

SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION (1992-1995)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 64

WHEREAS the Government of Guyana is alarmed and deeply concerned over the inability of the OMAI Gold Mines Limited (OGML) to pursue its operations in an environmentally safe manner, evidenced by two major escapes of cyanide-laden effluent into the OMAI and Essequibo Rivers in recent months, the recent one being of massive proportions;

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly places full responsibility for the massive leaks from the tailings pond into the OMAI and Essequibo Rivers on OMAI Gold Mines Limited (OGML) and that the costs to rectify the situation be met by OGML;

That the proclamation by the President of Guyana that the affected areas be deemed an Environmental Disaster Zone be endorsed;

That a full scale mobilization of resources, local and international, be mounted to protect the human and natural environment;

That an environmental audit by a reputable and expert agency or group of agencies be established urgently at the expense of OGML, and that their operations be executed within the zone of influence to determine the extent of the clean-up required;

That a Commission of Enquiry be established to determine the causes leading to the disaster and to make recommendations on preventative measures and modifications to be undertaken by OGML to minimize the exposure to the environment if unexpected, unforeseen events occur;

That the commercial operations of the OGML remain closed in order to allow for the clean-up, the environmental audit and the work of the Commission of Enquiry;

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And that these operations can only recommence on the basis of an examination of the recommendation of the Commission of Enquiry and the environmental audit.

Passed by the National Assembly on 24th August, 1995.


F.A. NARAIN

Clerk of the National Assembly