

Minining

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ISSUE
07
MAY 18



MNANGAGWA Take Over

What has changed in the Mining sector

BEWARE THE RAW LITHIUM BUBBLE

06. Small Scale Chrome miners demands a fair price from MMCZ

05. Liberation Mining solicits for financial partners on coal gasific..

32. Restricted access to explosives hindering progress

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ABOUT PUBLICATION

Mining Zimbabwe is the premier source of Zimbabwe Mining news. Our core focus is on the ever evolving face of the mining industry, trends, new technologies being developed and used to improve this crucial sector, as well as new opportunities and investments arising from it. Mining Zimbabwe sole purpose is growing and empowering the mining industry and highlighting all its challenges as well as putting forth expert solutions.



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Mining surge on the horizon for Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe is endowed with abundant mineral resources; platinum is the obvious standout, with the country's reserves second only to neighbouring South Africa, as well as one of the world's richest diamond deposits in the Marange fields. But there is also significant potential in other resources such as coal and copper, as well as strategic industrial metals.

The new President Emmerson Mnangagwa has declared the country "open for business", so is a mining surge on the horizon for Zimbabwe?

Confidence in Zimbabwe and its new regime is clearly growing as two companies form a partnership to explore for diamonds in the country.

Botswana Diamonds (LON:BOD) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Vast Resources (LON:VAST) to jointly explore for diamonds in that country.

Investment in Zimbabwe's mining industry under Mugabe has been constrained by many factors, including the 2008 Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act, which created a requirement for all mining projects to be 51%-owned by Zimbabwean companies, a move to increase local benefits from mining activities, but one that was also open to abuse and made Zimbabwe's mining sector an unattractive investment

destination.

Since the November coup, Zimbabwe has relaxed rules on "indigenisation" – its home-grown empowerment legislation – which now doesn't demand state control of foreign businesses except in the case of platinum and diamonds.

At Mining Zimbabwe Magazine we always bring rich information on the current state of mining affairs in Zimbabwe, potential investment opportunities, machinery, technology, artisanal mining and much more, and this edition is no different.

Since Zimbabwe is "open for business", we also endeavor to increase our content base for our readers with a view to bringing value to all stakeholders, investors, industrial companies in developing the Zimbabwean Mining Industry.

While no one knows what the future holds, the more time you spend educating yourself on the policies shaping your future, the better your business will be able to navigate the next several years.

Tackle your biggest challenges by arming yourself with knowledge and information as you read through this edition of our magazine.

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Liberation Mining solicits for financial partners on coal gasification

Russian miner, Liberation Mining (Pvt) Limited is scouting for technical and financial partners for a joint venture on coal gasification on the eastern part of its project in Matebeleland North.

The company is among the 24 companies that were granted special grants by government to mine coal and methane gas along the rich belt in 2003 but failed to get investment for the project.

Liberation Mining chief executive Peter Mutsinya said a Special Grant No. 4977 was issued in February 2010 for both coal and gas and efforts were underway to secure partners for a coal gasification project.

"Yes Special Grant No. 4977 was issued in February 2010 for both coal and gas. Geological Exploration programme Liberation Mining has undertaken between 2010 and 2013 (3 years) was purely on coal and not on gas.

"Liberation Mining is currently scouting for technical and financial partners to go into joint venture on coal gasification on the eastern part of the Special Grant where the coal is deep," said Mutsinya.

This year, Liberation Mining plans to mine between 1,5 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes of coal. The project is worth an estimated \$500 million.

Initial forecasts indicated that the company would spend \$140 million in the first year on pre-stripping, open cast mining, engineering and

infrastructure capital as well as indirect costs and \$370 million to start mining.

Former England cricketer Phil Edmonds and Zimbabwean entrepreneur Andrew Groves are among the drivers behind Sable Mining Africa, whose subsidiary, Somedon Investment, is the largest shareholder in Liberation Mine with 49 percent while the rest is held by local investors.

Makomo Resources and China Africa Sunlight are among the few companies that have started exploring coal in the area while most of them have been accused of holding on to the claims for speculative purposes.

Since the new Government came into being, it has been inviting foreign investors to explore opportunities in the country. Recently, President Mnangagwa said firm investment commitments of up to \$3 billion have been recorded in the last few weeks, raising the prospects of an industrial boom should they be followed up.

Liberation Mining will bring massive competition to Hwange Colliery Company Limited (HCCL) and Makomo Resources, the two major coal mining companies in the country. HCCL, which started operations in 1890, has been dislodged as the biggest coal miner by Makomo due to operational challenges.

So far, Liberation Mining has employed 160 people but its strategy entails creating more jobs through contract mining. Three firms, including Passmark and CML, have since been engaged.

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Small scale chrome miners demands a fair price from MMCZ



CHROME

Small scale chrome miners are up in arms with Government minerals marketing unit, Minerals Marketing Corporation demanding a fair price that will ensure sustainability of their operations.

Small scale chrome miners are calling for MMCZ to gazette prices for chrome in tandem with the current chrome trading prices in order to diffuse the complaints that are now escalating from the sector.

MMCZ was established through an Act of Parliament (MMCZ Act Chapter 21:04) and began operations in March 1983. It is an exclusive agent for marketing and selling of all minerals produced in Zimbabwe except silver and gold.

This publication gathered that with Government threatening to take claims that are inactive, it is becoming clear that a storm is brewing within the small scale chrome mining sector.

Confederation of Zimbabwe Small Scale

Chrome Miners Analyst spokesperson said the current pricing model and marketing of chrome is not understood and the chrome pricing portfolio must be redirected to someone who has a better understanding.

"The larger chrome companies and the larger producers are locked into contracts at high prices per parcel but the small scale miners that produce small tonnages have to follow the indexed prices in China as per what the traders/buying houses are offering.

"Small scale miners are adversely affected when the price is falling and an artificially high price is kept when the market drops," said Mpofu.

She said it should be the miner's decision whether or not to sell bearing in mind a low export price of \$65-\$75 at low market is better any day than having to be lowballed to \$30-\$40 per tonne locally.

Mpofu said the smelters locally cannot uptake from all the miners locally therefore a majority will ultimately be prejudiced as miners are isolated by the international market due to high gazetted pricing and lowballed locally as they have no market to take their chrome.

"It is not a secret smelters will then buy at next to nothing and stockpile. This is adverse to the small scale miner's growth. MMCZ has sited that changing of price or gazetting of lower prices will affect its pricing contracts and secondly site middlemen has the problem.

"This will not affect MMCZ prices as

Government authorities are meant to lock in pricing for each chrome parcel therefore the country is not affected nor are the corporates as they generally seek and negotiate long term contracts," she said.

There are three levels of chrome trade that is the end users steel companies and smelters that can lock in at high prices, buying houses/distributors and finally traders. Therefore small scale miners that belong to the last bracket are forced to follow the gazetted trading price in China as traders will offer the indexed trading prices in China as they can bare the risk of consolidating smaller tonnages.

She said it is a known fact that the local smelters cannot off take from all small scale chrome miners and in order to grow, miners need consistent buyers especially when there are no financing options available.

Due to the blockage caused by stating artificial high prices eventually miners lose the opportunity to trade internationally as traders will not purchase above trading prices as they do not make a margin in addition to the issue of logistics and financing.

Miners who do not have established relationships with local smelters have also been forced to sell at low prices to smelters which brought about desperate selling leading to an outcry.

MMCZ has been urged to gazette a normal price and negotiate contracts according to each client as a Government regulatory and marketer.



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Vast signed a MOU for exploitation of Diamonds in Zimbabwe



Vast resources CEO

Vast Resources plc, the AIM-listed mining company with operating mines in Romania and Zimbabwe, is pleased to announce that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Botswana Diamonds plc under which the two companies have agreed: to exchange information derived from past exploration on areas prospective for diamonds in Zimbabwe; and to form a

special purpose jointly owned company for the purpose of developing and exploiting diamond resources in Zimbabwe.

Any exploitation of diamonds in Zimbabwe will be carried out in accordance with Zimbabwe's joint ownership laws in relation to diamonds.

As announced on 19 September 2008 the Company acquired at that time a database related to diamonds in Zimbabwe. It has also, until 2010, carried out its own exploration in the field using information from the database. Botswana Diamonds has independently acquired a Zimbabwe

diamond database and has expertise in diamond exploration, development and mining. In particular, it has access to technology relating to extracting diamonds from hard rock.

