

QMM statement on the LUSUD protests in June 2023

Everyone at Rio Tinto QMM is committed to fair, open and transparent dialogue with the people around our operations and we are determined to address their environmental concerns.

In the days following 26 June 2023, a series of violent and unlawful disruptions led by LUSUD targeted our operations and resulted in nearly 400 people being unable to return home for nearly a week. As a result of this disruption, Rio Tinto curtailed most activities at QMM, leaving only essential services such as the provision of power to Fort Dauphin. On 4 July 2023, following the intervention of the national and local authorities to bring about stability, QMM was able to resume operations.

QMM respects the right to protest in a safe and lawful way. However, the nature of this disruption, which included the visible presence of arms and dangerous weapons, threatened the welfare of our people and access to critical resources for the wider community. Recognizing that innocent people may have been affected by the disruptions led by LUSUD, and in line with our commitment to upholding human rights, we do not condone the use of violence in resolving disputes or managing tensions.

We are committed to working with our communities and their representatives, in an open and respectful manner, to understand concerns and find sustainable solutions. LUSUD had been invited to a panel discussion with local organizations (ROHY) on 5 - 6 June in Fort-Dauphin, although they declined our invitation. In early July, an association of traditional leaders from the Fort Dauphin area (FTAMAR) invited both LUSUD and QMM to participate in a facilitated dialogue following the disruptions, however, LUSUD did not attend. Our door remains open should LUSUD wish to join an inclusive dialogue.

QMM continues to engage in constructive dialogue with our host communities aimed at mitigating the impact of our operations while generating tangible and sustainable benefits for our host community members.

- Over the past 18 months, QMM has been undertaking an extensive grievance and compensation program with the Government and civil society to address concerns raised. This process has led to direct compensation from QMM to over 5,000 people.
- We acknowledge that there is significantly more we can do to positively impact livelihoods in the community affected by the mine. For that reason, as announced in December 2022, QMM has committed to invest US\$10m over three years on co-designed community projects. The planning for this is ongoing.
- In relation to transparency around water quality, QMM is working with the Government to ensure that information is available in the communities to address concerns. QMM will soon release the independent JBS&G report, which provides an independent assessment of radiation levels around the mine over a period of five-season cycles, taken between 2019 and 2022.
- The analysis concluded that over the five cycles, there were no measurable impacts to human beings or the environment via vectors such as water, food, dust, or soil. The full study, together with a summary, will soon be made publicly available.
- QMM continues to progress with the expansion of its water treatment plant which will provide reassurance that water released is compliant with the regulatory pH and Al limits.

Going forward, we are committed to having a positive and open dialogue with our host communities and stakeholders, and to building lasting relationships based on trust, safety, and mutual respect.

About QMM:

QMM is a world-class ilmenite mining project that continues to contribute to Madagascar through the employment of 2,000 people (98% Malagasy). Since 2005, QMM has invested over US \$1 billion in Madagascar, with US \$400 million invested in building shared infrastructure through public-private partnerships.