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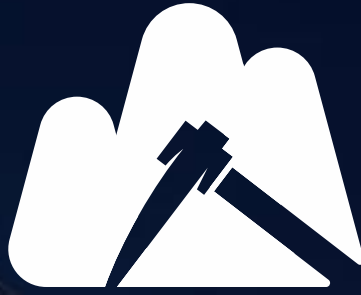
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CONTENT

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3000/3001/3002/3003/3004/3005/3006/3007/3008/3009/3010/3011/3012/3013/3014/3015/3016/3017/3018/3019/3020/3021/3022/3023/3024/3025/3026/3027/3028/3029/3030/3031/3032/3033/3034/3035/3036/3037/3038/3039/3040/3041/3042/3043/3044/3045/3046/3047/3048/3049/3050/3051/3052/3053/3054/3055/3056/3057/3058/3059/3060/3061/3062/3063/3064/3065/3066/3067/3068/3069/3070/3071/3072/3073/3074/3075/3076/3077/3078/3079/3080/3081/3082/3083/3084/3085/3086/3087/3088/3089/3090/3091/3092/3093/3094/3095/3096/3097/3098/3099/3100/3101/3102/3103/3104/3105/3106/3107/3108/3109/3110/3111/3112/3113/3114/3115/3116/3117/3118/3119/3120/3121/3122/3123/3124/3125/3126/3127/3128/3129/3130/3131/3132/3133/3134/3135/3136/3137/3138/3139/3140/3141/3142/3143/3144/3145/3146/3147/3148/3149/3150/3151/3152/3153/3154/3155/3156/3157/3158/3159/3160/3161/3162/3163/3164/3165/3166/3167/3168/3169/3170/3171/3172/3173/3174/3175/3176/3177/3178/3179/3180/3181/3182/3183/3184/3185/3186/3187/3188/3189/3190/3191/3192/3193/3194/3195/3196/3197/3198/3199/3200/3201/3202/3203/3204/3205/3206/3207/3208/3209/3210/3211/3212/3213/3214/3215/3216/3217/3218/3219/3220/3221/3222/3223/3224/3225/3226/3227/3228/3229/3230/3231/3232/3233/3234/3235/3236/3237/3238/3239/3240/3241/3242/3243/3244/3245/3246/3247/3248/3249/3250/3251/3252/3253/3254/3255/3256/3257/3258/3259/3260/3261/3262/3263/3264/3265/3266/3267/3268/3269/3270/3271/3272/3273/3274/3275/3276/3277/3278/3279/3280/3281/3282/3283/3284/3285/3286/3287/3288/3289/3290/3291/3292/3293/3294/3295/3296/3297/3298/3299/3300/3301/3302/3303/3304/3305/3306/3307/3308/3309/3310/3311/3312/3313/3314/3315/3316/3317/3318/3319/3320/3321/3322/3323/3324/3325/3326/3327/3328/3329/3330/3331/3332/3333/3334/3335/3336/3337/3338/3339/3340/3341/3342/3343/3344/3345/3346/3347/3348/3349/3350/3351/3352/3353/3354/3355/3356/3357/3358/3359/3360/3361/3362/3363/3364/3365/3366/3367/3368/3369/3370/3371/3372/3373/3374/3375/3376/3377/3378/3379/3380/3381/3382/3383/3384/3385/3386/3387/3388/3389/3390/3391/3392/3393/3394/3395/3396/3397/3398/3399
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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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Illegal mining sorely a creation of Mines Ministry's incompetence.

Formalisation, formalisation, formalisation! Arent, you tired of hearing these words? It is now a song that has been playing on repeat for years non-stop. You would swear even responsible authorities are tired of hearing this song but what is stopping them from taking action? Surely the country stands to benefit immensely if more applications are processed.

Welcome dear reader to the second issue of Mining Zimbabwe Magazine of 2021. Daily we see and hear in the press about illegal mining and deaths in mining shafts. What exactly is illegal mining? Illegal mining is mining activity that is undertaken without state permission, in particular in absence of land rights, mining licenses, and exploration or mineral transportation permits. In Zimbabwe, there are two types of illegal mining activities.

