

diggers, including the issue or renewal of licences. In addition, you should note that the fact that you have not been registered as voters does not relieve you of your obligation to take out licences with the Department of Mines and Geology.

You have already seen that your failure to take out digging licences has resulted in your not being registered as voters. There is no doubt that if you continue to refuse to take out licences you are breaking the law and further detrimental consequences to you may follow. The Government has hitherto been most patient and mainly because it is aware that the majority of you are ready to co-operate with the Government and legalize your presence at Kao and Lihobong. It is absolutely intolerable, you will agree, that a minority should impose its will on the diggers and prejudice their interests at the diggings. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue the Government will be compelled to take firm action as no person can be allowed to defy the law with impunity.

I urge you once more to co-operate with Government by taking out licences and so legalize your activities at Kao and Lihobong.