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No **MLNREP/20/1/2**.....

**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**P.O. BOX 50694  
15101 RIDGEWAY  
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29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015

The Coordinator  
Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
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Division of Technology, Industry and Economics  
United Nations Environment Programme  
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**RE: NOTIFICATION LETTER ON ARTISANAL GOLD MINING IN ZAMBIA  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7, PARA 3 OF THE MINAMATA  
CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The use of mercury is a common practice in the activities of artisanal small gold mining. In 2009, Zambia conducted an assessment on ASGM in Zambia. The assessment reviewed that ASGM in Zambia is more than insignificant.

As part of the process to prepare for the ratification, GRZ through ZEMA in 2011 undertook a preliminary national mercury assessment through a project called "Mercury Release Inventories in Africa." In 2013, another project was undertaken on "Ratification and Early Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Zambia." This project focused on technical capacity, legal preparations and setting priorities for early implementation of the Convention. These projects identified further sources of mercury releases. These included energy consumption, fuel refinery, primary metal production, cement production, use and disposal of Hg-containing products. Others are recycling of iron and steel, waste incineration, waste disposal, land filling, waste water treatment, crematoria and cemeteries.

In the foregoing pursuant to Article 7, para 3 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Zambia notifies the secretariat that there is more than "insignificant ASGM" within her territory.

Accept, Your Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration.



Barnaby B. Mulenga  
Permanent Secretary

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PROTECTION**