

REWU MAGAZINE

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The INTERVIEW



**Why Rwanda
mining registered
record growth
despite Covid-19**

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Message from the Secretary General



First of all, I would like to send my warm greetings to all of you readers of REWU Magazine.

In this fourth issue, we would like to share with you the work of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union as well as other information on the Sector's performance during COVID 19.

It is true that although our country has continued to suffer from the COVID 19 effects, every effort has been made in the field of mining to ensure that production is not disturbed by the effects of the pandemic.

On the other hand, if there was not everyone's involvement, the results would not have been possible.

Let us be very grateful to the miners who are always working hard to achieve high productivity.

REWU has vowed to continue to advocate for them to address the issues they face. We will also continue to strive for their well-being through innovative approaches that will lead to more positive results.

Thank you, Enjoy the read.

Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre
SG

ABOUT REWU

Executive Summary

REWU is a Rwandan Extractive industry Workers Union, which is organizing all workers in Mining, Quarry Companies and cooperatives in Rwanda since 2014 and has a sounding experience in social dialogue with mine and quarry companies owners as well as to organize, mobilize and sensitize their employees. This sector employs around 120,000 workers.

Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) is affiliated to CESTRAR (Central de Syndicats des Travailleurs au Rwanda) and National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) at national level, to the COSOC – GL ”coalition des organisations de la société civile luttant contre l’exploitation illégale des ressources naturelles dans la Région des Grand Lacs” (COSOC-GL), it is also an affiliate at international level to the IndustriALL Global Union, and to the Building Wood Workers International Union (BWI);

REWU is a key partner of Ministry of public services and labor (MIFOTRA), Rwanda mines, petroleum and gas board (RMB), Provinces and Districts in local government; Rwanda Mining Association (RMA) and Rwanda Quarry Association (RQA) as employers professional organizations in mining sector.

REWU was published in Rwanda Official Gazette No. 49 Bis of 08/12/2014.

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 the another hand it has a duty of working with members, community and leaders at all levels to combat any form of child abuse and domestic violence.

2. There are 4 reasons why REWU was established

2. 1. Making Advocacy for Labour Rights, safety and health at working place

When mining and quarry 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 from their rights to remuneration because they were considered not productive, informal employees without contracts nor social security protection to RSSB, many death at working place due to accident and insufficiency of occupational safety and health at work place, etc....which in return had a negative impact on their livelihoods since the rights of the employees were not properly respected,

2. 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 by sensitizing employers to pay salaries via the financial institutions.

2. 3. Promotion of Rights of Women and Children in Mining and Quarry Industry

Since the Mining guidelines prohibiting children from reaching mines and quarries, it was detrimental to pregnant women or those with children, 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 because 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 sites where children are taken care while parents are safely continuing the job.

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.

Some children accompany their parents mostly in quarries in order to increase the production for getting more money as family, and other children are looking after the babies in the quarries, sugar cane, cross border business, road business, etc.... REWU fights for eliminating those kinds of job employed to the children.

Objectives

- Bring together workers in areas of extractive industry and related activities to better defend their socio-professional interests;
- Maintain and develop, among the extractive workers, unity and solidarity
- Represent its members and defend their interests with their respective employers and associations of the latter, with different partners, public administration and the judiciary;
- Contribute to all decisions concerning extractive workers and their families;
- Fight against worst form child labor;
- Ensure strict enforcement of social legislation and respect of collective agreements;
- Work towards the promotion of democracy and social justice within companies
- Promote and develop socio-economic actions to improve the welfare of extractive workers
- Ensure participation of all extractive workers in business management and planning studies to improve their professional awareness and encourage improved performance for high productivity.

Our Mission

REWU’s mission is to privilege ways to bring together workers of extractive industry, to defend their interests and living in good conditions.

Our Vision

REWU’s vision is to empower workers and their families, and make them benefit from mining fruits by improving the quality of their lives along with contributing to the attainment of social justice and sustainable development in an atmosphere of democracy and solidarity.

