

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

Participants - external:

- **Ketakandriana Rafitoson**, Publish What You Pay Madagascar (online)
- **Tahiry Ratsimbahotra**, 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