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Minining

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2020

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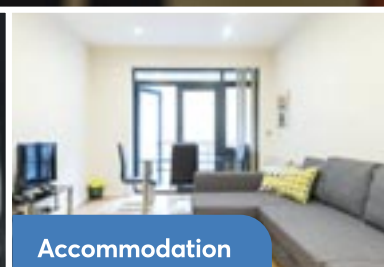
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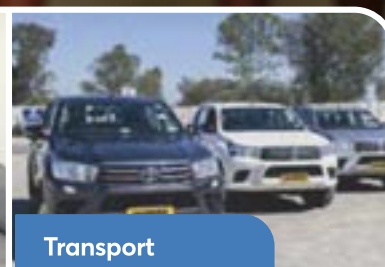
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ABOUT PUBLICATION

Mining Zimbabwe premier source of Zimbabwe Mining News. Our core focus is the Zimbabwe 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's 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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A successful mining year needs gvt, miners cohesion

Greetings our faithful readers. We are excited to introduce a new column called "A word from Mukorokoza". In this column, we give an opportunity to a miner's perspective without any censorship or fear. We hope you will enjoy the column and we believe it will unearth what ASM go through in their daily operations.

Zimbabwe, one of the most blessed countries in terms of natural resources is not realising enough from the God-given reserves that are abundantly available in this beautiful land.

It is highly encouraging to note young citizens taking high interest in the countries mineral resources, however financial support still seems to be the major stumbling block in attaining desired results. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor pledged to support Small-scale miners with equipment and services financing, however, the Apex Bank governor did not clarify how this is going to be done or the qualifying criteria that will be used. The Mining Industry is full of able-bodied raring to go, miners, however, the development of their respective claims happens at snail's pace due to financial constraints leaving self-funding as the only available option we hope this initiative will benefit many in the industry.

Early this year the Police embarked in

Operation "Chikorokoza Chapera" which was a brilliant move that seems to have cleansed the country of Machete gang violence which now seems to be a thing of the past. However, as the Zimbabwe Republic Police embark on this Operation multitude of partially registered miners were caught up in the Blitz. Partially registered miners are miners who have gone through most of the process required to start mining, paid required amounts but are now awaiting site visits from mines ministry officials to be certified but that is currently not happening. It is of critical importance that the government moves in to formalise these miners who for years have been desperately in need of certification.

As Mining Zimbabwe it is our wish to see a thriving Mining Industry, therefore, we think it is of utmost importance that the government engages more with the ASM. The current silent impasse on 55/45% will continuously affect output and this is likely to be worsened by the removal of partially registered miners. It is the elephant in the room that both parties have gotten used to with one party acknowledging its presence but the other not interested in addressing it.

As usual we appreciate your feedback. Please do write to us and follow us on our various social media Platforms

Enjoy the read.

EDITOR'S NOTE



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Online Awards



Privelage Moyo explains on how to identify specimen quartz



Specimen quartz have clustered QUARTZ crystals abundantly available in Zimbabwe.

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Healing properties: quartz is associated with clear perception, and is believed to support healing and inner peace. It is also able to amplify any energy or intention. Clear quartz is also known as the "Stone of power". The sacred geometry of the hexagonal shape helps to naturally amplify and focus any energy or intention. Crystals have good clarity with a slightly opaque appearance and some have perfect terminations, while others have some damage because they are millions of years old. Ideal for display or decorator specimen.

In the video above Prevalage Moyo explains in detail how to identify these beautiful stones.



Moyo was informed of the presence of this type of stones in Mashonaland East, Zimbabwe. He then went on to explain how to identify valuable Specimen Quartz separating it from the invaluable. He clearly explains features that make the quartz fetch a better price.

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NIEEF request to evaluate basis ongoing involvement with RHA Tungsten



Premier African Minerals Limited reports, following a site visit by the Honourable Minister Dr. Sekai Nzenza of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on behalf of the National Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Fund ("NIEEF"), on the progress to re-commence the reprocessing of the tailings at RHA Tungsten Pvt Ltd ("RHA").

Following the visit, NIEEF requested until 11 March 2020 to evaluate the basis of NIEEF's ongoing involvement with RHA following the submission by Premier of revised cost \ estimates, denominated in RTGS Dollars, for RHA and other planned plant improvements.

Local costs in RTGS Dollars are increasing at a rate substantially greater than implied by the official rate at which the RTGS Dollar exchanges against the US Dollar. NIEEF is expected to re-evaluate either providing additional funding for RHA in RTGS Dollars reflecting these increased local costs, or varying the terms of the RHA shareholder agreement that would allow Premier to access alternative external funding, which in turn would provide for the escalating costs when expressed in local currency.



George Roach, CEO, commented, "I am deeply appreciative for this visit and the frank discussions with the Honourable Minister. The support we continue to receive from the Zimbabwean Government confirms the importance of this project. Pursuant to the above request by the Minister, we have agreed to place mobilisation and commissioning on hold pending their review."

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Vast to commence operations in Chiadzwa



VAST Resources (Vast) will soon commence operations at its Zimbabwean unit, with the government indicating that all internal processes leading to the conclusion of the joint venture (JV) would be finalised in March this year.

By Dumisani Nyoni

The AIM-listed mining company, Vast, is currently working on the JV agreement between its majority-owned Katanga Mining and Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) concerning the Chiadzwa Community Diamond Project.

Katanga Mining is a joint venture company between Vast and the Chiadzwa Community Development Trust while ZCDC is wholly owned by the Government of Zimbabwe. The company recently revealed that it has "received official communication from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development to the effect that all internal processes



leading to the conclusion of the Joint Venture are expected to be finalised during March 2020." The company said further details pertaining to this key process would be communicated to the market as and when they occur.

In an interview with Mining Zimbabwe Vast Resources Zimbabwe director Mark Mabhudhu, however, declined to share intricate details about the deal.

"Unfortunately, at this stage, we are under sanction in terms of what information we can release. We are also obliged to release information to the stock exchange. Also at this stage because we have not signed the



agreement and stuff like that, it will be prejudicial," he said.

It is focused on the rapid advancement of high-quality brownfield projects by recommencing production at previously producing mines in Romania and



commencement of the joint venture mining agreement on the Chiadzwa Community Concession Block of the Chiadzwa diamond fields in Zimbabwe.

The company's portfolio includes an 80% interest in the Baita Plai Polymetallic Mine in Romania, where work is currently underway towards developing and recommissioning the mine and the Community Concession Block in Chiadzwa, Zimbabwe.

Vast resources is well known in Zimbabwe as a former shareholder at Pickstone Peerless gold mine and the Eureka gold mine. It also owns the Manaila Polymetallic Mine in Romania, which was commissioned in 2015, currently on care and maintenance.



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Muzarabani to end power shortages in Zimbabwe



The discovery of gas and oil in Zimbabwe by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) listed mining and exploration firm, Invictus Energy is expected to potentially ease energy and power shortages in the country, the company's Managing Director has said.

