



SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE ANOSY REGION WHO ARE FIGHTING TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AGAINST THE MINING COMPANY QMM RIO TINTO

The residents of the fokontany (villages) neighbouring the QMM Rio Tinto mining site in Mandena, near Tolagnaro (Fort-Dauphin), have for a long time been fighting, in various ways, against the negative impacts of the company's mining activities.

Last week, residents of the Anosy region, who have suffered the negative impacts of the QMM weir (a kind of large dam) installed by QMM Rio Tinto, shared information on social media about their ongoing protest movement, which they called a "STRIKE-ALERT". They explained that a court ruling had ordered QMM Rio Tinto to pay compensation amounting to several million ariary to dozens of households in Andranokana (located near the company's mining site); indeed, these residents had been unable to continue their subsistence farming activities for years after the company took their land to build the weir. However, the company reportedly refuses to pay, stating its intention to seek to have the court ruling overturned. Representatives of the residents indicated that a round-table meeting had been organised, but that it had not led to a solution.

Rio Tinto then issued an official statement on 27 August 2026, announcing "the suspension of its operations in Mandena due to several blockades of the access road to the site over the past three weeks."

These events mark a new stage in the struggle waged by the residents of the Anosy region against the mining giant QMM RIO TINTO, active in the extraction of mineral sands.

Continuing and reinforcing the work undertaken since 2015, we, the Collective for the Defence of Malagasy Land – TANY:

- support the struggle of all the residents of the Anosy region who are victims of the harmful effects of this company's mining operations — a struggle by residents to defend their land and their environment, their food sources and their health, as well as their cultural heritage and their children's future — and we salute the communities who refuse to bow down and instead stand firm, with determination, to assert and defend their rights;
- support the collaboration between members of the local communities of the Anosy region and the British law firm Leigh Day, which is suing the company before a court abroad over the contamination of the drinking water consumed by around 15,000 residents — water which, in the most recent tests, showed lead and uranium levels 40 to 50 times higher than WHO thresholds;
- call on the Malagasy government authorities and judiciary to refuse to allow any company operating in the country, whatever its size, to place itself above the law, and to demand respect for court rulings;
- call for a rigorous continuation of the investigation into the deaths of three people — Ms Francia Rasolonirina, Mr Damy and Mr Andriamamonjy Jean Solomon — which occurred during demonstrations organised by residents of Tolagnaro in October 2023, and call for the prompt publication of the investigation's findings regarding those responsible for these events;
- call on the Malagasy authorities, at every level, to ensure that Rio Tinto rehabilitates the site and compensates for all the damage it has caused before it leaves, should reports of a possible sale of its mining operations in the Anosy region to another company be confirmed. The "Tôteny Anosy" platform, together with civil society groups from the Anosy region, highlighted numerous problems in a report published in 2025, marking 15 years of QMM Rio Tinto's mining operations in the south of the island.

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