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ABOUT PUBLICATION

Mining Zimbabwe premier source of Zimbabwe Mining News. Our core focus is the Zimbabwe Mining Industry, trends, new technologies being developed and used to improve this crucial sector, as well as new opportunities and investments arising from it. Mining Zimbabwe's sole purpose is growing and empowering the Mining Industry and highlighting all its challenges as well as putting forth expert solutions



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CONTENT

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IN THIS ISSUE

05 Editor's Note

MINING MATTERS

06 Investing in clear quartz mining

07 Zimbabwe highest-grade lithium resource commences second phase drilling

10 Caledonia increases quarterly dividend

13 The limited supply of Zimbabwe chrome leads to price hike

15 Prospect increases Acardia life span

17 Investigations by Parliament into "machete gangs"

19 ZMDC asset sales scaled by market confidence

20 The heroes in work suits

22 Mining disasters: Is government complicit?

24 SINOTRUK ZIMBABWE

25 Zimbabwe Mining Sector: Opportunities Galore

MINERAL FOCUS

30 Minerals and Location found in Zimbabwe





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.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Online Awards



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



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Investing in clear quartz mining



Small scale and artisanal miners should consider investing in mining clear quartz which is relatively easy to mine, low-cost production and can produce a huge return.

Clear quartz is found in many places in Zimbabwe that is, Manicaland, Mashonaland provinces, Masvingo, Midlands, and Matebeleland and are reportedly receiving an interesting market.

Marketing and exporting of clear quarts in Zimbabwe is carried out by the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) although the entity has been accused of sleeping on duty delaying

stalwartly the licensing of gemstones buying agents.

Clear quarts prices range from USD1 per kilogram up to USD 50 per kilogram depending on size, Quartz is also more valuable when it is completely intact.

These minerals are formed under extreme pressure into crystals, the quartz crystal deposits were formed millions of years ago.

Quartz is composed of silicon and oxygen and is common throughout the world, although most of it is not crystallized. Crystallization occurs when the silicon dioxide or silica is heated. The source of the heat can be extremely hot water from underground sources, which fills open fissures to create filled quartz veins.

Clear Quarts have different uses including decorative items, jewellery and for industrial use in clocks, computers, Clear Quartz is often used to cleanse, open, activate, and align all of the chakras. Since Clear Quartz absorbs energies very easily, it is important to clear these stones regularly. In natural form, Clear Quartz Points radiate their energies outward, into the surrounding environment.

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Zimbabwe highest-grade lithium resource commences second phase drilling



MIRRORPLEX (Pvt) Limited's lithium project in Shamva has started drilling with the initial 23-hole program comprising 2,000 metres of reverse circulation (RC), with an RC rig now on site.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The project which is postured to become Zimbabwe's biggest hard rock lithium resources has the potential to grow into a world-class lithium mine with Results from 240 Rock Chip samples taken from the exposed Bonnyvale pegmatite body at the Shamva Lithium Project provides high-grade lithium assay results up to 3.13% Li₂O and surface sampling at the Loch Ness prospect has revealed two more pegmatites containing high Li₂O grades up to 4.82% Li₂O.

Speculatively sitting on over 6 million tonnes of lithium highest grade ore, Mirrorplex is working on Stage two drilling which consists of reverse circulation aimed at confirming mineralisation beneath Lochness North, South Bonny Vale and Hereford East and West as well as testing for extensions of mineralisation.

The mine reportedly boasts of greater lithium grades than Zimbabwe and Africa's largest lithium producer, Bikita minerals and Prospect Resources's Arcadia lithium project whose grades are



below 3.0% Li₂O.

According to Mirrorplex Director Mr Nyasha Chidoh, the Lithium mineralisation at the Shamva project defined over ~160m thickness and ~550m strike at the surface in the Bonnyvale Pegmatite.

Mapped pegmatite outcrops show a cumulative strike length up to 3km (five mapped bodies) and widths ranging up to 250m, with samples from all bodies sampled to date showing a high proportion of assays reporting between 1% and 5% Li₂O.

The Loch Ness Prospect lies in the north-western area of the Shamva tenement package and contains two elongated dyke areas exposed over a cumulative 500m strike within the licences



with numerous samples returning well over 2% Li₂O to a maximum of 4.71% and 4.82% Li₂O demonstrating the high-grade potential of the area.

Chidoh said the commencement of the second phase drilling of the project began in June his year with results from this phase expected early next year defining the geometry and confirm previous soil and rock chips sampling from the high-grade intersections.

“It was only in June 2020 that the company made a decision to start drilling and I am particularly excited to say that since that time we have conducted extensive geological mapping with immediate drill targets and considerable blue sky,”

“Now the best part, the drilling, commences for the second time and we are confident, based on the previous drilling that we will be delivering some excellent assay results from Early December as the program unfolds.”

“Work is progressing well on a litho-structural interpretation along with a compilation of geochemical data for Mirrorplex regional tenement package. This lead-up work will be crucial in targeting the highly prospective Spodumene and Petalite lithium targets,” Chidoh said.

Drilling Samples for the project were assayed via a multi-element (29 elements) Sodium Peroxide Fusion method (ICP90A) for a total digestion resulting in a “complete” analysis at SGS Laboratories Rock Samples sent to ALS Labs in South Africa and undergo preparation (Prep-31) which involves weighing, fine crushing to 70% at -2mm, with a 250g split which is further pulverised to better than 85% at 75microns.

