

REWU MAGAZINE

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REWU, World Vision meet Southern Province Governor to interact on Child Protection campaign and other issues

REWU distributes Mattresses to Rutongo Mining Workers



As part of “RYAMA HEZA MUCUKUZI” program, on Monday, March 8th, 2021, in Rulindo District at Rutongo Mines Ltd, an event was held to provide mattresses to 106 mining Workers which will be paid in four instalments.

It is an initiative of Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) in collaboration with the Rutongo Mines Ltd as well as RWANDAFOAM Ltd.

The event was graced by the Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs in Rulindo District, Marie Claire Gasanganwa, REWU Deputy Secretary General, Bwanakweli Jean Marie, REWU Eastern-Northern

Regional Coordinator Musabyimana Deogratias, Kevin Buyskes, the General Manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd, Executive Secretary of Masoro Sector, Workers and their representatives among others.

The mattresses valued at Rwf 7,585,100 were given to 106 employees who are REWU Trade union members and will pay in instalments over a period of four months.

Each employee has a contract with the company or subcontractor where modalities of payment are agreed upon.

Mattresses and other necessary equipment are

often given to miners through a joint agreement between REWU as a trade union representative of mining and quarry workers, the company whom they are serving and the suppliers so that Workers get any type of necessity which they will gradually pay

In his remarks, REWU Deputy Secretary General Mr. Bwanakweli Jean Marie began by explaining the mission of REWU and how the union arrived at Rutongo Mines where he explained that although it was not easy at that moment, Nowadays the Rutongo Mines Ltd is working well with the REWU.

Mr. Bwanakweli said that “REWU’s activities are in line with the Government of Rwanda’s programs. When we offer these mattresses, we aim to change the mindset of miners where they make money but do not achieve Development because some of them, they mostly spend their salaries on alcohol.”

Mattresses distributed to mining workers are part of REWU’s RYAMA HEZA MUCUKUZI program

“We want to change their mindset regarding participation in their own development. REWU is not here to talk about laws only, we also seek the wellbeing of miners and that how we came to the conclusion that we can put up a scheme where we connect miners to potential suppliers who can provide them with necessities such as solar energy, bicycles, mattresses and we are currently looking for a partner who can give them iron sheets that they can pay gradually.”

Bwanakweli said.

The Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs in Rulindo District, Marie Claire Gasanganwa commended the existing partnership between the involved parties adding that “this indicates that this initiative is supporting Government programs.”

“It’s unfortunate that someone is making money from hard work and you find him sleeping on a bad bed,” she said.

“I’m really grateful you received these mattresses on Women’s (8th March). This means that today your wives are going to sleep well.

“Imagine to have a lovely wife that you’ve done whatever possible to win her heart and you end up sleeping in a dirty bed!”

She encouraged Mining workers to take part in solving this great task: “One of the things you

and other people can do is keep up working for your development on the family level and the National level”.

Mr. Kevin Buyskes, the General Manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd reminded that on the same day when the World was celebrating the International Women’s Day, the company has also distributed other gifts to women workers as part of showing the company’s support to them. “And now we have mattresses! This is crazy! (laughter)” Mr. Kevin Buyskes said.

“This is a very good initiative to arrange mattresses for our people, at the end of the day if you have to work hard during day hours you must sleep well at night.

So, the concept of sending mattresses is a very good idea, I certainly urge that each one of you must make good use of mattresses and that can give you the strength to work hard next time.” Mr. Kevin told mattresses beneficiaries.

PICTORIAL OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATTRESSES- RUTONGO MINE Ltd



Gicumbi District Mayor joins REWU to hand over mattresses to 117 mine Workers of UH Mining Company



On March 23, 2021, the Mayor of Gicumbi District Mr. Ndayambaje Felix accompanied by various officials including representatives of the Mining workers trade Union visited UH Mining Company to jointly eyewitness the activities of 'that company, the welfare of the mine workers, challenges and the role of that company in the development of the Community.

