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WRITERS/ JOURNALISTS

Rudairo Mapuranga
Dumisani Nyoni
Shantel Chisango
Precious Chikuro

Contributors

Sharon Tsuro
Boshi safety
Amosa Safety

Rudairo mapuranga
rudairo@miningzimbabwe.com

Keith Sungiso
kaysungiso@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING

Kelvin Sungiso
kelvin@miningzimbabwe.com
Cell/Whatsapp 0775523000

PUBLISHER

Timelison Media (Zimbabwe)

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



Address
4th Floor Fidelity Life Towers Harare
Tel: +263 8644 276 585| Whatsapp +263 772 701 730

Advertising: info@miningzimbabwe.com
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princeafrica.zim@gmail.com



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Cover: Shinko Africa. Power synergies Contact us 0864 410 6320, or visit
our website shinkoafrika.net Email: info@shinkoafrika.co.zw

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Online Awards



Time to take ASM seriously

For the past two years over 50 ASM miners have lost their lives in mine collapse accidents. As recent as the 8th of September 2020 four men and a minor (17year-old) got trapped 110m beneath the earth's surface after their shaft collapsed in Chegutu. Rescue operations were stopped by the ZRP and Chegutu DCC as per instruction from Mines Ministry.

When Mining Zimbabwe visited the site we noticed multiple shafts dangerously close to each other worked on by different teams (a recipe for disaster). Staff at the mine suspected miners worked on the supporting pillars leading to the collapse of the shaft.

A lot of questions pop up like preparedness when disaster strikes? Are mine inspectors paying site visits to ascertain correct methods are being implemented?

ASM are currently leading on gold submissions

however little is being done to train them on safety and security. The government should make it compulsory for all Mine owners and their staff to attend short courses on mine safety as this may save lives being lost unnecessarily.

ASM is an industry that came into being after 1980 Independence and its success is dependent on the seriousness and attention it gets from the government. It is currently neglected to the point that the majority of ASM are operating illegally due to the lack of will by the parent Ministry to formalise them.

ASM is the goose that is laying the golden eggs. Its time to take it seriously!

As usual we appreciate your feedback and contributions. You can write to us info@miningzimbabwe.com. Stay safe till next time.

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Mining leading sector in economic resuscitation Prof Ncube



The mining sector will be the leading sector in sustaining high and shared growth, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Prof Mthuli Ncube has said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Through the 2021 Pre Budget-Strategy paper themed, "Building Resilience and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19 Minister Ncube said economic development will be aided significantly by the mining sector which has targeted to become a USD 12 BILLION sector by 2023.

The government is in the process of partnering with the private sector to increase mining investment through exploration, value addition, extraction and beneficiation across all minerals. "Mining will be a leading sector in sustaining high and shared growth. Growth will be anchored on the US\$12 billion mining industry target by 2023. Attainment of the target will entail increased investment in the exploration, extraction, value addition, and beneficiation across all minerals. The government in partnership with the private sector has already started to walk the journey in this respect." said Prof Ncube.

The US\$12 billion mining industry target is anchored on effectively pursuing value addition and beneficiation of local minerals such as lithium, nickel, graphite, gold, platinum, and chrome. Value addition is expected to help the country to generate the much-needed foreign currency.

The mining sector is expected to grow by 7.7 per cent in 2021 from a projected contraction of 4.1 per cent in 2020, recovery will be

driven by almost all minerals including gold, PGMs, and diamond, the sector is expected to benefit from relatively higher prices of gold and PGMs.

To achieve this growth, the Government will prioritise finalising amending of the Mines and Minerals Act expected to bring market-based conducive investment climate providing the stability, consistency, competitiveness and transparency in the sector paving way for the formulation of mineral policies and facilitating the resuscitation of strategically closed mines.

Improving management of mining information systems through addressing outdated manual cadastre processes, old maps, and unreliable records causing disputes around duplicate holdings and delays in issuing licenses remains outstanding and critical. The current state of the cadastre system is making the country lose potential revenue from the mining industry.

The 2021 National Budget will prioritise exploring innovative financing solutions to enable migration from the current system to a computerised mining cadastre system.

The budget will seek to capacitate Ministry of Mines personnel in terms of mobility, communication and computerisation to ensure that mining applications are timely processed, and inspections can be conducted. Currently, the ministry has a backlog of more than 17 000 applications which stall mining activities and hence additional capacity is needed to clear such a backlog.



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Zim partner China, Japan in mineral exploration



The government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development's Department of Geological Survey partnered Chinese and Japanese firms to undertake mineral exploration in the country, Finance Minister Prof Mthuli Ncube has said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

It is a fact that Zimbabwe is hamstrung by a lack of mining exploration reportedly to have a very low budget in the previous years assigned to exploration.