Why Rwanda mining registered record growth despite Covid-19

Despite production disruptions, Rwanda’s mining sector export revenues grew up to \$730 million, against an initial target of \$600 million last year, according to official data from the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board.

The development, according to the board, is impressive looking at the challenges the 60,000-member sector faced as the world battled the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020.

The sector is the second-largest export revenue earner in the country, just behind tourism. However, experts believe that the sector needs accelerated production to drive the country’s economic recovery in the medium term.

Much as Rwanda seeks to become a regional mineral hub for processing and trading, the Covid-19 crisis remains, in many ways, unprecedented.

While governments work together in search of therapies and vaccines, the ongoing impact on the mining sector remains uncertain. Reports suggest that it will have long-term ramifications, and that the industry must continue to adjust to the evolving reality.

The New Times’ Edwin Ashimwe spoke to the RMB Chief Operating Officer, Ivan Twagirashema to get a pulse on how Covid-19 is affecting demand for commodities, supply chains and operating models.

Excerpts:

Would you like to start by giving a brief update of the sector, especially following a major setback in operations due to Covid-19 restrictions?

Mining is a very important sector for a country’s economy. It is one of the major export revenue earners. 2020 was very challenging but in the end it turned out better than expected.

Export revenues grew up to seven hundred and thirty-three million dollars (\$733M) which is impressive looking at the challenges the mining sector faced.

Production also increased despite mineral price fluctuations at the international market, but in the end, there was a silver lining around Covid-19 particularly in the second half of 2020 when some sections of the international economy resumed operations.

Speaking of the profits recorded, what were the main contributors?

The nature of Rwanda’s mining sector was an advantage because small to medium

operations were eager enough to rebound in operations and supply the minerals required to the international market when others were shutting down.

There is no doubt that the mining sector continues to play a significant role in the country’s economic recovery through import of foreign capital (Foreign Direct Investment), royalty tax, export revenue and job creation (currently the mining sector is employing over 60,000 people which is a good number and we are targeting to increase it).

To get productivity to increase, there was a plan to identify new measures that could be put in place to have additional momentum in the sector. What are some of the identified measures?

Some of the reforms put in place include streamlining the nature of licenses and acquisition of licenses.

We created new licenses that did not exist before, particularly those that are focused on processing and value addition but also we delineated exploration and mining licenses, creating small scale licenses, medium scale licenses, and large scale licenses.

Through this, we can differentiate

requirements for them so that we can create space for everyone who is keen to invest in the value chain mining sector.

There are also a number of initiatives created especially tax incentives that are associated with input and investment in equipment since we know that to professionalise the mining sector we need to invest in modern mining equipment, new technologies and knowledge.

We introduced reforms geared towards incentivizing companies to go into mineral exploration because we know exploration is considered as a high-risk business and the investor does not make profit during exploration, but the Government has given a 10-year tax carry-forward period for any expenses that are incurred during exploration phase so that they can be recovered when production starts.

Another reform is putting effort in mineral diversification which is why we have been looking for new minerals particularly gold, gemstones, and some new discoveries being made in beryllium, Lithium and associated battery minerals.

Lastly, consolidation of potential but scattered small scale mining licenses into a big bloc for which the government can find



*RMB Chief Operating Officer,
Ivan Twagirashema*

capable investors to operate with locals to boost production.	and modern machinery where the circumstances do not allow labor intensive was also a lesson learnt.	in different mining areas and resumed to their normality in terms of productions and employment.
What are some of the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic?	But even before the pandemic we had already started working on building local capacities.	This was mainly stimulated by a good trend of mineral prices on the International market.
In general, Covid-19 has left lessons of building local capabilities in different areas and the mining sector is no exception.	There are already mining schools both in the University of Rwanda and IPRCs. We are also engaging investors to invest in local production of mining equipment among other solutions. So, it’s just a matter of time.	What do you bank on for the optimism of post Covid recovery?
Local industrialisation for local supply of mining consumables such mining equipment and explosives is a key resilient strategy to focus.	What would you say is the current state of resumption, in terms of activities in various companies? And how does this reflect the potential in recovery?	There is hope because when you look at the international mineral market trend, you can notice a significant increase of 3Ts prices.
Strengthening local capacities is another solution in dealing with shortage of foreign investment.	Apart from a few sectors that are still in lockdown, mining activities have resumed	3Ts prices have increased to above 30% since January. This is good news for a country like Rwanda that is among top producers of 3Ts.
The introduction of new mining technologies		Rwanda is also investing in value addition which is a good strategy to deal with mineral price fluctuation.

