

QMM statement on LUSUD protests in 2023

Incident between LUSUD and Madagascar Police in October 2023

We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life following an incident between Madagascan Public Security Forces and local demonstrators on 20 October 2023 near QMM's operations in Mandena, Fort Dauphin, Madagascar.

In addition to a roadblock erected by demonstrators, Public Security Forces have confirmed that two people were taken hostage by the LUSUD protesters. Public Security Forces intervened to free the hostages, which led to a violent clash.

Our thoughts are with those who have been affected by this tragic incident.

Since 16 October 2023 when the LUSUD protestors first gathered, QMM has provided support to local authorities and traditional leaders to help find a safe and peaceful solution to this situation, with the safety and security of our people and host communities remaining our priority.

We remain committed to having a positive and open dialogue with our host communities and stakeholders, and to building strong relationships based on trust, safety, and mutual respect.

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.

What we are doing to address environmental concerns

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 undertaken 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 the livelihoods of our host communities. For that reason, as part of the fiscal agreement between the Government of

Madagascar and Rio Tinto announced in August 2023, QMM committed to increase support for local communities by doubling its annual contribution to fund programs of interest.

- In relation to transparency around water quality, QMM is working with the Government to ensure that information is available in our host communities to address concerns. QMM has released the independent community radiation study undertaken by JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd, which concluded that there is no need for heightened health concerns around local radiation levels. The analysis received on the five cycles covering various seasons from November 2019 to October 2022 showed that local food sources, water, air and dust are safe from a radiological perspective.
- 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 AI limits.

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.