

A provider of Valuable Intelligence to the Zimbabwe Mining Community

# Min<sup>ing</sup> NEWSWEEK

ISSUE  
**01**  
2020

*Blanket Mine commits to 5 million weekly donations to fight Covid19 - 05*

*Sustainability challenges in disused mines: THE WAY FORWARD - 14*

*Policies standing in the way of investment - 12*



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# Mining

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# CONTENT

Mining Zimbabwe Magazine | **MAY 04 2020**



**FEATURE ARTICLE:** *The Ten most mined Minerals in Zimbabwe (full story on page 15)*

## INSIDE MINING ZIMBABWE

**04** Editor's Word

### NEWS

**05** Blanket Mine commits to 5 million weekly donations to fight Covid 19

**06** As mining resumes to full-scale Health and Safety first – Chipangura

**07** Caledonia declares quarterly dividend

**08** Zimplats quarterly report

**10** Minerals should never leave Africa raw, Odinga

**12** Policies standing in the way of investment

**14** Sustainability challenges in disused mines: **THE WAY FORWARD**

**15** Ten most mined minerals in Zimbabwe

**20** Clarion Events Africa moves DRC Mining Week to October 2020

**21** The strongest link is local: Africa must support African supply chains to unlock sustained economic growth

**23** Minerals and Location in Zimbabwe

**25** Classifieds

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## Covid-19 lesson Smart business

As the world keeps fighting the scourge of Coronavirus, businesses were caught unaware. Zimbabwe introduced a lock-down to minimise the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic which has claimed 239 000 lives globally.

To survive businesses had to quickly adapt or risk shutting down. In Zimbabwe, most businesses believe in one-on-one meetings which at times may not be necessary if you know and have previously met the client. Imagine instead of driving to see a client at Hwange Colliery you just set up video conferencing and in a few minutes a deal is made without having to travel over 700km saving travel costs hotel bills in the process. Whatever paperwork that may be needed can be sent immediately without having travel back or giving excuses.

Overnight people were forced to evolve to doing business smartly, digitally online.

Most businesses were now delivering their products to clients like never before.

Traditional print-only news publishers joined us in availing soft copies for readers and in the process reaching more people that print could never ever have reached. Courier business got more popular even for simple basic products. Businesses were now operating from home out of no choice and

video conferencing apps like Zoom App, Skype, and Google Meet getting downloaded more globally.

In South Africa, more and more businesses began evolving sometime back with more and more people working from home and online shops getting popular by the day.

Zimbabwe has been forced to do business differently and it is a good thing.

Smart transacting helps a business concentrate more on growing and improving business than spending time on the road.

You can video conference and even demonstrate equipment use live should need be.

Smart or digital business transacting is a practice that has to be maintained as the business now is back to fulltime operations. You do not necessarily need to work from home but the use of emails, live chats, and delivery services saves time and money.

As usual we appreciate your feedback and input. If you would like to contribute please write to us at [info@miningzimbabwe.com](mailto:info@miningzimbabwe.com)

## EDITOR'S NOTE



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### Online Awards



# Blanket Mine commits to 5 million weekly donations to fight Covid 19

Gwanda based gold miner and top operating mine of Zimbabwe in 2019, Blanket Mine has committed to donate five million zwl dollars weekly to assist in the fight against the COVID-19 virus.

In a press statement the miner released Blanket says it continues to support initiatives to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe. Blanket Mine has donated ZWL 16 million via the Chamber of Mines Zimbabwe to assist in the fight against COVID-19 and has committed to make further weekly donations of ZWL 5 million to COVID-19 related projects provided it continues to operate at a reasonable level of production; and Blanket has provided practical assistance and supplies to local authorities in its area.

Leigh Wilson, Caledonia's Chairman, commented:

"Blanket Mine has continued to operate during the recent regional shut down: it has paid its workers, suppliers and the Zimbabwe tax authorities as usual; and it has continued to generate substantial foreign exchange for Zimbabwe. Blanket has also made substantial contributions to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe: provided Blanket maintains a reasonable level of production, it will make further significant contributions. Against this backdrop, and in light of the Company's consistently healthy balance sheet, the board feels it appropriate that Caledonia declares the quarterly dividend which had previously been deferred.



"Our ability to make this dividend payment whilst at the same time making larger contributions to the fight against COVID-19 is testament to the resilience of our business.

"The continuation of the Caledonia dividend will, as usual, depend on factors including: Blanket maintaining a reasonable level of production; receiving payment in full and on-time for all gold sales; being able to make the necessary local and international payments and being able to replenish its supplies of consumables and other items.

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# As mining resumes to full-scale Health and Safety first - Chipangura



*Leading by example: Chiedza Chipangura*

President Emmerson Mnangagwa announced that the country has now eased the Covid-19 lock-down restrictions from stage 4 to stage 2. Stage 2 fundamentally permits industry and business to resume operations, a relief for some miners to return to full-scale operations.

The President said it is now mandatory that face masks are worn in public, a series of precautions are to be undertaken and physical distancing is still to be observed even at workplaces.

The development has been welcomed country-wide by some in the mining sector who had not been able to access exemption letters. With halting of operations some miners face now an uphill task of dewatering.

Zimbabwe Miners Federation's Mashonaland West chairperson Chiedza Chipangura said Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASM) are to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe Chipangura said, "There should be

consistent and right use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face masks and shields, the use and changing gloves frequently, and disposing of the used equipment correctly. For safe disposal we encourage the use of pit latrines".

"Job specialisation is now critical for example a feeder should remain at the same station till the end of a shift instead of multi-touch and moving from one department to the other," she continued.

"Equipment must be sanitised at the change of each shift and there should be limited movement of staff. Those on duty should remain at the mine site accommodation as directed by H.E. in his address of the lock-down extension as it helps in localising infections" Chipangura said.

