



Mining Accident News No.1305

16 April to 31 May 2013

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Tuesday 16 April 2013

Ghana: At least 17 illegal Ghanaian miners killed in pit collapse

Extract from Africa.news.cn

ACCRA, -- Sixteen illegal Ghanaian miners including two women were killed in a mine pit

collapse and another one died at hospital Monday near the gold mining town Dunkwa in Ghana's central region.

Ghana's state media Ghana News Agency reported that the accident happened in a mining landsite at Kyekyewere, a suburb of Dunkwa. The victims were between 18 and 50 years old.

It was reported that more people are feared trapped in the pit. Personnel from the Fire, Police and Immigration Services as well as the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) are frantically searching for survivors.

According to Chief Superintendent Otu Larbi, Municipal Police Commander, Mr. Abu Sadique who owns the God First Mining Enterprise in the Kyekyewere community, had closed operations after six months of work on that concession and was reclaiming the land.

He said the group from Kyekyewere and its adjoining community, Amofo, went to the site that morning and threatened the excavator operator who was in the process of filling the last portion of the land to leave that part for them to mining.

One local radio station reported that the wall surrounding the pit collapsed on the illegal miners as they dug under the pit for gold.

Ghana, the second largest gold producer in Africa, produced 4.2 million ounces of gold in 2012, the highest in the history of the country.

Wednesday 17 April 2013

USA: Salt Worker Killed at Louisiana Mine

Extract provided by Sharpe Media, LLC

A salt miner was killed early Tuesday morning at North American Salt Co.'s underground Cote Blanche Mine in southern Louisiana.

The victim, who has not been identified, was a long-time employee who was part of a crew

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performing maintenance when he was fatally injured, according to a statement released by Peggy Landon, Director of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications for Kansas-based Compass Minerals International, Inc., the parent organization.

"Despite the immediate administration of emergency treatment by on-site personnel and first responders, the employee could not be revived when he arrived at Iberia General Hospital," Landon said.

"Safety is a top priority for all of us at North American Salt, and the company is working together with officials to investigate the accident."

Mine manager Gord Bull also released a statement. "We extend our deepest sympathy to our employee's family and friends. He was a valued employee who had a wonderful sense of humor and was liked by all. He will be deeply missed by everyone at Cote Blanche mine."

MSHA has described the accident as involving falling/sliding material. The agency has not yet released a preliminary report.

According to MSHA's database, the 151-employee mine has not experienced a fatality since at least 2002. There have been 43 non-fatal days lost injuries (NFDL) since then. The mine has been above the national NFDL average for five of those years, including the last three, and has been below the average for another five. In 2006, no NFDL injuries were reported.

MSHA penalties came to nearly \$276,000 in 2009, but have hovered just above \$50,000 annually ever since.

According to its website, North American Salt is the largest salt producer in North America and the United Kingdom. The Cote Blanche Mine produces rock salt.

The fatality is the fifth in the U.S. metal/non-metal sector so far this year. Eight U.S. coal miners have also died.

Thursday 18 April 2013

Benguet mining accident kills 1

Extract from ABS-CBNnews.com

MANILA, Philippines -- A mining accident in Itogon, Benguet killed one worker and injured another on Wednesday, authorities said.

The victims were identified as Orlando Dalasing and Arnold Dimas.

They were both rushed to Baguio General Hospital but Dalasing was declared dead on arrival.

Cordillera Police Regional Director Benjamin Magalong said the two were inside the mining site's tunnel when a timber suddenly fell on them.

Company found guilty over NZ mine disaster

Extract from ABC News Online, Aus

The mining company at the centre of New Zealand's Pike River mine disaster has been found guilty of safety breaches that led to the fatal blast.

Judge Jane Farish found safety breaches at Pike River Coal were directly linked to the deaths of the 29 men in the November 19, 2010 gas explosion at the South Island colliery.

"There were fundamental breaches of the Health and Safety in Employment Act which led to the unnecessary deaths of 29 men," Judge Farish said in a written judgement at the Greymouth District Court.

That provided some comfort for bereaved father Lawrie Drew.

"This is one good step because someone has been found culpable, but the punishment never fits what happens," he said.