Exploration to date is considered to have only scratched Zimbabwe's mineral potential as the country lags in exploration due to under-investment in exploration in the last 20 years.

According to Prof Ncube through the 2021 Pre Budget-Strategy paper themed, "Building Resilience and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19" Zimbabwe has partnered with The Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEG) for technical support in the area of remote sensing to identify new possibilities and Chinese to undertake geochemical exploration in some parts of the country.

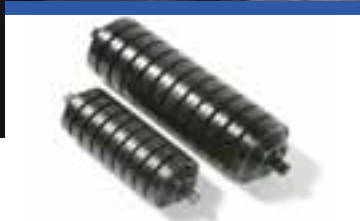
"Currently, the Department of Geological Survey forged a partnership with Japan's JOGMEG for technical support in the area of remote sensing to identify new possibilities. The Department also

partnered the Chinese to undertake geochemical exploration in some parts of the country," said Prof Mthuli.

The country has huge and highly diversified mineral resource base dominated by two prominent geological features namely the famous Great Dyke and the ancient Greenstone Belts, also known as Gold Belts which offer massive investment opportunities.

Already the country has a number of shutdown mines some of which are owned by the State through ZMDC which require investments to reopen. Increasing the number of operational mines is important to increase the mining sector's contribution to GDP, employment creation, exports as well as provide inputs for value addition strengthening value chains.

The 2021 Budget should seek to expand the capacity of the country for exploration to identify and quantify the value of mineral deposits. Therefore, the 2021 National Budget should prioritise the reopening of closed and new mines.



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Mining bill in progress, all stakeholders to be consulted

Hon Mkaratigwa



The Mining and Minerals bill is still in the drafting stage and in that process, all key stakeholders' representatives have been involved, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development is now looking forward to an all stakeholder conference that will broadly incorporate all stakeholders, the Committee chairperson Edmund Mkaratigwa has said.



Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The Mines bill has of late attracted criticism from different stakeholders in the mining sector who had a feeling that it's grafting has produced loopholes around consultation yet the committee is yet to conduct any public consultations.

Bills are drafted by Attorney General's Office Drafting Section but they are instructed and work hand in glove with the responsible parent Ministry which in this case is the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development on behalf of the Executive. However, because the Bill was returned to Parliament, Parliament has become much involved in supervising the process to ensure issues raised by the President HE Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa are addressed in toto to avoid the previous eventuality.

Bill drafting is therefore in the domain of the Executive, the Ministry of Mines being the technical parent Ministry on issues of mining while the AG's Office does the technical legal drafting, as Parliament collaboratively input and supervise efforts to ensure timelines are met.

According to the Parliamentary Portfolio on Mines and Mining Development Chairperson Hon Edmund Mkaratigwa the bill which is still on grafting stage will be presented to an all stakeholders conference that will largely incorporate all stakeholders whose suggestions will be incorporated into the bill after that it goes before the Parliamentary public participation and law-making processes.

"The all key stakeholders conference is coming and we have reiterated to that effect over and over again. No one will be left behind. The misconstrue came about from the fact the Kariba Workshop we had was jointly a result of a petition from ZELA that was calling on Parliament to quickly consider the Bill. We have received many requests for consideration for an invitation to the all stakeholders conference and, we will involve all key stakeholders and, some will also be engaged through the normal parliamentary legislative process." Hon Mkaratigwa said.



Mining bill in progress all stakeholders to be consulted, Hon Mkaratigwa



The bill is looking forward to addressing the issue of informal mining in the small-scale sector by trying to regard mining even as artisanal level as a business, hence offering opportunities for growth, development, and formalization of the small-scale and artisanal mining sector.

Mkaratigwa said the bill was going to have a look on private property rights an issue that has created debates and public scrutiny because the subject created disputes and gold leakages due to informal mining which managed to penetrate in the chaos caused by misuse of private properties in mining.

"The main emphasis of the Bill is on private property rights which is the main contentious issue in the sector. Mining disputes have been rampant, environmental sustainability weak, and gold leakages rife as a result of informal mining which is being promoted even further by the thriving violation of land property rights and mining title. In that regard mining even at a small-scale level, will be taken as business hence would offer the opportunity for growth through easier support models." said Mkaratigwa.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development Chairperson said the Bill is more of the parent mining law and it will address key aspects in the sector. The indigenization laws which previously bedeviled the mining sector is already amended and value addition which is already a government policy position is a particular issue that will broadly addressed as it is not best to target one aspect when legislating but creating an enabling environment.

"Value Addition is among the broader objectives of the Bill and that is also implied in creating an enabling business environment which this Bill and the New Dispensation, in particular, seeks to attain.

There are various policies and programmes for the promotion of value addition in the country and they are already being rolled out in support of both big and small scale mines, for job creation and, for minerals handling responsibility and accountability, curbing illicit financial flows and underreporting as well as for the unnecessary costs cutting." he said.

