Acacia Mining employee detained at Tanzania airport over dispute on export royalties

Acacia Mining PLC's (LON:ACA) ongoing dispute with the Tanzanian government has deepened after a senior employee was arrested at the airport and prevented from leaving.

The employee's passport was seized and he was detained at the Dar-es-Salaam airport for a "period of time", the miner said. He was released after legal intervention and his passport has been returned.

Government agencies have been adding pressure on Acacia's staff in the past two days on allegations the mining company owes Tanzania royalties on undeclared exports of gold and copper concentrates from its Bulyanhulu and Buzwagi mines.

On Tuesday, Acacia said the Tanzania government had slapped it with a US$190bn bill for unpaid taxes and penalties.

READ: Acacia Mining slumps after being hit with US$190bn tax bill in Tanzania

Acacia owes the government US$154bn for Bulyanhulu and US$36bn for Buzwagi.

The miner has been banned from exporting gold and copper concentrates from Tanzania as talks continue.

Acacia has repeatedly denied claims that it undeclared export revenues.

"Acacia re-iterates that it operates in full compliance with Tanzanian law, has declared everything of commercial value that we have produced and has paid all appropriate royalties and taxes," the group said in a statement today.

"The company will keep the market regularly informed as to developments as they occur in Tanzania when they are of a sufficient materiality in the context of what has already been disclosed."

Shares in the company fell 3.31% to 172.60p in afternoon trading.
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