



Press release

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AFREWATCH calls on the national and provincial authorities of Lualaba to put an end to threats of arrest against members of the Manomapia block in the commune of Fungurume and to enforce the regulations on compensation, relocation and resettlement.

The African Natural Resources Observatory, AFREWATCH, a human rights organisation working in the natural resources sector, strongly condemns the unjustified arrests and threats by officials of the Relocation Commission against members of the Manomapia block communities who are legitimately demanding an increase in their relocation allowance. AFREWATCH also condemns any attempt to relocate the Manomapia Block community without fair and equitable resettlement and compensation. AFREWATCH demands the immediate cessation of all these threats and urges the government and the provincial assembly of Lualaba to suspend this process and ensure that TFM respects the standards of relocation, compensation and resettlement of this community.

AFREWATCH was recently outraged to learn, through several complaints from members of the Manomapia block community, that Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM) had begun paying modest sums of money to the Manomapia block communities as part of the relocation process initiated following the pollution at its 30K plant. The members of this community are protesting against the low amounts proposed, which do not correspond to the real value of their homes and do not take account of the region's economic situation. For example, a 4-room house with a veranda and built using sustainable materials was valued at just 5,500 US dollars, taking into account moving and demolition costs in addition to the value of the house itself. What will happen to houses built from non-durable materials and with fewer rooms than this one?

Furthermore, according to corroborating sources, in addition to threats and intimidation to arrest, three members of this community, namely Messrs TSHIGANGU SHABADE, BANGA Gustave and KAHZOI MWENDA MBALI, were arrested on Thursday, 2 January 2025 by unidentified members of the police force in civilian clothes for allegedly inciting the inhabitants to refuse sums of money offered by TFM. They were taken to and held at the Fungurume Territorial Police Detention Centre before being released, one on Friday and the other two on Monday 6 January 2025.

Furthermore, according to the members of this community, the company TFM and the Relocation Commission, chaired by the Provincial Minister for Land Affairs, Fisheries and Livestock and , Mr KALENGA MUPATAY Jean-Pierre, have agreed that there will be no resettlement of the communities. AFREWATCH notes that the Commission is in the process of making compensation without resettlement a principle in Lualaba.

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Instead of enforcing Annex XVIII of the mining regulations, which prohibits monetary compensation for housing, the Commission is said to be colluding with the companies to avoid the real cost of compensation, relocation and resettlement. The Commission proceeded in the same way for the village of Kabombwa in 2023, where the communities received insignificant sums.

AFREWATCH notes that this retrograde practice by the Lualaba Provincial Relocation Commission is exacerbating poverty, rather than contributing to improving the social well-being of communities.

The organisation invites the National Minister of Mines, through his technical services, to ensure that TFM, in the case of Manomapia, and the other companies comply with the Mining Code, regulations and their appendices regarding relocation. It should also instruct the Provincial Commission that not only does the Mining Code not give it any powers, but that it should stop the backward practice of handing out insignificant sums to communities without resettlement

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