Andrew Prelea, Chief Executive of Vast Resources, commented:

"As a result of the new government's desire to open up business in Zimbabwe we believe the time has now come for us to make use of our historic diamond knowledge with a view to bringing value for all stakeholders in developing Zimbabwe's diamond resources. We are delighted to be working with Botswana Diamonds in order to achieve this."



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No joy for chrome smelting companies on power tariff reduction

Government sticks to 6,3 cents/kh tariff

Government will not be adopting a commodity based power tariff for miners anytime soon and will rather stick to the current tariff as it seeks to protect the power utility, ZESA Holdings from the vagaries of metal price fluctuations.

Chrome smelting companies have been at the forefront, advocating for a sustainable power tariff of around 4 cents from 6, 3 cents.

Energy and Power Development permanent secretary Partson Mbiriri said Government is however pursuing cheaper sources of power generation as there is no room for power tariff reduction for chrome smelting and mining companies at the moment.

This comes after mining companies had proposed a commodity price based tariff which the miners believes will catapult their sustainability and

profitability.

Mbiriri said the 4 cents tariff which chrome smelting companies are advocating for is not feasible and adopting a commodity linked pricing structure will leave Zesa Holdings with an egg on its face.

"On chrome smelters, we have tried to adjust to the practically possible charge. Our tariff at the moment is at 6, 3 cents. Chrome smelters would want it to be at 4 cents but it is not feasible at the moment, going forward we hope the situation will improve. "Commodity linked price, as all developing economies will concede, our primary products have a fluctuating price up to day and down tomorrow. Each time we tried to use commodity linked price, it has left Zesa with an egg on its face," said Mr Mbiriri.

"At the moment we sit on number three in the region as one of the countries with higher tariffs and we need to do better going forward. When you blend your 3 cents with 6 cents from thermal power stations you will end up with a competitive tariff," he said.

As an effort to address power shortages in the country, Zimbabwe is also planning to develop a 1 000 megawatts (MW) hydro power plant at the devil's gorge along the Zambezi River in Victoria Falls.

The project will complement the

Our tariff at the moment is at 6, 3 cents. Chrome smelters would want it to be at 4 cents but it is not feasible at the moment, going forward we hope the situation will improve.

\$6 billion Batoka Gorge power project which Zimbabwe is undertaking together with Zambia.

Energy and Power Development permanent secretary Partson Mbiriri said the country is prioritising power projects to make sure there is enough for power for different sectors of the economy.

"As we move forward it is important that we look at cheaper forms of power and this is why on our programmes we are prioritising Batoka which will give us 1200 megawatts at 3 cents/kwh. After Batoka we are looking at working on the devil's gorge again along the Zambezi," said Mr Mbiriri.

The expanded Batoka Gorge power plant is expected to ease pressure on the Kariba Hydro-electric Power Station mainly during winter seasons, with its projected capacity to generate 2 400MW.

The shared project between Zimbabwe and Zambia is located on the Zambezi River about 54km downstream of Victoria Falls and upstream of the existing Kariba Dam.

The project, which was approved by the two countries in the 1990s, will produce 2 400MW of electricity and create about 3 000 jobs during the peak of construction work.

Zimplats appointment of director notice



IN Ms Thandeka Nozipho Mgoduso

The board of directors of Zimplats is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Thandeka Nozipho Mgoduso as an independent non-executive director of the Company with effect from 16 April 2018. She replaced Ms Brenda Berlin who resigned as a non-executive director of the Company with effect from 4 April 2018.

Ms Thandeka Nozipho Mgoduso holds an MA (Clinical Psychology) from Wits University, South Africa. After working for a number of years as a clinical psychologist, as well as lecturing at universities in South Africa and abroad, she joined the corporate world where she held various senior human resources and executive leadership positions in the financial services sector and in the logistics industry.

Ms Thandeka Nozipho Mgoduso is an experienced human resources professional and currently runs her own strategic



OUT Ms Brenda Berlin

human resources consultancy business, Jojose Investments. She is a non-executive director of Assore Limited, Metair Investments Limited, South African Airways and Tongaat Hulett Limited and is a commissioner of the Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers in South Africa.

Brenda Berlin joined the board on 1 March 2010 and was a member of the board's audit and risk committee. She served as the Chief Finance Officer for Impala Platinum Holdings Limited ("Implats") from 2011 until she resigned from that position on 28 February 2018.

The Zimplats directors welcomed Ms Thandeka Nozipho Mgoduso to the Company and look forward to working with her on the board.

Accessing mineral rights and investment opportunities in Zimbabwe

Foreign investors are allowed to own 100% shareholding for mining operations in all minerals except for platinum and diamonds which the foreign investor is expected to jointly own with Government on a 51%/49% basis.

Foreign investors are expected to register a company in Zimbabwe and possess an investment certificate issued by the Zimbabwe Investment Authority (Z.I.A) before starting operations. The company may then apply for mineral rights from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.



Any person who is a permanent resident of Zimbabwe and above the age of 18 may take out a prospecting license from any Provincial Mining Director for purposes of prospecting and registering mining claims.

Each Prospecting License is valid for two years.

A holder of a Prospecting License automatically acquires the rights of prospecting and pegging mining claims in Zimbabwe.

A photograph of Emmerson Mnangagwa, the President of Zimbabwe, in a dark suit and red tie, raising his right fist in a gesture of solidarity or triumph. He is smiling slightly and looking off to the side. Several medals are pinned to his left lapel. The background is blurred, showing other people in formal attire.

MNANGAGWA TAKE OVER:

What has changed in the Mining sector

Mnangagwa: what has changed in the mining sector

The ascendance of President Emmerson Mnangagwa following the departure of Robert Mugabe through a military intervention came with it massive changes within the mining landscape, key to it being a change in policies.

Keen to revive the mining sector after years of reticence by foreign investors during Robert Mugabe's rule, President Mnangagwa has managed to turn the country's investment environment into a darling for many.

His summit to power has seen the country amassing a great deal of investments and other tangible commitments coming from hostile countries as far as United States of America.

All this has been driven by the "Zimbabwe is open for business" mantra, which has become the Government's magic bullet going into the coming harmonised elections.



President Mnangagwa

What has changed during Mnangagwa rule?

The takeover of Mnangagwa saw Zimbabwe amending its Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment legislation to limit majority ownership by state

entities to only diamond and platinum mines and not the entire mining sector as espoused in the previous legislation.

The indiginisation legislation introduced during the tenure of Mugabe was designed to increase black Zimbabweans' participation in the mining sector but were open to abuse.

The legislation had become an elephant in the room for Mugabe's Government and it also became a major hindrance to attraction of tangible and clean investments in the mining sector.

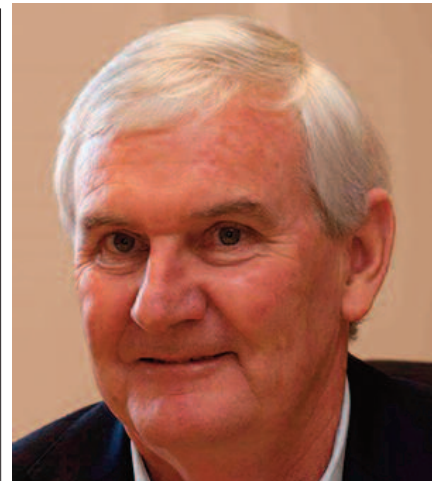
The amendments were included in the Finance Act, which covers the 2018 budget and were signed into law. According to the new amendments, only state-owned mining entities will hold majority shares in diamond and platinum companies.

Besides the amendments, Zimbabwe has overcome unprecedented change since November 2017, when President Mnangagwa took office. This political change has boosted business confidence and caught the attention of the international market.

This change at the top has encouraged a unanimous feeling across the country and the international community. The mining sector in particular is one which is drawing lots of positive attention.

The Zimbabwean mining industry faces many challenges which were highlighted at the conference:

Many projects in the country have been starved of any form of funding for over 10 years. Estimates have suggested that



Caledonia CEO Steve Curtis

Zimbabwe will need \$7 billion to fund any immediate capital expenditure requirements if the mining industry is to return to anything like its former self.

What has been the massive development during the coming of Mnangagwa has been a change of perception from investors.

Caledonia Mining Corporation chief executive Steve Curtis recently noted the coming of a new political dispensation has generated massive interest from investors especially from America.