According to the Managing Director Mr. Scott MacMillan, the discovery of oil and gas in the country means there is going to be no energy shortages in the country an initiative which will in turn boost production domestically.

"Discovery (of gas or oil) would mean energy independence for Zimbabwe, which is vital for economic growth and prosperity. There is a clear correlation between energy consumption, prosperity and gross domestic production" said MacMillan.

MacMillan also said that the development at

the mine will see Zimbabwe relying on its own fuel and electricity which means that 25 percent of the country's foreign currency will be saved for other uses. He also said that the discovery has the potential to make Zimbabwe a net exporter of energy and power.

"And for a country like Zimbabwe, it would mean that we are no longer reliant on fuel and electricity imports and instead of consuming 25 percent foreign currency importing diesel and petrol if enough is discovered we can turn into a net exporter," he said. Mac Millan also said that the country can become a powerhouse in the region with its discoveries of gas and oil given that South Africa and Zambia are currently struggling to provide sufficient power to meet their domestic demands.

"If the two commodities were discovered in Zimbabwe, it would take between three and four years for the country to start benefiting from resources, which would entail economic growth, tax, royalty and export

revenue as well as jobs and emergence of downstream industries among others," MacMillan said.

The oil and gas mining firm has already made a convincing discovery of oil and gas at its Muzabani project in Mt Darwin using advanced exploration technology which has made its finding to be a very positive outcome.

According to the company, it is working towards obtaining requisite equipment for the company to start exploratory drilling to depths of up to 4km.

MacMillan also said that his company will mobilise the equipment from the region where such machinery is available.

The company director said that results analysis done on the source rocks from Muzarabani are indicating that the area has strong potential for gas and oil deposits.

"You must ask why any person is against transparency? What kind of person wants to hide public funds?"
Kennedy Mthetwa

Continued on the next page

Muzarabani to end power shortages in Zimbabwe

The company director said that results analysis done on the source rocks from Muzarabani are indicating that the area has strong potential for gas and oil deposits. "From the analysis that we did of the source rock, it is capable of generating both gas and oil," MacMillan said.

"From the analysis that we did of the source rock, it is capable of generating both gas and oil," Mr. MacMillan said.

According to the company, although geochemical signatures of rock samples from the area bear striking characteristics to similar rock types that have produced oil

in Uganda, Kenya and Australia, in Zimbabwe the source rock type will determine whether Muzarabani has gas or oil. The company holds the fact that the test results show the likelihood of more gas than oil.

The ASX listed exploration and mining company said that the possibility that the area has more oil than gas will be determined by the temperatures the source rock has been exposed to while its also a function of how deep it has been buried.

"We have got source rock that has been buried in both gas window and oil window in

particular times," Said MacMillan.

The Invictus boss said unlike when Mobil explored for oil in the 1990s, with its main target being finding petroleum oil, dynamics have since changed over time and Zimbabwe could unlock significant economic benefits even if it found just gas, which can now be easily monetised.

According to MacMillan, when Mobil explored in the 1990s, oil was the major source of energy globally yet preliminary findings from the global giant's searches then indicated a high probability of conventional gas than oil deposits.

The Invictus managing director said gas was now a major source of energy across the world and with high demand ; it was only a matter of finding the market to monetise the commodity.

Potentially, independent study estimates have shown that Muzarabani could hold anything between 200 billion and 20 trillion cubic feet of the two valuable energy products.

The company believes that it still needs to undertake further works through geophysical tests to narrow risks and identify areas with the highest potential for the existence of oil and gas as well as to high-grade locations that may hold significant deposits.

Mr MacMillan said being a frontier destination in oil and gas exploration there was 1 to 5 and 1 to 10 chance of successful discover of oil and gas, which is why the company was making extensive tests and studies to ascertain the existence of the highly sought after energy commodities.



Fagold suspended from Stock Exchange



The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) this month suspended the trading of Falcon Gold Zimbabwe (Falgold) shares nearly a month after the mining firm announced its desire to delist itself from the stock exchange sitting many difficulties in the country's economic facial.

Firms listed on the ZSE according to section 64(1) (a) of security and exchange Act are required to publish their financial statements and constantly update shareholders on any activities or developments that might affect the share price.

According to ZSE the failure by Falgold to publish its audited financial results for the year ended 30 September 2019 and a circular to shareholders regarding the proposed termination of listing has seen the mining firm voluntarily suspending itself from trading its shares under ZSE.

"The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange Limited ("ZSE") hereby notifies the investing public of the voluntary suspension from trading in shares of Falcon Gold Zimbabwe Limited with effect from 02 March 2020 pending publication of audited financial results for

the year ended 30 September 2019 and a circular to shareholders regarding the proposed termination of listing," said the ZSE in a notice to the trading public.

Falgold which can still in terms of Section 9 of the ZSE be expected to carry out its mandate of being a ZSE member is reportedly to be the one which requested ZSE to suspend trading its shares.

The suspension comes as Falgold had already indicated intention to delist from the ZSE arguing that it was struggling to mobilise capital to inject into its operations.

Established in 1991, Falgold primarily explores for gold, base metals and precious metals and has an operational processing plant and ancillary infrastructure which supports a central processing plant that treats ore from its Pickstone Mine.

Beware of fake geophysics

I have been getting a lot of small miners contacting me about the problems they face the most and one immediately stands out!

By Edward Mushaniga

It has come to my attention that there are individuals masquerading as geophysicists and charging as high as 2500usd a claim to carry out their so called geophysical surveys which apparently tell you the depth and grade of the reef/belt.

This is in fact not true! This is not what geophysicist do and what their machines show. They do not show the grade of the reef just by carrying out surveys. Only diamond drilling can show grade at those depths. Geophysical surveys are very useful if done by the right professional and qualified people. At times these fake geophysicists do not even use geophysical machines like a magneto-meter etc but use detectors and claim that at such and such a depth you will find a belt with this much grade.

I have already spoken to two such victims who have now dug as deep as 30m and still have not found anything and have wasted time and money for nothing which is sad.

I have noticed that most scale miners rely too much on gold detectors, but detectors have their limits and are mainly useful for gold nugget prospecting. I would recommend small scale miners to do more sampling around their area, this is still one of the best methods of locating your high grade e.g random sampling or grid sampling can be used.

We also offer Mining Consultancy, and Geological Surveys. You can contact Edward on 0777867412 or email: edwardmush6@gmail

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Afrochine pays Olikem for Chrome mined by a middle aged couple, couple seeks justice



A middle-aged couple allocated chrome claims by an Afrochine agent lost over 20 tonnes of Chrome to Olikem (Pvt) Ltd a Kwekwe based company which claims the couple was stealing the chrome from their site.

The Couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kanengoni first approached Afrochine to seek tributaries. Afrochine then directed the couple to the agent who was in charge of allocating claims on their behalf for tributary mining. The couple was allocated claims they should work on then proceeded to start mining. After mining over they contacted Afrochine who in turn sent inspectors and a truck to collect chrome. The couple got paid and continued working as usual.

"We approached Afrochine and were directed to an agent who gave us claims to work on. We produced chrome, Afrochine inspectors came graded our product and were paid per grade as usual"

This continued as usual with the couple smiling to the bank.

A dispute arose when the couple had spent

three months mining and pilling chrome then raised over 20 tonnes of chrome followed the usual procedure. The Afrochine representative by the name of Mlaudzi inspected the chrome and a truck came and collected. To their surprise the next day a man called and claimed the Kanengonis' had been stealing chrome from Olikem claims. Afrochine then proceeded to pay the Olikem instead of the couple without any consultations or any form of explanation. The Kanengonis only got to find out about this when they made payment follow up.

"To our surprise, a man called claiming we were stealing chrome from his company's claims. We were shocked when we made a payment follow up that the man's company (Olikem) had been paid. We protested to Afrochine why this was as we had never been summoned and the complainant to clarify the whole issue" said Mrs. Kanengoni "It was unbelievable as we did not just start mining from nowhere but an Afrochine agent had given us the claims on behalf of Afrochine. How is it that we mine for three straight

months no one approaches us but when we submit chrome we are informed we had been stealing?"

This reporter then contacted Mr Mugwaku the Olikem manager who said it was he who discovered the theft.

"My brother I intercepted a truck loading chrome and demanded Afrochine pays for the chrome that was being stolen from us" He said. When asked if Olikem had approached the "illegal miners" or taken any measures of stopping "the theft" or involve the Police like ZIMASCO had previously done he said, "No we have not since this is the first time this had happened"

The couple disputes that the Olikem manager had ever approached them or let alone been on site.

"Afrochine despite having given us the claims decided to pay someone else and imagine how difficult this was on us after putting in the time and labor then someone else got the payment. We have never seen this Mugwaku guy at the site. Our daughter's dowry had just been paid and we used that money as capital", The distraught Mrs. Kanengoni said. "If we can at least get the money we used for operations and labor it is better rather than lose everything to something that's not of our own making.

Afrochine then insisted we meet with the Olikem people and advised we go to their offices to get the matter sorted. Mr. Kanengoni went to the said place and could not find anyone and some people they said they should approach were non-existent.

It was unbelievable as we did not just start mining from nowhere but an Afrochine agent had given us the claims

Afrochine pays Olikem for Chrome mined by a middle aged couple, couple seeks justice

"My husband went to the said place but could not get anyone. People who were in the area told me the office was hardly operational. We tried calling but only got excuse after excuse. When I called the manager he said he doesn't know about us why should he entertain us. He insists we get our money where we delivered our chrome and stop bothering him. The Olikem manager is always rude but when Afrochine calls him in our presence he sounds sincere and acts as if he wants to resolve the issue when he does not. We never just walked on to the claims but were allocated by an Afrochine representative on their behalf, this is so unfair".

The couple approached the Police who in turn accused the couple of stealing, threatened them with arrest to which the couple explained how they been allocated the place. The Police then advised them to find a solution with Olikem and Afrochine.

Olikem is not mining anywhere in the area as the manager admitted and the couple is suspicious this might be a syndicate between Afrochine employees and some unscrupulous characters using people to work and producing minerals then someone claims after gets paid for it.

The Olikem manager said the couple should approach them so that they can reach an amicable solution.

The middle-aged couple resorted to approaching Norton miners Association who tried in vain to get the issue sorted.

Messages sent to Afrochine Manager Mr. Ben by this publication and Norton Miners Association went unanswered.

Operation Chikorokoza Chapera affecting partially registered miners

Operation Chikorokoza Chapera is affecting us big time because as Makorokoza who had been allowed by the government to operate we called for help to weed out criminal elements and murderers who were causing havoc in our sector, unknowingly by engaging our government we were shooting ourselves in the foot.

It is baffling that the Police cannot differentiate between a miner and a thief even in the presence of overwhelming evidence. Confiscating hammer mills, compressors, and jackhammers which do not symbolize tools of trade by thieves and murderers leave a lot to be desired.

Makorokozas for years earned decent incomes from their hard labour without government support. We have families to feed just like soldiers whom the government wants to cushion with the introduction of Garrison shops. We have contributed heavily to government coffers and tried many many times to regularise our operations through mines provincial offices without success but surprisingly we are getting penalised by compulsory arrests and operation stoppages.

Makorokozas are going to lose their mine sites to big and rich guys who will take over highly producing partially registered claims as we all know that our documents will not be processed. Government through the Ministry of Mines cannot afford a photocopier for their Chinhoi office but Makorokozas get penalised for not having licenses.

Makorokozas travel up and down to provincial offices trying to regularise their operations but government department of mines does not have the manpower, motor vehicles nor fuel to attend or carry out their mandated responsibility and its so sad, an operation is effected on the affected, with the Makorokoza now branded "illegal miner". Makorokozas invested heavily in the sector through, manpower, time, finance, machinery and research

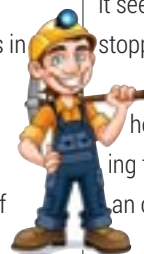
and government through its departments were supposed to consider the impact of the "Chikorokoza Chapera" operation.

Unemployment is very high in our country and it seems they want us to depend on donors. By stopping Makorokozas, the country increases the risk of surging crime. We haven't heard of police officers being fired for failing to combat crime but when it comes to us an operation was put into force with no notice. A huge door for corruption has been opened by the operation as the rich will be grabbing from the poor, the poor will remain poorer.

Chinese who brought in hammers mills, compressors and jackhammers made their loot by selling equipment to Makorokozas in forex through government permission and regulations on imports but surprisingly the miners got their possessions repossessed by the very government. Skilled personnel is getting displaced in search of greener pastures away from the mining sector. Prisons and police cells are awash with innocent people arrested for being at a mine site. The much short income will be lost in the legal process of having miners released from holding cells or through the courts. During arrest miners are traumatised, families affected, income lost the list is endless.

We appeal to the Ministry of Mines to speed up our applications and issue us with certificates. We followed every procedure the onus is on the Ministry to get us going. "Chikorokoza Chapera" although out to root out criminal elements has affected multitudes of innocent, hard-working honest miners.

As Makorokozas we pray to God that if only Ministries can unite and share notes, until then, they will realise that we are victims of a malfunctioning system of each independent Ministry or government department.



The Chrome Mining Sector Dilemma



Globally, Zimbabwe is the second richest country after South Africa in untapped chromium reserves yet locals (small-scale chrome miners and contractors/tributors) along the Great Dyke live in abject poverty with vast areas custodian to the resource remaining heavily under-developed.