REWU urges parents to provide children with values that will lead to the “Rwanda we want” and the “Africa we want”



PHOTOS CREDIT: World Vision Rwanda

During the celebration of Day of the African Child, the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) has called on parents to give their children the values they deserve since the better they will provide them with needed values the better we will achieve the desired Rwanda and Africa.

The annual Day of African Child is celebrated on June 16, and in Rwanda the day is celebrated under the Kinyarwanda theme “Isibo, igicumbi cy’imikurire myiza y’umwana” roughly translated as “Isibo, as a pivot to the child development” to inspire a reflection within Isibo residents towards their role and responsibilities in child development and protection, with a focus on preventing and eliminating all forms of child

malnutrition, while promoting child’s growth and development within the households.

Isibo is the lowest level of local administration in Rwanda.

In an interview with Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, the Secretary General of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU), explained that joining the World and Africa in particular to celebrate the Day of the African

malnutrition, while promoting child’s growth and development within the households.

Isibo is the lowest level of local administration in Rwanda.

In an interview with Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, the Secretary General of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU), explained that joining the World and Africa in particular to celebrate the Day of the African Child is mainly aimed at emphasizing that the child should be more protected because he or she is the future of Africa and that the child is the foundation of everything.

Mutsindashyaka said, “Today we are in 2021 but we have a vision for 2063. Africa has this vision. The people who will get there (2063) today are children. That’s why we need this child to be cared for, educated and given values that will lead him/her towards the good future “

“Especially as here in Rwanda we say that our child should have Rwandan values, be patriots, know how to take care of work, know the responsibilities of respecting parents and those who live with them, and go to school to maximize the knowledge,” Mutsindashyaka said adding that “this will enable him/her to gain the knowledge that will sustain him and that child is also one of the descendants of the future family. The child who is trained with these good values will be the future of the family for Rwanda and for Africa.”

REWU and World Vision on Combating Child sexual Abuse and Use of Children in Prohibited Labor

Eng. Mustindashyaka noted “Like us at REWU, this year we are in a campaign together with the World Vision Rwanda, a campaign with the theme” It takes Everyone’s role to fight against child sexual abuse and child labour, “

The campaign was launched last year with the aim of eradicating any form of violence against children, and ensuring the full rights of the children are observed.

“During this campaign, we saw a number of problems where a 14-, 15-, 16-year-old child has given birth,” he said. “You will find that the child is denied his or her rights at an early age, where he or she fails to attend school due to untimely pregnancies and that leads her to assume the parental responsibility at an early age.” Explained Mutsindashyaka

“In most cases, you will find that the perpetrator who abuses a child is someone who knew her in a village, a neighbor, who should have been the one to protect the child from violence.” So, we have opposed such wrongdoings and we are still fighting against abusers in partnership with World Vision, the government and community to end this problem.” Mutsindashyaka said.

Despite the effects of COVID 19 on the campaign, Eng. Mutsindashyaka explains that in the provinces where the campaign is taking place which are the Southern and Western Provinces, so far they would have been able to meet over 222,000 young children, who are in primary school, which means they are under 18 years of age.