SI6’s Botswana-based Exploration Manager was onsite for the entire drill program and supervised all hole location, logging, sampling and sample dispatch exercises Data collected in Li-ppm were converted by a factor of 2.153/10000 to calculate a % Li₂O figure.

The Project located in the BinduraShamva Greenstone Belt located in the Central Archaean Zimbabwean Craton. Locally, the area is dominated by complex folds of pillowed basalts, ultramafic schists, and serpentinites of the Arcturus formation. Banded iron formation (BIF’s) occurs between 30- 100m thick associated with these bands of siltstone and shale all intercalated with the basalt.

Numerous pegmatitic dykes have been mapped and/or reported throughout the area generally striking N-S or NNW-SSE over various strike length (up to 2000m) and strike widths up to 250m. Reports suggest that numerous parallel dykes adjacent to the main pegmatite are apparent, but are partially obscured on the ground. The dykes show variation in mineralogy between occurrences and along strike suggesting fractionation trends may be apparent.



Nyasha Chidoh





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Caledonia increases quarterly dividend



Caledonia's Blanket Mine workers. Photo Credit Caledonia Mining Corp

Leading gold miner, Caledonia Mining Corporation has declared an increased quarterly dividend of USD 0.10 on each of the company's common shares due to its production performance and cash flows that are improving.

Tinovimba Ashley Zvomuya

According to a statement released by the company, the dividends were increased by the Board of Directors due to stable production, high gold prices and manageable cost control.

"Stable production, a high gold price and good cost control have resulted in increased cash generation in 2020; this has given the Board confidence that the business can sustain a higher level of dividend distributions before the benefits of the completion of Central Shaft are realised." Reads the statement in part.

The statement has shown that there is 18 percent increase from the previous quarterly dividend of 8.5 cents paid in July this year and a whopping 45 percent cumulative increase from the level of 6.875 cents since October 2019.

The company's Chief Executive Officer Steve Curtis commenting on the company's announcement said the dividend increase is a direct reflection that the company has confidence in the outlook of the mining industry.

Curtis said business for the miner has continued to perform well supported by an increase in gold prices leading to a strong production.

"We are pleased to announce an 18 per cent increase in our quarterly dividend, the third increase in the past nine months, representing a cumulative 45 per cent increase on the dividend in the past 12 months. The decision by the Board to increase the dividend reflects our continued and increasing confidence in the outlook for our business. As we reported in our Q2 2020 results, the business continues to perform well, supported by strong production and a firm gold price." Said Curtis.

The company's CEO said moving to next year, production costs or capital expenditure at Blanket Mine in Gwanda will start to decline with the combination of rising in production and declining capital investment further increases in the dividend can be witnessed.

"As we approach the end of the six-year investment programme at Blanket Mine, we anticipate that the rate of capital expenditure will begin to reduce in 2021. We expect the combination of rising production and declining capital investment to give us greater flexibility to consider further increases in the dividend in addition to possible investment in new projects." He said.

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 increases in the dividend as appropriate and in line with its prudent approach to risk management.



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The limited supply of Zimbabwe chrome leads to price hike



According to a statement released by FerroAlloyNet Market Analysis chrome ore concentrate prices were hiked by 0.5-1 yuan/dmtu in China spot market last month due to the limited supply of Zimbabwe chrome ore at Chinese ports and increasing inquiries from downstream ferrochrome plants.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Ferrochrome market analysis said that the increase of chrome price during the first days of the month were contributed by the fact that, the market transactions were very active.

The analysis has also indicated that Zimbabwean chrome concentrate prices spiked by USD 10 per tonne mainly due to the fall of the dollar and the increase in ocean freight while South Africa chrome increased by USD2- USD5.

“South Africa chrome ore prices rose by 2-5usd/T, and Zimbabwe chrome concentrate price rose by 10usd/T. Due to the depreciation of the USD dollar and the increase in ocean freight, South African chrome ore prices rose slightly. Before the new round of bidding prices are released, the market is mainly waiting and watching”

High-carbon ferrochrome price increased by 100CNT/Ton at 50 per cent basis at the beginning of the month while prices were stable and strong at the end of the month

“High-carbon ferrochrome market price was raised by 100CNT/Ton 50% BASIS. Ferrochrome prices were stable and strong. At the end of the month, as the holiday approached, downstream

replenishment activities gradually ended, market inquiries and transaction volume declined slightly. Market participants are waiting for a new round of HC ferrochrome tender prices after the holiday” reads the analysis in part.

“In September, the prices of imported high-carbon ferrochrome from South Africa and India were raised by 0.02-0.03 USD/lb, and Kazakhstan ferrochrome prices were increased by 0.05 USD/lb. Also, the Rand has become stronger again. The strengthening of their local currency pushes costs higher. Besides, ocean freight from South Africa to China also increased. Meanwhile, due to COVID-19, the supply of ferrochrome from South Africa decreased. South Africa ferrochrome suppliers get support to increase their offering prices.”

Zimbabwe has the second-highest chrome resources in the world after South Africa and has the potential to become the major producer of high-grade chrome ore in the world considering the fact that Zimbabwe's chrome grades are higher than any other country in the world.