The first one is those who do not bother to take any measures to conduct mining legally and this is usually gold rushes or old mineshaft invasions. This is a magnet for violent confrontations which often machete gang clashes are reported. It is pure criminal activity and the gold realised from it has very low chances of getting to state vaults.

The second and most common one which the topic I am focusing on is of persons who take every necessary step prescribed by the government, pay all fees required but Mines Ministry takes years or doesn't bother processing their applications. Thousands have reapplied after the expiration of their prospecting licenses and still, no one processes their applications. Most of the gold realised from these

operations is purchased by buyers who visit these mining areas. Miners will not risk travelling to sell to Fidelity Printers and Refiners (FPR) centres, even though the entity buys from anyone on the condition they just produce their national ID. This is an opportunity being taken advantage of by illegal buyers.

Most of these illegal buyers deep in the bush buy for less than FPR rates. This gap needs to be covered and one of the ways is for government to prioritise formalisation. This will also allow the government to ensure mining is done correctly and proper professional methods are used, in the long term improve mining in the country. The laxity by the Mines and Mining Development Ministry in formalising these miners has created a bad precedence whereby miners "Just do it for the now". It is currently senseless for them to set up permanent structures as authorities will confiscate any equipment they come across at titleless mining areas. In the event that all miners awaiting registration are processed, it is probable that Zimbabwe will see the highest gold submissions the country has ever seen. Currently, there is not much happening prejudicing the country of millions of potential revenue. Until such a time formalisation is prioritised talk of the second type of illegal mining is sorely a creation of the Mines Ministry's incompetence. As usual, we welcome your views and contributions. You can get in touch with us on the numbers provided.

Remember always stay updated with Zimbabwe mining affairs by visiting our website: www.miningzimbabwe.com. Enjoy the read!!

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Indigenous mining equipment suppliers, miners call for government protection



Hon Mkaratigwa and Wayne Williams discussing

A proudly Zimbabwean machine engineering, steel fabrication, mining, farming and lifting equipment company, Yagden Engineering has called on the government to support local mining equipment manufacturers and suppliers as this will reduce externalisation of funds as well as smuggling and the creation of employment.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe at a site visit by Mines and Mining Development Portfolio Committee Chairperson Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa on a fact-finding mission on challenges local equipment suppliers are facing, Yagden Director, Mr Wayne "Mukwasha" Williams said the government should protect mining equipment suppliers, as well as miners from cheap and substandard and reject equipment which is dumped on the country.

"There are equipment suppliers who have flooded the market with cheap and substandard mining equipment thereby prejudicing miners of the real value to their investment.

"Many small-scale and artisanal miners in the country are buying this cheap equipment which becomes absolute three months down the line," Wayne said.

According to Kudakwashe Mbondiya (2016) cited by Torque Mude (2016), the Changfa generators and mining compressors (Chinese products) are not reliable because they are not strong and always need to be rested at regular intervals when using them. He also expressed disdain for Changfa generator which he says requires a lot of water for cooling when started.

Due to this, Wayne called for the government to address the uncertainty caused by substandard equipment in the sector which he said delays work and promotes smuggling of minerals.

The Yagden Director also said that some equipment suppliers are in the habit of lending artisanal miners cheap equipment as a way of getting all the minerals produced by the miners at a very low price.

"All equipment should have serial numbers which are traceable by the government.

"The government should be able to track all

the mining equipment in the country so that they know where mining activities are taking place and where the gold is being sold." He said.

Positive in buying local

Buying local keeps money circulating within the local economy. Studies have shown that

local businesses recirculate a greater share of every dollar as they create locally owned supply chains and invest in their employees.

Local retailers are believed to return 72 per

cent of their revenue into the local economy, compared to just 14 per cent for national chain retailers. Money circulating through the local economy benefits everyone who is a part of each transaction. This, therefore, means that if mining firms buy equipment from local manufacturers, money circulating within the economy will be able to sustain many people.

According to Norton Miners Association Chairperson, Mr Privelage Moyo, the country, because it was not promoting local

businesses, transactions happening are benefiting other nations leaving us in abject poverty.