He said if the current investment is to be maintained by sound policies, the Zimbabwean mining sector is set for massive and sustained growth.

How much investment has come in during Mnangagwa rule?

The Mnangagwa administration has managed to have fruitful engagements with several investors eyeing the local mining sector. Not much investments have been realised besides the \$4,2 billion platinum deal earmarked for the Mhondoro-Ngezi area.

*Please turn over***

Mnangagwa: where are we now in the mining sector

Another investment to note has been a promise by Russia to start injecting funds into its Darwendale platinum project. The revelations were made by the Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov during his visit recently in Zimbabwe.

A majority of investors who have engaged Government so far have been making commitments but no real investment has been done. It has been a matter of promises and mining analysts are of the opinion that most investors are waiting for elections outcome.

Commitments and Promises made so far

An American investor MGG Holdings made a commitment to invest close to \$60 million towards the Zimbabwean mining sector mainly focusing on chrome and gold.

The world's second biggest diamond mining company, Alrosa, is currently in Zimbabwe exploring investment opportunities amid huge optimism the Russia-based firm, whose annual turnover stands at \$4 billion, could soon start operating locally.

The mining giant is only second to De Beers, and specialises in exploration, mining, manufacture and sale of diamonds. It has African operations in Botswana and Angola.

President Mnangagwa was recently in China where he also signed a lot of memorandum of understanding with Chinese companies willing to invest in the Zimbabwean mining sector.

Current investment is to be maintained by sound policies, the Zimbabwean mining sector is set for massive and sustained growth.

Outlook

A lot has been expected from Mnangagwa in a short space of time since his ascendance to power. However with sound and consistent policies, the local mining sector is set for a boom.

More investors are expected going forward.

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Introduces flexible and compact Light Tower Range LTS

Work on building sites often extends late into the evening or happens only after nightfall, especially when it comes to road and bridge construction, concreting or other events. A reliable light source is indispensable for these operations. Wacker Neuson's new LTS Light Tower emulates daylight very closely in its light quality, free of shadowing.

With the new LTS Light Tower, Wacker Neuson is showing yet again that compact dimensions and high performance can be combined successfully. Whether working in warmer conditions, avoiding heavy traffic volumes during the day or working with fresh concrete and finishing a project during the night - LTS Light Towers have the operating capacity for any area of application.

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There are two LTS models available: the LTS4K, with an efficient Kubota engine and kitted out with LED lights. The LTS8L is equipped with a powerful Kohler engine and has metal halide



standard illumination. Additionally, the machines are made with a 60 Hz option. The compact design and the vertical tower of the Wacker Neuson LTS towers facilitate the transport of up to 10 units on a standard truck. In addition, minimal space is needed on building sites, events and storerooms.

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<http://www.wackerneuson.co.za/en/products/lighting/light-towers/model/lts/>



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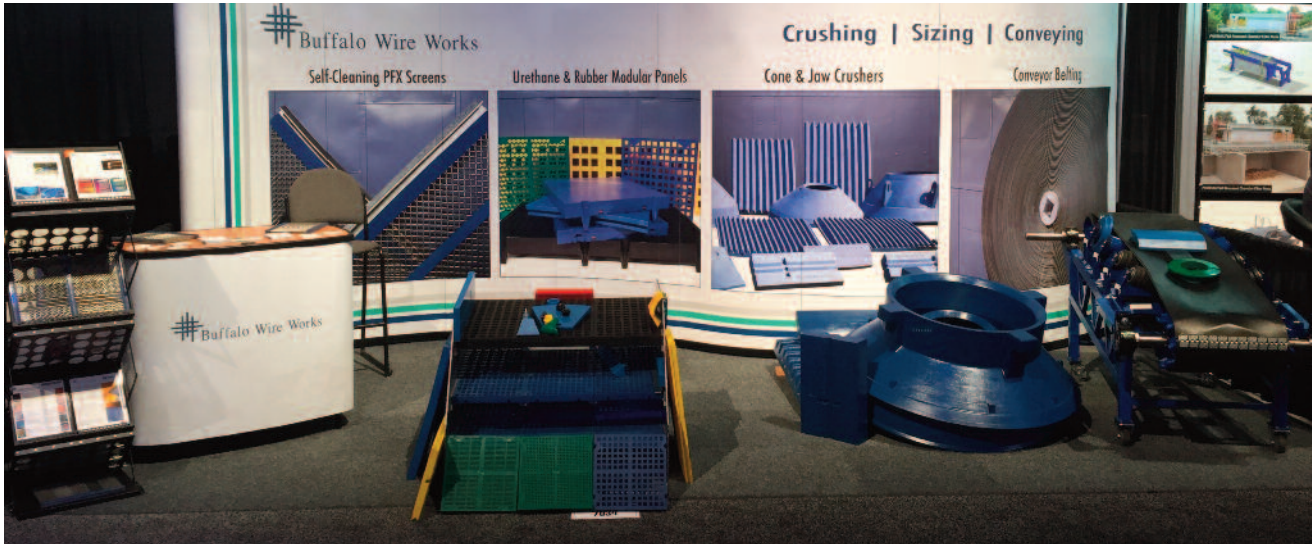
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Buffalo Wire Works was originally founded on manufacturing woven wire screening media. Over the years, we have vertically integrated our production capabilities and processes to meet the ever-changing market requirements of increased production, higher efficiencies and reduced downtime. We have accomplished this with a combination of organic growth and strategic acquisitions, used to create a product

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Buffalo Wire Works is the premier manufacturer of engineered screening media, wear protection, crusher wear parts and conveyance components for the Mining, Aggregate & Energy Industries

to meet your production requirements. Available in a full range of compatible designs to meet your current sub-frame system. We also offer complete sub frame systems, either new or conversions.

Urethane Accessories – Buffalo Wire Works offers a full line of classifier shoes (flights), impact pads, spray bar deflectors, poly anti-clogging chains, training guides for belt tracking, crown bar converters and more.

Urethane Magnetic Liners – Buffalo Wire Works offers a complete line of custom and modular liners with no welding, burning, holes or drilling required. Powerful magnetic adhesion and unique magnet rust protection, are just some of the features that differentiate our liners from the competition.

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Conveyance Components and Belting – Complete offering of

conveyance products for your toughest applications. Our Idler line is characterized by larger shafts, high load bearings and unique edge can protection from material wedging. Apart from Idlers we offer pulleys, drums, impact beds, return rollers, channel inserts and much more. Buffalo Wire Works offers the highest-grade conveyor belting for any application. We specialize in 500' and 1000' rolls.

Our goal is to provide you and your organization with the finest products to improve your overall operation.

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Mining Utility and Support Vehicles



Mine Machines, is a fully Zimbabwean based company, providing 30 years of nationwide innovation and support, to our growing mining industry

The practical ethos of delivering BETTER SAFER MINING, through retained expertise, know-how and experience, has enabled Mine Machines to provide a full 'suite' of Trackless Mining Equipment, to suit the exact needs and operating conditions in this market.

The proven and familiar face of utility vehicle reliability has some new and exciting additions. UV Botswana are launching the next generation of underground and surface utility vehicles,



The MV U40 D PT

designed and certified, to service Zimbabwe's increasingly mechanised mining demands.

The recent launches of both the Rock Ranger 150 and Reef Rover 050 are notable success stories, both locally and abroad, as multi-purpose, mining compliant, underground supervisory

and transportation vehicles. Several models afford applications as diverse as ambulance duties, through to service recovery, with hydraulic/pneumatic power take off functions also optional. These models have now been complimented with the latest utility vehicle addition, the Mine Scout, providing an ideal means to transport supervisors, technicians and artisans, with ample space for tools, spare parts and testing equipment.

A 'work anywhere', 4 x 4 utility machine for both open cast, through to low profile underground mines, available with mine safety compliances, as standard features. As with all models, the Mine Scout can be powered by Tier 2, through to Tier 4 type diesel engine options, providing superior centre articulation, manoeuvrability, vehicle safety and operator comfort – Air conditioning is also offered.



Mine Scout

How many breakdowns can your Artisans 'now' attend to, in a single Shift?"

Continued on page 19



BETTER, SAFER MINING

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Mining Utility and Support Vehicles



The UV80

The UV –UT18P MINEBUS (18 MAN) has also been designed from the pedigree established by this successful 4 tonne range of Utility vehicles. The first low profile, rigid frame personnel carrier, to carry 18 passengers, will soon be delivered. This unit is equipped with bench seating which can be removed, allowing the vehicle to perform roles other than personnel transport if required.