I have read many articles from the responsible authorities and other publishers blaming the lack of development in the Chrome sector. Most highlighted issues include but not limited to,

**Sanctions,
Restricted Payment Terms,
Poor Rail And Road Infrastructure,
Lack Of Foreign Currency,
Logistics Issues,
Lack Of Environmental,
Safety And Technical Support From
Responsible
Authorities,
Predatory pricing by smelting companies
towards their contractors/
tributors and their contractual conditions**

especially with Zimasco, government policies and their inflexibility towards minerals marketization and in-country beneficiation, in-adequate or lack of financial support (undercapitalization) towards local claim holders and so on.

The list of problems is endless but strategies and actions to abate this crisis that has been haunting the sector for many years are shortcomings. Most of the

problems listed above will not be averted if Zimbabwe continues with its heavy reliance on a single market (China), which again is a result of government policies that are not flexible when it comes to mineral marketization. As long as our state enterprise (MMCZ) remains restricted, local producers will never see the light of day as predatory pricing by buyers who only sell to the single market mention earlier will continue to take advantage of the situation. Buyers from other markets available and more can be made available if there is a policy change that can allow MMCZ to be circumvented. This policy change can be temporary to allow capital built-up by local producers since proceeds will be repatriated back into Zimbabwe which will make our government fully realize their share if special tax rules are applied fairly (win-win scenario).

For local producers to get back into the game, a financial instrument has to be put in place whereby credible local bank(s) have to assume ownership of the debt from international funding structures, which can be made available to such local but privately

owned projects. A committee can be put in place to work closely with the funders and local bank(s). This fund has a three-year grace period and up to 40 years to pay back the principal plus interest (at max. 5%). It will be the bank's responsibility to service the loan and as well as lending the funds to local small scale miners (more details can be made available). If serviced well and in a shorter period, the same fund together with savings from local small scale producers can be made available for the construction of a locally owned beneficiation plant.

more buyers can be made available if there is a policy change that can allow MMCZ to be circumvented.

Most contractors/tributors especially in the north and middle Dyke under Zimasco where chrome seams are narrower and more costly to mine are heavily indebted to the mother company which means they will continue to service unsustainable debt until they crumble. The whole structure is designed to suppress contractors. As of January 2020, produced ores by contractors under Zimasco were tagged at US\$43 on paper but in reality, they translate to 50% RTGS\$ which is \$21.50 and 50% US\$ which is US\$21.50 (bank rated at prevailing rates and disbursed in RTGS\$).



The Chrome Mining Sector Dilemma

As for January 2020, a ton averaged ((RTGS\$21.50 + (US\$21.50 × RTGS\$16 = RTGS\$344) = RTGS\$365.50/ton)) if overall grade is above 43% with no chrome fines. Consumables such as explosives have exchange rates applied in their totality, for example, a box of shock tubes (detonators) is sold to the contractor at RTGS\$8,000. For a contractor to break-even under these circumstances needs to produce on average 50 tons per month which is far fetched for many of them due to lack of geological survey by mother company of the area being mined, capital to upgrade operations, labor constraints since most are leaving for greener pastures in the gold sector, etc. This analysis is a drop in the ocean, a lot of negative deeds by mother companies are hampering progress in this sector.

Elluvial concentrates processing contracts are 99% extended to the Chinese operatives who are paid a meagre US\$25-35 per ton locally for local high-grade chrome concentrates and who knows what happens



to the rest of the proceeds from off-shore. Proper audits directed to these large smelting companies will leave responsible authorities no choice in forcing their hand to have these corporates apply full capacity utilization, enact mandatory investment in modern ferrochrome production technologies that will inhibit exportation of raw concentrates and chrome ore, and

apply favorable contractual agreements with tributors that will give them reprieve and the edge to do more thereby improving the sectors' competence in the mining industry.

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Monetary Policy Statement: Impact to miners



THE Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor John Mangundya recently presented his Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) under the theme: Focusing on price and exchange rate stability.

By Dumisani Nyoni

The statement came at a time when the thrust of the central bank “is to stabilise the economy by bringing down inflation and stabilising it after the initial burst of high inflation that resulted from the liberalisation of the exchange rate and fiscal consolidation in 2019”.

It also came at a time when gold deliveries to Fidelity Printers and Refiners (FPR) declined by 17% to 27.66 tonnes for the period January to 31 December 2019, compared to the same period in 2018.

The national gold target for 2019 was 35 tonnes. Gold deliveries from artisanal and small-scale miners declined by 19.4%.

This article seeks to review whether the policy managed to address the miners’ concerns as well as to ease the current financial woes emanating from the increasingly volatile financial market among other

key issues.

Gold forex retention

The miners have been pushing for the government to increase gold forex retention to 80% or 100% so that they could have enough money to cover production costs, but government has refused, saying import-cash has been a challenge.

Currently, both large scale gold producers and small scale producers are getting 55% retention threshold while all other minerals are pegged at 50%.

As highlighted earlier, the MPS noted that gold deliveries to FPR declined by 17% to 27.66 tonnes against a national target of 35 tonnes. The decline is attributable to electricity challenges coupled with inadequate equipment for small scale miners to access deep gold reefs and gold leakages through smuggling.

Zimbabwe Miners’ Federation (ZMF) spokesperson Dosman Mangisi said the MPS failed to address the issue of retention threshold.

“The RBZ recognizes the burden upon ASM

in the gold sector, which has seen gold dropping by 17% on an annual basis.

Formalisation continues to be the talk, as ZMF we feel more effort should be put on the ground. Mechanisation funds should reach out to every miner. Miners should be exempted to 100% since the sector has already dollarised itself,” he said.

Financial and economic analyst Persistence Gwanyanya also concurred that the policy failed to address the forex retention issue.

“If you look at the MPS, nothing changed. The position remained the same yet the miners wanted it to be changed,” he said.

Gold Smuggling



Miners and economic analysts indicated that the MPS also failed to address the issue of smuggling in the gold sector. Due to failure to address the forex retention issue, Gwanyanya said some miners were smuggling gold outside the country to realise the full value of their commodity.

“Government should address issues of smuggling of gold. Miners are smuggling gold because they are being paid with a currency that is not stable. That’s what we are concerned about. That’s what concerns the miner,” he said.

Benard Conrad Magugu, an economic commentator said the massive drop in gold was no surprise especially with the outlawing of the US\$ in payments for gold deliveries as most of the precious metal was smuggled through Zimbabwe’s porous

Monetary Policy Statement: Impact to miners

borders which are currently manned by poorly remunerated officers who will turn a blind eye to the grand heist for a few greenbacks in their pockets.

"The current machete wars in the gold mining fields in Zimbabwe only make the trade murkier and darker and with the increased risk that artisanal miners are facing from rival politically connected MaShurugwi. With the drop in official deliveries, goes down the Zimbabwean economy into the abyss with no solution in sight from the country's power-thirsty leadership," Magagu said in some of his articles.