He said that miners in Zimbabwe are working for other countries as what they are digging underground is benefiting the east and western countries because the miners are investing a lot in their equipment.

Some equipment suppliers are in the habit of lending artisanal miners cheap equipment



A Yagden Engineer working on some equipment

"As a country let alone as the mining sector, we are putting all our effort and power in the labour but at the end, our output is benefiting other countries like China. Our minerals go towards their country's industries to which they dictate the buying price and in turn, they manufacture equipment whose price they peg and engage their Chinese people supported by their banks to come back again to our African countries to trade again the very machines and accessories from our minerals and scoop the revolving foreign currency back to their nations.

"As a country due to ignorance of ministries, we are only surviving on peanuts and crumbs that's why we cannot afford a budget surplus of foreign currency. We have industries which are ghost houses as there is no support and ministries are not sharing ideas on what's required so that citizens may take up those tasks.

"Everything world over is advanced from someone's design by its automobile industry.

In our mining sector equipment and consumable are being imported and being sold by the very manufacturers at our huge expense.

Most of the equipment you will realise that it consumes a big chunk of our earnings through imports yet all the raw materials are available locally and let alone profits from their trade find their way back to their mother countries. If as a starting point we cut the Chinese in the trade we save a bit for our country's earnings." he said.

As long as the government prioritises foreigners first before citizens, it spells doom for our country, citizens are first and should be considered first in all, then complimentary support should come from the country's friends being "the foreigners".

Relying on foreign equipment even in the small scale sector breathes dependence and mediocrity upon the country and it kills innovation.

What miners think the government should do

Moyo said it was of greater importance for Ministries to start working together to curb the prejudice brought by shameless businesses from other countries who are dumping their cheap equipment on the country.

"This is why we were calling up Ministries to join hands and start working together. They are some advantages of Ministries being independent but on the ground, regarding production and development, they are outweighed by disadvantages.

"As miners, we feel our line Ministry is being sidelined by other ministries that are allowing and authorising Chinese and other foreign nationals who are manufacturing substandard mining equipment and machinery in their countries to be retailers in our country at the expense of our local business people." he said.

Indigenous mining equipment suppliers, miners call for government protection

According to Moyo, Ministries should promote homegrown ideas and products. Hammer Mills and many other products used in the small scale and artisanal mining sector should be produced locally as a way of promoting all small businesses in the country to grow.

"All that the Ministries can do is to expose its staff or institutions to developed countries and learn production modules which adds value to our country.

"We have many informal engineers in Mbare who are trying very hard to come up with the mining industry equipment, machinery and consumable requirements but not even one ministry cares about their growth although they are somehow producing usable equipment from scrap metal and proving to be useful and much better than that of the Chinese," Moyo said.

What needs to be done?

The first thing the government should do is to convince and make Zimbabweans understand the merits of what is currently produced locally while ensuring citizens that which is produced locally is sustainably produced as per the trending market demands.

The government does not necessarily need to target and discourage foreign-owned companies but should prove to miners that the equipment produced in the country can satisfy the market in all its respects.

The Mines and Mining Development Portfolio Committee and the Ministry of mines should have adequate data and a market-driven plan for establishing startup packages for our small scale and artisanal miners. The move is achievable through convincing data and

optimum business models that can be tested in the country.

The advantage of local manufacturers is that they can be linked up with local financiers without challenges and they can easily give other associated services like empowering training to upcoming businesses as part of the package.

What is the government doing?

According to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio on Mines and Mining Development Hon Edmund Mkaratigwa, the government will soon roll out a program that will support equipment suppliers by encouraging miners to buy local.

Mkaratigwa said the government through the Mines Portfolio committee was going to create a pilot project to support its ideas.

"The main plan is to have local suppliers prove themselves to be innovative and complementary to the mainstream government plans and targets and our support is always there.

"YAGDEN for example possesses vast experience and knowledge derived from already tried ideas in the field and that can be brought to the fore for trial in sampled areas for a start at a national level. They need that opportunity because their work is huge and potential can be harnessed for the broader good of their business and the Zimbabwe vision at large." Hon Mkaratigwa said.

What equipment suppliers should do?

