
Visit from Minister of Mines, Mali

- **Minister of Mines Mali applauds Firefinch for saving 500 direct jobs and 2,000 indirect jobs**
 - **Commends ESG practices, including Firefinch's local employment policy; of 500 employees only 4 are expatriates**
 - **"Pleasantly surprised and encouraged" by Firefinch's commitment to the ongoing success of the agribusiness initiative, involving substantial operations in poultry, fish, fruit, beekeeping and livestock feed production**
 - **Addresses recent tax dispute with government counterparts and vows to "ensure that these challenges are addressed"**
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Firefinch Limited (ASX: FFX) (**Firefinch** or **the Company**) wishes to advise shareholders that an interview with His Excellency Lamine Seydou Traore, Minister of Mines, Energy and Water of Mali from his recent visit to Morila is available on the Company's website.

In the interview, conducted by Mali's National TV Channel, ORTM, the Minister conveyed his pleasure with the "Company that took over the Morila gold mine to avoid its closure".

The Minister of Mines stated:

"Because of this takeover by the company Firefinch, we are in the process of saving more than 500 direct jobs and nearly 2,000 indirect jobs. In this context, it was important for us to come and inquire about the implementation of this new development to the benefit of the neighbouring populations, and to the benefit of the Malian population at large.

"Our visit to the fishponds, as well as other infrastructures of the kind, comfort us and show us that this mine is in line with the policy of the Transitional Government, whose guideline was given by the President of the Transition, who wants gold to shine brighter for the Malian populations. And, to achieve this, it is necessary to insist on this local development aspect, and I can see that Firefinch is working on it.

"We were pleasantly surprised to find that this is the leitmotif of the Firefinch group, which today has clearly shown us that out of 500 employees, there are only 4 expatriates, and this is encouraging."

Noting the Company's recently announced tax dispute (ASX 18 January 2021), the Minister of Mines commented:

"The Company has also shared with us the challenges it faces at the present time, and with my other government counterparts, we will work to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

"And all this is to the advantage of the Malian people because the investors present in-country, and who invest several billion in Mali, must be reassured. By reassuring those present, it will stimulate the arrival of other investors.

“The Malian mining sector is very rich in resources. But for these resources to be properly exploited, we need investors, investments, whether national or international. But above all, it is necessary that all these investors join hands to advance this particularly important sector for our country.”



Image 1: His Excellency Lamine Seydou Traore, Minister of Mines, Energy and Water of Mali being interviewed at the Morila Gold Mine by Mali’s National TV Channel, ORTM.



Image 2: Morila’s agribusiness community development initiative includes a poultry farm currently has 59,000 layers and broilers are being raised.



Image 3: Morila's agribusiness operation also includes a fish farm that produces over 60,000 tilapia fry each quarter, providing additional sources of employment and income for the local community.

Investors are invited to view for full interview on the Company's website here:

