

Geneva, 8 July 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 and fax: +267 390 4017

IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Government of Botswana to address working conditions at BCL mine

Dear Honorable Mr. Masisi,

I am writing this letter to you as 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 follow up on the letter you received on 5 July from the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU), which is affiliated to IndustriALL, to reiterate their call to the Government of Botswana to address urgently the appalling working conditions at the state-owned Bamangwato Concessions Ltd. (BCL) mine.

It is imperative that the Government of Botswana 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 have taken the lives of 15 workers and many of them have suffered serious injuries—some have become permanently incapacitated—in the last five years.

Furthermore, IndustriALL Global Union fully supports 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 reiterates its call to the Government of Botswana to involve the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) in the implementation of measures to ensure that adequate health and safety standards be put in place immediately to avoid any further preventable accidents at the BCL mine. It is equally important to include the union in the development of a plan for the Bamangwato Concessions Ltd. (BCL) mine to become economically viable but also to ensure job security of the workers.

I anticipate your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Jyrki Raina, General Secretary