According to Mkaratigwa some equipment suppliers should move from being backyard small equipment suppliers to renowned equipment manufacturers and should also be

innovative enough to explore the corridors that are being exploited by the Chinese to put a balance in the industry.

"On the other hand, equipment suppliers should consider those who are just starting up, a gap that is currently being exploited by foreign manufacturers. That will enable companies to grow quickly and build up capacities for supplying to large mining firms. The issue is about building brands and maintaining standards as well as being ambitious.

"They need support but they should find entry-level onto the broader mining market by being innovative and being prepared to cooperate where possible.

The industry needs to come together to discuss and start to build their relevance in the sector. Moving from being backyard small scale manufacturers to renowned names," he said.

The Mines Portfolio chair also said that the committee stands to support equipment manufacturers because the US\$ 12 BILLION mark is achievable through reliable machinery and equipment in line with the adage "the workman is as good as his tools."

How to curb leakages caused by foreign suppliers?

According to Hon Mkaratigwa, to limit leakages caused by foreign suppliers who lease mining equipment and consumable to artisanal miners to exploit them and loot the resources is by promoting local suppliers of such equipment and encourage artisanal miners to engage them.

"The main way to limit such leakages is promoting local suppliers of such equipment and the whole matter can start from there." he said.

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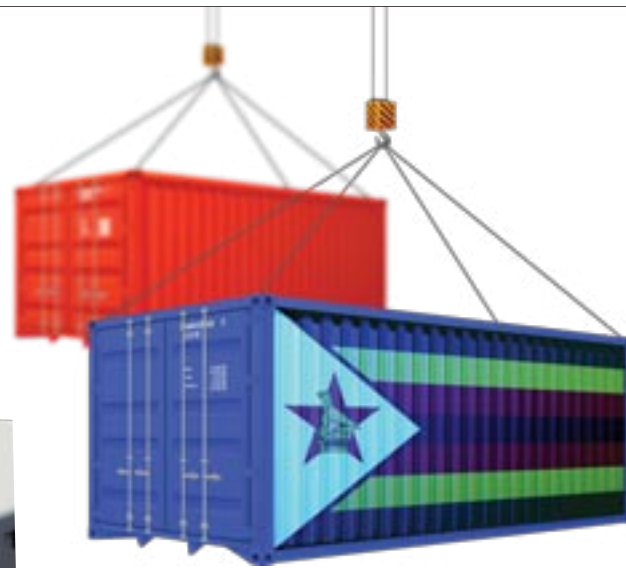
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New Mines bill to support local miners



Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa

The Mines and Minerals bill will favour and value local miners contrary to the law in place, Mines and Mining development Parliament Portfolio Committee Chairperson has said.

By Shantel Chisango

Addressing questions from miners on Mining Zimbabwe Whatsapp platform, Mines Portfolio Committee Chairperson Honourable Mkaratigwa stated that the mines and minerals bill will by all means favour local miners and not sabotage them.

He said this after miners had expressed their dissatisfaction over the fact that foreign investors are advantaged in all they do in contrast to

them.

"The laws which we are working on now should address some of these issues," said the Chairperson.

Mkaratigwa pointed out that foreign investors mostly partner with local miners and it is rather difficult to separate the two in terms of treatment thus miners need to work in harmony with foreign investors advancing the mining sector.

He further said the country cannot deny foreign investors the chance to explore resources when they have interest in them for they are vast and many of them are unexplored.

"On the other hand, the thinking is that the resources are vast and many are unexplored hence there is no need to exclude those with interest." Zimbabwe has been at a disadvantage regarding economic investment hence we have been vulnerable, said the Honourable.

Miners have been pleading with the government not to sabotage them because of foreign investors, Parliament has pledged to deal with miners' concerns in the minerals and mines bill.



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Corruption annihilating our economy, Hon Mkaratigwa



Parliament Committee Chairperson Honourable Edmond Mkaratigwa has ascribed corruption as the pull-down force in the mining sector thus coming up with methods in eliminating such acts.

By Shantel Chisango

Addressing miners on the Mining Zimbabwe WhatsApp platform, the Chairperson said efforts have been taken by the government to eradicate the practice of such malicious

acts for the betterment of the economy.