The Zimbabwean chrome ore is close to 50 per cent chrome there are however some challenges including logistics which have constantly limited the market and production of chrome leading the country to become one of the lowest producers of chrome.



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Prospect increases Arcadia life span



Prospect Resources has made the most of 2020 to open new markets, conduct expansive work to derisk Arcadia's future operations, extended Arcadia's Life of Mine and substantially improve Arcadia's project economics the company's Managing Director Sam Hosack has said.

Tinovimba Ashely Zvomuya

Through a report released by the company, Hosack said that although the Covid19 pandemic has delayed developments at the Harare based lithium project, the company still managed to extract its first resources due to the high demand of lithium in the world.

"Whilst the events of 2020 have delayed the development of Arcadia, we have still moved closer to the date for first dig and first products. We are well positioned for Prospect to take full advantage of the irrefutable wave of demand and the emerging supply gaps. We have a tier one deposit, an experienced management team and high-quality offtake partners." Hosack said.

Hosack said that the company made progress on its vision to become Africa's leading lithium producer by releasing an updated Definitive Feasibility Study and signing the ultra-low iron petalite offtake agreement with Sibelco.

"Sibelco offtake The Company signed the largest ultralow iron petalite offtake agreement in the world (up to 700,000 tonnes over 7 years)." He said.

According to Hosack, the Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Uranium One for the purpose of Uranium One to undertake due diligence on Prospect and Arcadia with the intention to invest in or acquire Prospect or Arcadia and secure more than 50% of the spodumene offtake. These discussions are progressing well.

The Company's Managing Director said it appointed Renaissance Capital as its exclusive financial advisor in relation to the potential sale, directly or indirectly, of the Company's interest in the Arcadia

Lithium Project or of Prospect itself to Uranium One. The company is therefore working closely with Renaissance Capital.

In line with the company's long-term strategy, Prospect sees lithium as a robust and sustainable element to the electrification thematic that has and will continue to fundamentally revolutionise the way people live. Lithium's role in the storage, use and transfer of energy has already touched the globe through the use of smart phones for global communication, laptops, electric grid stability and storage to power homes, and electric vehicles. Ultra-low iron petalite is the primary ingredient in the production of induction cooktops, other high-temperature glass products, fiberglass and wind turbines.

The Arcadia Lithium deposit is hosted within a series of 14 stacked, sub parallel petalite-spodumene bearing pegmatites that intrude the local Archaean age Harare Greenstone Belt. Dimensions of the pegmatites defined by drilling to date are 4.5 km along strike (SW-NE), with an average thickness of 15 m and dipping 15 degrees to the NW. The Main Pegmatite is exposed in the historical pit, and the deposit is open along strike to the southwest. The deposit is cut by the NNE-SSW trending Mashonganyika Fault zone, as well as a regional SW-NE trending dolerite dyke that appears to truncate the pegmatite to the NW. A total of 194 RC and 111 diamond drill holes have been drilled on the project (26,682m).

The Arcadia Lithium Project is located approximately 35 km east of Harare, Zimbabwe providing convenient access to skilled and semi-skilled labour. A Mining Lease has been granted over an area of more than 10 km² and Environmental Approvals are in place. The Project is located close to major highways and railheads, with the Beira Port being less than 580 km away by rail/road transport. Grid power access via switchyard is within 4 km of the Project with 20 MVA capacity. There is surplus groundwater available.

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Investigations by Parliament into “machete gangs”



Investigations by Parliament into machete gangs that had bedevilled gold mining areas in the country were stalled by the COVID 19 pandemic and lockdowns which restricted movement of people.

Before COVID 19, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines was about to investigate the machete gangs and their effects on Zimbabwe's mining sector. In this exclusive question and answer session, Mining Zimbabwe talks to Mines Parliamentary Portfolio Committee chairperson Edmond Mkaratigwa (EM) who is the Shurugwi South MP, to explain the way forward that his committee will take to investigate the machete gangs in mining areas. Below is the interview.

QUESTION: The Mines Committee had said they will do an investigation on machete gangs. What happened?

EM: Indeed you will remember that we initiated the investigation around the Machete-Wielding gangs causing havoc mainly among small scale miners and throughout the gold dominant areas in the country. I can also refresh your memory in noting that these criminals who were using the same moniker were becoming active even in urban areas in Harare and other parts of the country. The Committee invited the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Army and other departments of Government to give insight into the menace. With the blessing of the Speaker of the National Assembly Jacob Mudenda, the Committee braved COVID-19 then and initiated the investigation. It further actually warned the security agents of the potential for a resurgence of these criminal elements as some in the Committee had indicated that these people had gone underground including into neighbouring Mozambique, hiding away from the security crackdown after a number of their deaths in encounters with the joint security operation as was witnessed in Bindura and other areas.

QUESTION: So what exactly stood on the way of the committee to proceed with its investigations on machete gangs in mining areas?

EM: Without much ado, COVID-19 stood in our way as we were not allowed to meet the public then hence our investigation is hung and we are reinstating it on our agenda in the coming session. On a number of aspects relating to the Committee business, we are behind and we are going to be very busy in the coming session, within the new risk challenges and new ways of operating in an environment of COVID 19 where we must follow government policy.