Turning to operational challenges some ASM are now facing due to not being able to get letters of exemptions during the lock-down Chipangura said, "As a SECTOR we are grateful for the exemptions extended to our sector. Those who had genuine challenges applied and were granted the authority to operate from the beginning. As such the issues of mine flooding were curbed. However, those who did not are now facing an uphill of dewatering which is very costly and slows production".

Zimbabwe has been under lock-down for 30 days in an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19 which ended on the 3rd of May and the President announced government had decided to extend the lock-down with another two weeks but allowed formal businesses to reopen under strict conditions.

"Health inspection teams would immediately start random checks for compliance, while those who do not meet the requirements would be stopped from operating" Mnangagwa said.

As at 2 May 2020, Zimbabwe had 34 confirmed cases, including five (5) recoveries and four (4) deaths.



# Caledonia declares quarterly dividend

*Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc announced that its board of directors has declared a dividend of seven and a half United States cents (US\$0.075) on each of the Company's common shares.*

On April 1, 2020 the board deferred the decision to declare the quarterly dividend in light of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The board has been encouraged by the continued operations of the Blanket Mine and the re-opening of important supply lines, accordingly the quarterly dividend has now been declared.

## Highlights

- **The dividend is maintained at the increased level of 7.5 cents per share following the dividend increase effected in January 2020**
- **A strong balance sheet with current cash on hand of \$14.1 million at April 24, 2020 gives the directors sufficient confidence in the solvency of the business and its resilience in the current macro-economic environment**
- **Dividend will be paid on May 29, 2020**
- **Blanket's supply chain of consumables and spare parts improved substantially and is close to normal**
- **Blanket is now re-establishing full production having operated at approximately 93 per cent of capacity during lockdown**
- **Blanket Mine continues to support initiatives to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe**

A key consideration in the decision to defer the April dividend was uncertainty relating to Blanket's supply chain from South Africa. During the initial lockdown, Blanket operated using its inventories of consumables and spare parts. However, the South African mining industry and its allied supply sector is restarting operations and Blanket has partially resumed the procurement of consumables and equipment despite the lockdown period being extended.

Blanket Mine has operated throughout the 21-day lockdown in Zimbabwe which came into effect from March 30, 2020 with permission from the Government. During this period, Blanket has modified its operating procedures to safeguard against the spread of COVID-19 resulting in Blanket operating at approximately 93 per cent of its target production rate. The Zimbabwe lockdown has been extended by a further 14 days, but Blanket, and the Zimbabwean mining industry in general, has been granted special dispensation to continue operations.

Leigh Wilson, Caledonia's Chairman, commented: "Blanket Mine has continued to operate during the recent regional shut down: it has paid its workers, suppliers and the Zimbabwe tax authorities as usual; and it has continued to generate substantial foreign exchange for Zimbabwe. Against this backdrop, and in light of the Company's consistently healthy balance sheet, the board feels it appropriate that Caledonia declares the quarterly dividend which had previously been deferred.

"Our ability to make this dividend payment whilst at the same time making larger contributions to the fight against COVID-19 is testament to the resilience of our business.

"The continuation of the Caledonia dividend will, as usual, depend on factors including: Blanket maintaining a reasonable level of production; receiving payment in full and on-time for all gold sales; being able to make the necessary local and international payments and being able to replenish its supplies of consumables and other items.

"Our balance sheet remains in an enviable position and the dividend remains comfortably affordable. Today's announcement is a continuation of the prudent approach to capital allocation that we have followed for several years - a path that we expect to continue."

The relevant dates relating to the dividend are as follows:

- **Ex-dividend date: May 14, 2020**
- **Record date: May 15, 2020**
- **Dividend cheque mailing date: May 29, 2020**

Shareholders and depositary interest holders in Canada and the UK will be paid in Canadian Dollars and Sterling respectively. The Canadian Dollar and Sterling dividend payments will be calculated using the relevant Bank of Canada exchange rates on the record date.

## Caledonia's Dividend Policy

Caledonia's strategy to maximise shareholder value includes a quarterly dividend policy which the board of directors adopted in 2014. The board will consider future dividends and any increases in the dividend as appropriate in line with its prudent approach to risk management.



## REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### KEY FEATURES

- Recorded two lost-time injuries
- Achieved 1.9 million fatality free shifts during the quarter
- Tonnes mined decreased 1% and tonnes milled increased 2% from the previous quarter
- Platinum and 6E production (platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium and gold) increased 32% and 31%, respectively
- Cash cost per 6E ounce produced decreased 18%

### SAFETY

Zimplats' safety performance improved during the quarter. Two lost-time injuries were recorded during the period versus four in the previous quarter. The Group achieved 1.9 million fatality free shifts during the period under review.

### PRODUCTION

		March quarter 2020	December quarter 2019	% change	March quarter 2019	% change
<b>Mining</b>						
Ore mined	Tonnes (000's)	1 798	1 803	-	1 708	5
Head grade	6E g/t	3.46	3.48	(1)	3.48	(1)
<b>Processing</b>						
Ore milled	Tonnes (000's)	1 701	1 669	2	1 604	6
Recovery	6E%	79.0	79.1	-	78.9	-
<b>Metal in final product</b>						
Platinum	Ounces	69 987	53 107	32	66 495	5
Palladium	Ounces	59 304	45 367	31	55 149	8
Gold	Ounces	8 051	6 705	20	8 486	(5)
Rhodium	Ounces	6 269	4 837	30	5 898	6
Ruthenium	Ounces	5 414	3 883	39	5 012	8
Iridium	Ounces	2 595	2 009	29	2 406	8
<b>6E total</b>	<b>Ounces</b>	<b>151 620</b>	<b>115 908</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>143 446</b>	<b>6</b>
Silver	Ounces	12 009	12 836	(6)	11 968	-
Nickel	Tonnes	1 315	916	44	1 340	(2)
Copper	Tonnes	950	620	53	977	(3)
Cobalt	Tonnes	17	12	42	21	(19)

Production of mined ore was impacted by less operating days in the period under review and decreased marginally from the previous quarter.

