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## **ASX Announcement**

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[www.newfieldresources.com.au](http://www.newfieldresources.com.au)

# **Tongo Mine Development Update**

## **Impact of COVID-19 and Mitigation Management**

Newfield Resources Limited (**Newfield**) announces its response and operational update in relation to its Tongo Diamond Mine Development in Sierra Leone (**Tongo Mine Development** or **Tongo**) and the current worldwide COVID-19 virus pandemic.

### **Highlights**

- **Underground decline development commences and mine construction activities continue**
- **Zero cases of COVID-19 are reported in Sierra Leone though measures to mitigate any future risks associated with the pandemic have been implemented**

**Newfield Executive Director, Karl Smithson, commented:**

*“The development of the underground decline is now well underway and we have achieved an advance of 18 metres to date. The entrance to the decline has been fully supported to ensure a safe working environment.*

*“Although there are no reported cases of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone, any such outbreak will naturally introduce a new challenge to the ongoing Tongo Mine Development. Therefore, we have implemented certain new operating standards according to guidelines as recommended by the Government of Sierra Leone and the World Health Organisation. We will not compromise the health of our employees or any stakeholders, and will continue to closely monitor the situation with regard to the spread of the virus and emergency measures imposed by the Government.”*

### **Underground Development and Mine Construction Continues**

Following the arrival of mining equipment, underground development drill and blast operations commenced on 3 March 2020. To date, a total of 18m of underground access tunnel, with dimensions of 6m wide by 4m height, has been developed from the portal entrance (*see Figure 1*). The development is now moving to a cycle of two blasts per 24 hour working day. The entrance to the portal has been fully supported according to recommendations made by consulting rock engineers.

The earthworks for the 100tph treatment plant approach completion and a concrete production batching plant has been established at site to provide sufficient concrete for the foundation slabs and run of mine ramp wall. METC Engineering of Johannesburg reports that construction of the plant components is on schedule for delivery of the plant in sections, commencing in Q2 of 2020.

The design of the diamond final recovery plant, incorporating the three De Beers manufactured X-ray machines, which have already been shipped and received on site, is nearing completion and the construction will commence in the near future.



*Figure 1: Portal entrance tunnel with dimensions 6m wide by 4m high*

Click on this [link](#) to view the video of the recent blasting of the tunnel

### **Immediate Impact of Pandemic on Operations**

Although as of 22 March 2020, no incidence of the COVID-19 virus has been reported in Sierra Leone, the Company has updated its Emergency Pandemic Policy to provide guidelines for the response to this health crisis and future disruptive viral outbreaks. The following measures have already been implemented to mitigate any potential virus outbreak at the Tongo operation:

- All employees are briefed daily on the COVID-19 pandemic and measures being implemented to reduce the risk of spread of the virus should it enter Sierra Leone.
- All employees are required to sterilise their hands and have their temperature taken on arrival at work and on exit after work.
- A strict 'No Touch' policy has been introduced.
- All work surfaces are cleaned with sanitiser daily in office environments.
- Any employee feeling unwell is instructed to stay home and contact the Company medical doctor for assistance.
- Expatriate employees are confined to camp outside working hours, and for the time being, rotational leave has been cancelled. This situation will be reviewed when circumstances permit.

The Company is also preparing quarantine quarters should these be required. The Company has a full-time doctor in charge of its clinic on-site to attend to any health or safety issues arising.

No immediate impact on the availability of local supplies has been noted and fuel, food and other operational requirements remain unaffected at this time. Therefore, the project development is continuing unaffected.

### **Authorised by:**

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