"We are trying to come up with frameworks that analyse and interrogate reports of corruption that we come across and make sure the law is imposed on all found on the wrong side of it."

Mkaratigwa further added that corruption is mainly occurring in the distribution of mines claims due to the loopholes found in the mining laws.

"There are gaps in the law and the way the ministry is operating mainly with regards to mining allocations and other processes." Though Covid has been standing in the way of the Parliament Committee to eradicate corruption, the Committee seems to be relentlessly working hard to ensure such issues are solved.

"The Parliament Committee is trying to advocate for improvement in terms of the approach that is done concerning mine allocations despite the disturbance from Covid", said Mkaratigwa.

In line with the president Mnangagwa's speech on corruption, the committee is trying to come with frameworks whereby corruption cases are backed up with scientific evidence so that the cases do not lose merit before the courts, ensuring that justice is served.

Some miners, however, blamed lack of resources and human capital restrains as the main cause of corruption.

The Chairperson said his committee will try to deal with such issues even if it means doing it step by step till the goal is achieved.



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The Australia Stock Exchange (ASX) listed company commended the Zimbabwe government for creating a conducive environment that promotes investment. During the last quarter of the year 2020, Invictus received a non-binding offer for farm-in to Cabora Bassa Project, completed petroleum exploration development and production agreement, commenced field operations and identified additional seal potential, and completed a placement with a Strategic Investor at a premium.

Non-binding offer for farm-in to the Cabora Bassa Project

During the quarter, the Company received a non-binding offer for farm-in to the Cabora Bassa Project. The proposed transaction is subject to completion of further technical,

legal and commercial due diligence by both parties, approvals and agreements by requisite government authorities and execution of binding Farm-Out Agreement(s). Further details of the proposed transaction will be made public upon completion of a binding FOA(s) and satisfaction (or waiver) of conditions.

Petroleum Exploration Development and Production Agreement (PEDPA) review completed

The Petroleum Exploration Development and Production Agreement (PEDPA) between Geo Associates and the Republic of Zimbabwe was reviewed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee established to review the agreement and has been approved. The PEDPA provides the framework for progression of the Cabora Bassa Project through the exploration, appraisal, development and production phases and the obligations and rights of each party over the project lifecycle. The Company is awaiting the execution of the agreement.

Field Operations Completed and Additional Seal Potential Identified

Following the approval of the Environmental Management Plan, the Company undertook a

successful field reconnaissance program in the Cabora Basa Basin during the quarter and was concluded ahead of schedule.

Detailed traversing and mapping across the area was completed and it identified the optimal acquisition routes. The Company is making significant progress on executing the first seismic acquisition program in the country for 30 years and is working closely with the seismic contractors on a planned acquisition campaign in 2021 to commence once the rainy season has concluded. This will be followed by a high impact basin opening drilling campaign to test the petroleum potential of the Cabora Bassa Basin. The reconnaissance field program completed during the quarter revealed additional exposure of the JurassicCretaceous aged Dande Formation and possibly younger sediments approaching the southern Basin edge. A significant sequence of mudrock interbedded with sandstone, giving rise to typical 'ridge and furrow' topography, was observed for several kilometres along a section coincident with the traverse completed along proposed seismic line L35. The conclusion drawn from this observation is that the post-Dande Formation, in this locality and possibly elsewhere, contains a significantly larger proportion of mudrock than previously recognised.



Such developments could have significant intra-formational seal potential for this sequence and de-risk a key element of the petroleum system for this play. The observation of these significant mudrock sequences within this unit is consistent with the interpretation of better-developed seals

Invictus wrapped-up 2020 on a promising note

moving basinward. The interpretation is further supported by the elevated amplitude anomalies which may indicate the presence of hydrocarbons on the high side fault trap coincident with the previously identified Lead A feature in the post-Dande formation and could indicate a competent seal and reservoir pair.

