



MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT

PRESS STATEMENT

14 JANUARY 2025

STATEMENT TO CORRECT MISQUOTE AND DISTORTIONS OVER SMALL SCALE MINING

This serves to clarify that small-scale mining has neither been stopped nor banned in the country and that Government has no such plans or intentions.

In the recent past, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Mining Development Honourable Winston Chitando gave a press statement focusing on the dangers posed to miners by rains in the rainy season, especially in cyclone conditions. He clearly advised miners on precautions to take, including avoiding and stopping working in the shafts and pits when it is actually raining.

Our miners are advised to take heed of the timely warning and advice given in order to avoid accidents, injuries and fatalities, and associated losses.

In a follow up interview, the Honourable Deputy Minister reiterated that our small scale miners should avoid going underground during the rains considering the dangers associated, such as flooding and subsequent ground fall due to mine flooding, as experienced at Olympus mine last week.

For the avoidance of doubt, Government supports small scale mining and values economic contributions from the subsector but above all values peoples lives and prioritises safety and sustainability in all circumstances.

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