

Mr Jakob Stausholm, CEO Rio Tinto Plc
cc Sinead Kaufman, CEO Minerals, Rio Tinto



Dear Mr Stausholm,

8th August 2022

We are writing to thank you and Sinead for the meeting on 20th July, and we were grateful you welcomed to the meeting the Anosy diaspora representative Tahiry Ratsiambahotra, accompanied by the Andrew Lees Trust, in order to hear concerns and questions directly from affected community members in Anosy.

We attach the key points we raised at the meetings as a record and point of reference, also for the benefit of James Fitzgerald of the ACCR who was unable to attend.

We hear and understand the desire of Rio Tinto/QMM to focus on the future. At the same time, we believe it is important to confront the *causal roots* of “past” failures because these have delivered the current crisis, as well as a legacy of lost trust in QMM, and they risk to repeat into the future if lessons are not learned.

Our main concern is about what exactly is going to change? What is Rio Tinto’s path to resolution and who will deliver it? What steps are being taken, and when? These questions have been asked previously, and again in the January 13th 2022 meeting, following an impasse in the discussions with QMM through 2021.

Rio Tinto agreed to outline a process for resolving these questions (see attached minutes). The crisis that occurred just months later highlighted that QMM is no nearer to producing a viable plan. Rio Tinto therefore needs to be hands on and make solid commitments to advance solutions. Our hope is that this will now happen and create the much-needed change.

Beyond verbal assurances, we would like to see tangible steps, including serious expertise and *structural mechanisms* for change brought to QMM. More than a debate, we want to see a national water commission for ongoing audit of QMM water quality.

We also believe there is a compelling need for *independent and transparent verification processes and audit of QMM* on: dam safety; tailings management; water management; incremental exposure of radioactivity ¹; fish deaths; compensation/grievances – much of which was demanded of the Board and executive during the 2022 Rio Tinto AGMs.

We are committed to maintaining the dialogue and urge Rio Tinto to formalise, in a public statement, its commitments to addressing the outstanding and current issues at QMM.

We would welcome follow up within a reasonable time frame to assess progress, and we look forward to meeting you again.

Ketakandriana Rafitoson, Publish What You Pay Madagascar (PWYP MG)

Yvonne Orengo, Andrew Lees Trust (ALT UK)

¹ Swanson has highlighted that the JBS&G monitoring design may not generate data that can confidently be used to determine all incremental increases relative to background of radionuclides and other chemicals of concern (e.g., lead).

MEETING WITH RIO TINTO 20TH JULY 2022, RIO TINTO HQ LONDON

Participants - external:

- **Ketakandriana Rafitoson**, Publish What You Pay Madagascar (online)
- **Tahiry Ratsiambahotra**, Anosy Diaspora and community representative (in person)
- **Yvonne Orengo**, Director, Andrew Lees Trust – UK (in person)
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Participants (Rio Tinto and QMM):

- **Jakob Stausholm**, Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto
- **Sinead Kaufman**, Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto (Minerals)
- **Virginie Bahun**, External Affairs QMM
- **David Alexandre Tremblay**, GM QMM (online)
- **Kathryn Casson**, Community Relations, Rio Tinto (online)

Apologies: **James Fitzgerald**, ACCR (external)

Key points raised by PWYP MG, ALT UK and Anosy diaspora at the meeting with Rio Tinto regarding QMM:

1. QMM blaming and othering of village communities, and denigrating protestors has demonstrated a profound lack of compassion towards Anosy rural populations and recognition of the negative impacts of QMM's operations on their lives and daily needs.
2. QMM perceives itself to be the victim of the troubles/crisis, and thereby inverts the responsibility.
3. Lack of transparent reporting and sharing on social programme investments and outcomes undermines accountability of QMM's CSP /social programme.
4. 8778 complaints against QMM signifies the failure of QMM to manage community relations and rights for more than a decade.
5. QMM want to manage these complaints by offering work (for pay) as compensation for lost livelihoods instead of money (for usufructuaries in the first agreement), which is contrary to QMM's PGEF page 74 and the mining code art 129 ¹, and is perceived as a form of enslavement. This decision can trigger more grievances and would not uproot the crisis.
6. Water contamination issues are not resolved. Parties remain in conflict. Key issue: QMM unwillingness to admit there is a problem.
7. QMM "experiments" on local people with its technical /water solutions (e.g., the "passive" water management system and new aluminium pit treatment). No transparency or consultation with the population on the technical processes adopted.
8. The QMM "Roadmap" to resolution is premised on QMM's position that the mine has no negative impact ("*No negative impact on the environment has been observed nor proven*" QMM, 2022). This position is contested locally, nationally and internationally and offers no space for meaningful dialogue and transparency.

¹ Note: This is also in contravention of Rio Tinto's own CSP standards

9. Obfuscation, delay and continuous manipulation of the water contamination subject matter (including changing taxonomy and semantics) undermines resolution of technical issues and questions arising.
10. Lack of open and honest engagement on matters of concern to the population presents a threat to social cohesion and risks further conflict: always a gap remaining between what QMM wants people to believe and what the local community experiences and knows to be true.
11. The QMM Roadmap resembles previous QMM engagement plans. It promotes meetings but does not address what has failed in these and the overall QMM CSP approach over the last 20 years - consequently risks to repeat the same failures.
12. The advice since 2011 has been for QMM to engage a C4D/Comms and social engagement specialist to address multiple layers of CSP/comms failures. RT is investing in significant growth in its CSP function but does not include for this international level expertise at QMM.
13. RT has an opportunity to ensure new leadership at QMM. Also, to engage a new Head of Social Programme at QMM who can deliver real change.
14. A national Water Commission on QMM was promised by Rio Tinto (2019) and is urgently needed. The Commission should involve independent international as well as Malagasy experts and have mechanisms for all stakeholders to feed into discussion, engage in issues and benefit from transparent reporting and robust scientific analysis. The Commission should be ongoing i.e., through the life of the mine.
15. One off workshops and debates on the water issues/contamination science and related technical matters cannot address the complexity of the water and radioactivity issues.
16. In response to Mr Stausholm's question about QMM: it is agreed that from all perspectives that QMM cannot afford to fail in Anosy. Problems can be "fixed" but listening is not enough. In order to demonstrate that people have been *heard*, meaningful and appropriate action must be taken.

Precis of the 20th July meeting from QMM (Virginie Bahon, QMM, via email 29th July 2022):

Transparency, listening and acting, effective engagement and communications, admitting failure and addressing it seem to summarize accurately what we need to focus us to move forward.

Summary of key discussion points

- While the CSO parties all stated that it is in nobody's interest for QMM to fail, they shared that trust has been lost but 'things are fixable'
- Key issues raised:
 - Lack of effective engagement and communications with the communities
 - QMM not admitting that there are issues
 - Many promises not being kept
 - QMM failing against its CSP obligations / non-compliance with PGES
 - Lack of transparency on water management (e.g. water monitoring), and on investment in community development programs and their impact
 - Ongoing disjoint between scientific internal findings and external expert's (water quality and radiation)
- Moving forward
 - Continuous effective dialogue and communications with the communities. The strengthening of the CSP team is an opportunity to drive the change that is needed
 - Proposal to hold an open scientific dialogue / debate to discuss the various findings on water and radiation issues
 - QMM to be more transparent through sharing its plans and data in a way that is accessible to all