Preferred Contractor selected for seismic acquisition campaign in 2021

Following the completion of the field reconnaissance program and following receipt of submissions from multiple vendors, the Company has selected its preferred contractor to undertake a seismic acquisition campaign in 2021. The Company will commence detailed planning post formal contract award to enable the acquisition campaign to commence following the conclusion of the rainy

season. The Company is planning to acquire a minimum of 400 line km of 2D seismic which exceeds the work program obligations for the current (2nd) exploration period.

Placement with Mangwana Opportunities Fund at a Premium

During the quarter the Company completed a further placement (Second Tranche) under the share subscription agreement announced on 30th April 2020. The placement raises the equivalent of \$AUD 222,148 through the placement of 3,404,186 shares at a share price of \$0.066; a 9% premium to the last closing price. The shares issued to Mangwana will be held in escrow for 6 months from the date of completion. The agreement makes provision for a further equity investment by Mangwana for the project over the next 12- 24 months

as well as assisting the Company in achieving its strategic goals in the country.

The company and the government of Zimbabwe have made significant progress with the legal and fiscal framework consisting of amendments to the Petroleum Act and the execution of a production sharing agreement between Geo Associates (Private) Limited, the company's 80% owned subsidiary together with One-Gas Resources (Private) Limited, and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

In July 2019, findings by a United Kingdom-based firm showed a potential of 1,3 billion barrels of oil equivalent, which consists of 200 million barrels of condensate from the Cabora Bassa project.



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A new era for EV batteries



Researchers at Pennsylvania State University and developers at Israel's StoreDot are bringing in a modern era of Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries as they deal with the main obstacles blocking a more mainstream adoption of the technology through reducing range anxiety and increasing charging speed.

Tinovimba Ashley Zvomuya

The developers at Israel's StoreDot are working on the first-generation of five-minute-charge batteries for electric vehicles with researchers at Pennsylvania State developing a lithium-iron-phosphate battery which has a range of 250 miles, the ability to charge in 10 minutes, and a lifetime of 2 million miles.

10 minutes Pennsylvania state battery

The lithium-iron-phosphate battery according to Pennsylvania produces 40-kilowatt hours and 300 kilowatts of power, which means that an electric vehicle 'armed' with it could go from zero to 60 miles per hour in three seconds.

According to Chao-Yang Wang, who is also a professor at Penn State and founder of EC-Power, the lithium-iron-phosphate was developed to improve the technology of EV batteries and are affordable and reliable.

"We developed a pretty clever battery for mass-market electric vehicles with cost parity with combustion engine vehicles. There is no more range anxiety and this battery is affordable." He said.

Professor Wang said the company is building the prototype – the key to long-life and rapid recharging is the battery's ability to quickly heat up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, for charge and discharge, and then cool down when the battery is not working.

This charging capability allowed the researchers to downsize the battery without incurring range anxiety.

The system uses a thin nickel foil with one end attached to the negative terminal and the other extending outside the cell to create a third terminal. Once electrons flow, it rapidly heats the nickel foil through resistance heating and warms the inside of the battery. When the battery's internal temperature reaches 140 degrees F, the switch opens and the battery is ready for rapid charge or discharge.

The cathode in the battery is thermally stable, lithium-iron-phosphate, which does not contain expensive metals like cobalt. The anode is made of very large particle graphite, a safe, light, and affordable material.

Five-minute-charge StoreDot batteries

The Israeli company has already released the first production batch of sample cells, which are being marketed to potential EV and industry partners.

The samples according to StoreDot are being presented to EV producers and battery manufacturers to show them that it is possible to replace graphite in the cell's anode using metalloid nano-particles.

According to the firm, these germanium-based nano-particles are a key breakthrough in overcoming major issues in safety, battery cycle life, and swelling.

This recent launch according to the firm paves the way for releasing its second-generation, silicon-dominant anode prototype battery for electric vehicles, which is expected later this year.

"Crucially, unlike competing technologies which require significant capital expenditure in bespoke manufacturing equipment, StoreDot XFC (extreme fast charging) batteries are designed to be produced on existing Li-ion production lines at EVE Energy," the release states, referring to StoreDot's Chinese partner and cell manufacturer EVE Energy.

