Founded on 1st August 1992
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All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions
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آل پاکستان فیڈریشن آف یونائیٹڈ ٹریڈ یونینز

31 July 2026

## APFUTU Condemns the Tragic Death of 40 Mine Workers in the Quetta Coal Mine Explosion

The **All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU)** expresses its profound sorrow and strongest condemnation over the tragic methane gas explosion that occurred on **30 July 2026** at the coal mining lease operated by **M/s PMDC / Sheikh Aziz Contractor** in Sorange, Quetta District, Balochistan, which claimed the lives of **40 mine workers**, including rescue workers who lost their lives while attempting to save their fellow workers.

We extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt solidarity to the bereaved families and colleagues of the deceased workers. The fact that all the victims belonged to Alpuri Tehsil, District Shangla/Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlights the devastating impact this tragedy has had on an entire community that depends on mining for its livelihood.

This heartbreaking incident is yet another reminder of the persistent failure to ensure safe and healthy working conditions in Pakistan's mining sector. Mine workers continue to face unacceptable occupational risks due to inadequate enforcement of mine safety laws, weak labour inspection systems, insufficient emergency preparedness, and the failure of employers and authorities to fully implement internationally recognized occupational health and safety standards.

APFUTU stands in solidarity with the Pakistan Mine Workers Federation (PMWF), mine workers' unions, and all organizations advocating for stronger protection of mine workers. We acknowledge the efforts of trade unions that participated in the rescue and recovery operations and their continued commitment to improving health and safety in the mining industry.

APFUTU calls upon the Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan to:

- Conduct an independent, transparent, and impartial investigation into the causes of this disaster and ensure that those responsible for negligence are held fully accountable.
- Strictly enforce all existing mine health and safety regulations and strengthen labour inspection mechanisms across the mining sector.
- Ensure adequate compensation, social protection, and long-term support for the families of all deceased and injured workers.
- Publish comprehensive annual reports on mine accidents, including their causes, investigation findings, and legal actions taken against those responsible.
- Ratify and effectively implement **ILO Convention No. 176 on Safety and Health in Mines** without further delay and align national legislation with international labour standards.

The repeated loss of mine workers' lives is unacceptable. Every worker has the fundamental right to a safe and healthy workplace, and these recurring tragedies demonstrate the urgent need for stronger enforcement of occupational health and safety standards throughout Pakistan's mining industry.

APFUTU reiterates its commitment to working with trade unions, labour organizations, government institutions, employers, and international partners to promote decent work and ensure that every mine worker returns home safely after each working day.

**We stand in solidarity with the families of the 40 deceased mine workers and all mine workers across Pakistan. Their sacrifice must lead to meaningful reforms that prevent such tragedies from occurring again.**

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