Mr. Ndayambaje Felix was accompanied by the Secretary General of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, the Coordinator of REWU in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, Mr. Musabyimana Deogratias, Executive Secretary of Ruvune sector Mr. Ngezahumuremyi Theoneste, the Managing Director of UH Mining which operates in Ruvune Sector, Madam Uzayisenga Odette and her staff.

They witnessed development activities conducted by the UH Mining Company, among them is the construction of a road that links the community and Mining site as well.

Among the challenges addressed to the Mayor, there is a lack of Electricity at the mining site which affects the company's productivity.

The mayor praised the courage of the workers and the management of the mine, assuring them of their support and advocacy so that the mine will be connected to the Electricity grid.

After visiting the mine, the mayor of Gicumbi District, along with his companion, continue with REWU in handing over the mattresses to UH mining workers.

The mattresses were handed over to the 117 workers in collaboration with Rwanda foam Ltd and they will be paid in three months instalments as mentioned in the agreements.

In his speech, the Secretary General of REWU, Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, praised the cooperation between REWU and the mine management noting that the existing cooperation supports the welfare of the workers to whom also he promised a continuous advocacy as enshrined in the mission of the workers Trade Union.

The Guest honour, Mr. Ndayambaje Felix, Mayor of Gicumbi District, also commended the partnership and good cooperation between REWU and Gicumbi district as well as UH Mining in improving the welfare of the Mining workers, and urged the latter to not only buy the mattresses but also contribute in social security.

He reminded them to contribute their savings in the EJO HEZA Program.



Rulindo: REWU continues to deliver mattresses to Mining workers at ETI Nyakabingo

On Thursday, March 25, 2021, the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) continued the delivery of mattresses to mining workers at Euro Trade International (ETI) Nyakabingo which operates in Rulindo District, Northern Province of Rwanda.

On behalf of the staff, the President of ETI Nyakabingo Mining Workers Trade Union, Mr. Hategekimana Isaie expressed gratitude to REWU and the management of the company for their unwavering commitment

to the living conditions of workers which are getting better.

On behalf of REWU, the Coordinator for the Eastern and Northern Province Comrade Musabyimana Deogratias called on the workers to continue their efforts to increase the productivity of the company they work for while at the same time keep promoting dialogues in solving problems that may arise

between employees and their employer.

Musabyimana reminds them to put more effort into saving for the future adding that they must work hard in order to boost the economy of their families.

The mattresses they received are 143 valued at Rwf 6,270,570 and will be paid over a period of 3 months.



Successful Training of REWU Volunteers on Child Protection and Workers Rights

ESE HABAHO INGARUKA MBI ZO GUKORESHA UMWANA IMIRIMO IBUJIJWE?



World Vision
RWANDA



Umwana wakoreshesjwe imirimo ibujijwe ahura n'ingaruka zitandukanye harimo izi zikurikira:

- Imvune zitewe n'imirimo ibujijwe ku bana ,
- Kwitwara nk'abantu bakuru (gukura imburagihe),
- Guta ishuri, Guteshwa agaciro (kwamburwa, kwishyurwa bike ugereranyije n'imirimo yakoze, ibitutsi n'ibindi)
- Izo ngaruka zose zishobora no kumutera agahinda gahoraho



Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union



@RewuRwanda

Preamble

The Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) is a union of mining and quarrying workers established in 2014. On one hand, REWU acts as a channel through which workers or union members pass their ideas, problems and aspirations related to work in order to improve their well-being and on another hand has a duty of working with members, community and leaders at all levels to combat any form of child abuse and domestic violence.

There are 4 reasons why REWU was established

1. Advocacy for Labour Rights

When mining and quarrying was becoming one of the most lucrative activities in our country, the number of workers in the country increased significantly, while a big number of them was deprived their rights to remuneration because they were considered not productive, which in turn had a negative impact on their livelihoods since the rights of the employee

were not properly respected,

2. Promotion of Saving Culture

Within the same framework, those who were to be paid, had to receive their salaries in hands, which in return results into failure to save and based on such circumstances, REWU started mobilization campaign on developing saving culture among the industry workers while at the same time sensitizing employers to pay salaries via the financial institutions.