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The role of safety training in the reduction of workplace accident



Occupational Safety, Health and Environmental Management remain a fundamental aspect of any organisation. Zimbabwe is still recording a very high number of occupational fatalities and major injuries. The trend is disturbing therefore calling for very serious interventions by employers, workers and government.

When an occupational injury occurs, the micro and macro-economic status get disrupted. Occupational injuries bring direct and indirect costs including medical costs, costs of recruitment and retraining, disruption in the work cycle as it also brings pain and suffering. The reputation and public relations of the company suffers.

Employers, therefore, have moral, financial and importantly legal obligations to create working environments which are safe and without risks to the health of workers.

With the coming in of the European Union Conflict Minerals Regulation effective January 2021, with a provision of worker safety and health, it becomes paramount that our mining industry players align to this to remain competitive and be able to continuously and easily access that European market.

Does Training Reduce Accidents? - Why the Requirement of Competent (Adequately Trained) Persons?

One of the leading causes of workplace accidents is lack of training – incompetency. It is for this reason that the Mining (Management and Safety) Regulations: SI 109 of 1990 provides that the Mine Manager appoints only “competent persons” (section 7) – (person who has had adequate training...). Another legal responsibility of the Mine Manager in terms of Section 9 (j) is not to permit any “incompetent” or inexperienced workmen to be employed on dangerous work or upon the proper performance of which the safety of persons depend. This implies that appointments should be done to those who would have received adequate training. This is an essential component of any accident prevention programme. The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development through the Chief

Government Mining Engineer’s Office (CGME) as well as the National Social Security Authority (NSSA), has accredited AMOSA SAFETY (Pvt) (Ltd), to conduct workplace training which promotes safety and health towards accident-free workplaces thereby strengthening the government’s commitment to push the workplace safety agenda. **AMOSA SAFETY (Pvt) Ltd** has had its courses also accredited by the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (SAIOSH) the most recognised safety and health body in Africa.

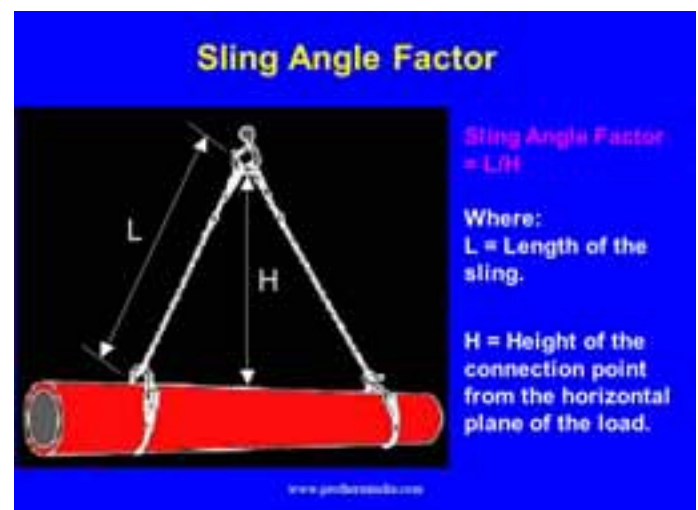
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Training may range from that of First Aiders, Fire Marshal, SHE Representatives, Supervisor’s Safety Training, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), scaffolding erectors or inspectors, working at heights and many others. Training must also be done to the equipment operators like the forklift, front end loader, mobile crane, excavator, dozer, truck mounted crane operators and training may also be advanced like that of ventilation technicians, mine blasting, shoring masters etc.

However, for training to be effective and meeting the legal provisions, it should be conducted by accredited and recognised providers like AMOSA SAFETY ACADEMY.

Worker safety training results in more production, there will be less accidents, improved employee retention, less machine maintenance costs, improved emergency preparedness, less medical costs so as quality within the organisation - an informed worker respond better to workplace situations.

By A Magawa: +263 771 491 365/amosasafety@gmail.com



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MMCZ failing to adhere to its mandate



The Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) failing to put into practice its full mandate to market minerals found in the country, a local gemstones consultant has said.

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

It is 100 per cent owned by the Government of Zimbabwe and falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

According to Chris Papenfus, the idea of the government in creating the MMCZ is very good because it made it easier for miners to be paid for their minerals before they go out of the country thereby reducing incidents where miners would be duped by buyers in foreign lands. However, the lack of a clear strategy and corruption in MMCZ have distorted the reputation of the organization.

Papenfus said that MMCZ was cutting gemstone miners out of business because of its failure to clearly spell out its mandate.

"MMCZ is a good idea if not corrupted, in other words, nothing goes out of the country before its exported. The minerals marketing body is supposed to protect the local miners instead of working against

them.

