

## International Human Rights Lawyers Comment on Anglo American's Interim Results

**JOHANNESBURG & LONDON – 29 JULY 2021** – Law firms Mbuyisa Moleele and Leigh Day note today's publication of the interim results of Anglo American Plc [LSE: AAL, JSE: AGL] (the "Company"), which can be viewed via the Company's investor relations [portal](#).

The Company generated an operating profit of over \$11 billion and reiterated its primary objective of maximising shareholder returns. Anglo American Plc will return \$4.1 billion to shareholders, including through a \$1 billion special dividend and \$1 billion in share buybacks. The results come against the backdrop of the ongoing [class action lawsuit](#) brought on behalf of over 100,000 members of the community of Kabwe, Zambia, against Anglo American South Africa Limited ("AASA"). AASA is a wholly-owned subsidiary and the former head office company of the Anglo American Group ("Anglo") and holds all its South African assets.

"As Anglo enjoys extraordinary financial success, thousands of people in Kabwe continue to be afflicted by its legacy of toxic lead pollution in the region," said **Zanele Mbuyisa, Partner at Mbuyisa Moleele**. "Anglo would far sooner distribute its profits amongst management and the Board than look after communities blighted by its operations, despite its many public commitments to the highest standards of Environmental, Social and Governance performance. We not only call for that to change, but for Anglo to make financial provision towards environmental clean-up and Blood Lead Level monitoring."

**Richard Meeran, Partner & Head of the International Department at Leigh Day**, added: "Anglo has repeatedly said it takes ESG seriously, vowing to support human rights and be accountable to communities, yet its denial of responsibility for the health crisis in Kabwe is at odds with this stance. We call upon shareholders to continue asking serious questions about the true cost to communities like Kabwe of Anglo's financial gains."

The Kabwe situation was directly brought before Anglo's shareholders in February 2021, when a consortium of NGOs wrote a [letter](#) to the Company's top institutional shareholders – including BlackRock, Dimensional, Fidelity, JP Morgan, Old Mutual, Schroders, Standard Life Aberdeen, UBS, State Street and Vanguard – urging immediate action, pursuant to their investment stewardship duties.

AASA now has until 31 August 2021 to respond to the allegations made in the lawsuit filed in October 2020, having sought two extensions to do so. The lawyers reiterated the aims of the lawsuit, namely that Anglo should:

1. Take responsibility for the Kabwe crisis, consistent with its [Group Human Rights Policy](#), which makes commitments to respecting, upholding and advancing the human rights of the citizens in its areas of operation.
2. Establish and support blood lead screening for children, as well as girls and women with lead poisoning who have or may become pregnant in the future.
3. Provide financial compensation to the children with lead poisoning, as well as girls and women who have or may become pregnant in the future.

4. Contribute to the cleanup and remediation of the Kabwe area to ensure the health of future generations of children and pregnant women is not jeopardized.
5. Openly and honestly acknowledge the devastating legacy of its operations in Kabwe and long-lasting damage to the health of the community.

-ENDS-

## **About Mbuyisa Moleele and Leigh Day**

Mbuyisa Moleele is a Johannesburg-based law firm led by Zanele Mbuyisa, and Leigh Day is a leading international law firm specialising in human rights and mass environmental tort claims. Both firms have a proven track record of litigating complex international class actions on behalf of victims from disadvantaged backgrounds. The class action lawsuit against Anglo is being funded by Augusta Ventures, the UK's largest litigation fund by volume of claims.

More information about the class action lawsuit can be found at [www.childrenofkabwe.com](http://www.childrenofkabwe.com).

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