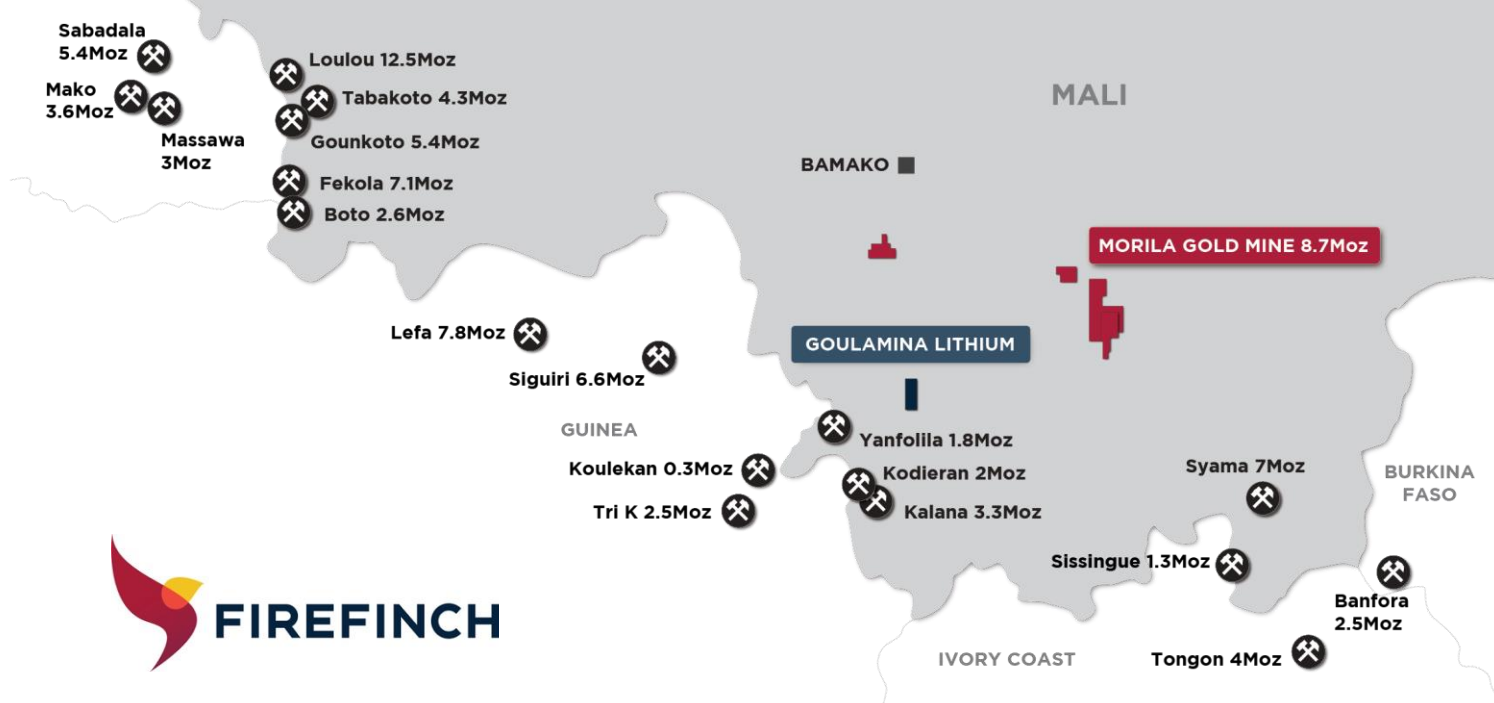
<https://firefinchltd.com/video/interview-of-his-excellency-lamine-seydou-traore-minister-of-mines-energy-and-water-of-mali>

This announcement has been approved for release to the ASX by the Board.

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ABOUT FIREFINCH

Firefinch is a Mali focussed gold miner and lithium developer. It has an 80% interest in the Morila Gold Mine which has produced 7.5 million ounces of gold since 2000. Firefinch is ramping up production at the 4.5mtpa mill and mine from a current annual production profile of 40,000 ounces of gold per annum from tailing treatment towards a target of 80 to 90,000 ounces of gold per annum from small open pits, stocks and tailings. In 2022, the company plans to further increase production by re-commencing mining from the main Morila pit to fully exploit the 1.5 million ounces of gold in the Global Resource at Morila.

Morila was one of the world's highest grade open pits 12 to 20 years ago but its limits are not well understood. Exploration will be a major focus at Morila, its satellite resources and multiple targets on the 685km² of surrounding tenure.

The Goulamina Lithium Project is one of the world's largest undeveloped deposits and has the potential to be one of the lowest cost producers. All permits are in place, a Definitive Feasibility Study is complete and a Global Resource of 109 million tonnes at 1.45% Li₂O with 1.57 million tonnes of contained Li₂O has been declared.

Firefinch is a responsible miner. We support positive social and economic change through contributing to the communities in which we operate. We seek to buy local, employ local and safeguard the environment and our people's health, safety and wellbeing.

The Company confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the Mineral Resources at Goulamina and Morila and the production estimates for Goulamina. The Company also confirms that all material assumptions and parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource estimates and production estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed. Please refer to ASX Announcements of 8 July 2020 and 20 October 2020 (Goulamina), 31 August 2020 (Morila), 7 September 2020 (Morila Tailings), 24 November 2020 (N'Tiola, Viper, Domba).