

PRESS STATEMENT

BY

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE WISTON CHITANDO ON GUIDELINES ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES REQUIRED TO PRESERVE THE OPERATING CAPACITY IN THE MINING INDUSTRY DURING THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

29 MARCH 2020

Reference is made to the announcement of the national lockdown on 27 March 2020 by His Excellency, President E.D. Mnangagwa and the subsequent Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020(Public Health (COVID-19) Prevention Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) order 2020.

According to the above order, coal mining companies are exempt in terms of section 2(c) and 4(1)(i) since their operations relate to generation of electricity. Notwithstanding the exemption the companies are obliged to observe the key principles of the above order in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

In executing the national lockdown for the rest of the mining industry, the Ministry in consultation with the industry, has noted a number of industry specific challenges for the sector. These and other challenges are already recognized in His Excellency the President's statement, which emphasizes the need to keep certain critical equipment and services in operation. It further recognizes the need for essential services to continue operating during the national lockdown.

The Ministry in consultation with the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Miners Federation, has developed a framework through which the mining industry, taking into account applications for specific exemptions, will implement the national lockdown. The framework recognizes the said challenges and is meant to give immediate temporary relief whilst Government is considering applications from the respective mining companies.

Mining operations which face implementation challenges are requested to apply for partial exemption to the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development through the Chamber of Mines and Zimbabwe Miners Federation. The applications should indicate clearly the nature and modus of operation during the lockdown period and the measures which will be taken to safeguard employees and other stakeholders from the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. Once the application is lodged with the Chamber of Mines or Zimbabwe Miners Federation, the mining company in question may be allowed to continue operating pending a response from Government.

All mining companies seeking exemption are therefore urged to contact the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Miners Federation for further guidance.

Honourable W. Chitando (MP)

Minister of Mines and Mining Development