EPOs delay, an insult to Mnangagwa's US\$12 bil mining industry



Poor work ethics and incompetency at the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development especially on delaying to grant or reject Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPOs) will affect the President's vision for the Mining sector to achieve a US\$12 Billion industry by 2023, Mining Zimbabwe can report.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

According to the Managing Geologist for Great Centre Geological Services Kennedy Mtetwa by delaying to grant or reject EPOs the government is speculatively holding on to land that should be used by either an EPO holder or a small-scale miner.

"An EPO application freezes exploration ground for both the applicant and the small-scale miners. No one can work in an EPO application area that has been gazetted by the government. So the government won't have granted nor rejected the EPO application. The exploration ground remains frozen from anyone." Mtetwa said.

This means that the Mines and Minerals Act gives or allows the ground to be covered in expectation of an EPO being awarded which results in perspective areas earmarked for EPOs being covered but the EPO applicant not actually receiving permission to

advance.

It is therefore Mining Zimbabwe's advice that the granting or rejection of EPOs is not supposed to take more than 3 months for mining business to take place.

According to Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF) Vice President Ms Lindiwe Mpofu it was of importance for the government to grant EPOs as this would help small-scale miners apply for tributary claims from EPO holders.

"Granting EPO's would help ease our plight as we can engage the Grant holders to mine out areas that are not suitable for large scale mining or mine out minerals that are not listed by them, remember you can only mine up to a certain number of minerals and you can only mine those specifically.

It is long understood that the bigger mines use artisanal and small scale miners as an indicator for geological purposes and mapping in some instances and if vast areas are cordoned off for years without any activity it won't be advantageous to the country or the growth of artisanal and small scale miners who are struggling to find areas to mine."

Mpofu said.

An EPO is a large area of ground targeting selected minerals for exploration. The maximum is 65,000 hectares in Zimbabwe and a minimum size is up to the company or individual to choose. EPO's tenure is 3 years with an option to renew for another 3 years.

EPOs are used by companies as first-pass exploration areas. This means that companies after doing the highly technical exploration studies will eventually drop the EPO ground in 3 years.

Delaying to grant or reject EPOs the government is speculatively holding on to land that should be used by either an EPO holder or a small-scale miner.

Large scale exploration is carried out under licenses issued by the Head of State and administered by the Mining Affairs Board as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals Act

12:05. Two titles are issued under large scale exploration depending on the mineral to be explored according to the act, which are Special Grant (SG) for energy minerals like Coal Bed Methane, natural gas, oil, and uranium, and EPOs for other minerals, example base metals, gold, diamond.

Lithium value addition key in Covid-19 period



Value addition is key to make sure that lithium miners in Zimbabwe benefit from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected global prices.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

According to energy experts, global supplies of lithium used to make electric vehicles (EV) batteries will fall short of projections for demand to more than triple by 2025 if prices do not rebound to fund expansions.

Lithium prices dropped last year due in part to the pandemic, the continue downward of global prices might affect mining growth and development.

Exporting Lithium after value addition brings more than export it raw, it also has a horizontal backward integration which will create employment even in the downstream industries thereby boosting the economy.

According to Chrome Miners Association Chairperson Mr Shelton Lucas value addition in the lithium sector can be achieved by the formation of lithium unions responsible for pushing for investments into infrastructure or even manufacturing of EV batteries in the country.

"This can only be achieved by the formation of a lithium association that rope investors to

build the beneficiation infrastructure because the government is heavily laden with other pressing issues at hand and with greed and corruption it will take years to realize the dream," Lucas said.

Shelton said exporting lithium in its raw form benefits South Africa more than it benefits the country because South Africa will then process the lithium export or manufacture batteries thereby gain more than the producer itself.

"Lithium is not like gold it has other minerals embedded in it which can add value per ton and might also surpass the value of that trending mineral. Lithium has got Gold, Tantalite and Beryl just to mention a few as by-products.

"In their raw form, it will only boost the GDP of South Africa which is the main destination of raw lithium.

Companies that directly use lithium may be attracted by the availability of lithium in pure form not as raw form." He said.

The lockdown measures introduced by governments globally have made impossible the extraction of lithium with many miners failing to find a market for their productions as most tech companies are closed during the lockdown.