Tonnes milled, however, increased by 2% due to higher running time. Running time in the previous quarter was affected by the planned mill reline shutdown at the Selous Metallurgical Complex (SMC) concentrator plant. 6E metal production increased by 31% from the previous quarter. During the previous period metal production was impacted by an increase in concentrate stocks and build-up of inventory in the furnace after a major rebuild shutdown. Some concentrate stocks produced in the previous quarter were smelted in the quarter under review.



## FINANCIAL

	March quarter 2020	December quarter 2019	% change	March quarter 2019	% change
Total operating cash cost (US\$000)	90 430	93 108	3	95 394	5
Transfer from opening stock (to closing stocks) (US\$000)	2 157	(6 884)	(131)	(4 240)	(151)
<b>Cash cost of metal produced (US\$000)</b>	<b>92 587</b>	<b>86 224</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>91 154</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Operating cash cost per 6E ounce (US\$)	611	744	18	635	4

Operating cash costs decreased by 3% from the previous quarter. Due to the smelting of concentrates stockpiled in the previous quarter, US\$2.2 million was transferred from opening stock to operating cost. In the previous quarter US\$6.9 million was transferred from operating costs to closing stocks. Operating cash cost per 6E ounce decreased by 18% from the previous quarter largely as a result of the 31% increase in 6E metal production.

## EXPLORATION

A total of US\$0.4 million was spent on exploration projects during the quarter and US\$1.1 million was committed.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Following Zimplats' previous announcement to the Australian Stock Exchange dated 2 April 2020, the Zimbabwean national lockdown which became effective on 30 March 2020, was extended by a further 14 days and will now expire on 3 May 2020. In terms of regulations, mining operations are exempted from the lockdown requirements and are classified as "essential services". Group operations continue to operate, subject to strict adherence to the World Health Organisation ("WHO") safety and hygiene standards. The *force majeure* declaration issued to Zimplats' operating subsidiary, Zimbabwe Platinum Mines (Private) Limited by Impala Platinum Limited, remains in place given the 14-day extension of the national lockdown in South Africa to 30 April 2020. In addition, the *force majeure* notifications issued by the operating subsidiary to contractors working on capital projects and other institutions were also extended.

## SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

### Shareholder enquiries

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# Minerals should never leave Africa raw, Odinga



*Former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga has said that the post Covid-19 era should teach Africa to be innovative and business minded that it won't export raw minerals but processed ones.*

Speaking through his official Twitter handle the High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa said although on paper Africa is the richest continent, the reality is the saddest one which needs to be addressed.

"Africa is the richest continent on earth with regard to raw materials. The paradox is that it is also the poorest in terms of living conditions of its people." He said.

The former Kenyan head of cabinet said that Africa instead of exporting raw minerals and importing processed ones, it should start to export minerals in their processed form.

"Instead of exporting iron ore, copper ore, bauxite, we must export steel products, copper cables, bars, sheets and aluminium. Even gold, diamonds and crude oil should never leave Africa as raw materials for industry in other continents.

Africa has a historic opportunity, born out of historic tragedy, to put an end to our tradition of importing everything and producing nothing." Odinga Said.

According to Odinga, the post Corona Virus pandemic era should

awaken Africa from being a consumer to a producer.

"The post Covid-19 era creates opportunities for job creation in manufacturing, service sector including ICT, food production and infrastructure development." He said.

As the calls for processing of raw materials get louder in 2015 a Congolese researcher Kambalé Mirembe made similar points during an address, also highlighting dependency on raw materials as a source of vulnerability.

In his presentation, entitled "Does growth contribute to development?", he pointed to the stable macro-economic situation in his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. The figures show that, despite an average growth rate of 5% over the last five years, predicted growth in the region of 8.4% in 2015, and an abundance of mining resources, inequality remains persistent in DRC.

As well as stressing the importance of local processing, Mirembe also called on all countries that receive an income from mining activities to come together to form a dedicated grouping similar to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with a view to influencing global prices and markets for these materials. "Why has nobody considered this before?" he asked.





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# Policies standing in the way of investment

By Rudairo Mapuranga



World over, Zimbabwe is regarded as one of the countries with rich mineral wealth that can sustain its economy into one of the finest.

Like many African countries, Zimbabwe is no exception in failing to attract Foreign Direct Invest (FDI) due to various factors. It is Mining Zimbabwe's view that Zimbabwe can soar to greater heights by pushing its mining industry alone without inviting external firms as this is exporting the much-needed jobs locally.

Without a doubt, the economic resuscitation rests in the mining sector. The failure by the government to put to life the open for business mantra outside Zimbabwe is an open cheque that the push should be focused on local firms and individuals to invest in the mining sector.

**“To attract both local and foreign investors there are a lot of policies that need to be adjusted for the investor to see the value of his/her investment”**

- Kennedy Mtetwa

Mining experts believe that it was not the government's duty in the first place to go around looking for investors, they could have simply opened up policies so that businesses can invest.

According to renowned Geologist, Kennedy Mtetwa for the country to attract both local and foreign investors there are a lot of policies that need to be adjusted for the investor to see the value of his/her investment.

Mtetwa said, investors are not persuaded to invest but are attracted to invest because what's important is for one to get profit after investing. For the government to attract local investment in the

mining sector monetary fiscal policies should be transparent to the miner.

"First no government goes to look for investors. Only our lot tried that and now they are surprised that they were not taken seriously. Investors simply read about the country's mining policies and also the monetary and fiscal policies to decide whether to go and invest in a particular country. They don't need a minister or president to tell them to come and invest. Investors by their nature get into business to make money right across the globe. If as you say no investors came it's up to the government to simply align our policies from mining to monetary to fiscal with those countries where these same investors go to invest" said Mtetwa.