Among those killed were 24 New Zealanders, two Australians, two Britons and a South African.

It was the country's worst mine disaster in almost 100 years.

Pike River Coal were found guilty on all nine charges laid against the company, including failing to take all steps to prevent employees coming to harm.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of NZ\$250,000 (AU\$205,000).

Sentencing is set to take place on July 4 and 5, however it is unclear what company assets are available as it went into receivership after the closure of the mine and owes secured creditors \$20 million.

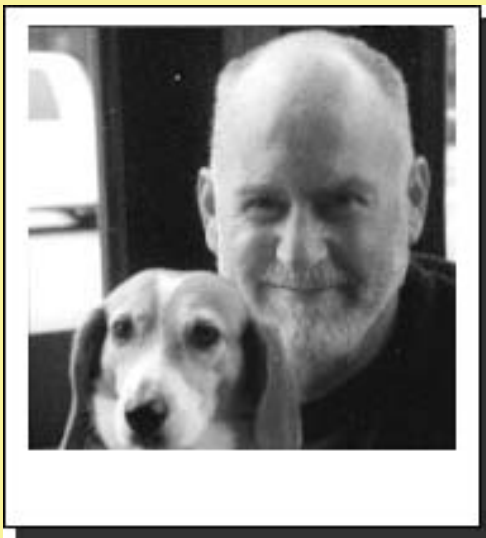
VLI Drilling Pty Ltd, an Australian company involved at the mine, was convicted of safety breaches last October and fined NZ\$46,800 (AU\$38,400).

The former chief executive of the mine, Peter Whittall, is facing similar charges to go to trial later this year.

He has pleaded not guilty.

Fears that dangerous gases remain in the pit of the mine shaft have prevented recovery teams from reaching the men's bodies, which remain about 2.5 kilometres under the ground.

Quote of the week



"All people want is someone to listen."

Hugh Elliott, USA author & blogger

Friday 19 April 2013

Mexico: Endeavour Silver Reports Fatality of Contractor Employee at El Cubo Mine

Extract from Junior Mining Network.com

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA - Endeavour Silver Corp. regrets to announce the death of a contractor employee yesterday due to a fatal accident underground at the El Cubo mine operations in Guanajuato State, Mexico.

The Dolores mine, which is part of the El Cubo mine operations, was shut down immediately and Endeavour is working with the Mexican authorities to conduct a full investigation of this accident. Once the investigation is completed, Endeavour will review and implement any additional safety measures recommended to prevent such an accident from recurring. The area of the accident remains closed until the investigation is completed but Mexican authorities have approved the re-opening of the Dolores mine.

Bradford Cooke, CEO of Endeavour stated, "We extend our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, and we are working with the contractor to ensure the family is well cared for."

Sunday 21 April 2013

Nine Russian miners trapped in collapsed mine

Extract from UPI.com

POLYSAYEVO, Russia, -- Nine Russian mine workers were trapped Sunday after a roof collapsed at a coal mine in southwestern Siberia's Kemerovo region, police said.

The accident took place at approximately 5:15 p.m. local time at the Zarechnaya mine in the town of Polysayevo while 127 miners were working underground, RIA Novosti reported.

"We have found the connection with the miners, according to preliminary information, all the

miners are alive," police said, adding that about 60 rescuers were working to reach the miners.

The Kemerovo region is part of Russia's major coal-producing Kuzbass region, RIA Novosti reported.

The region has had a number of mining accidents in recent years. In 2010, 91 people died in two methane gas explosions, and in late March, four miners were killed in a flood at the Osinnikovskaya coal mine.

China: 18 miners killed at Helong City coal mine

Extract from Xinhua, China

In the northeast China, an explosion on Saturday killed 18 miners and injured 12 more at the Qingxing coal mine in Helong City, according to state-owned news agency Xinhua. Another 55 were rescued from the mine and released.

The recovery effort wrapped up Sunday mid-day. Mine officials have been taken into police custody and an investigation is underway.

Qingxing mine had been reported for safety violations in the past and government authorities believe a failure to fix hazards caused the accident.