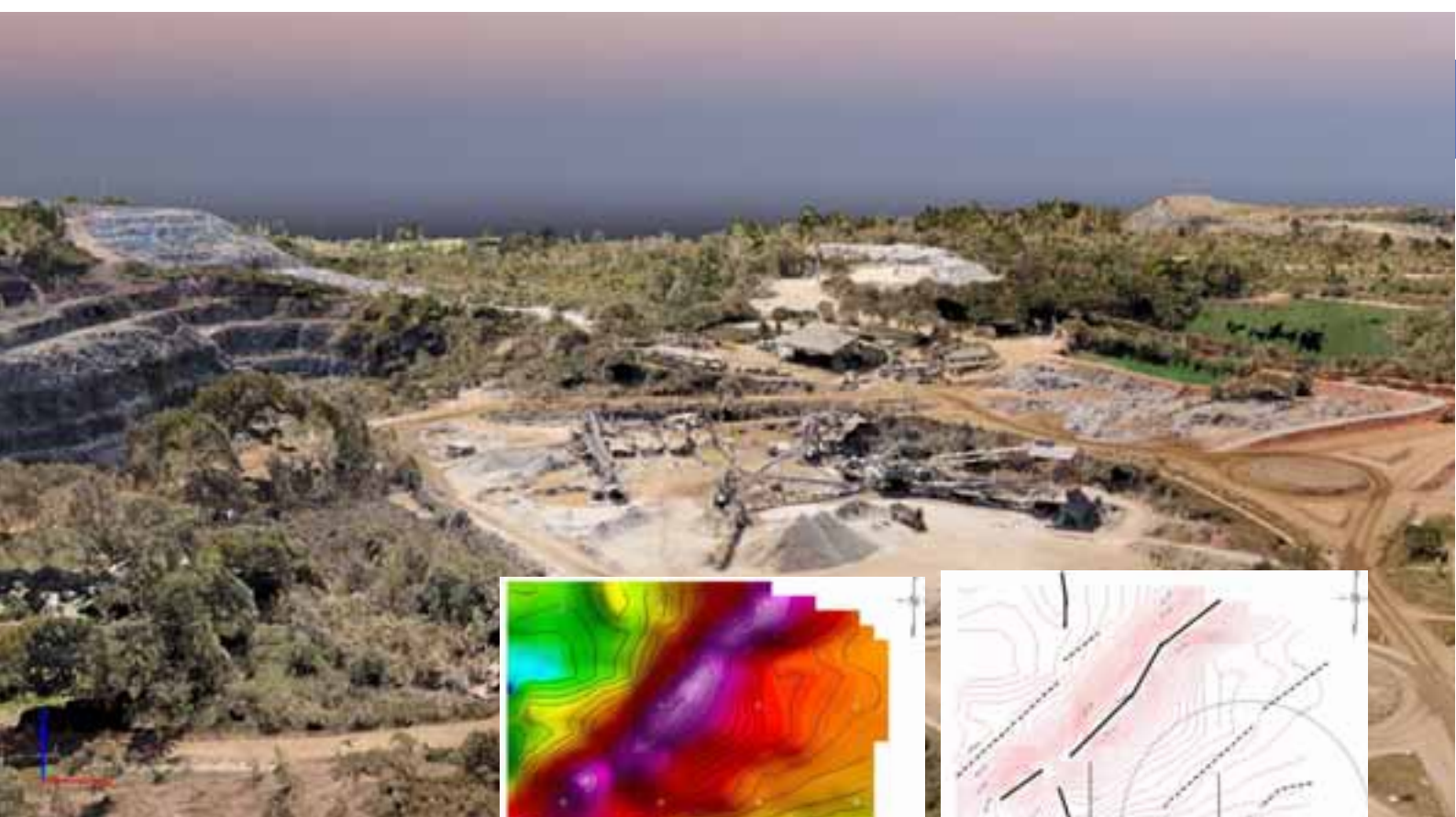
MMCZ has lost the direction, if you consult them concerning gemstones marketing issues, they refer you to the Mines Ministry, the Mines Ministry will be forced to refer you make to them because it will be their duty to conduct." Papenfus said.

Papenfus is a local businessman with a lot of interest in the gemstone sector and has been in the gemstone consultancy sector for nearly 7 years and has worked with miners from across the continent in identifying gemstones and creating markets outside Africa.

Papenfus is working with different communities in Zimbabwe teaching and consulting them on the gemstone industry for them to appreciate the value they have in stones.

Accusations have for a long time been labelled against the minerals marketing corporation of Zimbabwe with many especially in the gemstone sector accusing it of creating a monopoly in the industry whilst frustrating local investors.

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Government determined to stop gold leakages



The government of Zimbabwe is determined to stop gold leakages through the country's porous borders for the country to achieve an upper-middle-income earner by 2030, the Minister of Finance Prof Mthuli Ncube has said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The country is losing millions in exports proceeds through mineral smuggling especially gold through porous border posts and illegal crossings costing the mining sector to achieve the Minister of Mines' vision of the mining sector becoming a USD12 billion sector by 2023.

