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## Community impacted by Kalumbila Trident Project make plea to government to resolve outstanding issues with FQM

The community in Musele Chiefdom are urgently appealing to the government to provide an update on the status of the MOU, head lease and shareholders’ agreement with Canadian mining company First Quantum Minerals (FQM) in advance of their mining operations in Kalumbila, due to begin this month. Of particular concern is the fact that current proposed arrangements leave each affected family three hectares short of the agreed four hectares of land to be provided, an issue on which the government has remained silent.

Towards the end of 2012, the community appealed to the President to step in, who appointed a committee of ministers to attend a public meeting in Solwezi in February 2013. During this meeting, the committee heard that the earlier agreement between Senior Chief Musele and FQM was nullified as it had been entered into illegally.

As requested by the committee, both the community and FQM made submissions within 45 days that would form the basis for a new agreement and MOU, which have not yet been responded to by the committee.

Geoffrey Njolomba, Technical Advisor to the Musele Taksforce said: “To date, Senior Chief Musele has been virtually side lined and ignored by the government despite him constituting a governance institution recognised, acknowledged and enshrined in the Constitution of Zambia. The land in Musele is customary land, which is legally and commonly owned by the people of Musele under customary law with full entitlements and claims to it.

“Outstanding issues raised in the Zambia Environmental Agency (ZEMA) decision letter of October 2013 include confirmation of where the four hectares of land for each household will be sourced from and resolving of the surface rights agreement. The government has abdicated its responsibilities by leaving the community alone to engage with FQM.

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**DISMISS**

Committee on Land a few days after Parliament last went on recess, however the petition is not on the list of matters to be discussed nor has there been any acknowledgement of receipt.

“It is vital that Zambians do not take lightly the happenings at Kalumbila because the events have far reaching consequences not only for the people in Northwestern province but Zambia as a whole.”

Ends

For further information contact Geoffrey Njolomba on +260 (0)969 173 551 or [gnjolomba@gmail.com](mailto:gnjolomba@gmail.com)

**Editors' notes**

- The Musele Taskforce formed in 2011 to act as a liaison group between the community and FQM.
  
- On 20 April, 2011, the Government of Zambia granted to Kalumbila Minerals Limited (a wholly-owned subsidiary of FQM) a large-scale mining licence valid for a period of 25 years. The licence certificate designated 15868-HQ-LML was finally issued on the 13th May, 2011, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals Development Act of 2008. The mining licence expires on 19th April, 2036. The licence confers an exclusive right to mine copper, nickel, cobalt, gold, platinum group of minerals, silver, iron and selenium. KML holds a 100% interest in the large-scale mining licence which extends over an area of one thousand, six hundred and twenty-one square kilometres, one-and-half times the size of Hong Kong (1,104 km<sup>2</sup>), which covers more than 50 per cent of the land in Musele.
  
- The following documents are available on request:
  - Provisions of KML mining licence and conditions attached to it.
  
  - Legal status of the Institution of Chief in relation to representation and custodian of community property rights within their jurisdiction.
  
  - Kalumbila Town Development Corporation MOUs.
  
  - Kabitaka Housing Estate provisional price list.
  
  - Senior Chief Musele's comments on the FQM/KML addendum to first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).