

Disaster mine's sister operation also placed under business rescue

About 780 workers at Barbrook gold mine near Barberton are facing a bleak Christmas after the mine was placed in business rescue.



Source [Mpumalanga News](#)

The operation is owned by Vantage Goldfields, which also owns Lily Mine. The latter was placed in business rescue nine months ago following a mine shaft collapse caused a lamp room in which three people were working to fall into a sinkhole.

The three bodies have never been recovered and Lily mine has remained closed ever since because it is no longer safe to mine in that area.

About 130 of Lily mine's employees were moved to Barbrook but the rest took retrenchment packages.

Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) said Barbrook's employees were paid only 15% of their November salaries and may not receive any December pay.

The 370 workers who took packages at Lily have not received any wages for about nine months and were surviving on food parcels from Amcu and some non-governmental organisations.

Amcu called for an urgent inquest into the Lily mine disaster to examine the responsibility of management. It also demanded that the department of mineral resources "stop twiddling their fingers" and questioned the silence and absence of minister Mosebenzi Zwane on this matter.

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