



MiningWatch Canada

Mines Alerte

Suite 508, 250 City Centre Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 6K7
tel. (613) 569-3439 — fax: (613) 569-5138 — info@miningwatch.ca — www.miningwatch.ca

7 November, 2013

His Excellency Ambassador Bobby Mbunji Samakai
High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to Canada
High Commission of the Republic of Zambia
151 Slater Street, Suite 205
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3
Canada
e-mail: zhc.ottawa@bellnet.ca
tel.: 613-232-4400
fax: 613-232-4410

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of MiningWatch Canada, a non-profit agency with fourteen years' experience working to make Canadian mining companies accountable for their international activities, as well as working to regulate mining in Canada more effectively. I would like to communicate to you, and through you to the President and Government of the Republic of Zambia, our grave concerns over Canadian company First Quantum Minerals' Sentinel Project in Musele Kingdom, North Western Province.

We have seen far too many examples of communities around the world, including Canada, but especially in developing countries, whose lands, water supplies, livelihoods, and even lives are sacrificed to serve the interests of multinational corporations. Canadian companies dominate the mining sector, so this is of special concern to us – especially as the Canadian government takes no responsibility and has no legal or regulatory mechanisms to control this activity. The only Canadian law that applies to Canadian companies operating internationally is the anti-bribery *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act*, which suffers from under-resourced, and therefore ineffective, enforcement. Thus, concerned Canadians, like Zambians, have to rely on Zambian law and the independence, integrity, and fairness of your Government to ensure that Canadian companies are not permitted to bypass or evade their legal and ethical responsibilities.

You will be well aware that the primary interest of these corporations is to create “value” for their shareholders, and that they may not be entirely scrupulous about the means they use to do this. For example, MiningWatch was party to the complaint to the OECD regarding tax evasion by First Quantum (FQM) and Glencore at the Mopani operation, which helped bring that situation to public attention. We are under no illusions that the Sentinel Project is intended to benefit Zambia, much less the people of the Musele Kingdom, more than the company's management and

shareholders, and we are deeply concerned that in fact the communities will suffer serious losses in order to provide such benefits to the investors.

His Royal Highness Chief Musele and the Musele Task Team have been legally resisting FQM for more than three years now. Your government has imposed conditions on the company's permits, yet FQM has ignored every single condition set by the Zambian Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), which seems to be under the misapprehension that the Sentinel Project is still in an exploratory phase – while observers on the ground report that the mine is in fact well advanced into ramp-up and construction phases.

Severe impacts are inevitable if the project is allowed to proceed as planned. From what we know of FQM's planned development, some 30,000 people will lose their land and with it their ability to farm and sustain themselves. FQM will create at most 6,000 jobs, and few of these will go to local people. Most will go to migrant mineworkers. The people of the Musele Kingdom will be left destitute. One of the few remaining indigenous forests in Zambia will be destroyed. The rivers are already being dammed by FQM, and the communities' access to water and fish is being cut off. As has already happened elsewhere – in Zambia and around the world – the mining and processing of copper will lead to acid mine drainage and to radioactive waste and heavy metals polluting the ground and surface water. Smelting will bring acid deposition from sulphur dioxide emissions, and respiratory diseases will escalate.

With the greatest respect, I urge your Government to give the greatest consideration to the predicament of the people of Musele Kingdom and to proceed with the fullest precaution in considering this development project that has already caused considerable discord and stands to cause serious, extensive, and irreversible harm to the environment and the people of Musele Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Kneen
Africa Program Coordinator and Co-manager
MiningWatch Canada