3. Promotion of Rights of Women and Children in Mining and Quarrying Industry

Since the Mining guidelines prohibited children from reaching mines and quarries, it was disadvantageous to pregnant women or those with children because they had to hide that they are pregnant or have children in order to stay at work and that put them (Women and Children) at risk.

It would be a job to earn a living but still violate the rights of the child and the parent. Therefore, after realising all of those issues REWU started campaigning for the Establishment of ECDs near mines and queries where children are cared for while parents are safely continuing the job.



4. Campaigning against Child labour

Children under the age of 18 also dropped out of school and came to look for work in mines and quarries that had no legal documents, and this is where REWU also decided to put more focus in order to campaign against Child labour.

In this regard, REWU has entered into the partnership with World Vision Rwanda through 'It Takes Every Rwandan' campaign whose priorities will be to, among others, ensure that child labour and sexual abuse cases are highlighted and punished by law as required; and to advocate for an end to this kind of violence across the nation.

The 'It Takes Every Rwandan' campaign, thus, aligns with and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to "end the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children".

The campaign will be held in schools and communities to encourage them to take action against these wrongdoings that are detrimental to the health and rights of the children.



anytime they meet similar cases in their respective area.

Volunteers urged to be vigilant

On the First day of the training, also IP Rutayisire Aimable in charge of community policing in Karongi District, urged the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) Volunteers to be vigilant and provide timely information on suspected cases of Child sexual abuse as well as cases of hard labour in which children are involved.

IP Rutayisire said, "With REWU and World Vision, we will work with these REWU volunteers to provide timely information, suspects will be brought to justice to end child abuse and child labor."

At the same day, Karongi and Rutsiro Labor Inspector Frederic Mpumuro said: "Law and political will is there."

He went on to say that parents should uphold parental values and learn to care for their children and to respect their rights.

REWU VOLUNTEERS Engagement:

Normally, Volunteers Leaders of REWU are based in the companies where their daily works are performed. However, we have thought about having active volunteers among community in order to facilitate the smooth running of REWU activities as highlighted in the 4 reasons why REWU was established.

Those volunteers are the focal person at community level and REWU has to ensure that they possess required skills to handle their tasks as enshrined in REWU mandates.

Training Offers to upscale skills in Child Protection and Workers Rights

From March 18th to 19th, 2021, the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union Volunteers in the Western and Southern Provinces were trained on fight against all forms of child labour child Sexual abuse and Workers rights in order to be able to fully campaign against the above-mentioned issues in their respective areas of the assignments. The training which took place in Karongi District, Western Province was held in partnership with World Vision Rwanda.

At the official opening of the training, the World Vision manager of the Kivu Cluster Mrs. Kellen commended the organization of the training adding that trainees should make child protection the priority.

She urged them to invest more efforts in the campaign so that local community actively play their role in this fight against Child labour and Child Sexual abuse. After the official opening of the training, Mrs. Kellen wishes them all the best throughout the training.

Why the training of volunteers?

Commenting on the training, the Secretary General of REWU, Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, said, "It is a training for REWU volunteers from the West and South Provinces. They are being trained on child protection, Role of REWU Trade Union to advocate and protect children and its responsibilities in matters of labour law enforcement."

He says the reason why these volunteers are trained is that they will go to train children's committees in cells and sectors and therefore they are being trained by child protection experts from World Vision Rwanda as well as labor inspector from Rutsiro – Karongi districts.

Labor inspector made emphasis on different violence in relation to child labor and call upon the REWU volunteers to share information with authorities



"Because we have lost our culture, how can you, as a parent, enjoy the money of which the child brings you and you are the one who is responsible for raising and nurturing him or her?" Mr. Mpumuro warned parents who don't care for their children to the point they are happy to be fed by the money the child has received from the bad deeds such as rape or forced labor. "We want to tell parents and employers that child labor is punishable by law, and that if they do not comply, they will be punished by the law." He added

During the two hours, the participants joined in groups to exchange views on the issues raised in order to find together solutions in the fight against child abuse and the elimination of child labor.