QUESTION: The Second Session of the Ninth Parliament has come to an end; does it mean the issue of machete gangs will no longer be investigated?

EM: We are going to continue with that issue because the Committee has full control of its agenda as the representative of the Whole House. The Committee is very much concerned with that issue and as you remember, there were many theories peddled around these bandits and getting to the bottom of the matter will be good for all progressive, pro-development, peace, and unity loving Zimbabweans. As Parliament and as the Committee, we may need to be more innovative, think more broadly, transformative and adapt to new methods of doing work. I mean that, if tenable, the Committee through Parliament which is its delegator can include subcontracting trusted researchers with support from our partners, who will conduct an in-depth study within terms of references set by the Committee and within tightly set timelines. The researchers can conduct a preliminary study that will put the Committee on a smart footing for the matter to be tackled within its financial, time and other internal and external environmental constraints such as COVID-19, resources, bureaucracy and parliamentary rules and procedures. The contracted researchers can therefore present to the Committee in camera from time to time as the Committee will also act in line with forthcoming evidence and objective evidence. That way, I am sure the Committee will easily get to the bottom of this matter and deal with it more comprehensively.

Investigations by Parliament into “machete gangs”

QUESTION: Are there any proposals made by your Committee to ensure that the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill deals with the machete gangs? If so, what changes do you suggest will work?

EM: Whereas the machete gangs' negative effects have been predominantly felt in the Mining Industry and particularly by the small scale miners, the insurgency is merely a threat to the national security of Zimbabwe and the region. In that regard, the matter cannot be specifically addressed through the parent Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill but through strengthening its supporting legislation such as the Gold Trade Act in particular. The Committee is therefore almost there with regards to the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill that is targeting enhancement of mining formalisation, expedient boundary disputes resolution and mineral footprints tracing which are key in fighting the Machete gangs criminal behaviours. Broadly though, these are criminals and insurrections hence they should be dealt with heavily as such by the relevant arms of the state to ensure concerted peace and security and avoid opportunist destabilisers in the country. Primary legislation should not target an event that is there today but should be futurist to ensure unnecessary amendments time and again hence such issues can be dealt with through more temporary legislation such as some Statutory Instruments, ministerial directives, government policy positions and programmes targeted at discouraging the behaviour of such malcontents that are bent on inhibiting achievement of the already possible national mining Vision 2023 and Vision 2030.

QUESTION: How have these Machete gangs affected the country's mining vision?



EM: These criminals have instilled fear among miners and, in particular women in mining - and realistically though that should be qualified with research data. It has led to overall formal mineral output delivery reduction. Remember the criminals would not use formal channels to a greater extent when selling their gold. They leak it through to foreign lands. In addition to the fear created among vulnerable groups in mining, the criminals disturb the mining process as the mining areas become more war zones hence production time is lost through prioritisation of personal security on the part of the miners. Despite these facts, it has also been sending a wrong signal to would-be investors hence the need for the country to be seen to be able to protect private property of miners in the manner of the gold or any other minerals which calls for a declaration of war against them. However with COVID-19, the effects were reduced as security was also deployed throughout the country inhibiting their chances for resurgence and with concerted efforts, I believe the overall fulfilment of the vision will be achieved although with some little negative effects as a result of these criminal groups.



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ZMDC asset sales scaled by market confidence



Parliament Portfolio Chairperson on Mines and Mining Development Hon Mkaratigwa

Parliament Portfolio Chairperson on Mines and Mining Development Hon Mkaratigwa said despite its huge potential, Zimbabwe Minerals Development Corporation (ZMDC) has failed to sell its assets to investors due to lack of patriotism and national interest from the majority of Zimbabweans which in turn influenced market confidence.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Mkaratigwa said, contrary to the reports circulating that ZMDC might not have a mineral value that has been portrayed, the company actually sits on a huge mineral asset base and some of the assets are yet to be tapped.

The Parliamentary Portfolio on Mines chairperson said the failure of the company to see its assets getting paid for should be credited to lack of patriotism and national interest which has been slowing down investor interest.

"It is real that ZMDC has a huge mineral asset base and some of the assets are also stocks which have not yet been sold. Lack of patriotism and national interest has been slowing down investor interest mostly, especially at some stage in this new dispensation." Hon Mkaratigwa said.

Mkaratigwa however, agreed with the assertion that ZMDC should improve its geological data to match modern surveys and exploration. He said it was important for the country to embark on a

massive exploration program to improve the country's geological data.

"On reviewing geological data, yes, and that is what the government should actually do through the country. Investors naturally also want their own geological report remember this is a market and that may involve exploration resources which they may not be willing to release until they are satisfied as I always say that capital is shy." He said.

The chairperson said investment in the mining sector has been down due to previous business-unfriendly legal and policy frameworks, however, due to changes that are being implemented, Mkaratigwa believes that investment is going to be boosted because the policies will bring about confidence.

"With the raft of changes going on in the country, we expect to continue seeing more investors as the investment climate and the willingness to continue transforming it improves. So the investment climate which is mainly anchored on market confidence has more influence on investment decisions than the asset value especially at the initial stage" said Mkaratigwa.