This means that for the government to attract local investment, it has to relax issues to do with the monetary policy as a major issue. The current forex retention threshold of 50 percent for other minerals and 55 percent for gold is an elephant in the room. The retention threshold among other factors is believed to be the main push factor that led to the closure of African Chrome Fields and the partial closure of Metalon Gold mines. Zimbabwe at the moment is producing zero consumables used in the mining industry thus, everything used should be imported yet the forex paid to the miners does not sustain its imports, this, therefore, means that companies would be operating at a loss.

The monetary policies again that are very tight when it comes to a company withdrawing money from the bank are also questionable and should be addressed for local firms to consider mining business.

The government in order to attract local investors should also not try to liquidate foreign currency in-corporate banks due to the instability of the local currency.

Some small scale or medium scale mining firms might want to save to buy expensive mining machines like dump trucks, liquidating of their forex reserves would put them out of business.

Takaedza said there is uncertainty concerning the administration, interpretation, or enforcement of existing regulations and uncertainty concerning environmental regulations, the stability of regulations, consistency and timeliness of regulatory process, regulations not based on science. Takaedza said, there are a lot of grey areas when it comes to the issue of Exclusive Prospecting Orders EPOs.

# Policies standing in the way of investment



Kennedy Mtetwa

Application for an EPO takes up to 5 years before they are gazetted. This drains investment because the country is then left without clear geological data.

"At the international level, if a policy does not support exploration (e.g EPOs) then we cannot attract any foreign investment. We have EPOs that we applied for in 2008 and were gazetted in 2013 but they haven't been issued. So imagine we are a local company being frustrated, what more of a foreign investor" said Takaedza.

There are a lot of inconsistencies when it comes to the enforcement of laws and regulations in the mining sector. There is what can be called the selective application of policy concerning environmental regulations for example most small scale miners are left to mine

“Investment avenues should be in a One-Stop Shop to minimize overlaps, bureaucracy, permitting times, and corruption.”

- Patrick Takaedza

without complying with full regulations. However, those who would want to invest as medium scale mining firms or large scale are forced to permit and comply even before they start any operation.

Regulatory duplication inconsistencies can also strain or frustrate investors from in the Mining sector, therefore, should be addressed. It is largely bureaucracy. The office of the District Administrator or local governance would come with their own regulations, while the Ministry of lands would also want to have a say, the Ministry of Agriculture also is sometimes very much involved in the mining business and the traditional leaders also would come with the same laws but different certificates. This can frustrate investors not to invest in the sector.

Investment avenues should be in a One-Stop Shop to minimize overlaps, bureaucracy, permitting times, and corruption.



Patrick Takaedza

For example, RioZim had claims in Devuli which was later turned into the Save Valley Conservancy that keeps wild animals. The company is of late being denied entry and permission to work in the claims even though they are prior peggers and the Ministry of Mines has not intervened as of late.

Takaedza also said that the taxation regime in the country is also another course of concern when it comes to investing in the mining sector in Zimbabwe. The forex retention threshold is another form of taxation which is very painful.

"Our tax is a bit on the high side to attract investment. For example, gold which is partly paid in forex then rest in RTGS. That's a heavy tax to attract investment. On top of that, there are other taxes in the industry. What we need is to increase the forex allocation to the investor. What we need are exemptions to attract investment" said Takaedza.

The government needs to look at how an investor would gain profit legally without going the way of smuggling minerals out of the country to survive in business. The government should consider the fact that all machinery and other consumables in the mining sector are imported that's it is cheaper for a mining firm to buy them directly from South Africa than to buy locally. This is, therefore, a clear indication that the government should relax its taxes, especially on forex retention in order to allow local firms to grow.

The quality of the geological database is also of importance for investors to have easy access to information. The country needs a proper cadastral system. At the click of a button, one should be able to get Geology and Tenure info. This will reduce corruption and the illegal disappearance of geological data or maps.



Article by Rudairo Mapuranga. He is an experienced journalist who has covered mining for much of his career and former politician.



# Sustainability challenges in disused mines: THE WAY FORWARD



**Edmond Mkaratigwa (MBA in Energy and Sustainability and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on**

**Mines and Mining Development)**

**Albert Maipisi (Phd in Disaster Management).**

Zimbabwe among other African countries has its economic mainstay in agriculture and mining. The existence of mines has created a mining community of citizens living on mine property and around the mine areas. These mines have a life span that ends, suspend operations for long periods and or cede mining rights to new investors that may come in with completely new approaches. That is when sustainability issues arise and in particular when the mining community fails to earn meaningful living post mine operations. Government approaches have focussed more on environmental sustainability while mining companies have focused on corporate sustainability (CS) that gives birth to corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Observations were however made on disused mines in Zimbabwe and reflect weaknesses in government and mining companies' sustainability approaches post-mining.

Where mines exist, physical infrastructure and facilities development follows. Key infrastructures include tailings dams, electricity supply hardware, shops, social halls, and buildings as well as workers' houses. On tailings dams, they are naturally supposed to be fenced and the fences among other infrastructure normally exist during the mine's existence and are vandalised a few years later. Former mineworkers living in mine houses and the surrounding communities, therefore, are exposed to

different hazards and

vulnerabilities therefrom. In some disused mines, the former mine-workers have remained in mine houses anticipating a re-investment into the mine someday, without sustainable livelihoods. Where that exists, those from such communities have been observed fishing in the unmaintained tailings dams. That endangers human life to both crocodiles and pursuant health risks associated with swallowing residual mineral processing chemicals for example through eating the fish.

Former workers of the disused mines have been residing in disused mines' residences because of different reasons. Some remain there as they await the payment of outstanding salaries, others anticipate the mining operations will resume sooner while some have nowhere to go in terms of alternative accommodation. Hence those who remain at those areas are faced with other challenges. They include failure to access essential services such as electricity, water, and viable shops than those that overprice. Electricity infrastructure gets vandalised affecting electricity supply and eventually,

water supply that is mostly attached to electricity availability. Rates formally paid to responsible authorities for housing and electricity also usually remain un-serviced. That threatens further those former workers residing in the houses although that brings in the property rights issue which is not the current subject of this discussion. Those factors, therefore, further increase vulnerabilities of the mineworkers or community post-mining.