With this proven technology and the experience gained, a complete 8 tonne range, more suited to support conventional



The UV –UT18P MINEBUS (18 MAN)

mining operations, is now available.

The first of the new designs, was for a scissor lift utility vehicle, built for installation work in headings with a 6m height. Fitting of vent fans, ducting and other services can be safely and efficiently carried out using the 3 tonne work platform. This was followed by the 8 tonne personnel (Up to 32 people) carrier, as well as a Dump truck, intended for hard rock and tunnelling operations.

These exciting developments has allowed for expansion into areas outside of the sub region. The latest unit to roll off the UV production lines is a dedicated lube/fuel carrier, with up to a 5000 litre capacity. The vehicle can be configured to meet customer specific requirements, with modular tank design to prevent cross contamination of multiple products As a proud and direct service link, Mine Machines' continues to have success in the supply of equipment and associated prod-



UV 80

ucts. Adequate levels of suitably trained and accredited staff, ensures a strong technical support foundation, including field service and product support backup.

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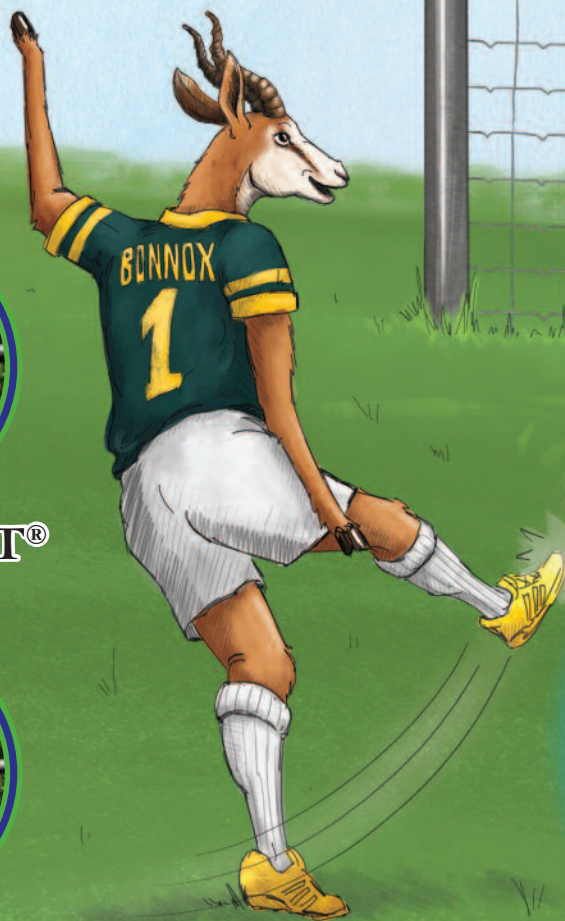
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and convert with
a **golden boot**



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Efficient fencing that lasts: BONNOX supplies just what you need –quick as a flash

by Du Preez de Villiers



Whether you order lightly galvanised or fully galvanised wire fencing from Bonnox, the quality and workmanship is excellent .

With Bonnox , you score between the posts !

Bonnox is well renowned for their quality and fully galvanised fencing.

Already, many farmers are aware of Bonnox's range of fine products: The "Money Saver", "Close Mesh", "Kombi Fence", "Square Mesh", "Multi Fence" and "Flexi Fence" were all meticulously designed to provide for every possible need. But what sets a manufacturer apart from the rest, is the ability to promptly observe and react to new trends and needs in the market.

The prefabricated fencing market in Africa currently needs a product which is inexpensive, as farmers are currently required to be thrifty with their

money. Therefore, Bonnox decided to introduce their "Economy" range. The only difference between this fencing and their existing "Elite" range, is that it is lightly galvanised instead of fully galvanised. Now a farmer can compare "apples with apples" when comparing Bonnox with competitors' fencing products.

"There are lightly galvanised wire fences on the market, but many of our clients ask for it under the Bonnox brand name," says Anita Gent, Director of Bonnox. "We therefore decided to also manufacture an economical version of the nine most popular products in our range of seventy products. This includes the "Money Saver", "Close



With their new 'Economy' range, Bonnox found a balance between costs and quality.

Mesh" and "Multi Fence" ranges of 1,2m, 1,8m and 2,4 m. This offers the farmer an inexpensive solution of fencing for his stock, small and large game.

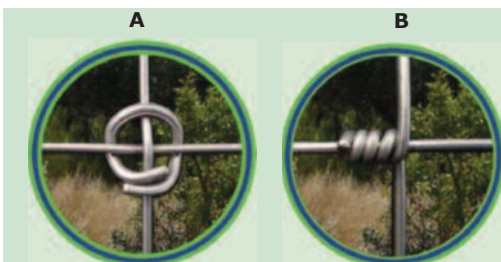
In areas where the effects of the elements are not very harsh on wire fencing, this inexpensive Bonnox will still last for many years, but fully galvanised Bonnox is still recommended for areas where the elements affect fences more severely.

As the "Elite" and "Economy" ranges look exactly the same, the labels on the existing "Elite" range are green while those on the economical range are royal blue. The price of the economical range is only 75% of the price for the existing range, but it is still being manufactured with the same Bonnox meticulousness and care. The wire still being from the same supplier.

Skip the middleman

"Any farmer can order our products directly from our factory in Sunderland Ridge, south of Pretoria, to simplify logistics and cut costs. This also means that the farmer can gain the best advice and support directly from the manufacturer," Anita says.

Bonnox makes sure that there is minimal or no lead time at the factory. Bonnox keeps stock of approximately 70 different fencing varieties to suit every customer's requirements. Bonnox is continuously looking for ways to accommodate the farmer. "For every ten rolls of fencing a farmer buys, he gets one free," she says. "On top of that, we offer a 25% discount. Bonnox also provides erecting equipment at competitive prices which makes fence erection a simple matter.



Two of Bonnox's innovative prefabricated designs are the (A) Ringlok® for sloping or uneven gradients and (B) Hingejoint® for the remainder of the fencing range.

Contact Bonnox's friendly sales team to discuss your fencing needs. Their numbers are 076-169-9068 or + 27 012-666-8717. You may also send them an e-mail to gerda@bonnox.co.za or linda@bonnox.co.za or zane@bonnox.co.za, or visit their website at www.bonnox.co.za.

Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc Quarterly Production Update

: Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc announces quarterly gold production from the Blanket Mine in Zimbabwe for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 ("Q1 2018" or the "Quarter").

All production numbers are expressed on a 100 per cent basis and are based on mine production data and are therefore subject to adjustment following final assay at the refiners.

Approximately 12,924 ounces of gold were produced during the Quarter, in line with production expectations for 2018. Caledonia maintains its 2018 full year production guidance of 55,000 ounces to 59,000 ounces and remains on track with progress towards its long-term target of 80,000 ounces by 2021.

Commenting on the production for Q1 2018, Steve Curtis, Chief Executive Officer, said:

"Production in the first quarter of 2018 is consistent with the

level achieved in the corresponding quarter of 2017 as Blanket remains on track to deliver its full year guidance of 55,000 to 59,000 ounces. Whilst production is in line with expectations our safety performance during the quarter was very disappointing as we announced during the quarter a fatal accident at Blanket. Caledonia remains fully committed to the safety of all our employees and I join with my colleagues and management in reaffirming our commitment to safe gold production.

"The sinking of the central shaft continues to progress according to plan and within budget, with the shaft currently at a depth of 990 metres. We look forward to commencing production from the central shaft in 2020 which is expected to deliver the Company's growth plan to achieve 80,000 ounces by 2021."



Directions to Mine

Turn left opposite the Chinhoyi caves then go until tar ends turn right and go down that dust road for 35km and milling site will be on the left on Kenzamba road Makonde

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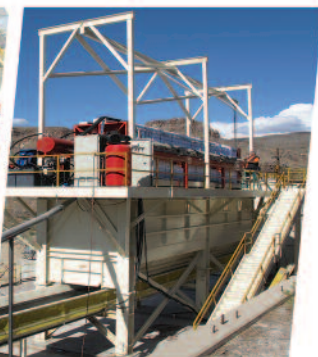
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Through our systems we can guarantee great results, allowing any working site to reach its maximum efficiency and production, because Matec systems maximize the returns of the plant, recovering precious materials, such as water, and reducing disposal costs.