There were reports that the claims that ZMDC was sitting on a billion-dollar asset needed to be supported by a modern geological data as the data available was archaic therefore won't be reliable.

The heroes in work suits



The reign of Napoleon Bonaparte, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler or Tshaka was characterized by wars in their quest for dominion. Strong armies were built and manipulated to dissuade, repudiate and conquer enemies of the state. Strategies differed in various ways but the ultimate goals remained the same, power, supremacy, national security and to some extent, prestige. Today, the world still finds itself in consistent conflict for supremacy. However the types of wars have taken a whole different shape, this entails that even the nature of the armies has changed too. The important sector which guarantees the national security of Zimbabwe has its soldiers in work-suits.

By Sharon Tsuru

The purpose of the army is to guarantee economic, environmental, health, resource and energy security. Every nation depends on the national army to strengthen the global system of allies. However, of essence is to note that the power of the army is solely dependent on the financial state of a nation. An army needs to be fed, clothed and trained using resources that come from the coffers of the state. Zimbabwe's economy mainly depends on agriculture and mining. Mining constitutes sixty per cent of Zimbabwe's exports. This sector contributes sixteen per cent of the gross development product hence it is pivotal in providing the financial security of the Zimbabwean nation. Mining is synonymous with war on so many levels.

The mine shaft is nothing but a hollow corridor that reeks of death



and uncertainty therefore it requires courage and bravery to work. Sometimes lives are lost and in many cases, others are injured but miners do not despair, because seeing their nation prosper is what keeps them going. They consistently remind themselves that the end justifies the means thus with all those life-threatening conditions they work with passion, perseverance and patience. Although considerable efforts are being made to enhance a safe working environment, tragedies like the Kamandama mine disaster where hundreds of men lost their lives testify to the fact that mining is dangerous yet miners still toil and sweat from dusk till dawn extracting the resources which provide economic power and subsequently limiting imperialist motives which come sometimes in the form of foreign investments. Most miners cannot afford the proper education or capital required to do mining and mineral benefaction and this poses high risks on them but they are not limited by that. Most of these heroes in work-suits use the expertise passed down to them through generations from time immemorial. How can so much passion be underrated?

Just like in war, miners leave their families to work in the mines. Sometimes they are blanketed by the moon, stars and skies, for there are no proper structures to offer the comfort they need owing to the lack of capital and adequate resources in the case of the majority of small scale miners. Just as soldiers lose their hearing senses from the noise that comes from the blazing of guns, miners endure that from the noise produced by mining equipment. Though the use of PPE limits the exposure to dust, it does not eliminate it. Miners inhale dust that poses them to various respiratory diseases.

The heroes in work suits

These people make a lot of sacrifices and while one may argue that they get compensation for their efforts, it is vital to note that the small scale miner never gets value for their efforts as they are only paid for the product and not the risk.

Small scale miners contribute significantly to the economy. Sadly they are the most disrespected by the society and the national security forces. They are seen as mere villains, criminals and in most cases as suspects. The term "Makorokoza" is a derogatory name used to define them. A few weeks ago, in an article published by Mining Zimbabwe, the police detained small scale miners who were travelling well within their rights with the proper documentation that exempted them from the then Covid-19 lockdown order. It is said the police refused to even look at the documentation that they had with them, kept them at the station until two am. Let us forget about police conduct in this case but rather just focus on the disrespect of the miner it showed, they could have been carrying gold or valuable materials and this compromised their security. A lot of miners are going through hell at the hands of some of the security forces who either retard their progress or disrupt their operations for trivial reasons that in many cases do not hold water.

Zimbabwean security forces need to stand united with these soldiers in work-suits, fighting to secure the financial independence of the Zimbabwean nation for, without them, this nation would not thrive.

Small or big players in the mining sector play a pivotal role in securing the financial independence of the nation. They make unimaginable sacrifices but they are still not given the respect they deserve. On top of the efforts, they make they also have to grovel for respect and support from the society and national security forces.

The miners constitute an army and should be treated as one. Miners are heroes conquering wars every day on every front. The heroes in work-suits should be hailed for without them, the national army would have nothing to protect and when the economy is bad the crime rate increases making the work of the police even more complicated.

Just as we have the tomb of the unknown soldier at the heroes acre, all the miners that have died in mine accidents, for instance, the hundreds of miners that died at Kamandama should be remembered. Their voices still speak as they died serving the nation. Minot J Savage once said, "The brave die never, though they sleep in dust, their courage nerves a thousand living men."

In a nutshell, miners put their lives on the line to promote and protect the financial independence of our nation, they need to be supported and respected for their commitment. The relevant authorities give due respect to the movements and operations of miners but some of the national security forces should not deter legal mining activities for whatever reason. Miners are treated as suspects when they are in fact heroes. United we stand, divided we fall!



Mining disasters: Is government complicit?



YEAR-IN, year-out, lives are lost in Zimbabwe's mining sector, with corruption and inadequate monitoring of mining activities by the government cited as major causes.

For instance, since 2018 several accidents have been recorded; including the flooding of Battlefields mine in Kadoma, which killed 28 people and the collapse of Eldorado mine in Chinhoyi, killing 11 men in two separate incidents.