It is the third coal mine gas explosion in the last month in the province. The Babao coal mine in Baishan city had explosions on March 29 and April 1, which killed 53 workers.

Monday 22 April 2013

Trapped Russian coal miners rescued

Extract from Xinhua, China

All the 13 workers trapped in a coal mine in south central Russia have been rescued, local authorities said Sunday.

All the miners were alive, and no one was hurt, regional emergency authorities said, adding the rescue operation was over.

Preliminary reports said nine people were trapped in the Zarechnaya mine in Kemerovo region following a roof collapse accident that took place at 16:25 Moscow time (1225 GMT) Sunday.

Emergency officials later put the trapped figure at 13, saying rescuers managed to connect with all of them and continued clearing the debris.

A total of 127 people were working underground when the accident took place.

Coal mine safety has long been a issue for concern in Russia. Kemerovo, as a major coal producing region in Russia, witnessed several devastating accident in the past.

On February 2005, 25 miners and rescuers were killed in a blaze triggered by methane-air mixture explosion at the Yesaulskaya mine in the Kemerovo region.

In March 2007, 110 miners died in the Ulyanovskaya mine in the same region, the deadliest coal mine blast over the past 75 years.

In March 2013, four workers were killed in a floor at a coal mine in the Kemerovo Region.

Tuesday 23 April 2013

Czech: Two rescue workers die in mine

Extract from Prague Daily Monitor

Karvina, North Moravia, April 22 (CTK) - Two mining rescuers died in the CSM coal mine near Karvina last night, probably of intoxication while taking samples of air in the underground premises, according to CTK's information, but the mine operator OKD would not speculate about the cause of their death.

"We can only say for sure that there was no cave in, explosion, ground tremor or similar event. Any other information would be mere speculations," Vladislav Sobol, spokesman for the OKD mining company, said.

Both dead men were 44 years old.

They died 1100 metres under the ground surface.

A commission of experts from the regional mining authority, the CSM mine, the OKD company and unions have launched investigation into the case in cooperation with the police.

This is the first case of underground deaths in the Karvina area this year.

OKD registered five such fatalities in 2012.

Five years ago, a fatal accident similar to the latest one occurred in the nearby Darkov mine, also claiming two mining rescuers' lives.

The Mining Authority spokesman Bohuslav Machek told CTK yesterday that the rescuers were taking samples of air to find out whether it contains methane, carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide, "the three basic gases miners are afraid of."

Such samples are taken in front of the blocked entrance to the closed part of the mine that is to be checked. The rescuers were not at all supposed to enter the risky closed part.

Nevertheless, according to CTK's information, it might have happened that the lethal gas leaked from the closed part through the blockage. Machek would not confirm this information.

"Our inspectors are on the spot of the accident. We will know more in two days, he said.

The victims were employees of the mining rescue station HBZS Ostrava, a daughter firm of OKD, that deals with the taking of samples, maintenance of mining equipment, work safety rules and rescue works in accidents.

Thursday 25 April 2013

S. Africa: Man killed in mining accident

Extract from Business Report

Johannesburg - A man was killed when he was struck by a locomotive at an AngloGold Ashanti

mine in Carletonville, the company said on Wednesday.

The 50-year-old locomotive operator died at the Mponeng mine on Tuesday afternoon around 3pm, said spokesman Chris Nthite.

"The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) was notified and an in loco inspection was conducted."

Nthite said the department had stopped operations at the level where the accident had happened.

Investigations into the cause of the accident were underway.

Zambia KCM Mine Accident Kills Two Illegal Miners -Police

Extract from The Wall Street Journal, USA

KAMPALA, Uganda--At least two illegal miners have been killed following a mine accident at one of the pits operated by Zambia's second-largest copper miner, police said Thursday.

A police spokeswoman told Dow Jones Newswires that the miners snuck into Konkola Copper Mines' license areas late Tuesday after eluding police guards to conduct illegal mining operations at the pit.

"Shortly after miners entered the tunnel, it started raining heavily, and they got trapped in the floods," the spokeswoman said Thursday. At least one body had been recovered by Wednesday evening, she added.

Illegal mining is rampant in Zambia's Copperbelt province. Illegal small-scale miners usually trespass on abandoned mining areas licensed to large mining corporations, which leads to clashes with mine security and police guards at times.