We can provide our customers with the best quality machines, also thanks to components by top brands and the timely assistance service.

Matec headquarters are in Massa, Tuscany, Italy. Our workshop and offices cover a 5000 m² area, here we design and manufacture all our machines to offer 100% Made in Italy products. Matec is a well-established presence in every continent and we have developed branch offices in America, Brazil and India, plus a global dealer network. Through our warehouses and dealers, we can easily supply the spare parts you need and give assistance.

The need of constantly keeping a high level of both service and operational skills must be translated into a strong integration between Customer's needs and the daily comparison to the evolution of our reference markets.

Our company mission is to create values through the supply of cutting edge products and services for customer's greatest satisfaction, at the same time respecting mankind and the environment.

Water Treatment In The Mining Sector – Tailing, Flotation And Concentrate

In the mining sector, the filter press is used for the tailing, the flotation and the concentrate.

The water treatment process may be summed up as follows:

1) Process wastewater are collected into a dedicated pit or

tank, in which there is submersible pump;

2) The submersible pump sends the wastewater to the thickener, vertical or horizontal, for the clarification of the water and the thickening of the mud;

3) Before entering the thickener, the wastewater are mixed with a flocculant solution, to speed up the sedimentation process;

4) The wastewater arrives into the thickener in the center of it, where a metal cylinder for the collection of water is placed (the design makes the thickening more efficient, creating a column of water pressing on the solids at the bottom of the thickener);

5) Clarified water overflows from the top of the thickener and it is collected in a dedicated clear water tank;

6) Thickened mud is discharged in a buffer homogenizing tank, which keeps the mud at the right density;

7) When the mud level in the homogenizing tank is enough and the filter press is ready to receive it (it is empty and closed), a high pressure pump sends the mud in the filter press;

8) Inside the filter press, the mud is dehydrated through pressure; the actual filtration process occurs in the filter pack, consisting of a customized set of plates. The cloths and under-cloths cover the filtrating surface of the plate, which has small projecting cylinders forming drainage channels. Once the filter pack is completely sealed, the filtration process begins from the head plate with the feed pump injecting the sludge into the filter plates chambers. The cake will form uniformly all across the filtrating surface and is ready for discharging once the required moisture level has been reached.

9) The water is collected by a drainage system (with an open design to evaluate the quality of water and spot possible failures);

10) A probe detects the water from the mud dehydration, as it detects water no more, the pump stops, after a safety delay, and the filter press can open the plates to discharge the mud cakes (average moisture is 15-20%);

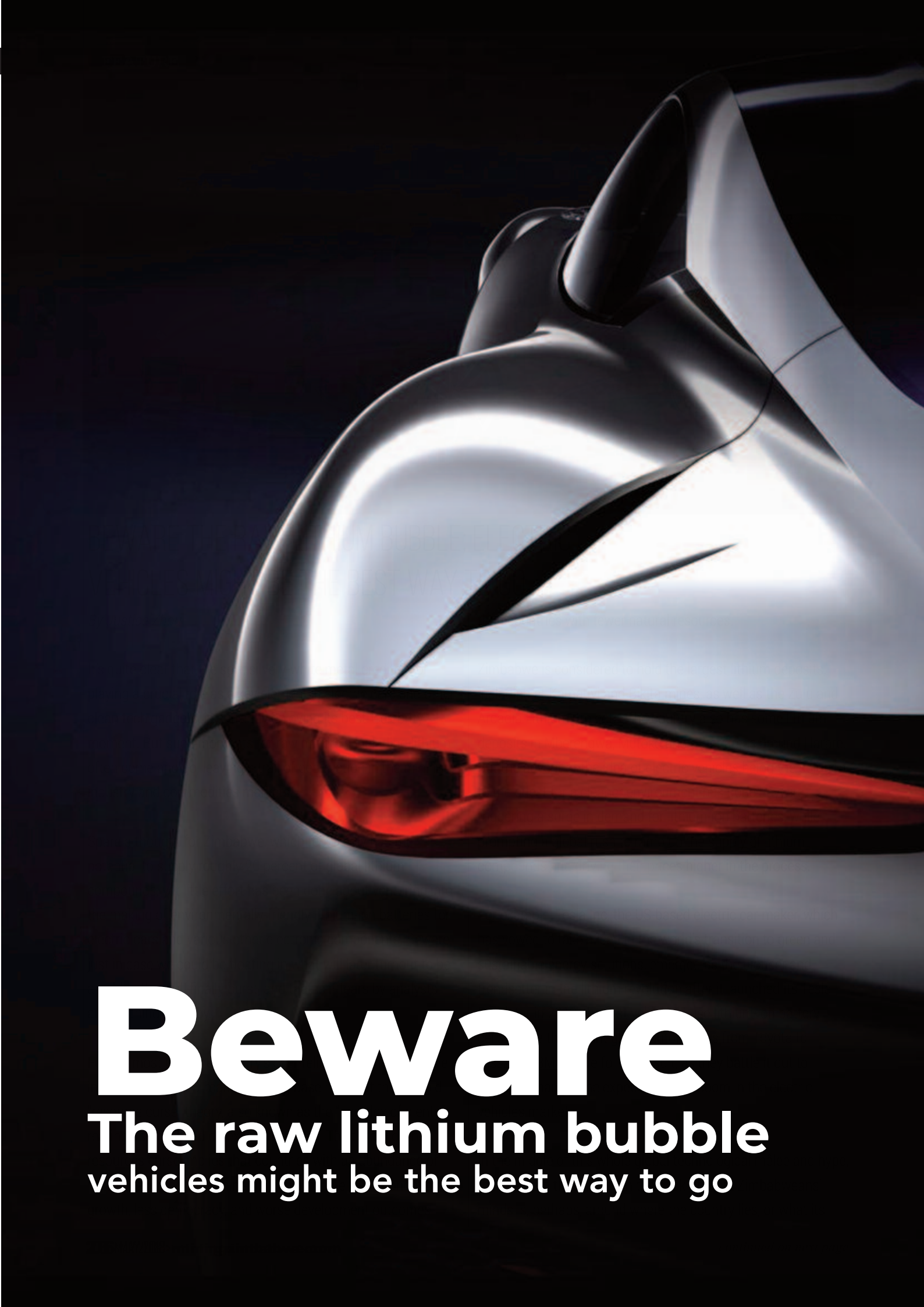
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Beware

The raw lithium bubble
vehicles might be the best way to go

Beware the raw lithium bubble; electric vehicles might be the best way to go

By Justice Zhou

It's quite clear that the soft, silvery-white metal credited for playing a crucial role as a key element in electric cars and other clean tech gadgets, is currently enjoying its best "celebrity" moment. But such moments for raw minerals including lithium often come and go, leaving a trail of destruction in the mining industry and commodities markets.

Spare a thought for Zimbabwe, which reportedly has the potential to supply roughly 20 percent of global lithium compounds, yet little effort has been made towards venturing in the making of environmentally-friendly lithium-ion batteries for electric cars and various other electronic components. Beware, just in case we could be floating in what will later turnout to be a bubble that will finally burst, and that is if fears by analysts are anything to go by.

As witnessed recently, global commodities are prone to price shocks. For example, commodity prices such as those raw minerals spiralled to historically high levels in the run-up to the Great Recession in 2008, before plummeting as the global economy collapsed. Thereafter, prices subsequently rebounded with the global economic recovery but, more recently, commodity prices appear to be hitting the skids once more.

Such booms and busts in the prices of commodity prices serve as a reminder to

many countries that have for many years relied upon the extractive industry, like Zimbabwe, that there is a need to counter losses brought about by such economic eventualities by shifting towards beneficiation or adding value to their minerals.

For the most part, the country's over-reliance on the extractive industry and its low manufacturing base, have kept the age-old "resource curse" theory, also known as the "paradox of plenty", rearing its ugly head on export revenues. The theory of the resources curse implies that countries with an abundance of natural resources, like minerals, tend to have less economic growth, less democracy, and worse development outcomes than countries with fewer natural resources.

The ministry of mines says processing minerals before export is just one of the four key pillars of the country's goal to create value, jobs and fast-track industrial development from its mineral resources under a five-year economic blue print, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation, otherwise known as Zim Asset.