Eng. Andre Mutsindashyaka, Secretary General of REWU

“We put them in Clubs at every School where they are helped to understand sexual abuse and other forms of child’s rights violation and how to fight against such violence so that the child is able to identify tricks of the person who starts calling him or her, who starts to approach him or her and seduces him or her and in that case she/he can realize that he or she begins to approach a violence,” He explains

“When they are in their Clubs at schools, they are given this knowledge to understand the signs of violence and to avoid it. In these clubs, they also talk, share the message with others, even helping their parents to understand the violence.” added the same source.

The Club is made up of about 30 children and other adults at the School Center.

These Clubs are also the ones that are used throughout the School Center so that in the coming years, once a child realizes his or her rights, he or she will see his or her partner being abused, will stand up, call the police, call the RIB, tell the nearest leader so they can prevent that abuse, explains the Secretary General of REWU.

REWU in advocacy for the construction of ECDs in the Mining Area

Apart from fighting against sexual abuse and other forms of violence against children, REWU also is advocating for women parents who work in the extractive Industry in order to be able to have decent places where the children can be taken care when the mother is at the mine for instance.

There are also some children involved in the sugarcane business, as well as children working in quarries, children who are taken to the workplace to take care of their little brothers or little sisters, and in this case, you can see where a two-year-old child is taken to workplace to take care of her/his little sibling so a mother can be able to make a living.

“That’s not fair, the kids have to go to school, the others have to be taken care of in a safe environment,” Mutsindashyaka said.

In this regard, the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) is in talks with various partners to see how to set up child care centers commonly known as ECDs especially at the Mining site so that parents can find a safe place to leave their children while they are at work.

“So, it is only right that we all stand up as Rwandans, all of us stand up as Africans to have a child who has an education, values, culture, which will help us build the future we want in Africa,” Mutsindashyaka said.

Based on the Continental theme of the Day of African child which is ““30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children”, it is clear that the children of this continent are valued and therefore should be given their rights, protected from violence and other potential obstacles to their development.

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Committee), established under Articles 32 and 33 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Charter) selected this theme for the commemoration of the DAC in 2021.

The development of Mining Workers shall sustain Rwanda Mining Development pace



Miners in Rwanda believe that over the past 27 years, the sector has made significant strides, but there is still much to be done to ensure that the sector continues to play a key role in the country's development.

Kamugwera Vestine has been in mining for more than 20 years. She testified that in the last 27 years the Rwandan mining sector has reached an unprecedented pace.

In an interview with Rwanda Broadcasting Agency, Kamugwera said: "The mining sector in Rwanda has reached another stage" adding that mining activities are currently being carried out at an advanced level than ever before.

"And this is due to the fact that as the years go by, so does the country's development." She said,

Like others interviewed by the RBA in a news report on Friday, August 13, 2021, they testify that mining in Rwanda is moving from traditional to modern.

Ngabonziza Vedaste, who also works in the profession, says: "Now we use machines."

The development of the mining sector in Rwanda is also evidenced by the continued growth of the sector.

Statistics from the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board show that as of the year 2009 the mining revenue was \$ 55 million, in 2010 it was \$ 71 million, in 2017 it was \$ 373 million, in 2019 it was \$ 412 million, and in 2020 it was \$ 733 million.

Mining in Rwanda was started by foreigners in the 1930s, but has now expanded to more than 250 locations in the country.

On the other hand, although the mining sector is making exciting strides, there is still much to be addressed in order to continue to develop the mining industry.

These include the fact that so far the lack of a minimum wage for workers in Rwanda is a major obstacle for those working in this field as it is often the case that to be paid requires that you first identify the minerals you have extracted and yet to it is difficult to believe that whenever you are inside the mine you will get the minerals.

The Secretary General of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU), Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre explains that "When we demand the establishment of a basic wage law in Rwanda, we want those who work in the mines to be protected by the law,"

"Imagine that a mining worker has spent 7 hours inside the mine and he didn't get minerals. In this case he is not going to be paid because he brings nothing. So the basic salary will fill that void so that workers are paid the minimum wage even if they have not been able to reach the minerals. "

REWU participation in CESTRAR-Trade unions meeting to discuss Workers Rights in Informal sector

A one-day meeting organized by CESTRAR- Confederation of Trade Unions in Rwanda was held on August 27, 2021 at the Classic Hotel in Kigali to discuss with representatives of various unions on the steps to be taken to encourage more informal sector workers to join the Trade unions and how the employee should behave, especially in terms of social security.