Other accidents include the collapse of Shurugwi's Wonderer mine, trapping over 50 artisanal and illegal gold miners underground and the Nugget gold mine collapse in May, which killed eight people, as well as the blast at Mazowe mine in which eight people died.

Again, in February this year, two miners died after a shaft collapsed at the Globe and Phoenix Mine in Kwekwe District, 200 km south-west of the capital Harare.

In May this year, another worker at Vumbachikwe Mine died after he allegedly fell during a blasting exercise when he was alone underground.

Last year, a man died in Gwanda at Berwick 3 Mine when a shaft he was working in collapsed.

Platinum giant Zimplats also recorded one fatality towards the end of the first quarter of 2019 at one of its mines, Mupfuti Mine.



On September 8, 2020, five artisanal miners got trapped underground at Task Mine in Chegutu and as of September 29, they had not been rescued.

Until when shall the nation continue losing precious lives in the mining sector?

Government and mining companies must do something to end these disasters. To begin with, mining activities across the country should and must be monitored.

There should be the training of people who can lead and monitor operations, especially on areas of drilling and blasting. This is where many accidents happen.

The government must quickly formalise artisanal mining to enable the massive number of people who have just joined the sector to mine legally and to follow mine safety standards.

Formalisation in its various forms may enhance adoption of safety, health and environmental standards to curb such mine disasters, says the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (Zela).

Mining disasters: Is government complicit?

Dewatering and lack of proper maintenance in the shaft development are also among the major causes and the situation could be controlled if the government licenced the artisanal miners, opines the Zimbabwe Miners' Federation.

The other issue which is of real concern is the implementation of disaster and emergency preparedness measures in the mining sector.

For instance, with the Task Mine disaster, the government rescue team has been accused of being slow and poorly coordinated.

The accident, according to ZELA, exposes lack of adequate implementation of disaster and emergency preparedness measures in the mining sector. The organisation said it appears no one in the mining sector, including the government and the mining industry, is learning anything from past mistakes, experiences and disasters.

"While the situation of the five young miners is not quite clear, the hope of rescuing them seems to be fading with each passing day," Zela said.

Zela said it was deeply concerned and saddened by the lethargic and indolent response by the government in the Chegutu disaster.

"It is indeed worrisome to note that when such incidences happen, even other victims who might have sustained minor injuries end up losing life due to the authorities' failure to expeditiously attend to disasters. Over the years, the significant contribution of artisanal and small-scale miners to gold production levels in the country and the national economy has been realised," it said.

The miners were said to have been working in an old underground shaft in a claim that is alleged to historically belong to Pickstone Mine, but was being controlled by influential players in the gold sector under a mining cooperative. The mine claim is also adjacent to a Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC mining block), which has a shaft that might offer access to the mining area.

Zela said the mining activities at this mine site are alleged to have been illegal with mine monitoring appearing to be weak in the country. While the mine collapsed on September 8 2020, other incidents were reported before the current one.

For example, it is reported that the mine once collapsed, when the mine shaft was 40 meters deep. Pickstone mine allegedly

spearheaded the rescue operation and managed to handle the incident.

"Over the past two weeks, Zela said it has received several calls and messages from family members and members of the public calling for assistance from the government, mining companies and other actors to help rescue or at least recover the bodies of the miners.

To date, reports indicate that efforts to search, rescue or recover have been slow, it said.

"Information gathered on the ground indicates that a team of five inspectors from the Ministry of Mines once went to the site but could not do anything as it was dark with the ground not having been stable," it said.

"Reports also indicate that there has been ground movement at the mine. In addition, no current underground plans are available at the mine site since the shafts were being worked on by artisanal miners."

"The mine plans are said to have been last updated in 1963, and there are a lot of tunnels underground which make it difficult to search, and to open the unstable ground in the vicinity of collapse. This calls for a proper ground survey to be done to allow rescue missions. Unorganized rescue efforts might lead to other injuries or disasters," Zela said.

Zela, therefore, encouraged the government to dedicate more resources and intensify the search, rescue or recovery efforts.

It said the government should appeal for help from mining companies, many of whom are now either buying gold from artisanal miners or organising artisanal miners to mine on old mine shafts.

Government must do more to address mining disasters in the mining sector.

All lives are precious!



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Zimbabwe Mining Sector: Opportunities Galore



Zimbabwe's hopes for a quick economic recovery and sustainable foreign exchange stability rest on the shoulders of its multibillion-dollar mining industry.

by Francis Shingi Nhunzvi (CMILT) and Victor Bhoroma

Beyond the productivity bottlenecks of the past 2 years, mining commodities earned the country US\$2.91 billion in 2019 (9% down from the 2018 haul). The earnings represent 68% of the total export value from Harare. So huge is the potential in the industry that the government set an export target of US\$12 billion for 2023.

Zimbabwe has over 800 operating mines across the country and these range from international mining houses to small scale mines. In terms of employment, the sector currently employs over 80 000 workers directly and thousands more indirectly in downstream businesses. The country has a massive competitive advantage in the mining sector because of its a 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 are home to billions worth of Chrome, Gold, Nickel, Iron Ore and Platinum Group of Metals (PGM).