Zimbabwe is considered to hold the largest lithium deposits, including at Kamativi and Bikita mines, as well as the Zulu and Arcadia Lithium projects. The country also has some lithium deposits in Mberengwa, Mutoko and

other areas around Harare. But the advent of the idea of electric vehicles being the solution to the quest for a cleaner environment has gone haywire, triggering a surge in demand for lithium-ion batteries, while prompting a global rush to ramp up the supply of lithium compounds and driving their prices higher in the process.

For example, Tesla Inc, the US-based electric car-maker, which has vowed to take a lead in the world's transition to green and sustainable energy solutions, emerged as the pioneer and trendsetter in the lithium revolution after it launched its Tesla Roadster in 2018, the first vehicle to use lithium-ion battery cells. Since then, giant global automakers from Toyota to Nissan to BMW have followed suit, as they battle it out to secure a share of the expected future boom in the electric vehicles market. In the middle of this whole global technological mêlée and hype, the question that lingers in the back of most Zimbabweans' minds is, perhaps, around where the country lies, or what its role is and what it stands to gain or lose.



Beware the raw lithium bubble; electric vehicles might be the best way to go

How about setting up electric car manufacturing plants and making smart phone components? After all, Zimbabwe has since the appointment of President Emmerson Mnangagwa seen a dramatic increase in investment commitments into the mining sector, including lithium miners taking advantage of friendlier laws and rising confidence in the new government.

However, there's a catch. Some analysts are not convinced the idea of a win-win situation between investors and the country is guaranteed. In an interview with Mining Zimbabwe, Patrick Bond, a renowned professor of political economy at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, warned about the dangers of counting chickens before they are hatched. He highlighted especially the track record of multinational companies' sometimes opaque operations in Africa.

"If in any case, the economy is now built upon an extremely unsound foundation—multinational corporations and local elites, neither of whom show any inclination to reinvestment—then it doesn't really matter, does it?" Professor Bond said.

"A return to a golden era of localised economic development based on a large manufacturing industry is desperately needed, such as the 1980s era in which 5 percent annual GDP growth was often achieved, prior to the destruction of ESAP (Economic Structural Adjustment Programme)."

The World Bank says Zimbabwe's mining

sector has the potential to generate over \$11 billion in revenues and S\$10 billion in export receipts and contribute \$1,7 billion to the fiscus by 2018, provided there is a conducive climate for investment. This means if efforts are made to move away from raw exports, to value-addition or manufacturing, there are chances of even much better and increased streams of revenue to ramp up government coffers, create jobs and boost tech innovations.

It remains to be seen if the new government will buck the trend, being able to rein in miners who might refuse to comply with country's beneficiation policy. On that score, however, the mines ministry is reportedly engaging with lithium investors on the possibility of getting into value addition, including setting up lithium battery manufacturing plants. In addition, the finance minister Patrick Chinamasa has proposed a 5 percent tax on exports of unprocessed lithium beginning January next year.

Lithium-ion batteries offer a cleaner and better alternative to conventional lead-acid car batteries which are heavier and are major pollutants, as steps to curb emissions and to reduce vehicle weight for the so-called green economy intensify. However, their use in the automotive industry is still restricted by car batteries' problems when it comes to the ability to withstand engine-room high temperatures and the likelihood of being damaged in the event of a collision.

Electric cars and lithium-ion batteries are not without their disadvantages, and among them is their rate of self-

discharge being much lower than that of other rechargeable cells. However, a report released this month by Research and Markets projects the lithium-ion battery market to cross the figure of \$40 Billion by the end of 2024. It also says a lot of research and development is being done by the battery manufacturing companies to reduce the size and weight as well as cost of the batteries to enhance safety and power output.

In a 2015 report by Johannesburg-based advisory firm Eunomix Research, the Zimbabwe government's plans to embark on a policy shift from dependence on raw materials to the export of finished products is laid bare by its authors such as economist and the managing director Claude Baissac.

According to the report, Zimbabwe was rolling out an ambitious policy to transform the mining sector. This policy entailed the adoption of beneficiation, a strategy which saw it gain broad support in regional initiatives like the African Union's African Mining Vision (AMV). At some point, the government went as far as taking bold steps to minimise the export of raw chrome by slapping a ban on it, just to make its intentions to encourage manufacturing clear, although the policy was later scrapped in favour of cordial negotiations with miners, amid fears investors will rush for the exits.

"The government has formulated a coherent and rational beneficiation policy that takes into account several mitigating factors and produces concrete initiatives to address some of those constraints,"

according to Eunomix.

"However, at the end of the day, Zimbabwe is a small country that must rely on external sources of investment and expertise, and must export to the global market. This is a constraint that it cannot escape. The policies it develops must therefore be sufficiently pragmatic to allow economic operators to derive reasonable returns."

Several findings by global development bodies suggest countries such as Zimbabwe stand to gain more from beneficiation and industrialisation through terms of trade, than exporting raw materials. A new World Bank study, titled The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018,

outlines how the rampant looting of minerals and other natural resources by big corporates has impoverished, rather than benefit Africa, while in February, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a damning report stating that Africa loses an average of \$50 billion every year through illicit trade.

In his 2018 budget statement, the Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa lamented the fact that lithium was being carted away to foreign destinations with minimal value addition, depriving the country of forex earnings and job creation opportunities. As a measure to curb the export of unprocessed lithium ore, he proposed to

impose an export tax of 5 percent on the gross value of the exported metal.

Most of all, Zimbabwe needs to do more to demonstrate it really is serious about ensuring that it reaps more revenue and other benefits from its lithium wealth, by generally being candid to potential investors that their policy in the sector goes beyond the mantra of "Zimbabwe is open for business." As it stands, it doesn't appear the new government, perhaps out of desperation for investment, is more vocal and will stamp enough authority to see through its side of the beneficiation bargain with prospective investors in the lithium sector, but it must.

Special grant for coal and energy minerals

Procedure

5.1 Application is made to Secretary, MAB who:-

- acknowledges receipt by date-stamping and assigning it an application no. e.g. SG 1/09, SG2/09, SG3/09 denoting the sequence in which they were received and the year received)
- also checks fulfillment of legal requirements of the application.

Criteria for Recommending Special Grant Applications

The MAB considers every application brought before it and reports thereon to the Minister with its recommendations, whether the application should be granted or refused.

In consideration of the application the MAB looks for the following:-

- The background of the applicant(s);
- Their programme of work;
- Proof of technical expertise;
- Whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to be issued with a special grant;
- The financial status of the applicant; and
- Whether it would be in the national interest to issue the special grant.



In terms of Sections 291 up to 296 of the afore mentioned Act, special grants are issued for all minerals except Coal, Mineral Oils and Natural Gas which are issued under part XX of the Act.

Procedure

6.2 Application is done to the Permanent Secretary through the PMDs.

6.3 Application requirements:

- Completed application form
- Company documents
- Project document
- Location map

CONTACT DETAILS

The Secretary for Mines and Mining Development

Private Bag 7709, Causeway, Harare

TEL: +263-4-777043; 777022/9; 798771/5

Website: www.mines.gov.zw

E-mail: minprom2006@yahoo.com;