According to Prof Ncube to curb gold leakages, the government revised the gold retention threshold giving small scale and artisanal miners 100 per cent foreign currency while for large scale it was upped to 70 per cent all from 55 per cent.

The government according to Prof Ncube is also working on to review the gold trade act at the same time capacitating gold mobilization and buying agents as well as continuing to review gold marketing conditions and capacitate law enforcement institutions.

"To contain this leakage, the Government revised gold retention threshold to 70% in foreign currency for sale proceeds from the previous 55% in a move aimed at boosting production and curb smuggling in the sector. In addition, the government is expediting the review of the Gold Trade Act and capacitation of the Gold Mobilisation and Border Control Units.



To eliminate leakages, Government will continue to review gold marketing conditions and capacitate law enforcement institutions." Prof Ncube said.

A succinct mining fiscal regime is crucial in attracting foreign investment to the industry. Therefore, finalising the Mines and Mineral Amendment Act and harmonisation of mining taxation laws are critical in ensuring the viability of the sector.

The Minister of Mining and Mining Development Hon Winston Chitando through his USD 12 billion mining industry vision by 2023 has assigned the gold subsector to contribute 100 tonnes of gold per annum for economic resuscitation.

The gold sector is currently the country's major foreign currency earner contributing nearly 20 per cent of the country's export earnings.

Amethyst can create a significant industry in Zimbabwe



The amethyst stone industry can become a multi-million industry in Zimbabwe if the promotion and evaluation of the sector is well considered.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Amethyst is a member of the quartz family; it is most famous for its brilliant shades of purple. The purple colouring can range from a light shade of lilac to a deep plum colour. Amethyst stones usually consist of various zones of colour intensity.

The amethyst stone industry can help the sector in achieving the Minister of Mines and Mining Development's vision of the sector becoming a USD 12 billion industry by 2023.

The world of gemstones is considering amethyst as an alternative for the general populace which does not afford diamonds or emeralds. Amethyst is the trending mineral in middle- and low-income generating households in developed and semi-developed countries, most demands of the stone is in Asia where the population is high.

The essence of the colour purple in amethyst is beautiful enough for crown jewels yet affordable enough for class rings.

Amethysts are very easy to cut and can be shaped by any jewellery cutter. Prices of amethyst in Zimbabwe range from USD 4 per carat for a fair grade amethyst that has been polished.

The hairy amethyst which is of high value is found in Zimbabwe in

the Chikomedzi area and Binga trading from USD 10 -100 a kg and outside the borders the price is extremely high.

The low-grade amethyst can be used in making different art designs because there is no waste in the gemstone sector.

The amethyst sector is important to national development and can be an important national fiscus contributor. It can create tourism and exports industries as well as a meaningful processing industry for jewellery and other ornaments.

It is therefore of importance for the government of Zimbabwe to start educating children to understand the value of the minerals and stones the country. For the growth of the gemstone sector in Zimbabwe, processing of papers must not bring in boatnecks that are prone to create a monopoly or cartel in the gem industry.

The production of gemstones in Zimbabwe should be liberalised. The government might control the marketing part of the gem industry however its mining must remain in the hands of citizens.

It is world widely believed that amethyst is a natural tranquillizer, it relieves stress and strain, soothes irritability, balances mood swings, dispels anger, rage, fear, and anxiety. Its also Alleviates sadness and grief and dissolves negativity. Amethyst activates spiritual awareness, opens intuition, and enhances psychic abilities. Amethyst assists in remembering and understanding dreams. It relieves insomnia. Encourages selflessness and spiritual wisdom.

Letting Zimbabwe be economically dominated and controlled by other states makes independence a mere illusion.



Christopher Columbus once said, “those who had something of gold were in possession of something of great value on earth and a substance to even help souls to paradise.”

Gold is a non-reactive transition metal with an atomic number 79. It has a density of 19.30 g/cm³ in solid form and 17.31 g/cm³ in a liquid state. Gold boils at 2970 °C and melts at 1064.18 °C. This metal is a chemical element with the symbol Au which is derived from its Latin name, Aurum. Gold is rated 2.5 on Moh's scale of hardness. It is an inert metal but dissolves in aqua regia. Gold is converted into a water-soluble coordination complex by cyanide and binds with mercury to form an amalgam. This yellow metal is diamagnetic, malleable, ductile and a good conductor of heat and electricity. Its characteristics make it suitable for application in various industries. It is used in dentistry, aerospace, medicine, electronics, jewellery and as a currency. The value of gold is usually determined by demand. Zimbabwe is one of the countries that are rich in gold. Unfortunately, the economic situation of the country is poor and a very small percentage of the Zimbabwean population actually own a stake in this wealth.