The meeting also highlights the lesson learnt from COVID 19 especially for those who have no saving culture.

Trade union representatives have been urged to sensitize people to get rid of the habit of being paid by hand because money when transferred through bank accounts can be effectively managed.

REWU was represented by Eastern and Northern Coordinator Mr. Musabyimana Deogratias

In an interview with Musabyimana, he said: “during the meeting we discussed what needs to be done to get those working in the informal sector to join the trade union because it makes it easier for advocacy services.



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CHILD PROTECTION

World Vision launches ‘It takes every Rwandan’ child protection campaign in Eastern province



Nyagatare, 14th April 2021, World Vision Rwanda launched its child protection campaign, dubbed ‘It takes every Rwandan’ (ITER) in Nyagatare district in the Eastern Province in an effort to collaborate with the region’s stakeholders to end all forms of violence against children.

The ITER campaign, which is intended to harness efforts to increase protection of children against child labour and child sexual abuse, has so far reached over 190,000 people, including parents, children and local leaders, with training on child protection.

World Vision Rwanda launched the campaign in 2018 in close collaboration and partnership with government institutions such as the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), National Child Development Agency (NCDA), Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), MINALOC among others.

Speaking to the stakeholders at the provincial launch of the ITER campaign, World Vision Rwanda’s National Director, Mr. Sean Kerrigan said that the campaign provides a platform for people to be aware of children’s rights and the violations that occur against them. “We hope to maintain an open dialogue about ways we can all

speak up and take part in ending violence against children” he said.

“Child wellbeing and child protection is fundamental in all our interventions and we work to ensure all children experience life in its fullness” said Sean.

Part of the activities under the ITER campaign involve working with children in schools and in the communities through religious leaders and local child protection structures such as Inshuti z’umuryango to educate communities about children’s rights and abuse, how to prevent child violence as well as how to report incidents when they occur and to ensure the referral mechanisms are simplified and understood by the children, parents and service providers.

The governor of Eastern province, Mr. Emmanuel Gasana who presided over the event appreciated World Vision Rwanda for their efforts in advocating for children as well as other key players in child protection from the region who were part of the event which included a consultative session on ways to establish digital platforms in reporting accurate and timely information on sexual and gender-based violence.

“Child wellbeing and child protection is fundamental in all our interventions and we work to ensure all children experience life in its fullness”

REWU Regional representatives attended Workshop on Human Rights

Regional representatives of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) have attended a workshop that brought together managers, representatives from the private sector which include Head of enterprises, Legal Experts from different fields of business and representatives from trade unions.

The two days training on Human Rights which started from the 24th to 25th June 2021 was organized by the National Commission for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The training workshop aims at increasing capacities of trainees from different types of business for addressing human rights violations in their various business sectors.

Participants also included employers’ representatives, trade union representatives and the representatives from the Ministry of Public Service and Labor.

During the two days, human rights, international, regional and national human rights law were discussed.

The UN in Rwanda Senior Human Rights Advisor, Komi Gnondoli, commended the Government of



Rwanda for its progress in the protection of human rights as well the rule of the law.

He called on the participants to be advocates for human rights and to educate those that they represent on the role of fighting for their rights.

At the official launch of the workshop, the Vice Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights, Mr. Sinyigaya Silas, called on the participants to contribute to the implementation of the law.

New Manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd vows to end all inequalities among Workers



The new Manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd has confirmed that he is going to do his best to make sure the rights of workers are respected while at the same time nurturing the respect of the Labor law and other obligations to the employees. He made the remarks on 20th August, 2021 during the meeting with Rutongo Mines Workers and representatives of the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union at the Mine and National levels.