All Minerals found in Zimbabwe

Agate	Nyamandhlovu, Chikomba, Lupane
Aluminum	Mutare, Nyanga, Mwenezi
Amazonite	Nyamandhlovu, Rushinga
Amethyst	Nyamandhlovu, Hurungwe, Hwange, Makonde, Lupan
Antimony	Kwekwe, Bubi, Mberengwa, Kadoma, Shurugwi
Arsenic	Bubi, Shurugwi, Mutare, Gwanda
Asbestos	Masvingo, Gwanda, Matobo, Mberengwa, Insiza, Makonde, Umzingwane
Aventurine	Masvingo, Beitbridge
Barites	Kwekwe, Mwenezi
Beryl	Hurungwe, Kariba, Goromonzi, Harare, Mudzi, Rushinga, Mutoko, Bindura, Marondera, Gutu, Buhera, Bikita, Chegutu, Hwange, Mberengwa, Gweru
Bismuth	Gwanda, Insiza, Goromonzi, Hwange
Cesium	Mudzi, Bikita, Goromonzi
Calcite	Hwange, Bindura, Chiredzi, Mwenezi
Chromium	Mberengwa, Guruve, Makonde, Gweru, Kwekwe, Shurugwi, Chegutu, Kadoma, Gwanda, Insiza, Masvingo, Chirumanzu
Citrine	Marondera, Harare, Goromonzi
Clay	Harare, Bulawayo, Gwanda, Gweru
Coal	Gokwe, Chiredzi, Beitbridge, Mwenezi, Hwange, Lupane, Binga, Kariba, Hurungwe, Bikita
Cobalt	Kwekwe, Insiza, Shamva, Bubi, Bindura
Copper	Makonde, Kadoma, Mutare, Chirumanzu, Chegutu, Kwekwe, Shurugwi, Beitbridge, Gokwe, Bindura, Chipinge, Bikita, Insiza, Makonde, Harare, Bulawayo, Shamva, Chiredzi, Nkayi, Mudzi, Chegutu, Bindura, Kwekwe, Hurungwe, Bubi, Makonde, Bikita, Gwanda, Masvingo.
Cordierite	Hurungwe, Beitbridge, Chimanimani, Rushinga, Makuti
Corundum	Beitbridge, Chiredzi, Shurugwi, Marondera, Mberengwa, Mazowe, Rushinga, Insiza, Goromonzi, Wedza, Makoni
Diamond	Gweru, Bubi, Beitbridge, Binga, Mwenezi, Mutare, Chivi
Diatomite	Hurungwe
Dolomite	Mutare, Beitbridge, Makonde, Mudzi, Masvingo, Rushinga.
Emerald	Gutu, Masvingo, Insiza, Mberengwa, Hurungwe.
Feldspar	Harare, Bikita, Umzingwane, Goromonzi
Fireclay	Hwange, Chiredzi, Kwekwe, Lupane, Nkayi, Kadoma, Kwekwe
Flint clay	Mwenezi, Beitbridge
Fluorite	Hwange, Guruve, Binga
Garnet	Beitbridge, Hurungwe, Mudzi, Guruve, Rushinga, Marondera
Graphite	Hwange, Hurungwe, Kariba, Makonde
Gypsum	Beitbridge
Gold	Every district in Zimbabwe
Iron	Kwekwe, Mberengwa, Harare, Kwekwe, Buhera, Gweru, Charter, Chiredzi, Masvingo, Mazowe, Kadoma.

All Minerals found in Zimbabwe

Jade	Masvingo
Kaolin	Kwekwe, Mutare, Bubi, Hwange, Kadoma, Mazowe, Harare, Umzingwane, Nkayi, Chegutu
Kainite	Hurungwe, Nyanga, Mudzi, Rushinga
Lead	Mberengwa, Kwekwe, Gokwe, Mutare, Wedza, Hwange
Limestone	Mberengwa, Gwanda, Bindura, Shamva, Mazowe, Kadoma, Umzingwane, Gweru, Chegutu, Chimanimani, Mudzi, Harare, Hurungwe
Lithium	Goromonzi, Mudzi, Buhera, Bikita, Chegutu, Hwange, Harare, Insiza, Rushinga, Mutoko, Mutare, Hwange
Magnetite	Gwanda, Nyanga, Kadoma, Mwenezi, Insiza, Buhera, Mberengwa, Beitbridge, Gweru
Manganese	Kwekwe, Gweru, Makonde, Mberengwa
Mercury	Bubi, Kadoma
Mica	Hurungwe, Rushinga, Kariba, Hwange
Molybdenum	Kwekwe, Insiza, Shurugwi, Makonde, Chipinge, Gweru, Mutare
Mtorolite	Guruve, Mutare
Nickel	Bubi, Makonde, Kwekwe, Insiza, Guruve, Shamva, Shurugwi, Matobo, Chegutu, Bindura, Gweru.
Ochre	Gweru, Kwekwe
Palladium	Kwekwe, Makonde, Shurugwi, Chegutu
Phosphate	Buhera
Platinum	Kwekwe, Makonde, Shurugwi, Chegutu, Centenary
Pyrite	Shurugwi, Gwanda, Mazowe, Kadoma, Bulilimamangwe, Shamva, Hwange.
Salt	Mwenezi
Sapphire	Mudzi
Selenium	Makonde
Silica	Gweru, Kwekwe, Makonde, Chegutu, Gokwe, Harare, Goromonzi
Sillimanite	Hurungwe
Silver	Makoni, Makonde, Kwekwe
Talc	Bubi, Guruve, Insiza, Nyanga, Mutare, Mt Darwin, Mberengwa, Goromonzi, Mutoko, Wedza, Kwekwe, Makoni
Tantalum	Hurungwe, Guruve, Kariba, Mudzi, Mutoko, Shamva, Bindura, Harare, Goromonzi, Murehwa, Mt Darwin, Rushinga, Mazowe, Marondera, Gutu, Masvingo, Buhera, Bikita, Mutare, Hwange, Chivhu, Mberengwa, Chimanimani, Makoni, Insiza
Tin	Hurungwe, Mudzi, Shamva, Bindura, Goromonzi, Harare, Rushinga, Mt Darwin, Nyanga, Gutu, Bikita, Hwange, Masvingo, Mutare
Topaz	Hurungwe, Gweru, Mutare
Tungsten	Hurungwe, Kariba, Shamva, Mazowe, Rushinga, Bindura, Guruve, Mt Darwin, Harare, Mudzi, Goromonzi, Bulawayo, Insiza, Matobo, Gwanda, Umzingwane, Bubi, Buhera, Mberengwa, Kadoma, Bikita, Shurugwi, Mutare, Chipinge, Chegutu, Kwekwe, Chiredzi, Wedza, Gweru, Hwange, Masvingo, Makoni
Vanadium	Mt Darwin, Guruve, Bulawayo
Vermiculite	Buhera, Mudzi
Zinc	Kwekwe, Gokwe, Nyanga

Restricted access to explosives hindering progress?

Mining Zimbabwe has had a moment of introspection for the mining industry. We realised that, while the new government is on record as saying it is opening up the economy to investors; we might as well take a sneak peak at some of the thorny issues. And to fully understand what is bedevilling the sector we are reporting on, a request ignited a conversation on our forum, solely focusing attention on the problems faced by small-scale miners in procurement, possessing and using explosives. Of course, there were mixed reactions and eye-opening insights. Below is a transcript of the contributions that industry insiders and experts made as they brought to light what was really going on.

Request : Guys I want to buy explosives like now, inbox me please.

RES 2: A word of advice: You may get arrested if you are found in possession of explosives without a blaster or buyer's licence, one of those restrictive or repressive regulations whose overhaul is quite overdue.

RES 1: I disagree. Not everyone has a sound mind and wants to use explosives for something productive. Remember in the wrong hands they can be used as a terror tool. Restrictions for explosives use, handling and ownership should remain restricted but miners simply have to regularise and have the requisite papers to be in possession of explosives.

Val Tusai: It's up to you guys to go into the bush and conscientise the small scale miners. But I think the people who sell explosives in small units to miners know they will be used for production. The same production we brag about because small scale miners, combined, are producing more gold than large scale miners.

RES 2: You may find a wiser way to protect yourself, remember they are written "Dangerous Explosives".

Chris Murove: Just thinking, Ministry of Mines should consider issuing "learner's permit or licence" to allow those without mine or full blasting licence to handle explosives. The industry can take a leaf from the transport industry where learner's driver's licences are issued and such learners are allowed to handle vehicles (explos in our case) under specific conditions following a basic test.

RES 2: We not arguing, we are happy to see you protected since we are both in the mining

industry

Chris Murove: Food for thought. Without explosives, there can be no meaningful mining at all and unavailability and restricted access to explosives is one aspect that is holding back the ASM sector. We have to be innovative and see how best to overcome this restriction.

Moshen Jena: Everyone who requires explosives should just be trained and certified, not just allow every Tom and Jerry to play with explosives simply because we are in need of gold.

Maguu: You just need a person with a blasting licence

Kudzi: How much is the license?

Gush: It's tricky, you need experience in a mining environment before you can go for the tests and etc., but it's more than \$200.

Thelma: I agree with Chris. The fees are too high and we all know miners need explosives zvinokonzera (causing) illegal use. Yes, explosives are dangerous but people are forced to go the back room way because the policies don't permit. We all know life is more precious than gold, let's advocate for a decrease in licence fees so that everyone interested can go for the tests.

Gush: It's not just about fees, but the ability to use the explosives safely, there's more to explosive use than just blasting, if the regulator decided to seriously come down on the use of explosives, very little would be done currently, the fee is high, I believe to ensure not everyone can blast at will, to push people towards those that have put in the time to learn how to

properly blast.