In its MPS analysis, the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (Zimcodd) said whilst the bank reported that the decline of gold deliveries was attributable to electricity challenges coupled with inadequate equipment for small scale miners to access deep gold reefs and gold leakages through smuggling, violence in the sector in 2019 should not be ignored.

It said the government should upscale its efforts to address the disturbances in the sector driven by the machete gangs to maintain peace and security whilst safeguarding the sector as a key contributor to the fiscus and export earnings.

Economy and currency stability



Expectations had been high that the MPS would help arrest the deepening economic crisis characterized by price instability, meagre to non-existent disposable incomes and rapid depreciation of the Zimbabwean

dollar. It, however, failed to stabilise the economy and currency as parallel market-driven macroeconomic distortions continue reigning supreme.

"It's about the stability of the Zimbabwean dollar. We are concerned about the issue of the economy and currency stability. We talked about these issues in the last MPS but nothing was achieved. There is a need to stabilise the economy and currency because it's very important.

Without addressing these challenges it could be difficult for miners to achieve their goals," Gwanyanya said.

Zimcodd said the economy is still suffering from the aftermaths of austerity measures and the liberalisation of the foreign exchange market which characterised the 2019 fiscal and monetary policies respectively.

"It is worrisome that the monetary policy is reactionary in nature rather than being proactive. Whilst the bank is supposed to set the pace for the financial services sector, it remains anchored on existing macroeconomic distortions associated with the exchange rate and price instability," it said.

The organisation said whilst the bank celebrates the relative stability in the interbank exchange rate, it has little impact on the economy as a whole as the market only responds to the parallel market rates.

Despite being risky, the parallel market has proved to provide better offers to the transacting public in the face of cash shortages. People shun the interbank rates because transactions are not on a willing buyer – willing seller basis since citizens are not provided with the option of buying foreign

currency.

The banks also do not have cash and all transactions are done electronically. This does not factor in the multiple pricing system in which cash in hand has more value than electronic money in Zimbabwe.

Economic commentator Reginald Shoko had hoped the monetary policy will have to put in place measures to address the volatile foreign exchange rates, inflation and stabilize the local currency "but all that was not effectively dealt with which left the pronouncement of monetary policy being more of a ritual rather a compass for economic development."

"The governor has failed to have an impact or to influence the economic trends with tools on his disposal," he said.

Formalisation of the small scale sector



Artisanal and small-scale mining has contributed significantly towards mineral output and a source of livelihood for many communities in Zimbabwe but the government is taking longer to formalise its activities.

Formalization is the process of bringing informal income-earning activities and economies like artisanal and small scale gold mining activities into the formal sector through legal, regulatory and policy frameworks.

This will help small scale miners contribute more to the fiscus.

Monetary Policy Statement: Impact to miners



Zimcodd said the formalisation of artisanal miners remains rhetoric considering that this among other progressive provisions of the proposed Mines and Mineral's Bill are not taking effect with the Bill taking over five years to be passed into law.

Inflation

Hyperinflation has reared its ugly head again twice within a decade with no plausible solution in sight being proffered by the government and the central bank chief. The MPS talks of reducing the month-on-month inflation from the current 16,55% to less than 5% by the end of March but Magugu is not convinced.

Mangundya also anticipated annual inflation of 50% by December 2020, a figure described by analysts as imaginary.

"To go on and say that year on year inflation which is hovering at above 500% now will be reduced to 50% only leaves one to wonder whether the RBZ governor really stays in the same Zimbabwe as all of us or he is simply out of touch with reality to the point of being dismally incompetent, clueless and at best arrogant with an "I don't care attitude," Magugu said.

As a way forward, Zimcodd said RBZ should

develop a clear medium to long term framework that drives the economy with clear policy coordination with the fiscal policy.

"Whilst the monetary policies are constitutional, the bank should have a policy that is forward-looking and redefine the bank's thrust rather than being reacting to emerging issues," it said.



Why Zim is failing to attract FDI despite having vast natural resources?



Why Zim is failing to attract FDI despite having vast natural resources?

By *Dumisani Nyoni*

Zimbabwe is endowed with abundant natural resources such as Diamond, Gold, Coal, Iron Ore, Chromium Ore, Vanadium, Asbestos, Nickel, Copper, Lithium, Tin, Gemstones and Platinum Group Metals among others

THE importance of having certainty regarding policy and regulatory framework, among other measures, to attract significant investment in Zimbabwe, cannot be overemphasised.

The southern Africa nation is endowed with abundant natural resources such as diamond, gold, coal, iron ore, chromium ore, vanadium, asbestos, nickel, copper, lithium, tin, and platinum group metals among others, but alas, it is struggling to attract meaningful foreign direct investment (FDI). The country's FDIs averaged US\$350 million in the last decade against a Southern African Development Community (SADC)

regional average of US\$1,2 billion.

Last year, it nosedived further to US\$259 million from US\$745 million recorded in 2018, according to reports.

But why does a country with such vast natural resources attract so little FDI?

Analysts have identified quite several factors and these include corruption; targeted sanctions; perceptions (the gap between perception and reality); lack of transparency, consistency, and accountability, and ease of doing business, just to mention a few.

Why Zim is failing to attract FDI despite having vast natural resources?

Sound legal framework

To improve the investment climate, analysts have said Zimbabwe needs to restore the rule of law and the sanctity of contracts. They say this will require the protection of investments in domestic legal frameworks and through international investment agreements.

"Foreign businesses will be looking for a sound legal framework for investment, which is in turn underpinned by consistent and clear rules and regulations relating to investment protection," writes Joseph Otoo, a senior associate in Mayer Brown International LLP's construction & engineering and international arbitration groups.

"This will help to foster legal certainty, particularly in sectors such as energy, natural resources, and infrastructure where significant capital is invested over the long term," he said.

The government has in the past been accused of interfering in cases that have political overtones through influencing decisions of the local courts.

This has resulted in a lack of trust in the courts and the judicial process.

Corruption

Corruption in the southern African nation has become endemic in the political, private and civil sectors, making doing business in the country difficult.

The Auditor-General's reports always unearth rampant cases of corruption in both government departments and State-owned enterprises, but nothing had been done to

the perpetrators except to 'catch & release' them.

The country is the 158 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries, according to the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International.

Policy inconsistency

Policy inconsistency is one of the reasons why Zimbabwe is struggling to attract massive FDI inflows. There is too much discord and incoherence when it comes to policy pronouncements. A good example is the issue of currency.

Both John Mangudya, the central bank boss and Finance minister Mthuli Ncube, have been inconsistent about this issue. Right now it is difficult to tell whether Zimbabwe has abandoned multi-currency regime or not, as some companies are still allowed to trade in forex locally while others are not. Economist, Reginald Shoko said policy inconsistency creates an environment that is not stable, unpredictable and impossible to plan around.

As such, there is a need for greater policy consistency and re-engagement with the international investors if we are to attract investors.

Sanctions

We may argue back and forth but the reality will remain—sanctions chase away capital. The United States of America slapped Zimbabwe with targeted or restrictive sanctions in early 2000 following the land reform programme.

