The Board and employees of RioZim Limited would like to express their deep felt agony on the likely loss of life that took place at Battlefields in Kadoma, Zimbabwe whereby a number of artisanal miners have unfortunately been trapped underground whilst trying to access ore in unauthorised mining shafts that they built themselves.

Whilst it must be placed on record for the avoidance of doubt that RioZim Limited was not in any manner involved in the events that led to this tragic incident nor were the said events connected to any of its mining operations or activities, it and other mining companies in the area are taking all steps possible to assist the Ministry of Mines and Civil Protection Unit in the rescue efforts currently underway.

Safety remains RioZim Limited’s primary concern in all of its mining operations and whilst it has taken all steps to prohibit and discourage unauthorized mining on all of its mining locations, it continues to work with the Ministry of Mines and Zimbabwe Republic Police to educate artisanal miners on the dangers of unauthorized mining activities and to promote and educate them on safe and legal mining methods. It has always been the Company’s view that not only is unauthorized mining a violation of property rights but most importantly, it is extremely dangerous and if not controlled, regrettable tragedies such as the current one will persist. It is therefore vital that Government and the Mining Industry as a whole work together in promoting safe, legal and authorized mining activities to ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again.

In the interim, RioZim Limited continues to actively provide the affected families and the government authorities with rescue personnel, assistance and equipment necessary to bring closure to this regrettable and unfortunate series of events.

Wilson Gwatiringa
GROUP CORPORATE AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE
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