

Geneva 19 October 2016

Honorable Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi
Vice President of Botswana
Private Bag 001, Gaborone
Botswana

Sent by email to op.registry@gov.bw; jramsay@gov.bw; botgen@bluewin.ch

IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Government of Botswana to reverse the decision to shut down Bamangwato Concessions Ltd (BCL) mine and Tati Nickel Mining Company mines

Dear Honorable Mr. Masisi,

I am writing this letter to you as the new General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), representing more than fifty million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries, in some 140 countries, including Botswana, to reiterate our call to the Government of Botswana to intervene immediately and reverse the decision to shut down the Bamangwato Concessions Ltd. (BCL) mine, and the Tati Nickel Mining Company mines. Please note that the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union.

On our previous letter to you, we had stressed the need for the Government of Botswana to greatly improve health and safety working conditions in the mine to put an end to the dismal number of preventable accidents in the workplace, which took the lives of 15 workers and many of them suffered serious injuries—some have become permanently incapacitated—in the last five years.

Furthermore, IndustriALL Global Union fully supported the call by the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) to the Government of Botswana to develop, with full participation of the union, and implement urgently a robust turnaround strategy for the BCL to become sustainable; avoid any job losses, or shafts closures; enforce, inter alia, the Mines, Quarries, Works and Machinery Act; implement the ILO Convention 176 on Health and Safety in Mines; and support the Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU) initiative.

IndustriALL Global Union finds the decision to close down the Bamangwato Concessions Ltd. (BCL) mine and Tati Nickel Mining Company mines unacceptable. In addition, we are highly disturbed by reports concerning the fate of the more than 5,000 workers, who were ordered out of the mine sites, and have apparently become unemployed.

Therefore, we are calling upon the Government of Botswana to intervene and reverse the decision to shut down the mines, and to ensure good faith engagement with the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU), including meaningful consultation that should result in the reversal of a decision, which has the potential to cause irreparable harm to Botswana's efforts to create much needed jobs, and develop a prosperous economy.

I anticipate your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union