Gold is found in reef or placer deposits. Each type of deposit demands a different type of mining method. A gold reef is where gold is found in its original rock host. In this article particular reference will be made to placer deposits. These are found in the form of alluvial, residual and bench deposits. Alluvial deposits are

the most common type of placer gold deposits and are often the richest. They contain pieces of gold that have been washed away from the lode by the force of water and have been deposited as sediments in or near water bodies, hence they are mostly found in valleys or flood plains. Alluvial gold is present along all the major rivers draining the greenstone belts in Zimbabwe. This type of gold mining attracts many prospectors due to its low demand in capital costs and the simplicity of the gold processing techniques involved. Sluicing, dredging or panning are the most used methods of gold recovery in which the density of gold is manipulated in the classification process.

According to the 1961 Mines and Minerals Act which still governs mining law, any individual, provided they are a permanent resident of Zimbabwe is allowed to apply for a mining license. This entails that anyone interested in building the economy of Zimbabwe through mining is welcome to do so. However, in the case of the majority of Zimbabweans, financial constraints are usually a stumbling block. Most Zimbabweans cannot afford the capital required to do mining. Although all these factors justify why we need foreign investments, nationalization of our mineral resources is a critical matter which can be addressed if placer deposits are reserved for Zimbabweans particularly alluvial gold mining.

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Owing to the great demand in capital investments in reef gold mining, it is quite understandable that we would need foreign investments, however, where alluvial gold mining is concerned, the first preference should be given to the locals. The month of September saw the Mazoe river heavily populated by gold panners. Many purchased engines, bought PPE and food for the workers in preparation of the mining activities.

For a moment, everyone wondered where the authorities were to stop these "illegal" mining activities. Food stalls were built along the river banks and a whole community was formed in a matter of days. Just as they had started extracting gold, the national security forces were deployed to clear everyone out, no considerations were made for the investments made by the people, they were all chased like criminals because the Chinese owned company which has rights to mine in that area could not approve. It was quite a sorry sight as some had sacrificed the little they could to invest in this, others even sold their livestock to get capital. Most of the people of Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe district, particularly Maramba incurred huge losses. In as much as these activities were not justified, it is quite difficult to understand why the authorities waited until people had invested so much only to then chase them out before they got value for their efforts.

In an article published by Manicapost Rumbidzai Zinyule said, "... a Belarus mining company is coming in to sustainably mine alluvial gold along the Pungwe and Rusitu riverbeds to regularize illegal mining activities by gold panners that have contributed to significant pollution of both rivers". It is from this development that one is compelled to wonder if the Zimbabwean government is so poor that it cannot afford to fund alluvial gold mining projects to economically empower the Zimbabwean people. Have we developed a dependence syndrome so bad that we need foreign assistance in the carrying out mining activities as simple as alluvial gold mining? For as long as we as people get comfortable with the idea of

working for and submitting to aliens in our own country, we are bound to be impoverished forever.

Mr Seenza also said, "JOC made efforts to contain the illegal gold miners but they came back and continued polluting the environment..." as if our own people's dirt is too bad as compared to foreign investors' dirt. He continued, "The plan now is to bring in companies that will mine sustainably along the riverbeds. The company will employ those miners who have been working there so they can continue to make a decent living through formal employment" An assessment if this statement would make one wonder if Zimbabwe as a nation has lost hope in the indigenization of its own resources. Are we ever going to believe in our own capabilities as a people if we continue to get comfortable with the idea of "making a decent living through formal employment?"

It is quite sad to realize we have been so brainwashed that we demonize ourselves for extracting resources that are rightfully ours.

Financial independence is a dream that will never come true for Zimbabwe for as long as we lack the courage to take the bull by its horns. We are more comfortable with the idea of being employed. It is quite sad to realize we have been so brainwashed that we demonize ourselves for extracting resources that are rightfully ours. Why has it become so easy to refer to our own as "illegal gold miners", "makorokoza", "maGweja" who are incapable of sustainably mining along river beds? In any case, these are hardworking people who aren't stealing from anyone but rather, exploiting their own resources with limited funds. All they require are pieces of paper to legitimize their operations as well as facilitate accountability and help in tax collection and EMA regulations. It would help if the government did more to help legalize alluvial gold mining activities as well as fund them. This is where the essence of organizations such as the Zimbabwe Miners Federation and others come in handy. The gold that lies in abundance beneath our feet is our birthright. Its high time we made efforts to curb imperialism by standing on our own feet.

When they said Zimbabwe is open for business, I would like to believe it was open for the ordinary Zimbabwean as well. This idea is synonymous with the IMF-funded Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) which was pursued in the nineties. Its major aim was to take Zimbabwe's tightly controlled economy and convert it into an open, market-oriented one.