Chris Murove: If as you claim Gush, that the fee is high to ensure not everyone can blast at will, then that strategy is failing abysmally because a lot of small scale miners are doing precisely that. The high fees and very stringent regulations have resulted in an entrenched 'underground' market of trade in explosives and people are blasting left, right and centre without licences. For your information, that underground market is being fed by MBL and FBL licences holders who buy from distributors; put a hefty mark-up and supply to the ASGM sector, thus adding unnecessary costs in the process. The suggestion I'm making is that the requirements, i.e. fees and the licensing threshold should be reviewed and lowered where necessary to get more people who are already handling explosives without licenses to come forward, be licensed and formalised so that they can be monitored and receive more training as necessary. I proposed an interim 'learner licence' that can be monitored by an MBL or FBL holder. These 'learner licensees' will then have a path to get to an MBL, after say 2 or so years of experience under supervision of an MBL holder. We are looking for a way of improving the current system to be more responsive to the needs of the industry as it stands at the moment. Remember the current regulations were formulated probably five decades ago when there was no artisanal and small scale mining sector?

Gush: There's always been an artisanal and small scale mining sector locally. The point I'm trying to put across is it's not possible or advisable to allow every miner to have a blasting license; it's already difficult to police the sector because of the MBL and FBL holders who are thriving off this market al-

already. Again my point is it's not simply about blasting there's more to the use of explosives than blasting, things such as re-entry procedures, adequate ventilation, water blasts and etc., things that are not really available in the small scale sector, the regulations in place for the use of explosives are more for safety than the actual blasting, it's difficult to have a MBL or FBL holder fulltime on a scale mine because the conditions there will lead to loss of that licence. You cannot relax regulations meant to ensure safety practices simply to allow more people to be termed to be doing the correct thing, compliance is key.

Born to do it: Chris, I agree with you 100%. The strict conditions don't have a positive effect but give out unnecessary negative effects to small scale miners who in the end resort to going to underground suppliers. The system needs revisiting and I wonder why taking so long to make amendments to it so as to accommodate small-scale miners who are being discriminated by the system when it comes to explosives yet the same explosives are part of the necessities to the process and they are even contributing more to the economy and worse still the effort our contribution being appreciated so dearly. Amendments will ensure accountability and reduce the risk of miners who in some cases are nabbed and jailed for possession of explosive which they will be innocently intending to use in mining. It's not a question of relaxing but an issue of having a campaign to ensure that miners get training. I think it's every mine's right to have some skill and training one way or the other because the use of explosives is a major thing in mining and if a major awareness campaign is done then all the other issue will be addressed. One thing for sure is explosives are used and will keep being used either way. So to at least address the situation plays a noble role and the custodians should be obliged to do likewise than casting the blind eye.

GUSH: Question is, have miners approached the custodians to address this issue? I know a few owners of mines who've got FBLs, what's stopping everyone else from doing the same? The ministry through the chief inspectors'

office tries to assist; ZSM also has short courses on safe mining practices that count towards helping miners get blasting licenses. Are miners making use of these avenues?

Chris Murove: I'm glad the issue of explosives has had an airing and some sound debate on this platform and it is my wish and hope that 'Mining Zimbabwe' takes note of this. Hopefully the magazine could do investigations and come up with an article that stimulates wider debate that would lead to action and improvements for the benefit of the industry which we are all passionate about. This is the beginning of that process. When we ventilate such issues on a platform such as this, the aim is to collect and gauge the views of affected stakeholders. Your input has been appreciated.

Born to do it: Yah, I get you but from what I am worried of is how long it takes to have the requirements to get the blasting license? And are all the miners aware of that? Or it's only the few fortunate ones who can access the media and have adequate funds to travel to the seminars or training? I think there has to be a framework in place targeting miners and prospective miners, hence the need for a wider campaign to ensure that the message reaches out to everyone and this can be done through different media, like printing such awareness campaigns at the back of Fidelity receipts and broadcasting via sms through network providers - this will ensure a greater outreach

Conclusion

In this forum, it became abundantly clear that both miners and government find themselves in a catch-22 situation when it came to the tighter licencing rules or the stringent requirements on the handling of explosives.

Authorities have tightened regulations on the use of explosives by small scale and artisanal miners, citing the need to curb accidents and rein in their abuse in the mining sector. Under the new system, all explosives would be kept at the provincial mining director's offices across the country, unlike in the past where

everyone had unfettered access to them in the black market.

For instance, small-scale miners and artisanal miners would be forced to get explosives from the provincial mining director's offices, as and when they want to use them, and would be expected to account for each explosive. Small-scale miners account for the larger percentage of Zimbabwe's total mining output per year, and therefore, critically need unrestrained access to equipment, including explosives. Nevertheless, it is obvious that when their handling is not closely monitored, dynamites or other blasting gadgets may easily fall into wrong hands. The spiralling number of cases in which miners have encountered accidents or where explosives have been linked with cross-border criminal activities in southern Africa, would give the government a good reason to introduce tighter controls on them.

In any case, somewhere, somehow, authorities and miners have to engage to find common ground and a better solution to this dilemma. It is entirely up to the mining industry insiders, particularly the small-scale miners, to be more vocal and take up the matter with the government, rather than confine it to themselves. Efforts to get a comment from the Mines Ministry where fruitless.

The new government appears to be less rigid and more inclined to engage, but the jury is out.

ABOUT FORUM

Our whatsapp platform comprises of small scale mining organisation leaders, small scale miners, the law society, Environmental experts, industry experts, operations teams and many more. Its aim is to link small scale miners to industry experts and get solutions to challenges they may encounter.

GOLD DEVELOPMENT FUND (GDF)

Full requirements for small scale miners



The Gold Development Fund (GDF) facility was launched by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) as part of initiatives to capacitate small scale miners and boost gold production. This has seen small scale miners break production records and delivering more gold than large-scale heavy weight mining power houses.

Any small scale miner/s meeting the requirements below may qualify for the Gold Development Fund (GDF)

Below are the full requirements or the Gold Development Fund (GDF) loan requirements.

1. A comprehensive project proposal – to include amongst others;
 - Business plan incorporating company profile.
 - Geological & metallurgical reports.
 - Cash flow projections for the next 12 months in relation to the loan being applied for.
 - Quotations from reputable suppliers of equipment and services required.
 - Current and anticipated production after application of the loan.
 - Lead time to commencement of enhanced production.
 - Anticipated payback period.

2. Management structure of the company to include;

- List of names and qualifications of the Company Directors and senior managers.
- Reporting structures in the entire organisation.

3. Physical addresses of company Directors supported by utility bills not older than three months for the individual borrower and for each Director in the case of companies.

4. Bankers references – a bank statement (bank stamped) covering the last three months.

5. Registration papers (Mine registration and current Inspection Certificates, Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum or Articles of Association, Form CR14, Form CR2 (Shareholding Structure)).

6. Board Resolution authorising the borrowing.

7. Current Tax Clearance Certificate for Companies.

8. Police Clearance for criminal record on the individual or Company Directors.

9. Passport-sized photos for principal loan holders or Company Directors.

10. Collateral;

- Gold Development Fund (GDF) exceeding USD15,000.00, collateral in the form of mortgage bonds or notarial

covering bonds,

- Gold Development Fund (GDF) less than USD 15,000.00, where immovable property is not available, designated movable assets (e.g., livestock, vehicles, and household property may be considered).
- The collateral value to be at least 1.5 times the loan value.

11. Terms of the Gold Development Fund (GDF);

- 10% interest rate.
- Loan repayment period of up to a maximum of 3 years.
- In the event of a breach, the outstanding balance to attract an interest rate of 15% per annum.

12. Disbursement of the loan;

- Individual borrowers: – payment direct to suppliers of goods and services.
- Companies: – funds deposited into the company account.

13. Eligibility for funding;

- Traceable gold delivery track record to FPR or its accredited gold buying agents for a minimum period of 1 year.
- FPR and RBZ (and its subsidiaries) employees, their immediate family members and related parties are ineligible for the RBZ/ FPR loan.
- Willingness to be subjected to a due diligence and commitment in writing to allow FPR employees to monitor the operation through site visits and records inspection on site from time to time.

14. Credit worthiness;

- Credit references, list of creditors, amounts owing and age of the credit.



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