*In one case, for example, a woman was 55 years old when the company closed and waited for an anticipated mining company reopening for a further 25 years.*



# Sustainability challenges in disused mines: THE WAY FORWARD



health facilities with ramifications that even where the company can reopen, those children would take up menial jobs. Some will be exposed to delinquency. Where the mine is re-opened, most times the workers are not involved in takeover negotiations to the extent that they will live in uncertainty regarding their future with the investors.

*In order to deal with some of these challenges, government should strengthen synergy for monitoring and sustainability management between mining companies and the responsible government authorities to ensure sustainable management of the environment and infrastructure post-mine life.*

That having been said, the main question is what is the real problem and the possible remedies? The first problem lies in the monitoring and sustainability management mechanism gap on the part of the company and the responsible government authority such as the Department of

Wildlife and that of the Environment relative to tailings dams post-mine life. The second gap exists in weaker employee benefits insurance and hedging in the wake of inflation. The third aspect is a lack of participation or representation of the mineworkers where company ownership is being changed although miners' property rights are strictly observed. The fourth gap debatably lies in the nature of the CSR that is more inclined to corporate sustainability as opposed to sustainability that outlives the company life.

In order to deal with some of these challenges, government should strengthen synergy for monitoring and sustainability management between mining companies and the responsible government authorities to ensure sustainable management of the environment and infrastructure post-mine life.

On the other hand, the government can motivate quality and responsible investment initiatives that form the package of the investment arrangement from the onset.

On weaker employee benefits insurance and hedging in the wake of inflation, whereas NSSA exists, companies should develop diverse mechanisms that can guarantee the preservation of value to cover for the post-mine life obligations. Further, government's economic reform efforts must be wholesome and consistent.

Finally, mining companies should rethink and redefine CSR in order to foster long term responsibility and sustainability of people, planet, and profits. One way is migration from CSR to CSI as is already trending in other countries.

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***Published ideas are entirely views of the two authors as academics and cannot be attributed to their positions.***





# Ten most mined minerals in Zimbabwe



***ZIMBABWE is a host of 60 different types of minerals, 40 of which have been historically exploited to various extents.***

**By Dumisani Nyoni**

However, production since 2000 has been dominated by about ten minerals which are gold, platinum, coal, nickel, chrome, diamonds, black granite, copper, silver, and asbestos.

In 2019, total mining export receipts according to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), amounted to US\$2, 91 billion, representing about 55.2% of total export receipts.

The contribution of mining to GDP is estimated to have increased from 3.2% in 2008 to 8.1% in 2009, and was estimated at 7% in 2019.

In this article, we will look at the top 10 most mined minerals in Zimbabwe which

are gold, platinum, coal, nickel, chrome, diamonds, black granite, copper, asbestos and silver.

## Gold



The yellow metal is one of the most mined minerals in Zimbabwe. Gold mining and exploration in Zimbabwe, according to the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, has been going on from ancient times and it is estimated that a third (about 700 tonnes) of all historical gold production was mined locally from the seventh century until the introduction of mechanized mining methods with the arrival of Europeans about a century ago.

The Ministry states that there are over 4 000

recorded gold deposits, nearly all of them located on ancient workings.

In 2019, gold contributed about 37% to minerals exports, down from 43% recorded in the previous year. Gold deliveries to Fidelity Printers and Refiners declined by 17% to 27.66 tonnes last year, compared to the same period in 2018 due to electricity challenges coupled with inadequate equipment for small scale miners to access deep gold reefs and gold leakages through smuggling.

The southern African nation has the second largest gold reserves per square kilometre in the whole world with 13 million tonnes of proven reserves of which only 580 tonnes have been exploited since 1980, according to the RBZ.

Some of the top gold producers in Zimbabwe include Freda Rebecca, which located close to Bindura's Trojan Nickel mine; Blanket Mine located in the province

*Continued on next page...*

# Ten most mined minerals in Zimbabwe

of Matabeleland South; Rio Zimbabwe; Metallon Corporation; Sabi gold Mine; Falcon Gold; Pickstone Peerless; Duration Gold Mine; Bilboes Holdings and Eureka Gold Mine.

The sector is also dominated by small scale producers.

## Platinum Group Elements



Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) consist of platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, and osmium and have a high demand worldwide because of their wide variety of uses in industry. Zimbabwe's Great Dyke, a linear early Proterozoic layered mafic-ultramafic intrusion trending over 550km at a maximum width of about 11kilometres, has the second-largest platinum reserves in the world after the Bushveld Complex in South Africa.

The Ministry of Mines says an estimate of 2.8 billion tonnes PGM ore at 4g/t are estimated to lounge on the Dyke. Notably, PGMs are mined as primary metals only in the Bushveld in South Africa and along the Great Dyke in Zimbabwe.

The occurrence of PGE mineralization in the Great Dyke was recorded in the early 1920s. Following these documentations and the discovery of PGMs in the Merensky Reef of the Bushveld Complex of South Africa, there was a boom in PGM prospecting between 1925 and 1926 that resulted in the discovery of Wedza Mine. Since the 1950s, several companies have undertaken exploration. Currently, platinum exploration on the Great Dyke has been carried out by CAMEC (Todal Mining) in the Bougai section in Shurugwi, and Global Platinum Resources in Chegutu.

Mining is currently being carried out at Mimosa, Ngezi, and Unki Platinum Mines. Demand for PGMs has seen an increase in exploration and evaluation of Zimbabwe's platinum deposits. In 2019, PGMs contributed about 43% of the total mineral exports,

up from 35,93% recorded in 2018.

The contribution of platinum and palladium increased significantly on the back of substantial investments by the PGM houses, according to RBZ. Platinum output has been on a steady increase since 2000, from 505 kilograms per annum to 15 500 kilograms in 2019.

