need for effective community engagement from the Samarco collapse, the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse, and the destruction of Juukan Gorge in Western Australia last year. These learnings are imperative to prevent future disasters, such as a situation similar to Juukan Gorge developing in Oak Flat, Arizona.

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About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum: The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is a voluntary association of 82 public sector pension funds and seven pools based in the UK with combined assets of over £300 billion. It exists to ‘promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.’ PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum @lapfforum <https://lapfforum.org/>