Ever since then, Zimbabwe has been

struggling to receive enough foreign direct investment because most firms and companies are handicapped. For instance, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), a wholly State-owned enterprise, which was also put under sanctions, is ailing.

The parastatals had interests in a number of Zimbabwean companies such as Olivine, Sable Chemicals, Chemplex, and Zimbabwe Fertiliser Company. These companies have been under-performing as a result of sanctions as they had no access to credit lines.

As a result of sanctions, Standard Chartered ordered IDC to close its accounts with the bank, further crippling its operations.

Economists have estimated that the country's state enterprises account for 14% of the country's GDP, making them a key component of the economy.

Also due to these sanctions, Zimbabwe's credit ratings are unfavorable.

The targeted sanctions also inhibit investment making it very difficult for private sector companies to engage with foreign investors.

Perception

Zimbabwe's perception outside there is discouraging. The country is perceived as too poor, violent, backward, among others. In some of his writings, Ritesh Anand, the founder and managing director of Invictus Capital, says many investors who visit Zimbabwe are pleasantly surprised at how peaceful the country is, the state of infrastructure, especially roads and how

Why Zim is failing to attract FDI despite having vast natural resources?



wonderful and educated the people are. Anand says international perceptions of Zimbabwe will improve once the country has restored its relationship with its former colonial master, Britain.

"Changing perceptions and restoring investor confidence is key to attracting investment. The lack of domestic liquidity makes it difficult to stimulate growth from within," he writes.

Lack of transparency & accountability

According to Open Budget Survey 2017, Zimbabwe ranked 23 out of 100 countries in budget transparency, an unimpressive ranking, which has an effect of pushing away investors and external funding.

Open Budget Index can determine the level of funding from non-governmental organisations and world bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In addition, such openness indices are used by international investors to gauge the level of fiscal transparency in a country.

There is also no transparency when it comes to deals and loans signed by the

President and some government ministers. "Failures to be governed by budgetary constraints have been swept aside by forcing Bills through Parliament to condone excess spending by ministry officials, exposures of corruption by the Auditor General have apparently been set aside by the Attorney General and government officials are free to establish business operations and to use their influence to overwhelm private sector competitors," says John Robertson, an economic analyst.

Such problems are seen as severely discouraging, even threatening, to investors, he said.

Government officials are not accountable to anyone. They can do whatever they want to do with public funds and never called to account. This also chases away capital.

Ease of doing business

Zimbabwe has been struggling to attract FDI due to bottlenecks associated with doing business in the country. It is ranked 140 among 190 economies in the ease of doing business, according to the latest World Bank annual ratings. The rank of

Zimbabwe improved to 140 in 2019 from 155 in 2018.

The ease of doing business index ranks countries against each other based on how the regulatory environment is conducive to business operation stronger protections of property rights. Economies with a high rank (1 to 20) have simpler and more friendly regulations for businesses.

In a bid to improve ease of doing business, the government came up with a one-stop investment centre, a very commendable development if implemented.

Conclusion

The government should address investor concerns and provide a simpler, more consistent policy framework. Sound regulatory framework to attract significant investment in the country should be crafted and fully implemented. Policy inconsistencies, corruption among other ills should be done away with.

Surely, the country cannot afford to continue singing the blues and chasing shadows when it comes to FDI. The country should take advantage of its natural resources and stop playing second fiddle to other countries in the region.

Finally, Zimbabwe needs to create a favorable environment that includes stable macro-economic conditions, stable political environment, stable currency, stable exchange rate, attractive policies, respect for property rights and rule of law.

Interview: Explosives Engineering and Blasting Specialist, Moshen Jena



Inside mining Zimbabwe (IMZ) this month sat down with a man a popular in the mining circles for the spendid work he is doing.

Moshen Jena (MJ) is Explosives Engineering and Blasting Specialist currently working for biggest explosives supplying company, AEL Intelligent Blasting Zimbabwe.

IMZ Good day Moshen, a brief introduction of yourself.

MJ Thank you Mining Zimbabwe for having me. I am a results oriented and innovative Explosives Engineering specialist with more than 10 years of cumulative experience in the industry. I have extensive knowledge of explosives, blast designing, blast planning, execution, post-blast analysis, blast technical support, and training, value-adding trials, explosives incidents investigations and management of big projects.

I am working for one of the biggest explosives supplying company, AEL Intelligent Blasting Zimbabwe, as the

Explosives Manager for the Zimplats Project. I am a holder of an Honours Degree in Mining Engineering (UZ 2009), Explosives Engineering (AEL 2016) and Masters in Business Administration (MSU 2019). Currently, I am pursuing a Masters in Explosives Engineering with Missouri Science and Technology. I am an active member of the International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE).

Though I am based at Zimplats, I have done work or been involved in Blasting Technical work for several mining and construction companies including Unki, Mimosa, KW Blasting, Trojan, Murowa Diamonds, Cam and Motor, Great Dyke Investments just but to name a few.

IMZ When is it decided that blasting is necessary at mining level?

MJ Blasting is one of the key processes that one will encounter at a hard rock mining project. It is done to loosen or break consolidated material or hard rock. Blasting is called for as soon as you finish your free

dig material (loose material that you can load with your loading machinery). In a typical mining setup blasting can start right at the start of the project when construction work is done in trenching, digging foundations for infrastructure, overburden stripping, mine development work as well as blasting of the ore benches or stopes right through to demolition of the infrastructure.

IMZ What precautions are taken to ensure no lives are harmed during blasting?

MJ Every blast should be designed with care to manage environmental constraints such as fly rock, blast-induced ground vibrations, blasting fumes, noise, and air blast. Before taking the blast one needs to make sure that they have cleared the blast danger zone of all people and equipment.

IMZ Is it safe to blast underground operations or it's just for open cast.

MJ With proper blast designing it's safer to blast underground (my opinion). Almost all the underground mines are using drilling and blasting to break rock save for a few exceptional tunneling projects that use tunnel boring machines.



IMZ How common is the Explosives engineering profession and what would you say to those who are interested?

MJ Every Miner or Mining engineering professional is taught the basics of drilling and blasting. After completing a Learner Miners program at a mine and satisfying the requirements in terms of the number of

shifts that are required, one is examined by a board set up by the Ministry of Mines and awarded with Full Blasting Licence (FBL). Whereas, for one to be an Explosives Engineer, one needs to go for specialised rigorous training offered by Explosives

Manufacturing Companies such as AEL Intelligent Blasting and a few Universities abroad that offer the same course. In Zimbabwe, there are only a handful of qualified explosives Engineers that I know of and currently, I am the only registered member of the International Society of Explosives Engineer (ISEE). This is going to change soon, as we have already started grouping to register a Southern African Chapter of ISEE. This will help in advancing the science and art of explosives engineering.

IMZ What should one consider before buying explosives?