The Zambian police have since increased vigilance at KCM's pits, the spokeswoman added.

KCM is a unit of London-listed Vedanta Resources PLC. A company spokeswoman couldn't comment immediately.

In 2007, hundreds of illegal miners rioted in Copperbelt after police prevented them from accessing KCM's pits. Last year, Zambia registered at least 21 mine fatalities, with the majority occurring due to illegal mining, according to the safety department.

Sunday 28 April 2013

17 miners rescued in Chile after accident

Extract from English.eastday.com

SANTIAGO, -- Seventeen miners who had been trapped after a fire in a mine located in northern Chile were rescued Sunday by fire-fighters and staff from Cenizas mining company, local media reported.

The accident occurred Saturday in Las Lucas mine in Antofagasta region, about 1,100 kilometers north of Santiago.

The miners were trapped after the fire, forcing them to protect themselves in two shelters built inside the mine.

After the accident was reported, rescue units from the local Fire Brigade, experts from Las Cenizas owner mining company and Chile's Geology and Mining National Service arrived at the site.

Once the fire was controlled, the workers were rescued and taken to hospitals of Chanaral and Tal Tal to be examined. Medical examinations show that all the miners were in good health conditions.

Tuesday 30 April 2013

Miner Dies at Texas Gypsum Plant

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A miner was killed Saturday at a surface gypsum plant in the Texas panhandle.

Justice of the Peace Rick Walden identified the man as James Dale Winegeart, 58. Walden said Winegeart was attempting to remove a rock that had become stuck beneath a conveyor belt. When the rock was freed, the belt began to move, sucking the victim into the operating machinery. He died at the scene.

Walden said the 911 call came in at 10:22 a.m. Saturday. Walden, who also acts as the coroner, indicated that an autopsy would be performed.

MSHA has not released a preliminary report, but describes it as a powered haulage accident at Allied Custom Gypsum's ACG #1 Shamrock Mine in Wheeler County. Attempts to reach Harrison Gypsum Co. were not successful.

According to MSHA's database, the mine employs 12 persons and has been in operation since 2008. There have been three non-fatal days lost accidents since then: one in 2011 and two last year. In March 2012, a miner was med-evaced to a hospital in Amarillo after falling 11½ feet. A month earlier, a miner sustained a foot injury during maintenance on a scraper. In October 2011, a miner suffered a lower back injury while replacing blades on a scraper.

The mine has received \$5,079 in MSHA fines since 2009. Two citations from an inspection in March have yet to be assessed.

The fatality is the sixth so far this year in the metal/non-metal sector. Eight coal miners have also died.

Wednesday 1 May 2013

Canada: Worker killed at Eagle River mine

Extract from CBC News, Canada

The OPP and the provincial Ministry of Labour are investigating a fatal mining accident near White River.

A worker, an employee of a mining contractor, was killed at the Wesdome-owned Eagle River gold mine on Monday afternoon when he was accidentally buried under dirt from a mining extraction, or "muck pile," according to ministry spokesperson Matt Blajer.

He says the ministry dispatched an inspector after getting a call about an accident yesterday afternoon.



OPP and ministry of labour investigators were called to the Eagle River gold mine following a fatal accident on Monday. (Wesdome)

"A worker was buried in a muck pile. Then about an hour later we were notified by the OPP that the worker had been located and was deceased," said Blajer.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The mine is located about 70 kilometres west of Highway 17 on Paint Lake Road in Legarde Township.

Friday 10 May 2013

Canada: Deceased in mine fatality identified

Extract from www.saultstar.com

A man who died in a mining accident near Wawa in late April was from Blind River.

Dominic Jean-Paul Bernard, 35, died at Wesdome Gold Mine's Eagle River site on April 30. A supervisor with Dan Boychuk Mining, Bernard was buried in a muck pile.

A funeral mass for the father of two boys was held Wednesday at St. James the Greater Catholic Church in Blind River.

Ministry of Labour continues to investigate Bernard's death.

The Eagle River site is 50 kilometres west of Wawa.

