

Myths and Facts about Sasol and Mossville

We're not in the habit of responding to every criticism; in fact, we welcome constructive criticism. But when accusations are made against us that are egregiously false and misleading, it's our duty to set the record straight. Below are falsehoods that are being spread about Sasol's engagement with Mossville, along with the truth.

Myth: Sasol's Voluntary Property Purchase Program is forcing Mossville residents to move to make room for its new facility.

Fact: The property in Sasol's Voluntary Property Purchase Program (VPPP) area is land that Sasol neither needs nor wants. The Voluntary Property Purchase Program is just that – voluntary. No one in the VPPP area is being forced to move; in fact, many have chosen to stay. Sasol instituted the VPPP to give our near neighbors choices – choices they asked for.

Myth: Sasol is undervaluing Mossville properties.

Fact: The VPPP offers prices well above market value. Independent appraisers evaluated the properties and established fair prices by comparing the homes to recent sales in high-value areas of Calcasieu Parish. Offers on owner-occupied homes typically amount to the appraised value of the property plus 60 percent, with a minimum offer of \$100,000 plus 60 percent of the appraised value. Other allowances and bonuses are available to help ease the burden of relocation. All that said, we realize our offers will not make everyone happy.

Myth: Most Mossville residents are unhappy with Sasol's offers for their properties.

Fact: The program's results so far demonstrate that owners of eligible properties are embracing the VPPP. Perhaps that's because they asked for the program. They also had an opportunity to review the program and provide input prior to its launch. Many of the residents who accepted their offers describe the program as "a blessing."

Myth: Sasol is using heavy-handed tactics to force owners to sell.

Many Mossville residents who participated in the voluntary property purchase program would tell you just the opposite. The terms of the VPPP are easy to understand and transparent, and we've made significant effort to make the process as easy as possible. Honest, open communication and ethical practices are the hallmark of our engagement with our neighbors. If anyone believes they have been misled or mistreated, we are eager to speak with them and hear their concerns.

Myth: Sasol's refusal to negotiate with VPPP participants makes the process unfair.

Fact: In fact, the design of VPPP ensures the process is fair for all participants and does not provide an advantage to those with the ability to engage someone to negotiate on their behalf.

The process and formulas for determining property valuations are transparent and consistent for all properties. The same allowances and bonuses to help ease the burden of relocation are available to all participants.

Myth: Sasol is being greedy.

Fact: Sasol is spending tens of millions of dollars to purchase property we neither need nor want, at prices significantly above market value. And we're doing this simply because our neighbors asked us to. That is precisely the opposite of greed.

Myth: Sasol received more than \$100 million from the State of Louisiana to purchase property in Mossville.

Fact: Sasol has self-funded the purchase of the VPPP properties and will continue to do so. VPPP expenditures are not reimbursable by the state.

Sasol has a cooperative endeavor agreement with the State that would make us eligible for a performance-based grant of \$115 million. But it requires us to reach certain targets and milestones which we have yet to achieve. Even if we receive this grant, the monies can only be attributed to properties needed for project construction — not properties we do not need such as those within the Voluntary Property Purchase Program.

Myth: Sasol is buying the VPPP properties to establish a “buffer zone” for its project.

Fact: The project was designed with adequate buffer zone, so those VPPP properties are not needed for buffer. The VPPP properties are not needed for Sasol's project. None has been rezoned for industrial use, and Sasol has no plans to request that the properties be rezoned.

Myth: Sasol is ignoring the desires of the people of Mossville.

Fact: Just the opposite is true. Every program we've put in place in Mossville, including the VPPP, is a direct result of listening to and responding to the desires of Mossville residents. We continue to meet with Mossville residents regularly, listen to their questions and concerns, and do what we can to address them.

Myth: Sasol is trying to “greenwash” its image by paying a local museum to preserve Mossville's history.

Fact: That accusation is a weak, cynical and desperate attempt to turn a positive story into a negative. Mossville residents, who had seen their community change over the last several decades, asked Sasol for help in preserving Mossville's rich history. As always, our response was, “Let us see what we can do.” The result is an innovative oral history project led by the Imperial Calcasieu Museum and the world-renowned Harry T. Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University. Many Mossville residents are very excited about this project and have enthusiastically participated in its oral history days. In fact, several Mossville residents serve on the project's steering committee.

Myth: Sasol will destroy or restrict access to the historic Morning Star cemetery in Mossville.

Fact: Sasol's agreed with Calcasieu Parish requires Sasol to maintain access to all cemeteries in Mossville, and Sasol is honoring that agreement. And, Sasol has arranged for the cemetery to be cleaned up and maintained. Again, this was done at the request of community members.

Myth: The entire community of Mossville is displeased with Sasol.

Fact: Many, if not most, residents are pleased with what Sasol is doing in the local community, and we're regularly thanked for the positive difference we're making in the lives of local residents. The most vocal detractors are a small handful of property owners who want more money for their properties than the Voluntary Property Purchase Program design allows and mistakenly believe that spreading falsehoods about Sasol will help them achieve their objectives. They're supported by some activists from outside the community who are attempting to draw attention to their own causes. Together, these groups falsely claim to represent all of Mossville.

Myth: Sasol's approach in Mossville is rooted in racism against African-Americans and the apartheid past of Sasol's home country, South Africa.

Fact: That accusation and that comparison are false, offensive and not constructive to productive dialogue.