

March against closure plans

VERNA VAN DIEMEN

Hangberg residents will march on Oceana's factory in the harbour on Sunday September 19 to hand over a memorandum and a petition to Oceana, demanding the company stop plans to close the factory.

The petition is also addressed to the City of Cape Town, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Department of Fishing and Forestry and demands the company be more open about the process to

relocate workers to its plant in St Helena Bay on the West Coast.

Workers are resisting this move, saying it is not economically viable to move almost 300km from their homes in Hout Bay.

Sunday's march is organised by the Hout Bay Civic Association.

Roscoe Jacobs, the association's secretary, said the memorandum calls for Oceana to revert to operating its Hout Bay factory 180 days

Continued on page 4



■ Left: Oceana Brands workers marched to the mayor's office and Oceana's head office of the Foreshore against the proposed closure of the factory on Friday September 11.



■ Right: Hout Bay Civic Association secretary Roscoe Jacobs speaks to the crowd outside the civic centre.

'They must go find fresh air somewhere else'

Have your say
SMS SEN with your message, name and area you live in to 3CCNS (32263)
SMSes charged at R1 each

From page 1

a year; that the City of Cape Town undertakes to not let the draft emissions-by-law affect production; that the Department of Public Works extend Oceana's lease agreement; and details some concerns about the harbour, including opposition to the City and provincial government's plan to run the harbour.

This is the second mass action following a march by the Food and Allied Workers' Union

(FAWU), to the Cape Town civic centre and Oceana's head office on the Foreshore on Friday September 11.

Hout Bay residents, the South African Communist Party (SACP) and trade union federation Cosatu also supported that march.

The demands to the company and the City include that Oceana stop threatening to close the factory; and that the City stop threatening to take away Oceana's permit, among others.

They have given the City and Oceana until today, Friday September 18, to respond, failing which, they threatened to march to Oceana and the City twice a week. Fawu provincial secretary, Meshack Mtechane, said: "The

company is being closed because a few wealthy people have put pressure on the City. We reject the campaign by a tiny minority who have suddenly discovered they enjoy the view of our landscape. Then to say because there is a smell, the factory must move. This is degeneration. They will see that over my dead body.

"Long before some individuals came to Hout Bay, the smell which they are so uncomfortable with, was there. We are saying, a smell does not kill anyone. If there is anyone who has died as a result of a smell, they should report it to the police who will investigate. No sober-minded judge will take that matter seriously. Our police will not waste their time to pursue a

complaint about someone saying there is a smell.

"People must learn to live with the smell for four weeks out of a year or leave Hout Bay. They must go find fresh air somewhere else.

"If the City or any other sphere supports such an anti-poor, anti working class development, we will reject it," he said.

The crowd jeered Wilfred Solomons-Johannes, the City's manager for special projects and community engagement, when he accepted the memorandum.

Mr Solomons-Johannes said mayor Patricia de Lille could not accept the memorandum as she was out of the country.

"The executive mayor has given an order for us to engage. It is not the City's prerogative to close the factory down. It's a private business. It has nothing to do with the municipality.

"The mayor has instructed that we immediately engage with the owners, the provincial government, the Department of Agriculture and Wesgro to see what we can do to keep the company operating. We are looking at interventions and other ways we can help."

At various points in his speech he asked people to be quiet and threatened to sign the memorandum and leave if the crowd would not settle down. Barry James Mitchell, SACP leader, dismissed Mr Solomon-Johannes' address, saying he spoke to the workers with a "baas mentality".

"We are hoping Oceana doesn't speak to workers in that tone. We cannot sell our labour power. Without workers, there is no economy. We have one opponent. It might be different faces, different skin colours, different suits and it might come from different air-conditioned offices, but our one enemy is capitalism," he said.

"You must understand that the City lied openly. They said they care, they said they were a pro-poor City. They did not put one cent into the community of Imizamo Yethu and

Hangberg. Let's be real... don't believe the lies."

At the Oceana head office, chief executive officer Francois Paul Kuttel, accepted the memorandum.

Mr Mtechane asked that the company "exercise caution and patience and give us the space as Fawu, civic association and all fraternal organisations to put hands and energy together to defeat this liberal move on the part of the City to turn Hout Bay into an enclave of the few wealthy".

'We will not bow to pressure from a tiny minority'

"We are confident we will defeat the City. The Oceana group must forge hands, and together confront the City, preferably through meaningful dialogue so that we find a lasting solution.

"We will not bow to pressure from a tiny minority," he said.

Mr Kuttel said he wanted to "put on record that it was improper to characterise the whole of Hout Bay's white community as wanting the factory gone" and that "the factory has for years toiled the battle of keeping the plant going because what we've seen is the vast majority actually want the factory to stay".

"It is a difficult time for the company. You have my assurance that we will continue as we have, to engage with you regarding this difficult matter. We've had a number of areas of opposition and it is not just a minority of people; there are a number of areas that are challenging us. As these challenges have grown, we have considered what we can do to ensure and guarantee the longevity of the business and unfortunately in certain instances we are not in control of this process totally."



FURNICRAFT

WE MAKE IT OURSELVES • BUY DIRECT AND SAVE!!!

Spring SALE

 <p>R469 RDP R234 UTILITY & DRAW CHEST</p>	 <p>R4499 RDP R2000 BALMORAL 3PC MULTITUBE</p>	 <p>R2499 RDP R5000 SLEIGH DOUBLE BED</p>
 <p>R1299 RDP R1700 TWINKLE CD</p>	 <p>R6999 RDP R10000 CASTLE DINER</p>	 <p>R1789 RDP R2324 TWINKLE BABY COMPACT</p>
 <p>R6999 RDP R2225 SUPREME 2PC BEDROOM</p>	 <p>R1499 RDP R1800 TWIN COMBO KITCHEN</p>	 <p>R799 RDP R1025 UTILITY BED</p>



ROYAL HORSE
SINCE 1988

Proud stocks of:
ROYAL FEEDS, EQUUS HORSE FEEDS & OMEGA DOG FOODS










18 Rene Avenue - Kirstenbosch - 7945
(OPPOSITE MASTER MATHS)
96 021 712 9372, Fax: 021 715 3745
theroyalhorse.com