## Diamonds

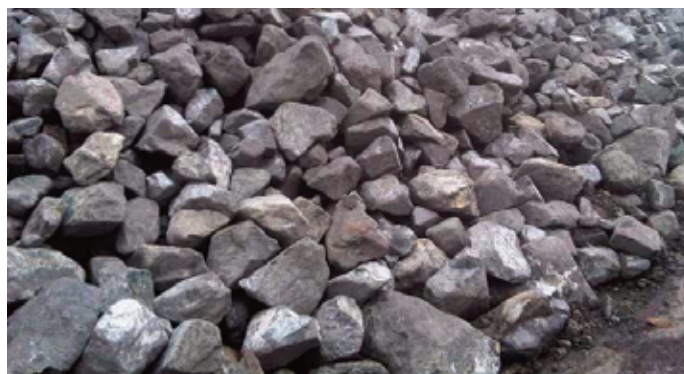
The Marange diamond fields are an area of widespread small-scale diamond production in Chiadzwa, Mutare West, Zimbabwe. More than 120 kimberlites, according to the Ministry of mines, have been discovered but economic grades occur in two deposits—the River Ranch and the Murowa Diamond Mines.

Currently, the Ministry of Mines says, evaluation is being carried out on several kimberlites in the southern area of the country while some were found to be non-commercial. Of late, the discovery of diamondiferous Proterozoic conglomerates in the Umkondo basin has led to the opening of several diamond mines within the Chiadzwa area, for example, Mbada, Marange Resources, and Anjin among others.

Diamonds contributed about 5,71% to mineral exports in 2019.

Zimbabwe expects to increase diamond production to 11 million carats by 2023 from 3,2 million carats in 2018, part of an ambitious plan to raise mining output and earn the country US\$12 billion a year.

## Chrome



Chrome is one of Zimbabwe's main exports after gold, platinum group metals, and diamonds. The country has the second-largest high-grade chromium ores in the world, after South Africa, with reserves of approximately 10 billion tonnes. chrome in 2017.



# Ten most mined minerals in Zimbabwe

The country produced 320,000 tonnes of chrome in 2017.

Chrome is mainly mined along the Great Dyke of Zimbabwe and occurs as seam/stratiform deposits. In greenstone belts off the dyke it occurs as podiform structures in serpentinites, e.g. in Zimasco mine on Shurugwi Mashava. In Mashava chrome is found in greenstone remnants in the Limpopo mobile belt south of Mberengwa. Chrome also occurs as elluvial deposits in the greenstone areas.

Chrome is mainly used stainless steel production, as a metal coat, in the chemical industry, and in metallurgical processes.

In July 2017, African Chrome Fields launched a 600-tonnes-per-month ferrochrome plant, while chrome smelting company Zimasco was pushing to extract 560,000 tonnes of chrome ore this year, up from 350,000 in 2017.

## Coal



Zimbabwe, which started coal production in the early 1900s, has an estimated 25 billion tons of coal reserves.

The country has vast high-grade coal deposits occurring as fossilized carbon. It occurs in lower Karoo sediments. These are the middle Zambezi basin to the north and save Limpopo basin in the south of the country hosts about 12 billion tonnes of good quality coal.

Zimbabwe boasts of huge coal deposits in Matabeleland North province where companies such as Hwange Colliery, Makomo Resources, and Zambezi Gas are active.

Coal production this year is anticipated to leap to 15 million tons as new producers come on stream while existing ones are also expected to raise their output.

The new miners are Chilota Colliery, Western Coal, and Liberation

Mining.

## Nickel



Nickel, according to Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe, is currently being produced commercially from two mines namely Shangani & Trojan, and is solely processed at Bindura where Trojan mine is located. The Bindura Smelting and Refinery is situated less than 8km to the South of Bindura town center.

In Zimbabwe, nickel occurs within the Archean craton in rocks of komatiitic composition for example at Trojan mine. It also appears layered or unlayered mafic-ultramafic intrusive bodies for Empress, Madziwa Great Dyke. It's also found in nickel laterite, for instance, northern part Great Dyke hydrothermal shear zone deposits.

There are nickel deposits in several serpentinite areas in greenstone belts with igneous complexes around the country. The country has got huge potential in komatiite and laterite and more than 30 nickel deposits are known.

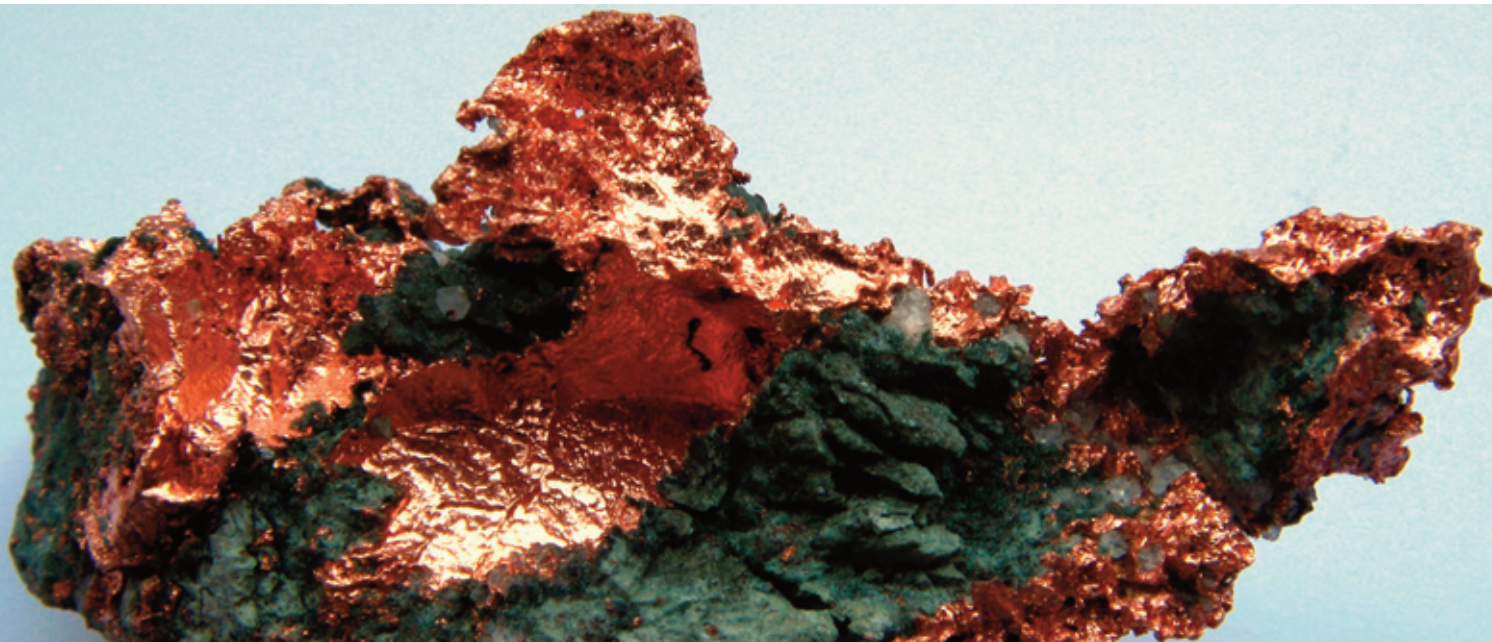
Nickel contributed about 1,72% to the total mineral exports last year.

