

Bento Rodrigues's reconstruction advances with the choosing of the site for the new district; recovery action also present results

After a process that has enjoyed broad popular participation, the site for the reconstruction of Bento Rodrigues (Mariana's district) will be chosen this Saturday (May 7th). This is another phase in the reconstruction actions carried out by Samarco since the Fundão's dam collapse.

Representatives of all 226 families that lived in Bento Rodrigues will choose, through voting, where houses and common areas - such as squares, schools, health centers, religious temples and soccer fields - will be built. The election will take place in the Conventions' Center in Mariana from 8 am to 5 pm.

The criteria for the voting process have been defined in joint work with the residents and representatives from the Public Prosecutor's Office. The vote of at least 60% of the families' representatives is required for the election, and the chosen site must have over 60% of all votes to win.

According to Antonio Pereira Gonçalves, member of the Bento Rodrigues Residents Commission, the electoral process was fundamental to legitimize the community's choice, "we hope that at least 90% of the families participate in the voting. This shows everyone's great effort in this negotiation and a joint resolution", he has stated.

The process until the election has been very strict, since hearing the demands of all circa 700 residents of the district was necessary. 37 gatherings have occurred, two general assemblies and two visiting programs to the pre-qualified sites: Lavoura, Carabina and Bicas. All sites have good location, suitable topography, easy access to public transport, good water availability and proximity to headwaters, and quality soil for planting and livestock farming. There will be three options for sites, defined according to pre-determined criteria agreed upon among the residents, who demanded proximity to the road and Mariana's town center, among other requirements.

"The residents' desires and attendance to their needs have guided all the process of defining the sites. In January, setting the criteria for choosing the district's reconstruction area started. Nothing was imposed, everything is being negotiated, and the residents have had all opportunities to visit the sites and get to know technical aspects of each of them", said Roberto Carvalho, Samarco's president.

According to the agreement signed with the federal administration, Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo state governments and other governmental entities, Samarco has three years to rebuild the district. However, no efforts should be spared by this company in order to conclude all construction work as soon as possible, allowing the residents to resume their daily lives.

After the site is been chosen, following the Public Prosecutor's Office request, a further deepening of the technical studies carried out will be redone. The next step will be defining the architectural and urban project of the town.

Technical information on the pré-selected sites for the new Bento Rodrigues

LAVOURA

Camargos' district

Total area = 2.232 hectares

Acquisition area= 350 hectares

CARABINA

Sede (urban area in Mariana)

Total area = 150 hectares

Acquisition area= 150 hectares

BICAS

Camargos' district

Total area = 1.647 hectares

Acquisition area= 582 hectares

Reference, Bento Rodrigues' area = 54 hectares

The choosing of the sites for the reconstruction of Gesteira and Paracatu de Baixo is also underway, the criteria for the choosing of the area is already defined.

OTHER ACTIONS

Bento Rodrigues reconstruction project is included in the recovery and compensation actions implemented by Samarco in Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo municipalities, and there are already visible results. The company's commitment is that the socio-environmental and socio-economic conditions prior to the accident are reinstated. Where this is not possible, due to technical reasons, compensatory measures will be adopted.

Many actions started already the day right after the accident, others are included in the agreement with the federal, Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo state governments signed in March. These are actions grouped in 41 socio-economic and socio-environmental programs. 100% of the socioeconomic are already in progress.

For example, 6,000 emergency aid cards have been given, a measure agreed with the Labor Public Prosecutor's Office to benefit the communities whose subsistence livelihoods have been affected by the accident.

The subsistence aid card includes the monthly payment of a minimal wage per family, plus an additional 20% of the minimum wage to each dependent and the value of the essential hamper according to DIEESE.

Furthermore, 100% of all 800 hectares to be re-vegetated in Doce, Gualaxo and Carmo rivers' margins are already concluded. This is also present in the Agreement with the federal, Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo state governments.



Check the status of some actions

- 100% of all 800 hectares to be re-vegetated in Doce, Gualaxo and Carmo rivers' margins are already concluded
- In Mariana and Barra Longa, all impacted schools have been reconstructed and 100% of the students are up to date with the 2016 school year
- 58 houses have already been rebuilt in Barra Longa and 28 others are being refurbished
- In this same city, of the commercial establishments affected, 24 have been refurbished and 5 others are underway
- 27 health professionals (doctors, nurses, psychologists, social assistants, dentists, physiotherapists, among others) have been hired; diverse material to attend the affected persons in Mariana and Barra Longa has been purchased
- 200 rural properties were attended. They are receiving silage, and certain plantings have been implemented as means of food compensation. Veterinary technical support and equipments are also available
- Approximately 134 kilometers of fencing has been accomplished on affected rural properties
- Close to 6,000 emergency financial aid cards have been given to impacted communities in Mariana, Barra Longa and Rio Doce; fishermen and other riverines in Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo states are also receiving this aid
- The construction of three dykes have been concluded in order to contain sediments in such way they cannot be carried by rain or streams present in the Fundão valley
- Over 39 thousand reports elaborated by the laboratories responsible for monitoring water quality and the sediments, based on the analysis of more than 550 thousand samples. Current results indicate that Rio Doce's water quality is similar to standards observed in 2010
- The water supply in all cities affected by the turbidity plume has been resumed
- Start of the construction of two pipelines in Colatina (ES)
- Artesian wells drilled in Colatina and Regência (ES)
- The construction of an alternative water catchment system in Santaninha stream, in the Resplendor (MG) municipality, was concluded
- The construction of the pipeline in Recanto dos Sonhos (Governador Valadares/MG) was concluded, alternative raw water catchment system in Rio Suaçuí Grande that should be used only in emergency cases, according to formalized proceeding with the local Autonomous Service of Water and Sewerage (SAAE)

A solid dark blue circle is located in the top-left corner of the page, partially overlapping the blue header bar.

Visit our Press Office – www.samarco.com/imprensa

Samarco's Media Relations: (31) 3269-8844 / 3269-8838
imprensa@samarco.com

Ana Heineck - (31) 3269-8857

Leandra Valadares - (31) 98281-3034

Marcone Andrade - (31) 98481-3401

Harley Pinto – (31) 97310-1518

Douglas Stofela – (31) 98816-6470