In a framework of meeting a new Manager of RUTONGO Mines Ltd, Mr Julia Nixon who has recently been appointed to take over, the later wished to meet the Union Committee members to update them on what he plans in order to develop the company and what he is expecting from them in order to increase the productivity.

Basically, this meeting was intended to build a strong relationship with employees.

During the interaction, Mr. Julia Nixon, who replaced the former manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd, was presented with the challenges encountered by the miners and assured that one of the urgent issues to be addressed is the elimination of inequalities among the miners that had long been present in the company.

Among the issues identified are wage inequality, low wages compared to those working in other mines, favoring some employees, disregarding the experience of the workers, disregarding the welfare of the workers, the assignment disorder and so on.

Mr. Julia Nixon says these issues need to be addressed as soon as possible.

He added that he is going to put in place an effective way to promote good relations between the Employer and the Employees.

He says Rutongo Mines Ltd should be a model mine in Rwanda adding that all will be achieved through training of workers and development of the community around Rutongo Mine.

On the other hand, he says other solutions will be to address the issue of drunkenness among employees, the purchase of new protective equipment, the improvement of the wage issue, and the translation of staff documents into the Kinyarwanda language so that all employees can understand the message written in the documents.

REWU Deputy Secretary General Mr. Bwanakweli Jean Marie Vianey said the trade union is pleased with the new Manager’s strategy because staff had long said they are disturbed by some of the issues raised.

He added that the previous administration had also done good things and appreciated the REWU including allowing the REWU Trade Union to operate in Rutongo Mines Ltd.

“We are pleased that the new administration has come to address the remaining issues,” Mr Bwanakweli said

“We, as REWU, will continue to work with Rutongo Mines Ltd to share ideas for the betterment of the mining industry, Mining Workers and the country’s overall development.” He noted.

Present in the meeting were Mr. Julian Nixon: General Mine Manager of Rutongo Mines Ltd, Mr. Boniface Karasira: Human Resources of Rutongo Mines Ltd, Mr. Jean Marie Vianney Bwanakweri: Deputy Secretary General of REWU Trade Union, Mr. Emmanuel Nshimiyimana: President of REWU Trade Union in Rutongo Mines Ltd, Miss. Jeanne Uwimana: Secretary of the REWU Trade Union in Rutongo Mines Ltd, Mr. Jean Claude Ndayambaje: In charge of Gender promotion in REWU Trade Union –Rutongo, Mr. Eric Ushizimpumu: Vice President of REWU Trade Union in Rutongo Mines Ltd, Mr. Gilbert Habakubaho: The President of REWU Trade Union in Ngiru Mining Ltd and Mr. J.Nepo Niyonzima: President of REWU Trade Union in Security Department

Gakenke: EPROCOMI Mining Workers trained on Labor Law and Productivity Improvement



On August 16, 2021 in the COMIKAGI meeting room in Gakenke District, a one-day meeting with representatives of EPROCOMI mining workers operating in Ruli sector in Gakenke district was held and on the agenda were above mentioned topics (Labor law and Productivity Improvement)

The workshop was organized by REWU Trade Union to explain the role of the union in promoting workers’ productivity and the rights of the employee in accordance

with the Labor Code and other international laws.

Participants appreciated the role of the REWU Trade Union in advocacy specifically in the promotion of good relations between employees and the employers.

After discussions on the importance of the Union, the participants also participated in the election of an EPROCOMI Trade Union Committee which saw Comrade Ndabarinze Jean Baptiste being elected as the Presi-

dent of union.

REWU Deputy Secretary General Comrade Jean Marie Bwanakweli, who also chaired the meeting, praised the participation of the staff and said that REWU’s goal is employee development and productivity improvement.

The meeting was also attended by the Representatives from EPROCOMI Administration which was represented by Mr. Jackson Ngabo.