## Asbestos



Asbestos occurs as chrysotile. It's found in ultramafic complexes, for example, Mashava Igneous Complex, in massive serpentinites and slip fibre zones in which shears are filled with matted fibres in the Great Dyke, for example, Ethel mine. There are 60 deposits scattered in the Masvingo, Insiza, Gwanda, Mberengwa, and Shurugwi, which have been worked on for chrysotile.

# Ten most mined minerals in Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe was once the world's third-largest producer of asbestos before the demand declined. After gold, asbestos was once the largest income producer in the mining sector. Production ceased with the closure of Gaths Mine and Shabani Mine.

Efforts to resume operations at Shabanie-Mashava Mines (SMM), one of the biggest asbestos miners, have suffered several false starts.

Production at the mine was expected to start in July last year when de-watering of flooded shafts was expected to be complete, but even today it hasn't been kick-started.

SMM is believed to be sitting on asbestos deposits worth more than US\$1 billion and after re-opening the firm's mines will produce about 75 000 tonnes of high-grade fibre mostly for export.

## Copper

There are over 70 known deposits of copper in Zimbabwe that have produced copper either as a primary or secondary product. The main producing area has been the Magondi Basin in an area stretching for over 150km. Similar copper deposits are found in

the southeastern part of the country in the Umkondo Basin.

Several copper prospects also occur in hydrothermal deposits in Archaean Greenstone Belts and granite, for example, Inyathi, Copper Duke. Primary copper production virtually ceased following the closure of Mhangura.

Current copper production is associated with PGM, gold, and nickel operations. It is believed that enormous exploration potential remains.

Copper production has been declining in recent years because of the depletion of known reserves and low exploration expenditure levels, according to the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe.

## Black granite

Zimbabwe produces an estimated 150 000 tonnes of granite annually with Mutoko district contributing about 75% of the total black granite output.

In 2018, the country produced 223 356 tonnes of granite, up from 161 123 tonnes in 2017, data from the Zimbabwe Chamber of

Mines shows. Some of the companies mining granite in Mutoko, Mashonaland East province, include Natural Stone, CRG, Zimbabwe International Quarry, Enterprises, and Ilford Red.

Black granite accounted for 0,84% of the total mineral export receipts in 2019.

## Silver



The other mineral which has been mined mostly in Zimbabwe is silver. Silver, according to Mines Ministry, occurs as native silver in association with other minerals such as gold, copper, and lead.

With the exception of the Osage Mine in Zimbabwe, it is declared as a by-product from the mining of platinum, gold, and copper. Gold mines in the Odzi greenstone belt have the highest silver and gold ratios. The mineral is mostly found in Makoni, Makonde, and Kwekwe.

# Clarion Events Africa moves DRC Mining Week to October 2020



## DRC MINING WEEK

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### EXPO & CONFERENCE

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Due to the current status of the global COVID-19 virus and the ban applied on mass gatherings by the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Clarion Events Africa (formerly Spintelligent) is rescheduling DRC Mining Week. The event, which was due to take place from 17-19 June, will now run from 7-9 October 2020. The venue - The Pullman Grand Karavia Hotel in Lubumbashi, DRC - remains unchanged.

DRC Mining Week, on its 16th edition, will attract over 5,000 local and international mining stakeholders and influencers from across public and private sectors, doing business in the DRC and is recognised as the largest, B2B mining expo in the country.

"The health and safety of our exhibitors, visitors, employees and the wider public is of paramount importance to us," says managing director David Ashdown.

"We have been closely monitoring the spread of the COVID-19 virus around the globe, and into Africa and we wish all of our customers well during this challenging time. We take this decision with the full support and commitment of our key stakeholders and partners. We have given the maximum

term to the opportunity to continue with the event in June as the project drives vital revenues for suppliers and mining operators, so important to all stakeholders at this time. However, now is the time to postpone and we do it with confidence that in October we can deliver an event of equal quality and value to the industry sector."

#### Support from partners

Many of the South African exhibitors at DRC Mining Week are members of the South African Capital Equipment Export Council (SACEEC). Mr Eric Bruggeman, CEO of SACEEC and DRC Mining Week event ambassador says: "given the current uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic, we support the move of all events to the second half of 2020. SACEEC will fully support Clarion Events in every possible way to ensure that the shows and exhibitions are successful."