Saturday 11 May 2013

Coal mine explosion kills 27 in southwest China

Extract from PressTV.ir

At least 27 people have been killed and 16 injured in a gas explosion at a coal mine in China's southwestern province of Sichuan.

China's work safety authorities said the powerful blast occurred on Saturday at the Taozigou coal mine in the city of Luzhou, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The accident response team rescued 81 miners and 16 were hospitalized for treatment of their injuries.

Such accidents are frequent in China, and several mine explosions have happened this year.

The incident occurred just one day after 12 people were killed in a gas explosion in Guizhou province on Friday night at a mine reported to have been operating illegally.

The life of a Chinese miner is dangerous, and more than 1,300 people were killed in mine accidents in 2012. According to official figures, 2,433 people died in coal mining accidents in China in 2010.

Independent labor groups say the figure could be much higher because many accidents are covered up to prevent mine closures.

Although the authorities have tightened safety regulations in recent years, China's mines are the deadliest in the world and regulations are often ignored.

The Chinese government has shut down hundreds of mines over the past few years as part of its efforts to improve safety standards

Tuesday 14 May 2013

Workers trapped at Freeport Indonesia's mine

Extract from BBC News Asia

An accident at a major US-owned gold and copper mine in Indonesia's eastern province of Papua has left workers trapped, officials say.

Mining firm Freeport said at least four miners were rescued at its Grasberg mine after an underground tunnel collapsed early on Tuesday.

It added that 33 people were still trapped inside the tunnel.

Freeport said in a statement that "the rescue process is difficult and will take some time to complete".

One of those rescued hours after the accident was taken to hospital.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with our fellow employees and their families as we proceed with rescue efforts," Freeport said.

The company said it did not expect the incident to have an effect on mining and milling activities.

Freeport's Grasberg mine has one of the biggest copper and gold reserves in the world.

Mining accidents are not rare in Indonesia, but they usually take place in unregulated and illegal coal mines with shoddy and outdated practices, the BBC's Karishma Vaswani in Jakarta says.

The mine has an estimated 24,000 employees.

In 2011, workers staged a three-month protest asking for better pay, with miners only going back to work after negotiating a close to 40% pay rise.

Thursday 16 May 2013

USA: Woman injured at BMX mine

Extract from Observer-Reporter

A female miner was taken by medical helicopter to a Pittsburgh hospital this morning after being struck in the jaw by drill steel this morning at the BMX Mine in East Finley Township.

The woman's name and condition were not known, said Lynn Seay, spokeswoman for Consol Energy, owner of the mine. She said the accident was reported at 7:15 a.m. and an ambulance was called. An investigation is under way.

Tuesday 21 May 2013

New Mexico: Accident kills Questa miner

Extract from ABQ Journal.com

A 22-year-old man was apparently crushed to death late last week after being pinned between two 10-ton ore cars at Chevron Mining Co.'s Questa Mine in northern New Mexico.

According to a preliminary report of the accident by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration, Isaac A. Garcia was checking on a derailed ore car when he got pinned between it and another ore car.

Garcia, who had been employed at the mine since last October, is identified in the report as a "mucker," someone who shovels broken ore or waste rock into ore cars.

A news release from the mining company states that Garcia was discovered pinned between two rail cars about 1:30 a.m. last Friday at the underground haulage level of the mine. A mine rescue team immediately began CPR and Garcia was transported to the surface to a waiting ambulance.

Garcia was taken to Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, where he was pronounced dead about 3 a.m.

A 2008 graduate of Sandia High School in Albuquerque, Garcia leaves behind a widow and a young son and daughter.

"The employees and management of Questa Mine are deeply saddened by the loss of one of their own," reads a statement from the Chevron Mining Co. "We are keeping the victim's family in our thoughts and prayers."

Margaret Lejuste, a spokeswoman for Chevron Mining, said Garcia's death is the first one to occur at the Questa Mine in 30 years.

"We have more than 270 people who work here and we're very closely connected," she said. "This has been extremely devastating for the entire workforce."

Lejuste said the area of the mine where the accident occurred has been closed off while Mine Safety and Health Administration officials investigate the incident, but the mine resumed operations as usual Monday morning. She said grief counselors were on site to assist any employees who wanted help.