MJ Many different types of explosives exist on the market and they have different properties and applications. When choosing the type of explosive to use at a particular project one needs to have an understanding of the following:

- **Geology and rock mechanics of the rock.**
- **Environmental factors of the area to be blasted.**
- **Post handling processes (loading, hauling, crushing etc)**
- **Properties of the explosives to be used.**
- **Blast performance expectations.**

Only after understanding these, then one can choose the right type of explosives to use in a particular job.

IMZ What would you say is a successful blasting?

MJ A successful blast is one that is safe and all the quality expectations are met. No injuries or damage to equipment and all the blasting KPIs such as fragmentation, advance, grade, perimeter control, etc. are met.



IMZ You are managing Explosives at one of Zimbabwe's biggest and most progressive mines what would you say has been your biggest challenge at Zimplats.

MJ Zimplats is a demanding customer. Its operations are world-class and at the forefront of cutting edge technology. On the other hand, AEL Intelligent Blasting offers a holistic approach to help its customers on their unique journey to optimal blast outcomes through IntelliBlast™, a model which brings out the superlative way AEL has always operated. With the help of our differentiated products and services, we partner with the mine on their journey to optimal blast outcomes, perfecting every step of the way.

IMZ What would you say is your greatest achievement in blasting?

MJ I have done so many value-adding projects in the explosives industry but one stands out for me. The project was entitled, Perimeter control in the incompetent ground. The project was on perimeter control in bad ground that I submitted as part of my Explosives Engineering course. The project was voted to be the best in 2017 and matched the standard that had been set by my friend and fellow Explosives Engineer, Vincent Tsoriyo. The project opened many avenues for me and I ended up being invited to present at the ISEE conference in 2018 in

San Antonio.

IMZ More small scale miners are using explosives. Are they doing it right? What's your advice on correct blasting?

MJ True, there is a huge market for explosives in the small scale mining sector and everyone agrees that this is a sector not to be ignored. My only worry is on training and technology adoption. If you look at the people who are handling explosives and conducting blasting operations you will notice that there is a big training gap and they continue to use the same blasting technology that has been passed to them by their predecessors. With proper training and the correct selection of explosives, the sector will notice an improvement in safety and productivity.



Interview: Explosives Engineering and Blasting Specialist, Moshen Jena

IMZ Many professionals in big mining organisations are of the notion that ASM are a bunch that are trying too hard but does not have the expertise but the truth of the matter is they are here to stay. Let's say we get together people like yourself, the likes of Patrick Takaedza, Maison Phiri, just to mention a few to conduct workshops with organisations like ZMF. Can we not see an improvement in the ASM industry?

MJ I tell you Zimbabwe is well endowed with both natural and human resources to take it to the top. The only problem, is we are not singing from the same hymn. It's up to the organisations like ZMF to pull together the different mining and processing professionals and have them work towards a common good. Only last month, I presented at a training workshop organised by ZMF and the Zimbabwe School of Mines targeting the small to medium scale miners. The conference brought together various specialists in the mining industry together with academia. The response from the Miners was overwhelming and I am convinced if such efforts are continued we will witness bigger things coming from the sector.

IMZ We once ran an article of you shining at the International Society of Explosives Engineer conference in America, in 2018. What has happened since then?

MJ That was an eye-opening opportunity and I am very grateful to my employers (AEL) for the exposure to an international audience. I got two more international invites in 2019, that I turned down to concentrate on my MBA Degree. However locally I have been very active, conducting public lectures at institutions like the University of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe



School of Mines and various mining houses. Now that I have finished the MBA, please reserve a column in your magazine because there is a lot on the cards.

IMZ If there anything you can change regarding the policy on blasting what would it be?

MJ The mining industry is moving with technology, but if you look at our policies they have remained stagnant and slowly becoming irrelevant. There is a need for a review of the Explosives Act and regulations. I am glad to be one of the chosen to participate in the review of the act and the regulations.

IMZ Off work how do you spend your time?

MJ I am a family man, farmer and devout member of the ZAOGA FIF. I spend most of my time with my family, at the farm in Marondera or at Church in Redcliff where I stay.

IMZ Thank you for giving us the opportunity and taking your time to talk to us. I hope our readers have learnt much from this conversation.

MJ Thank you very much for the wonderful work that you guys are doing.



No forex allocation increment, replace the RTGS payment with ZWL dollar cash. - Gold miners



Following the RBZ governors announcement that the RBZ will not be reviewing the foreign currency allocation to miners, it's a noble idea that the Apex bank prefers to work on improving material support to the sector in a bid to ramp up production, however the move will most like see a continuation of gold smuggling in neighbouring South Africa.

Small-scale miners have been lamenting about the current foreign currency allocation saying it has to be increased as they buy operational supplies in USD. The government is adamant on their decision to keep the unpopular 55/45% forex allocation which is one of the major reasons why there is rampant gold smuggling into neighboring South Africa.

According to the RBZ, Gold deliveries to Fidelity Printers and Refiners (FPR) for the period January to 31 December 2019 were 27.66 tonnes, a decline of 17% from 33.29 tonnes recorded during the same period in 2018. The national gold target for 2019 was 35 tonnes.

Miners were the government will listen to their pleas however its very unlikely the

government will barge.

In line with the 12 billion dollar mining industry by 2023, the continued discord from the government will continue making Fidelity compete with parallel market buyers who reportedly buy-in much needed foreign currency or hard local currency.

With cash crunch currently befalling Zimbabwe government can better their working relationship with miners by doing the following:-

Pay the 45% in Hard Cash

Fidelity pays in 55% hard US\$ and 45% as bank transfer. The downside to that is miners buy supplies in USD and it's a public secret there is a shortage of cash in banks and if it is available, it is available in paltry amounts. Small-scale suppliers demand hard USD and usually, bank transfer (which they rarely accept) price rate will be so inflated as a way of indirectly luring the miner into purchasing with USD. The miner would have no choice but use USD hence

the need to have the allocation increased.

A miner who chose to remain anonymous said, "If exchange rates between the local currency and US\$ were stable, then it would be neither here nor there what the component paid as a hard currency would be. However, in light of the unstable exchange rate and consequent high inflation, miners are losing significant value by being paid 45% in rtgs dollars. The powers-that-be have dug in their heels and declared that they will not change the percentages, which is fine as it is their prerogative and mandate. Can they, however, consider doing the following to minimise and mitigate the losses that small scale miners are having:

Since the RBZ is feeding cash into the economy through the banks which are mostly in urban centers, why not use

Fidelity as one such channel which will also impact the rural areas?

Miners will appreciate this because a major portion of their costs is labor. Our workers struggle when paid by rtgs or electronic mobile money out in the rural areas where the

mines are located. So this channel of cash injection will have a direct positive impact on rural communities where the bulk of that cash will end up in.