On the last day of the training, trainees were explained the importance of Trade Union, Labour Law and International Labour Convention No. 182 on child labour and Convention No. 190 on the elimination of labour-based violence.

The subjects were tackled on 19th March 2020 in Karongi District where the training workshop took place.

Hobess NKUNDIMANA, INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT ON LABOR RIGHTS, told participants in the training that being in the trade union allows an employee to have a say in advocating for his or her rights and advocating for work-related issues.



“The hand of the employee who is in the union is always arisen to demand that the rights of the employee be respected,” he said.

Remember that the two-days’ workshop which ended on Friday, March 19, 2021 was organized by REWU in collaboration with World Vision Rwanda.

Its main purpose was to discuss the rights of the child and to find together what can be done to protect the child from sexual abuse as well as from the child labour.

Of course, the training was also part of equipping REWU volunteers with knowledge on the labour law so that once they reach the community, they can train them using that knowledge they have gained from the workshop.

REWU Secretary General. Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre says they are optimistic that the trainees are going to implement what they have been taught, especially in the prevention of child abuse and the prevention of child labor.

“Over the past two days, REWU volunteers have been able to learn a lot on the child protection, Labor Law, the International Labor conventions, and in particular this was to help them better understand their role in the campaign to protect children from child labor and sexual abuse.” He said

Concluding the workshop on behalf of the Mayor of Karongi District, Mr. Karasanyi Nicola, the in charge of Karongi District Council, thanked REWU and World Vision for organizing the workshop adding that the rights of children should be respected by every Rwandan.

He called on the trainees to actively bring solutions in the protection of the child from any form of abuse and assured REWU and World Vision of cooperation in helping them achieve their mission.

REWU, World Vision meet Southern Province Governor to interact on Child Protection campaign and other issues



On February 17, 2021, officials from Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) and the World Vision Representative in Huye and Gisagara districts met with the Governor of the Southern Province, Kayitesi Alice to discuss the ongoing campaign on child protection, the role of REWU trade union in improving employment and professionalism in mining companies specifically in the Southern Province.

During the meeting, the Southern Province Governor commends the Work of REWU and World Vision towards the wellbeing of Children through the campaign that are jointly conducted by the two institutions in close collaboration with local leaders as well as local communities.

REWU has entered into the partnership with World Vision Rwanda through 'It Takes Every Rwandan' campaign whose priorities will be to, among others, ensure that child labour and sexual abuse cases are highlighted and punished by law as required; and to advocate for an end to this kind of violence across the nation.

The 'It Takes Every Rwandan' campaign, thus, aligns with and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to "end the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children".

Mutsindashyaka Andre, the Secretary General of REWU, explains that REWU has partnered with World Vision in that campaign mainly based on the fact that REWU was established as a trade union for the rights of the miners, while in this sector there were also a high incidence of child abuse and forced labour which led to cases of School dropout among other consequences.

He added that the campaign is going on in different parts of the country where there are currently setting up Child Protection Clubs in schools in order to prepare children to become activists for their own rights as well as acting as a voice against any form of child abuse.

"There is a lot that will continue to be done in this campaign among them are reaching many children through various training and integration in Child Protection Clubs," Mutsindashyaka said.

"But this also requires the involvement of everyone from the community to the Leaders. That's why we meet on a regular basis with the government agencies to help us to make the campaign a success and

achieve its goal." Mutsindashyaka added.

According to World Vision, the overall goal of the It Takes Every Rwandan campaign is to contribute to increased protection of children from child labour and sexual abuse by 2022.



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**RWANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY
WORKERS UNION**

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**Despite the beginning of
the year in the face of the COVID 19 epidemic,
mining workers are required to
work hard to increase productivity and at the
same time employers must respect
the rights of miners so that by end of the year
2021 we celebrate the
achievements we will make.**

Together we can

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