

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



RWANDA MINES, PETROLEUM AND GAS BOARD

COVID-19 GUIDELINES IN THE MINING SECTOR

Reference made to the Ministry of Health's instructions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the existing health and safety guidelines in the mining sector, Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) would like to inform mining and quarry operators to act in accordance with the guidelines specifically observing the following:

I. Requirements to Mines and quarry owners:

- To put mechanisms in place to protect health and safety of the employees at the site.
- To put in place risk assessment mechanism to identify any risk or hazard to the safety and health in the mining activities.
- To provide all workers with PPEs and hygienic supplies.
- To put in place appropriate management mechanism to ensure that workers respect these guidelines and to communicate any risk or hazard.
- Inform health authorities in case of any problem that requires further assistance.
- Create awareness program for workers on COVID-19 and where necessary update with the latest available information provided ministry of Health.
- To put adequate ventilation in the tunnel/adits to avoid suffocation; every time the tunnel doesn't have enough air it can



cause the virus to remain inside the tunnel and this can spread the virus among the workers in case there is an infected person.

- De-densification of workers in the adit/tunnel or any other working place, put them into groups where needed, respecting the physical distancing of 1.5m.
- Seek medical help if any suspicious symptoms or other medical conditions are observed. You can call the toll free number 114.
- Use temperature test instrument to conduct temperature check to all workers reporting or leaving work.
- To isolate employees with an elevated temperature of $\geq 38^{\circ}$ C and call health worker for further assessment. Apart from elevated temperature, other covid19 symptoms include dry cough, difficulty breathing, and chest pain.
- To put in place tracing program by recording in the log book movements of all employees in the mine to ensure they do necessary movements and respect physical distancing of 2 m.
- To put in place an appropriate waste disposal for used facemasks.
- To provide a place where workers can keep, separately, their PPE to avoid any kind of contamination.
- To improve hygiene at the site, specifically bathrooms and toilets
- To put safety and hygiene signs to all designated areas.
- Keep the clothes and identifications of workers separately
- Companies with many workers should put in place mechanism to work in shifts as a way of enforcing social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus.
- To respect social distancing during staff meetings.
- To find an appropriate way to register people, you can designate one person to do the registration where necessary.
- To use water to get rid of the dust at the mine site.



II. Requirements to mine and quarry workers:

Wash hands

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.
- Remember to wash your hands when you arrive and when you leave work and your home.

Wear facemask

- Wear the facemask properly whenever you are at work or in the public place. When you are in the mine you should wear a mining face mask. One facemask must be properly used as required and should be disposed in a designated bin.
- Workers are not allowed to touch each other when greeting, they can wave at each other instead.

Stay home when you don't have work or when you are sick

- Avoid unnecessary movements when you don't have work or when you are sick, unless you are going to buy medicaments, food or other essentials.
- Immediately inform supervisor in case any co-worker shows COVID-19 suspicious symptoms.

Wear PPEs

- Every worker must wear PPEs including helmet, coverall, boots etc.
- Workers should leave the PPEs at the site and wear usual clothes so they don't infect people at home.



Apply social distancing

- If you are at work, apply social distancing of 1.5 meters to avoid contamination.
- Avoid the sharing of mining equipment, keep them separate if possible and put tags to indicate the users.

NB: Mining and quarrying companies are all requested to act in accordance with these guidelines.

Francis GATARE

Chief Executive Officer / Cabinet Member