The intention to improve material support to the sector in a bid to ramp up production is very noble and welcome as it will bring relief to many struggling projects if they can access the funding.

in light of the unstable exchange rate and consequent high inflation, miners are losing significant value by being paid 45% in rtgs dollars

Platinum - mining, uses, pricing and regulation in Zimbabwe



Platinum is a rare metal found in the earth's crust at 0.005ppm. According to Louis XV of France, platinum is the only metal meant for a king.

By Sharon Tsuro

It is found in iron, nickel and copper ores with other native deposits. Platinum is a noble metal that can withstand corrosion at high temperatures and is least reactive. It is rated 3.5 on the Moh's scale of hardness, has a melting point of 1768.3 degrees Celsius, a boiling point of 3825 degrees Celsius, the density of 21.45g per cubic meter and molar heat capacity of 25.86J. Platinum is lustrous, ductile and malleable. It has stable electrical properties.

This metal oxidizes at 500 degrees Celsius to form Platinum oxide which can be thermally removed. It also reacts with fluorine at 500 degrees Celsius to form platinum tetrafluoride. Platinum does not dissolve in hydrochloric acid or nitric acid but is soluble in a combination of the two (aqua regia) at high temperatures to form chloroplatinic acid. It is attacked by iodine, bromine, chlorine, and sulfur. Platinum has a high affinity for Sulphur which is mostly found in iron ores.

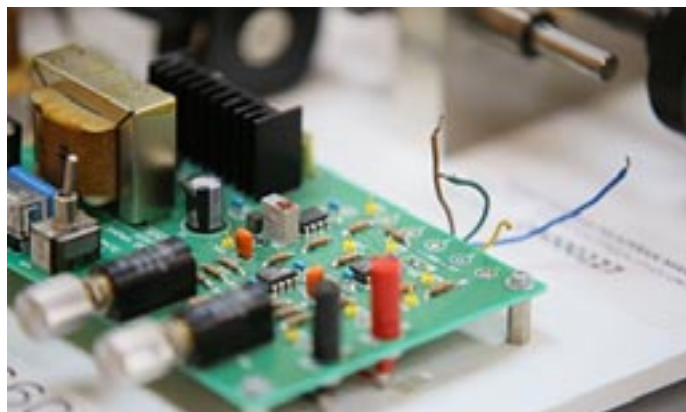
Platinum group ores are treated in primary and secondary crushers. Ball/Rod mills are used in the tertiary stages of comminution. The milled ore is treated in gravity concentrators. In froth floatation, xanthate and dithiophosphate are the collectors used at a pH of 7.5-9. Oxygen is also used in the froth floatation process. The concentrate is dried and rectangular-six-in-line or circular three-electrode furnaces are used to separate sulphides and silicates at 900-1500 degrees Celsius. Air is blown through the furnace to remove iron and Sulphur. Chemical and electrolytic methods are manipulated to remove nickel, cobalt, and copper. Aqua regia is then used to dissolve platinum metal from the concentrate by creating chloroplatinic acid. Finally, ammonium chloride is used to change chloroplatinic acid to ammonium hexachloroplatinate which is heated to produce pure platinum metal.

This metal is used in jewelry, electrical appliances, chemical production, petroleum refining, and vehicle emissions control. Platinum is also used in medicine, biomedicine, glassmaking equipment, anti-cancer drugs, oxygen sensors, turbine engines, spark plugs, electrodes and even in investment. It is used as a catalyst in the ignition of hydrogen. In the petroleum

industry, platinum is used to run naphthas into octane gasoline which becomes rich in aromatic compounds. It strongly catalyses the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen hence, It is used in fuel cells as a catalyst for the reduction of oxygen. In investment, its bullion has the ISO currency code for XPT. It is also used as a catalyst in the manufacture of silicone rubber and gel components of medical implants.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health the recommended exposure limit to platinum salts is 1mg per cubic meter over an 8-hour working day. Exposure to platinum salts may cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat. The long term effects may manifest in the form of skin allergies or respiratory complications (The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention).

According to Anglo-American, South Africa produces 88%, Russia 8%, North America 2%, Zimbabwe 1% and the rest of the world produces 1% of all the platinum. Zimbabwe is the second-largest producer of platinum in Africa. Within the great Dyke are four geological complexes that contain PGM and base metal deposits viz; Wedza Complex



base metal deposits viz; Wedza Complex (Mimosa-Aquarius and Implats), the Selukwe Complex (Hartley and Ngezi Platinum Mines-Zimplats), Unki Anglo-Platinum and Musengezi geological complex. Zimplats has the largest reserves of PGMs in Zimbabwe which are estimated to be 214.3million tonnes. Unki comes second with 48.4million tonnes and lastly Mimosa with 33.2million tonnes.

In an article written by Freeman Makopa for Newsday, platinum is one of the two minerals, along with diamonds in which the local ownership law requiring 51% local ownership still applies. Due to the desperation, Zimbabwe has for investment, this policy is set to be changed in favor of the foreign investors. At Karo Resources event, Mr. Chitando said, "...We will also have a platinum development policy, which will be unveiled soon in the new year, which will provide a consolidated framework of the development of the platinum sector." The government is said to have signed a \$4.2 billion platinum investment deal with Karo resources. The project is expected to reach

1.4million tonnes of platinum per year by 2023.

In the agreement signed on 22 March 2018, KARO HOLDINGS was given PGM rights under a special Grant under the Zimbabwe Mines and Minerals Act covering an area of 23 903ha on the Great Dyke in Mashonaland West. This project will comprise of PGM mines, concentrators, smelters, base metal, and precious metals refinery and a power generation capacity (300MW of solar energy) made available to the power grid. Most recently, Karo has completed 238 boreholes comprising of 32400m drilled on the western boundary of the Great Dyke. the Zimbabwe Special Economic Zones Authority has declared a part of Selous measuring 50667ha as a special economic zone (Tharisa Integrated Innovation).

The price of platinum is heavily dependent on its demand in the industry. In cases where demand is very high, the price can go up to twice the price of gold. As at 05 March 2020, the price of platinum is USD32/g.

In a nutshell, platinum's rarity is associated with exclusivity and wealth. It is essentially used in medicine, biomedicine, glassmaking equipment, anticancer drugs, oxygen sensors, turbine engines, spark plugs, electrodes and even in investment. Platinum is associated with iron, nickel and copper ores. In its final stages of extraction, it is dissolved in aqua regia from which it emerges in its pure form. Zimbabwe is the second-largest producer of platinum in Africa and produces 1% of the world's platinum from Zimplats, Unki and Mimosa mines whose ore reserves are estimated to be 214.3 million, 48.4million and 33.2million tonnes respectively. The government has been making efforts to improve platinum production in Zimbabwe by making adjustments to the indigenization policy.

Article written by Sharon Tsuro. Sharon is a Metallurgy graduate from the Zimbabwe School of Mines and she writes in her own capacity.

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Minerals and Location 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.

Minerals and Location 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, Bulilimangwe, 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

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