Letting Zimbabwe be economically dominated and controlled by other states makes independence a mere illusion.



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The restructuring was aimed at inducing higher economic growth by reducing poverty and unemployment through four main streams: Reducing fiscal and quasi-public shortfalls as well as institute prudent monetary policies, liberalization of trade policies, carrying out domestic isolationism and setting up social safety nets and training programs for vulnerable groups. According to Raftopoulos & Compagnon- 2003, this was intended to reduce unemployment by increasing the size of Zimbabwe's economy with the intention of creating new black-owned businesses rather than inheriting existing white and foreign-owned businesses.

With the current financial state of Zimbabwe, it may be hard to fathom that we will be able to attain financial independence, however, a step in the right direction will guarantee the much needed economic liberty in the long run. While it may be quite complicated to nationalise most of the gold mines in Zimbabwe at the moment due to lack of funds to expropriate the existing mining firms let alone fund the projects, reserving alluvial gold mining rights for Zimbabweans only can be the first step. It does not require as much capital as mining in reefs demands. Nationalisation allows

profits to be equitably distributed amongst more people and the country as a whole. It can lead to regional economic development of Africa as a whole. This concept prevents private monopolies, hence protecting consumers from restricted quantities and inflated prices. Nationalisation's objective is social welfare, wealth or profit maximisation, therefore more people benefit. It can lead to economies of scale, improved quality and greater efficiency resulting in increased employment and greater job security. In short, it is vital to curb imperialist motives.

This advocacy of being economically dominated and controlled by other states makes Zimbabwean independence a mere illusion. Unless efforts are made to indigenize our resources, we will never be free!

Gold Smuggling: Time government introduces free gold trade within Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe is reportedly losing more than US\$100 million a month through gold smuggling, according to Home Affairs Minister Kazembe Kazembe.

Government has been, for a long time, trying to fight gold leakages but with little success.

This article will look at why gold is being smuggled out of the country and possible solutions.

WHY GOLD IS BEING SMUGGLED

Fidelity Printers & Refiners (FPR) monopoly

Gold export in Zimbabwe is only done by Fidelity Printers and Refiners, an arm of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ). Gold producers sell their bullion to Fidelity who in turn pay an amount that's a bit below the international market. One can only surrender their gold to Fidelity even if they have a better market outside the country.

Gold fetches a better price outside Zimbabwe

The price of gold being offered by FPR is lower compared to the one obtaining in the international market. For instance, a gram of gold in Zimbabwe hovers around US\$54 while on the international market it is US\$63.

Laxity on the issuance of mining titles

The Mines Ministry is creating illegal mining activities by its delays in issuing out mining title. The lack of seriousness on the issuance of mining titles is creating an opportunity for unregistered buyers. Unregistered miners (illegal miners) constitute the majority of ASM. Many have submitted all required paperwork to the Mines Ministry which in turn sit in the provincial offices for years and at times getting lost. This, in turn, forces miners to operate without Mining Titles. Unregistered miners are reluctant to take their gold to Fidelity for fear of arrest so they sell the little they get to the nearest buyer. The buyers go to miners directly and usually buy for less than what Fidelity is offering. It is usually these buyers that smuggle the gold of the country.

Untrusted banking system

Last year without warning, the government ordered all forex accounts to be converted to be RTGS. Companies who wanted to purchase machinery from outside of Zimbabwe had to approach (and still do) the RBZ for their transaction to be approved and processed. This to a certain degree takes away the freedom to use one's money as one wishes without having to fill out forms or speak to someone on why you are buying from outside.

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It is a well-known fact that keeping funds in USD is much safer as it maintains value than the local currency. In Zimbabwe forex is liquidated in 30 days to local RTGS. Just like in South Africa.

However, unlike the Rand the downside of the local currency is that it is still yet to gain trust due to its instability. It is also much more expensive to purchase in local currency than in USD, therefore, the US\$ is currently the most preferred currency of transaction.

Inconsistency with Fidelity payment

Complacency by Fidelity Printers in pricing, payment method and period, encourages stiff competition from black or parallel markets. Fidelity Printers and Refiners, especially during the lockdown period, regularly ran out of cash, paying miners after weeks. This disrupted some mining operations with some ASM opting to sell their gold to any buyer they see as long as a fair price is on offer.

What the government should do

Liberalise gold trading

The major reason why there is gold leakage/smuggling is restrictions on gold trade. The monopoly enjoyed by Fidelity Printers and Refiners has allowed it to dictate everything, including foreign currency surrender thresholds for bullion deliveries to the RBZ unit.

The government should allow free trade of gold within the borders of the country. The government can allow the setting up of free trade markets whereby foreign nationals can walk into gold trade markets that can be located at the country's international airports purchase their gold and take-off. Liberalising the market will likely end the cat and mouse game between the law enforcement officials and miners.

