

RED UNIENDO MANOS PERU

The La Oroya Campaign Commission

La Oroya. Doe Run Peru is planning to give forced vacations to 1800 workers.

Tuesday, April 14, the North American company Doe Run Peru announced that it was giving forced vacations with minimum pay to 1800 workers. Doe Run Peru operates the metallurgical processing plant of La Oroya that has been the cause of lead blood poisoning of the residents of the town. The plant workers protested and rallied, blocking the central highway until the company decided to suspend the measures for six days while the involved parties continue in conversation. But, what do the residents of La Oroya think? To find out, we interviewed them.

QUESTION *What do you think about the situation generated by the company Doe Run to give forced vacations to 1800 of its workers?*

RESPONSES:

Luís Asto, Storekeeper.

"It looks bad to me. I don't think the company is going to give the forced vacations because the workers must keep working because without them the company can't function. It's a lie, it's a trick of the company to say that it can work with 25% of the workers; that's a lie, it's a trick of the company."

Raúl Luna Jara, Electrician.

"It's bad because here we are in (economic) crisis and the company has to open up the work. Many people have been forced out of Doe Run; even I was forced out and until now I have not found work. Here we do not have stable work and everyone wants to work here in La Oroya. I am from la Oroya."

Sra. Susy, Housekeeper.

"To me it appears very bad what's happening with this Doe Run situation because now they say there is no Budget to pay the workers and that they are living them forced vacations."



Mauro Cuba, Shopkeeper.

“To me it’s something strange, the company, a big millionaire company, it seems to me they shouldn’t do that. For me, I don’t like it; it doesn’t settle well with me. They should keep working.”

Señora Maritza, Shopkeeper.

“It’s already known that the owner of Doe Run is a millionaire and how he’s making it look like he doesn’t have Money. To me this is bad, that he is doing bad with all the workers by taking them out with forced vacations knowing that he has money in his hand to be able to lift the company out of the crisis that it is supposedly in. The population of La Oroya isn’t happy either because as shopkeepers we see how business goes down when there are layoffs.”



Señor Héctor, Chauffer.

“This is a very bad situation most especially for the welfare of the workers. Here the mass of workers has always reached the goals it has set, but sadly it seems that the economic management by the directives of the company have not been the best and this is why they’ve reached this situation. And like every person that wants to maintain their economic level and way of life, they have to go out and protest because this is weakening their right to work. An international company comes and in the middle of the night wants to leaves lots of families on the street. And here the people feel affected because this is an economic gear that starts with the company and later continues to the different businesses in the town.”

Interviews took place on April 16 in La Oroya with the logistical support of Filomena Tomair Pacsi.

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Red Uniendo Manos Perú.*