Standard Bank is the Diamond Plus sponsor of the 2020 edition. Amedeo Anniciello, Chief Executive of Standard Bank in the DRC comments: "as we navigate the evolving situation concerning the spread of the virus, we are informed by the need to assertively safeguard the health and safety of our work-

place, staff, clients and the communities in which we operate. Following this guidance, we fully support Clarion Events Spintelligent in its decision to postpone the DRC Mining Week Conference and Exhibition to October 2020".

John Nsana Kanyoni, Vice-President of the Chamber of Mines in the DRC adds: "I support your decision to postpone the event given that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected our country. We hope to see you in the coming months for DRC Mining Week; an essential meeting point for the economy of the country".

DRC Mining Week is organised by Clarion Events Africa, a leading Cape Town-based and multi-award winning organiser of exhibitions and conferences across the continent in the infrastructure, energy and mining sectors. Other well-known events by Clarion Events Africa include African Utility Week & POWERGEN Africa, Africa Mining Forum, Nigeria Mining Week, Future Energy East Africa and Future Energy Nigeria. The company is part of the UK-based Clarion Events Group.



## The strongest link is local: Africa must support African supply chains to unlock sustained economic growth



The current Covid19-related economic challenges both locally and throughout Africa starkly highlight the need for pan-African companies and governments to support African supply chains, and in so doing, to boost economic activity on the continent.

This can be achieved by procuring the production of goods and services for infrastructure and industrial projects via the mechanism of 'Team Africa', which is a concept in which local suppliers and

manufacturers collaboratively supply mining, industrial, power generation, and other sector projects.

"Covid-19 provides further impetus for Africa to support its own supply chains which will stimulate business in a myriad of upstream and downstream supply chains," says Nicolette Skjoldhammer, Managing Director of South African steel fabricator and erector Betterect.

"While the new intra-African trade agreement provides opportunities and incentives for African stakeholders to procure from local businesses, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have shown industry just how dependent Africa has become on the Asian supply of goods and services, and prices of Asian consumables – to name but one supply chain item among many - are rising exponentially," she advises.

Skjoldhammer says that one of how industrial supply chains on the continent can collaboratively drive growth is when companies focusing on the supply, processing, fabrication, and erection of steel structures join forces to deliver pan-African infrastructure projects in the mining, power generation, petrochemical, and other industries.

"These companies are able to form a co-operative and synergistic 'Team Africa', which supplies and processes the steel, or fabricates and installs the finished steel structures," she explains.

## The strongest link is local: Africa must support African supply chains to unlock sustained economic growth

"South Africa and its counterparts like Nigeria and Ghana certainly have the expertise to successfully undertake the design, fabrication, and installation of large steel structures throughout the continent. We have not only proven this over years of successfully participating in new and expansionary mining, power generation and other infrastructure projects; but also by supplying the core expertise in large structural steel projects under the auspices of European and Asian companies," says Skjoldhammer.

"In fact, if you peel away the various levels of project supply, frequently you will find that South African and African expertise and capabilities remain at the core," she asserts.

What is admittedly still standing in the way of opportunities for 'Team Africa' to grow its business on the continent is the perception that Asian goods and services are more cost-effective than those locally available; and the fact that project financing is often provided by Asian companies.

However, according to Skjoldhammer, the truth of the matter is that when potential clients and their estimators look at sourcing costs, they often do not consider the cost of a fully erected steel fabrication project, for example.

"Our experience has shown us that equipment fabricated in China is on average about 30% more expensive on landing in Africa, and approximately 20% more expensive at this point when it is imported from Turkey," she comments.

The goal, says Skjoldhammer, is for African companies to be instrumental in growing the local and pan-African market for African companies and thereby set up a virtuous

cycle of stimulated economic growth throughout the continent.

"To achieve this aim, companies, and stakeholders must identify their own 'Team Africa' to collaboratively participate in projects during the conceptual and design stages thereof. However, she points out, when it comes to the procurement criteria in the context of Team Africa, it is more a question of 'dangling a carrot' than 'waving a stick' as requirements to include local content often hamper the undertaking of new projects.

"The intra-African trade agreement is evidence that key stakeholders are already thinking and engaging along the lines of procurement in terms of a 'Team Africa' concept and mechanism. Furthermore, ACFTA'S current implementation means that pan-African countries will not pay tariffs when they trade with each other."

There are still various logistical obstacles to working in African countries, such as moving equipment and fabricated structures across borders, dealing with customs 'red tape' and delays, and obtaining the necessary permits to work in-country.

***'Our experience has shown us that equipment fabricated in China is on average about 30% more expensive on landing in Africa'***

However, the intra-African trade agreement is geared to address some of these challenges, such as improving inadequate transport infrastructure, and this could also help to get more projects off the ground.

Skjoldhammer explains: "Undertaking more projects on the continent will create and drive the core growth that in turn generates

further growth. The use of the African supply chain for projects across Africa will open up an even deeper supply chain on the continent: from, for example, a local steel fabricator buying locally-rolled steel, to the support industries which specialise in galvanising, corrosion-protecting and painting that steel, and the range of businesses both up and downstream in the supply chain which supports the steel fabricator with telecommunications, IT, transport and a host of other items such as PPE (personal protective equipment) and stationery."

She concedes that the continent as a whole also still faces challenges such as corruption and – in certain countries – political instability which may hinder efforts to bolster the local supply chain.

"However, for 'Team Africa' to thrive, only a few African countries need to support the 'Team Africa' supply chain. The rest will soon follow," she asserts.

"The company that I lead recently formed a 'Team Africa' alliance with a steel supplier and processor, to supply a Zimbabwean gold mining operation with large steel tanks for a processing plant. This highly successful collaboration and synergistic project demonstrate that there is no limit to what a 'Team Africa' can do. The knowledge and experience in the industry is such that we can deliver any project throughout the continent.

African companies and countries must take the long-term view of 'sowing the seeds for the future': supporting one another, combining their resources, skills, and experience to realise this amazing and well-timed opportunity to transform our continent into an economic powerhouse," Skjoldhammer concludes.



# 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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