

27 April 2020

## News Release

### **Geita Gold Mining Limited steps up interventions to fight Covid-19**

(GEITA – PRESS RELEASE) - Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has rolled out a series of interventions and campaigns across its site and in the surrounding communities in the effort to stop the spread of Covid-19.

GGML has committed a total of TZS 1, 600,000,000/= (One billion and six hundred million shillings) to support to the Government of Tanzania in its efforts to curtail the spread of the virus and is working to ensure that all measures taken by GGML are aligned with the guidance issued by the Government of Tanzania.

Of the total funds committed, GGML will donate about TZS 1,100,000,000/= (One billion and One hundred million shillings) to national level interventions through the Covid-19 Emergency Fund set up under the Prime Minister’s Office. The remaining TZS 500,000,000 (Five hundred million shillings) will be used to support regional and community interventions in Geita, including the provision of key medical supplies and equipment such as PPE, ventilators and oxygen masks.

In addition to this funding, GGML, working with Geita Urban Water and Sanitation Authority – which will fill the tanks, has donated 10 water tanks, each with a capacity of 1000 litres to supply public hand washing facilities. These tanks have been placed at busy centres across Geita town. GGML will also provide chlorine to sanitize the water, which means liquid soap won’t necessarily be needed at the facilities. Additional hand washing facilities will be installed for people with disabilities and children.

The Company has also been working to raise awareness of the virus in the neighboring communities. As part of the Company’s ongoing information, communication and education campaign, GGML has distributed posters containing information about the virus both inside the mine and in communities, with giant billboards placed in Geita town to advise the public on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

As part of a media awareness campaign to promote public awareness of Covid-19, GGML has formed a partnership with Rubondo fm, a local radio station which is owned by Geita District Council. Under this arrangement, GGML funds the production of the advert while the radio station makes its contribution in the form of free airtime. The establishment of Rubondo fm was funded by GGML under the Company’s Social Responsibility programme.



*“We are working in close collaboration with the government. Two of the company’s senior staff have been appointed by the Regional Commissioner to be members of the special committee appointed to combat the pandemic in Geita. Our representatives ensure our plans to fight the disease are aligned with government,”* said Dr. Kiva Mvungi, GGML’s Senior Manager responsible for occupational health.

Other GGML supported initiatives include:

- Encouraging the use of a cashless payment system using mobile money transactions through the M-Pesa system, which enables some petty cash payments to be made using the mobile phone money transfer application. Employees who are being referred to hospitals outside Geita or travelling for business can receive payments through this facility.
- On site, GGML has installed hand-washing points across the mine where employees, contractors and visitors are required to thoroughly wash and sanitize their hands as regularly as possible. All people entering the mine site have their temperature checked. Another initiative taken by the company to minimize chances of the spread of Covid-19 onsite has been extending the lunch break, reducing congestion in the dining hall by 30%.

*“We have been observing the response to this initiative. People understand and are very supportive,”* said Dr. Kiva Mvungi.

In the past three years, GGML has invested in 45 health projects in Geita region. These projects include renovation of the Geita Regional Hospital, donation of building materials to Geita Referral Hospital, construction of Mtakuja Health center and construction and renovation of many other health facilities in surrounding communities. These will all play a critical role in the national effort in dealing with Covid-19 cases.

*“We intend to continue with our business as planned and hope that this pandemic will end soon. To us, business includes both the production operations and implementation of projects to support communities around our operation,”* said GGML’s Acting Managing Director, Wayne Louw.

In 2019, GGML has invested a total of TZS 9.2 billion for community projects in the areas of health, education, SME and environment as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Plan for the year.

Ends.

For more information, visit: [www.geitamine.com](http://www.geitamine.com)