Currently, there are a number of large projects being undertaken in mining. Prospect Resources (Australia and Frankfurt Stock Exchange Listed) is well on course to complete its Arcadia Lithium Mine in Goromonzi, near the capital Harare. The miner has been very

proactive in securing markets and tie synergies that will give it an edge in exporting Lithium to the world market. Karo Resources which settled on the rich Great Dyke in the last 2 years, is developing its Ngezi Platinum Mine with a target to start mining in the last quarter of 2020. Great Dyke Investments (A joint venture between Afromet JSC and Landela Mining), is currently developing its billion-dollar Darwendale platinum project with a target to complete mine construction in 2020. The completion of these two platinum projects will add onto the beneficiated output from Unki, Zimplats and Mimosa Mines which have catapulted Zimbabwe into one of the best producers of Platinum in the world.

Despite the current economic headwinds and COVID-19 induced business downturn, Zimbabwe has one of the best-untapped investment opportunities in the world when it comes to mining.

Large Reserves of precious minerals

Generally, Zimbabwe remains under-explored when it comes to mining. Investment and tax incentives to boost exploration capacity will play a crucial role in quantifying the amount of mineral reserves. The country has over 4 000 recorded Gold deposits in the Greenstone Belts, an estimated reserve of 2.8 billion tonnes PGMs ore and over 30 deposits of Nickel in the Great Dyke, over 12 billion tonnes of coal in the mid-Zambezi Basin and the Save-Limpopo basin and

Zimbabwe Mining Sector: Opportunities Galore

basin and several kimberlites of Diamonds in Manicaland and Masvingo.

Diamond Sector Overview



Zimbabwe's diamond industry dates back to 1975 when the first Kimberlite deposit was discovered. The River Ranch kimberlite was discovered in 1975 whilst following up on an alluvial diamond discovered in a stream draining the kimberlite. The pipe is situated in the Central Zone of the Limpopo Belt, a zone of high-grade metamorphism between the Zimbabwean and the Kaapvaal cratons and intrudes Archean metasediments of the Beitbridge Group. The mine was placed under liquidation by the High Court in 2012 after failing to attract investors almost five years after its operations ceased.

The other player which has been a consistent face of diamond mining in Zimbabwe is Murowa Diamonds. The Murowa Diamond Mine is an open-pit mining operation located near Zvishavane in south-central Zimbabwe. Production from Murowa began in 2004 with a current capability of around 400,000 carats per annum of large, predominantly white, gem-quality diamonds.

Another player in the diamond industry in Zimbabwe is the State miner, Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (Pvt) Ltd (ZCDC) which is a diamond mining company wholly owned by the Government of Zimbabwe. The Company has mining operations in Manicaland in Mutare's Chiadzwa area and Chimanimani.

Apart from the operations highlighted above, Zimbabwe is believed to be home to over 120 Kimberlite deposits whose economic viability is yet to be established through enhanced exploration and evaluation

In 2019, a Russian mining company Alrosa signed a joint venture (JV) agreement with Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) to develop kimberlite diamond deposits in Zimbabwe. The

company is undertaking exploration activities in hope of discovering viable kimberlite deposits across the country.

The sector is expected to contribute USD1 billion by 2023 under the Ministry of Mine's 2023 mining industry USD12 billion milestone. In 2020, the government increased the sector's foreign currency retention threshold to 75% from 50% in a bid to enhance competitiveness.

Enter Lithium & Rare Earth Elements (REE)



The country recently discovered that it has a sizeable base of Rare Earth Elements (REE) metals which are used in the manufacture of electronics. The findings add to the huge deposits of Lithium found in Bikita, Goromonzi, and Kamativi. The global push for lithium battery-powered electric cars, consumer electronics and renewable energy in high-income markets will create a lucrative market for Lithium and REE metals produced in Zimbabwe.

Low hanging fruits in beneficiation



Most of the mining commodities exported from Zimbabwe are shipped in their unprocessed form and beneficiated further in other countries. This presents massive investment opportunities for processing and beneficiation close to the source for the already developed export markets. The Government of Zimbabwe is desperate to see value addition of minerals before exporting and

Zimbabwe Mining Sector: Opportunities Galore

would welcome such investment with both arms and feet.

Recently, Mutare City Council donated 72 hectares of land in Fern Valley for the construction of the Gemology Hub. The designated area was granted Special Economic Zone status to attract investors. Within these 72 hectares, 12 hectares was allocated for the construction of the first phase which is the Gemology school. The second, third and fourth phase will comprise of diamond cutting and polishing, jewellery manufacturing and lapidary and ancillary services respectively.

Such investment would get automatic considerations for national project status which offers several commercial benefits to the investors. There are vast investment opportunities in refining Platinum and Lithium locally. Similarly, Gold jewellery making, chrome smelting, diamond cutting and polishing can provide rich pickings for investors with a long term eye for backward integration.

Foreign earnings retention scheme



Zimbabwe is refining its foreign exchange retention scheme with local exporters currently pocketing 70% of their export earnings and selling 30% locally via the recently launched Foreign Currency Auction System. There has been stability on the foreign exchange market and any sustenance to the prevailing foreign exchange policy will help eliminate investor concerns on the retention scheme. Going forward, it is envisaged that miners will retain 100% of their export earnings while repatriating such proceeds back to Zimbabwe.