Garcia's uncle, Lawrence Martinez, who also works at the mine, said on Monday that it was a somber day there.

"Everybody was really hurting today," he said. "Chevron's like one big family and I couldn't believe myself how many guys came up to me, crying, to tell me they were sorry for my loss. He will be missed."

Martinez said Garcia will be especially missed by his young wife, Bryn, and their 15-month-old daughter and 2-month-old son.

"Isaac was a very hard-working man, and very loving to his wife, kids, mom and brother," he said. "He was a big guy, but he had an even bigger heart. He was one of those special guys who was always there for you if you needed help. He was a really good kid."

Lejuste said MSHA and the state mining safety administration is investigating the cause of the accident, and Chevron is conducting its own investigation.

"These investigations take a great deal of time, so at this point we're not going to speculate on what actually happened," she said. "We're trying to work through it with a focus on awareness, and maintaining a safe and accident-free workplace."

According to the state Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department, the last mining fatality to occur in New Mexico happened in July 2011 at the Navajo Coal Mine in northwestern New Mexico.

The last fatality at what is now the Chevron Mine in Questa occurred in 1983.

Located nine miles east of Questa, the mine has been in operation since 1916, primarily producing molybdenum, a grayish metal used in making high-strength, lightweight alloys. It opened as the R&S Molybdenum Mine, but was purchased in 1950 by Molycorp Minerals. That company operated the mine for more than 50 years before it became a subsidiary of Chevron in 2005.

Today, the Chevron Mine in Questa produces about 350,000 pounds of molybdenum per year.

The mine has been in the news lately because last month Chevron Mining filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government over an EPA-ordered cleanup going on at the site.

The EPA added the mine — which includes an operational mine, a milling facility, a tailings facility and a pipeline from the mill to the tailings facility — to its National Priorities List of Superfund sites in 2011. The agency said at the time that the cleanup would cost at least \$500 million and take 20 to 30 years to complete.

The lawsuit contends that the U.S. government is liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and

Liability Act for environmental response costs at the site.

Wednesday 22 May 2013

Last bodies recovered from Indonesia mine collapse

Extract from Australia Network News

Rescuers have recovered the last seven bodies from a collapsed mine tunnel in Indonesia's Papua province, taking the accident's final toll to 28.



Policemen stand guard in front of the entrance to Grasberg mine

A statement from the Indonesian subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan says the final victims have been recovered and identified.

The rescue team "recovered and identified the last of the remains of the buried workers early this morning", the statement said.

Thirty-eight workers were initially trapped on May 14 when part of the tunnel caved in at Freeport's Grasberg mine, one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines in the mountainous Papua province.

Ten people were recovered alive soon afterwards but rescue efforts were hampered by the narrow tunnel and the unstable conditions, with rocks continuing to fall from the roof.

Freeport declared Wednesday a day of mourning and said memorial services would be held in its Jakarta office and in Papua.

"This is a heart-wrenching thing for Freeport," Richard Adkerson, the company's president and chief executive, said.

Mr Adkerson flew to Papua on the weekend to meet families of the deceased.

"We will not rest until we are assured that we understand the reasons for this tragic event," he said.

He said an outside investigation team made up of Indonesian and international experts was being assembled to investigate the accident.

Freeport has as yet given no indication why the tunnel caved in.

Operations have been halted at the mine for a week partly to help with rescue efforts and also as a mark of respect for those affected by the accident.

The head of Freeport's local subsidiary, Rozik Soetjipto, said Wednesday it was not clear when they would resume. Freeport has stockpiles of gold and copper at the mine that it is using to meet existing orders.

Mr Soetjipto said safety was being reviewed at all of Freeport's operations in Indonesia.

Energy Minister Jero Wacik said the government will carry out its own probe into the Grasberg accident and that mines across the country will undergo safety checks.

Workers at the site who have been protesting at the mine for the past week demanding safer conditions were still blocking a road on Wednesday with trucks and heavy machinery.

The tunnel was part of an underground training facility, not one of the mining areas. Those trapped inside at the time were attending a safety training course.