Members of COMIKAGI tipped on the benefits of working with REWU Trade Union

On August 25, 2021, in the meeting room of the COMIKAGI Cooperative in Gakenke District, officials from the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union

(REWU) held a meeting with the representatives of COMIKAGI from the four mining sites in Gakenke District to discuss how the workers should commence

their Trade Union activities.

COMIKAGI is the cooperative that extracts cassiterite/ tantalum (tantalite) in the Gakenke district.

During the meeting, REWU has clearly explained to the members of the cooperative how they will benefit from REWU partnership once the Trade Union starts operations.

In any mining sites where there is an active committee of the REWU Trade Union, it is easier to access REWU services, including the promotion of dialogues between employees and the Employer.

It has become clear that when an employee has a good relationship with his or her employer it increases productivity and Development on both sides.

Representatives of COMIKAGI were also briefed on the fact that the REWU Trade Union is involved in improving the well-being of the workers, as explained by the Deputy Secretary General of the REWU Mr. Bwanakweli Jean Marie Vianney.

Mr. Bwanakweli gave concrete examples of the development activities that REWU is



impacting to its members, confirming that even the members of COMIKAGI have the right to REWU Services as long as they work closely with the Union. He acknowledges that REWU represents the interests of mining and quarrying workers, so that one should not worry that REWU services will not reach him while he/she is a member.

Mr. Bwanakweli noted Mr. Musabyimana Deogratias, the REWU Coordinator for the Northern and Eastern Provinces, has come to live in the Ruli sector in Gakenke District to further bring the REWU activities closer.

Also at the meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of COMIKAGI, Mrs. Colleta Nyirahabimana commended the activities of REWU and pledged their cooperation in the implementation of REWU's programs.



REWU commends mining companies facilitating their employees to attend COVI 19 Mass Testing exercise



The Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) commends employers who continue to respect workers’ rights in these difficult times that require serious health precaution measures in face of COVID 19 pandemic.

This follows good initiatives among some mining companies which are supporting the mass testing exercise as well as vaccination exercise by availing time and other arrangements for workers and staff in general to attend the above mentioned programs that are spearheaded by the Government of Rwanda as part of appropriate action to stop the pandemic.

This is one way of ensuring that employees and employers are safe and that helps them take better action against this deadly virus.

This initiative was highly appreciated by the REWU because the Workers had to get their rights including health and safety rights at the workplace.

REWU thanked the employers adding that this ensures that the work is done better for the benefit of both parties.

COVID 19 GETTING STABILISED IN RWANDA

The world has been through constant public health alert with multiple interventions to limit the rapid progress of COVID-19, the organization of treatment sites and case management of COVID-19, and the implementation of strategies and policies to contain and prevent the disease. In addition, Africa is recording the 3rd wave of the rise of COVID-19 cases with an increasing impact of lockdown measures on the economy.

In Rwanda, the pandemic is getting more stabilized with fewer new cases, and locally contained outbreaks in some parts of the country are under control for disease progression. RBC appreciates all health professionals’efforts, the dynamic institutionalization of the management of this pandemic across the treatment sites, and the sacrifices of frontline clinicians and public health experts.

RBC commends their contributions to the fight against COVID-19, and assures the continuous support from the Rwandan government agencies and partners in the health sector.

Together, we shall overcome COVID-19.



Mubyeyi,
Wari uziko muri iyi minsi abana bari mu
biruhuko aribwo bakunze kwibasirwa
n'Ihohoterwa rishingiye ku gitsina
ndetse no gukoreshwa imirimo
ibujijwe?

Facebook: Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union **Twitter:** @RewuRwanda



Muri iki gihe cya GUMA MU RUGO NA
GAHUNDA Y'IBIRUHUKO KU BANA
ibuka ko ugomba kurinda
Umwana wawe Ihohoterwa
iryo ari ryo ryose.

Niba hari aho ubonye Ihohoterwa
ryakorewe umwana, Hamaga:

Police: 112 cyangwa 3512

ONE STOP CENTRE: 3029

RIB: 116

RDF: 3945,

NPPA, (Parike): 3935

World Vision Rwanda: 7272

