



Press release

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**"Cries of distress from the population of the Manomapia district exposed to toxic gas from TFM's new 30 K plant. AFREWATCH condemns the lethargy of the Congolese State and the company and demands that lasting solutions be found as a matter of urgency.**

The African Natural Resources Observatory (AFREWATCH), a non-governmental organisation for the promotion and protection of human rights working in the natural resources sector, condemns the lethargy of the company TFM and the Congolese government in the face of complaints from residents of the Manomapia neighborhood about the harmful effects on their health of TFM's new 30 K plant. AFREWATCH demands that appropriate and lasting solutions be found as a matter of urgency in order to save thousands of human lives.

According to the results of a preliminary investigation, it is since November 2023, just a few months after the commissioning of the new plant of Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM), in which China Molybdenum Co (CMOC) is the majority shareholder, that the residents of the Manomapia neighbourhood, in the commune of Fungurume, Lualaba province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, are complaining of a number of serious health problems linked to the presence in the local environment of a toxic gas from the activities of this industrial entity (the new 30 K plant). Recurring symptoms include eye tickling, dizziness, nasal bleeding, headaches, chest pains, dry coughing and vomiting of blood.

However, six months after the alerts and complaints from this community, even though the victims are receiving medical treatment limited to a consultation and a medical prescription, no lasting solution has yet been found to this public health problem, either by the TFM company or by the Congolese government.

Today, the situation is worsening and taking on increasingly worrying proportions. The number of people affected (sick) is increasing, while the symptomatic medical care they are receiving is not tackling the root problem to which they are permanently exposed. According to recent statistics from the Fungurume health zone, the number of victims has risen to more than 130 identified cases, not counting those who, because of the ineffectiveness of treatment, prefer

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either to take care of themselves or to do nothing. The number of deaths is also rising, with 11 reported by the community.

AFREWATCH is therefore drawing the attention of the TFM company and of the Lualaba provincial and national governments to the increasing number of cases of ill-health among members of this community, whose lethargy will inevitably lead to harmful consequences, as in the case of the Kabombwa village, where the relocation and resettlement process, in addition to having been launched very late, i.e. 2 years after the community's complaints, has unfortunately also been marred by a number of irregularities.

In view of the above, AFREWATCH recommends:

To the national and provincial governments of Lualaba to:

- Take urgent and appropriate measures to protect the lives of the local community of Manomapia by requiring TFM to relocate, compensate and resettle the members of this community to another viable location;
- To set up a joint commission made up of the ACE, the DPEM and the FNPSS to monitor the smooth running of the next process of relocation, compensation and resettlement of the Manomapia community in accordance with the provisions of articles 26, 29 and 30 of the directives on relocation in the mining regulations revised in 2018 and the spirit of the Lualaba provincial edict on relocation, resettlement and compensation.

*ACE, DPEM and FNPSS of:*

- Be involved in monitoring the impact of TFM's activities on the Manomapia community, ensuring strict compliance with the relevant standards, in particular the provisions of the directive on relocation;
- To avoid the mistakes made by the ad hoc commission in charge of the Kabombwa case, which focused more on money than on the application of the relocation directive, which requires that the relocated community not only receive compensation but also be resettled;

*To the company TFM of:*

- Proceed urgently and on the basis of a clear and public plan to relocate, compensate and resettle this affected community in compliance with the relevant standards and norms;
- Consult and involve the Manomapia community in all phases of the next process;
- Pay for medical care and compensate members of the community for any damage suffered up to that point.

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