A three-month strike in 2011 crippled production at Grasberg, and around the same time there was a spate of deadly shootings at the mine.

Indonesian Govt Forms 'Independent Team' to Probe Freeport Mine Collapse

Extract from Jakarta Globe

The Indonesian government on Wednesday announced that it has formed a special team to investigate what caused the recent fatal tunnel collapse at Freeport-McMoRan's Grasberg complex.

"I have formed an independent team to investigate what technically happened there. If there was [human] error, surely there will be sanctions," Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik told a press conference in Jakarta on Wednesday.

He said the team consisted of mining experts headed by Ridho Wattimena, a professor at the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB)'s School of Mining Engineering.



The family of Ferry Pangaribuan, an Indonesian miner killed in the tunnel collapse at Freeport Indonesia's Grasberg mine in Papua, gathers around his coffin in Timika, Papua, on Wednesday. The final death toll from the mining accident reached 28, leaving only 10 survivors. (AFP Photo/Tjahjo Eranius)

Freeport has been instructed to halt operations at Grasberg, the world's second largest copper mine, during the investigation.

The team is also tasked with producing recommendations to prevent similar mining accidents from happening in the future. It will be asked to check the safety of other underground mining sites across the country upon completing its job at the Grasberg site, Jero added.

The House of Representatives responded by saying it would oversee the investigation

process, although it wouldn't be directly involved. Legislators warned Freeport that it should ready itself for legal sanctions should the team's findings conclude that the company was at fault.

"I've asked Freeport to not run away from responsibility should the government's inspection point to negligence and human error," House Deputy Speaker Priyo Budi Santoso said after receiving Richard Adkerson, the chief executive officer of the Arizona-based miner, in Jakarta, according to Indonesian news portal kontan.co.id.

Adkerson said earlier that Freeport would investigate the cause of the tunnel collapse and would not resume operations until it is certain that the mine is safe.

"With the recovery work completed we are now focusing on reviewing safety throughout our underground operations and in determining what caused the collapse. We will take all actions required to provide for the safety of our workforce," he said in Jakarta.

The final death toll from the incident reached 28, and 10 survivors are still recovering, Freeport has said.

Monday 27 May 2013

Qld: Cleaner sues for \$1 million after accident at coal mine

A cleaner is suing her former employer after allegedly falling down a staircase and hitting her head.

Mary Louise Valler was working for TK and KM Pty Ltd at the time of the accident, a company contracted to undertake work for the Burton Coal Mine Pty Ltd.

Both companies are listed as defendants in the upcoming hearing, the Morning Bulletin reported.

Claims lodged in the Supreme Court in Rockhampton state that Valler, a heavy

machinery cleaner, was walking to her room in 2009 when she tripped on a defect causing her to fall down the stairs and hit her head on a metal pole.

The documents say that Valler's injuries prevent her from working as a cleaner and have left her with permanent impairment of the thoracic spine and a sustained traumatic brain injury.

Valler's lawyers said she has been rendered unemployable.

The documents allege the defendants created an unreasonable risk of injury.

If successful Valler could be awarded \$1,009,388.

Valler's lawyers said they were hoping for a trial date to be set down for sometime next year.

Thursday 30 May 2013

Injured Qld miner gets nearly \$290K compo

Extract from ABC News Online, Aus

A Rockhampton court has awarded almost \$290,000 to a worker injured in an underground coal mine in central Queensland in 2009.

Timothy James Klein was working in the North Goonyella coal mine, north-west of Rockhampton, in February 2009 when he injured his back while helping to move a heavy object.

He sought \$1.9 million from his employer SBD Services.

Mr Klein told the court the object was a rack bar weighing 180 kilograms.

He described an explosion of pain to his lower back when he attempted to lift it.

Justice Duncan McMeekin says there was some dispute about the weight of the object and what it was.

He said while he accepted Mr Klein believed he could no longer work in the mining industry, he

assessed that Mr Klein had, at most, 6 per cent permanent impairment.

Justice McMeekin ordered SBD to pay almost \$290,000.

Mining dictionary

A guide to coal mining terminology

B

Cap block A flat piece of wood inserted between the top of the prop and the roof to provide bearing support.