Liberalising the gold market will "help improve the competitiveness of financial markets" and "help expand investment channels to meet

domestic investor needs," the People's Bank of China once said in a statement. So can we as Zimbabwe.

Dubai has built itself as a major gold trading centre by sourcing its raw materials from Africa and selling the finished products to buyers in the expanding economies of India and China. Dubai owns 29% of the gold trade market in the world, with almost 1,200 tons of the metals traded in the city's gold souks. Instead of gold leaving Zimbabwe unofficially, the government can turn this around and let those who want to buy to do so freely, openly and those who can source buyers from outside Zimbabwe trade at designated well secure points. Considering the internet age we are in, the world is now a global village. Outsiders are approaching locals for gold. Dealing openly is much more advantageous to the economy than continuing with operations that we can see are not working.

Gold Trade in other Western countries

United States

From 1933 to 1974 it was illegal for U.S. citizens to own gold in the form of gold bullion, without a special license. On January 1, 1975, these restrictions were lifted and gold can now be freely held in the U. S. without any licensing or restrictions of any kind.

Gold coins, medals, and bullion may be brought into the U.S. However, under regulations administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, such items originating in or brought from, Cuba, Iran, and Sudan* are prohibited entry.

UK

There is no limit on the amount of gold a tourist can bring into the UK. There are, however, customs fees and taxes that apply for items with a value of over £390. Tourists bringing gold into the UK from Dubai are limited by a 10-kilogram cap.



Waste management in the mines!!



A topic of interest indeed; mining activities have considerably increased due to notable population growth and worldwide demand for mineral resources.

This increase coincides with a new awareness in which environmental concerns have become a growing challenge for all of the agents within the sector. Several types of waste are generated in the mine with only a few standing out with the largest volume, namely; waste rock, tailings and mine water.

As these are not valuable to the owners of the mine, they may be inappropriately disposed of into the environment, posing a severe threat to therein, particularly affecting both surface and ground-water quality. Most mine waste-related environmental degradation is associated with the leaching of contaminants from overburden dumps and acid mine drainage. Zimbabwe is associated with a larger number of small scale miners compared to large scale miners. As a result, one will find out that the methods of disposal used are harmful to the environment. Proper waste management can promote the

sustainability of nature and the environment. Mine owners are encouraged to consider investing in new sustainable mining methods that minimize waste outputs. It is also important that they be educated or rather enlightened on some of the consequences of poor mining practices.

A clear and direct way of enlightening the miners is to train them and help them acquire skills of handling their waste. Training has proven to be the best way to enhance skills, to this end, **BOSHi** Safety Africa offers Waste management trainings and support for the related initiatives.

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Women adding mining value through sculpting



The mining industry has grown with the venturing of women in the business through sculpting.

For those who specialise in sculpting the journey has been a rough one since the beginning of Covid19, but under normal circumstances, sculptors manage to eke a living for their families.

In an interview with one of the sculptors at Newlands Arts and Craft Center, Jane Mwanza says the business of sculpting is a paying field if there is no pandemic outspread.

"Sculpting has been my source of living ever since my husband died and I have managed to look after my children providing a life that's fair for them," said Mrs Mwanza.

The fifty-year-old woman said she ventured into the sculpting industry from a long time back through her late husband, and she has managed to recruit her children into the business as well.

'It is now more of a family business because my older sons help me with the provision of minerals while my other daughter is also into sculpting,' she said.

The pieces of sculpting designed are not made from just any mineral but there are specifically designed minerals meant for each

piece of work.

The minerals used include cobalt from Chiredzi, spring-stone from Mvurwi, dolomite from Mutoko.

These minerals can be obtained considering one's viability when it comes to the places where the minerals are found.

Mrs Mwanza is privileged to have her sons in the business who do her the honours of travelling places looking for the minerals making it easier for her to manage the business.

"As for me I can say that my sons help me a lot for they are the ones who travel to provide the minerals for me,' she added'

As a woman who ventured into a business that's mostly practised by men Mrs Mwanza says she has been an encouragement to many women who are hardly eking a living.

She does not feel intimidated by the fact that she competes with men on a day to day basis rather she is motivated to work even harder.

"When my husband still was alive, I was involved in sculpting and had to spend most of my days with men since they are highly involved in that business. I am motivated and I even aspire to be one of the greatest sculptors and I am not challenged at all," she commented.

In this line of work, it is impossible to flourish in business when the market and the government seem to sabotage you.

Much support is needed from the investors so that small mining operators can benefit and make a living out of the business.

"I would appreciate it if the government can resume the programmes it once had for small business operators, that way we can be helped financially," Mrs Mwanza said.

Mrs Mwanza hopes that the economy gets better so that her business can return to normal.

Mining as one of the biggest industry in the country is helping in the emancipation of women like Mrs Mwanza to make a living.

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