Favourable Mining Trends

The recent change in the Indigenization and Empowerment Policy to allow for any percentage of foreign ownership in mining assets has also improved appetite for investment into the country. Further, Zimbabwe is streamlining its ease of doing business policies and procedures to create a welcoming investment climate. The ease of doing business reforms are slowly bearing fruit with Zimbabwe

climbing 15 places on the ease of doing business rankings to 140 out of 190 ranked countries in 2018. The rally in Gold price to about US\$2,000 per ounce on the world market also makes the country's redundant gold mines very appealing. With the small scale and artisanal miners now contributing 60% of the produced Gold in the country, demand for small mining equipment is projected to grow. These small scales and artisanal miners urgently need movable mining machinery and equipment such as excavators, compressors, dewatering and slurry pumps, generators, jackhammers and jaw crushers to ramp up production. Therefore lease financing, contract mining and exploration services are vital to these small scale miners.

Investing in Zimbabwe's mining sector needs a long term approach. Evergreen minerals such as Gold, Nickel, Diamond and Platinum will continue to play a crucial role in export earnings. A surge in demand for Lithium and REE metals will provide an anchor to the base for mining sector dominance in the economy in terms of employment creation, tax payments, export earnings, value chain development, agglomeration and infrastructure development. Most of the country's 50 commercially exploitable minerals are largely untapped and therefore its opportunities galore in Zimbabwe's mining industry.



This article was co-authored by Francis Shingi Nhunzvi (CMILT) and Victor Bhoroma. The authors possess considerable experience in economic and investment analysis in the mining sector in Zimbabwe. They are both holders of MBA degrees from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ).

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Miner farmer conflicts must be solved in new Mines Bill



WOMEN farmers have asked Parliament to expedite the crafting of the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill so that it solves conflicts between miners and farmers where deep pits have been left open due to illegal mining activities at their farms.

The Women in Land Zimbabwe (WLZ) made the plea recently before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines which is led by Shurugwi South MP Edmond Mkaratigwa.

Their plea comes at a time when several stakeholders in the mining sector want the current Mines and Minerals Act revamped as it is archaic and does not deal with modern mining issues and technological advances.

WLZ national coordinator Thandiwe Chidavarume said illegal miners were encroaching into farmland owned by their members, digging in search of gold and were leaving deep pits.

"We know that there are laws like the Mines and Minerals Act which stipulates distances between mining and farming and states that if the land is less than 100 hectares there must not be mining activity taking place. However, we have seen people with 25 hectares of land only being given mining permits," Chidavarume said.

"Illegal gold panners are digging deep pits and causing environmental degradation and as a result livestock is falling into the pits and dying. When our women farmers report to the police nothing is being done," she said.

Chidavarume said Shurugwi is one of the most affected areas. Recently, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines visited Shurugwi where they saw the land degradation left by illegal mining activities at farms. But the committee members insisted that the



laws are there but it is the implementation that is weak.

"We are pushing for the passing of the new Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill so that it includes measures that solve miner and farmer conflicts. The old Mines and Minerals Act gives too many powers to miners and puts minerals at the expense of farming," she said.

The Minister of Mines Winston Chitando told delegates during a recent workshop for MPs on issues of mineral transparency which was organized by the Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) that the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill is likely to be brought before Parliament after September 17.

"When we met with MPs during a workshop in Mutare, we indicated that there was the need to have further breakaway sessions by the Attorney General's office and the Mines Ministry so that they work on the amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act. They completed the exercise and they have been re-writing the amendments in legal language which is suitable for presentation to Parliament.

"Next week on September 17, the Ministry of Mines will have a workshop to go through all the amendments in the draft Bill and thereafter we will be in a position to present the draft amendments to the Mines Portfolio Committee," Chitando said.



Miner farmer conflicts must be solved in new Mines Bill

He said his Ministry was also looking at the issue of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) with a view to adopting it. The Minister of Finance Mthuli Ncube in his 2020 budget statement said Zimbabwe will adopt the EITI but to date, the country has not done so.

“As I indicated in Mutare, the starting point for EITI is for us to have a workshop or seminar with ministry officials so that they understand the implications of EITI because currently, they do not know EITI. When we talk of EITI we need to talk of the budget needed to implement it.

“We know the EITI basic principles but we cannot implement principles. We need an implementation strategy because right now we do not know how to implement it, how to join EITI, the databases that we need and how to share them, as well as how and what we should disclose under EITI. We also need to know what is involved in joining EITI and why countries that did not join EITI decided not to join,” Chitando said.

TIZ said they were ready to provide technical assistance to the ministry in terms of capacitating them on EITI.

The TIZ executive director Muchaneta Mundopa said there is a need for mineral accountability and transparency because Zimbabwe is in debt distress and is donor-dependent, yet it is richly endowed with different minerals.

“It is our hope that the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill will catalyse the growth of the economy. TIZ also believes that small scale miners play a big role in mining and we hope the legislation will be transformed so that they graduate from being insecure and being a source of conflict to a sector which does meaningful mining,” Mundopa said.

She said Parliament plays a pivotal role in reviewing mining contracts and ensuring good revenue management and urged that the current bottlenecks in the Mines and Minerals Act must be removed through a new minerals Act.

The awaited Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, therefore, is expected to solve several issues – from miner and farmer conflicts to strengthening accountability and transparency in mining revenue.



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