For example, Lithium Australia an Australian listed company has announced that the covid-related restrictions have pushed the company to reduce its presence in Germany.

The miner said that restrictions rendered the work in Saxony's Ore Mountains "almost impossible."

The failure by mining companies to mine has also affected other EV companies like Tesla with CEO Elon Musk complaining that the shortage of lithium has the production of cells to put new products like Semi truck into production.

Zimbabwe in 2019 produced 1,600 tonnes of lithium maintaining the same level as the previous year's total.

Bikita mine in Masvingo Province in the south of the country is Zimbabwe's largest operational lithium mine, and has been active since the 1950s.

Arcadia Lithium Project, a venture run by Australia-based miner **Prospect Resources**, is nearing commercial readiness. The mine is based just east of the capital Harare.

Another promising Lithium miner **Mirroplex** based in Bindura is currently in the exploration phase. Mirrorplex is expected to begin mining from between the end of 2021 to 2022.



Exploration at Mirroplex in Bindura

Unki production increases 7 per cent



Unki Mine near Shurugwi

Anglo American Platinum Limited owned mine Unki Platinum Mine's PGM production increased by 7 per cent to 55,800 ounces in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the comparable quarter in 2019 where the country's second-largest platinum producer's PGM production was at 52,000 ounces.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

According to Anglo American Platinum Chief Executive Officer, Natascha Viljoen production increase was due to higher 4E built-up head grade and higher throughput. Platinum production during the quarter increased by 6 per cent while palladium increased by 10 per cent.

"Unki PGM production increased by 7 per cent to 55,800 ounces, largely due to higher 4E built-up head grade and higher throughput. Platinum production increased by 6 per cent to 24,600 ounces and palladium production increased by 10 per cent to 22,000 ounces," Viljoen said.

However, production decreased by 7 per cent compared to the previous quarter ended 30

September 2020 where the Shurugwi based platinum miner achieved 60,000 PGM.

According to the company's report, overall PGM production at Unki for the year 2020 decreased by 3 per cent to 196,100 ounces from 201,700 ounces in 2019.

The Anglo American Platinum CEO, however, said the company's performance was strong considering the unnecessities brought in by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Production performance was strong considering the ongoing implications of Covid-19. We reached 100% normal capacity by the end of the quarter, due to protocols being embedded and work routines put in place.

"Whilst refined production was lower, we successfully and safely completed the rebuild of the ACP Phase A unit ahead of schedule and recommissioned the plant on 24 November 2020. We were able to reduce the impact of lower refined production on sales by drawing down on refined inventory as well as utilising trading activities to mitigate the impact on customers.

"As part of our Covid-19 protocols, we have put additional measures in place to test and screen employees returning from hotspot areas after the December break. The second wave of Covid-19 has led to an increase in employee infection rates, however, we are past the peak and are starting to see a reduction in active cases. As a result, we are currently operating at ~90% of normal production capacity," said Viljoen.

The company's CEO also said that the mine recorded no work-related accidents during the quarter owing to their goal in prioritising the safety of mineworkers.

"We had no work-related fatalities at our own-managed operations during the quarter, however, we did see a regression in our safety performance as the uncertainty relating to Covid-19 impacted on stability at the operations.

"Mitigation plans throughout the quarter significantly improved our performance by year-end, but the average for the quarter was higher than Q4 2019. Tragically, we had a work-related fatality at our independently managed joint operation, Modikwa. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr Johannes Mahlalela.

"The safety and health of our employees is our first priority and our focus remains on the elimination of fatalities, adherence to Covid-19 measures, including extensive screening and testing protocols, at our operations," she said.



Zimplats 6E production increase 26 per cent despite Covid-19



Zimbabwe biggest platinum producer, Zimplats' Six elements production (6E), (platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium and gold) increased by 26 per cent in the quarter ended 31 December 2020 compared to the same quarter in 2019 despite the loss of time caused by the Covid-19 pandemic while operation costs increases.

Tinovimba Ashley Zvomuya

According to the PGM miner, 6E increased production increased by 3 per cent in the quarter ended 31 December 2020 from the previous quarter due to a per cent increase in milled throughput and 1 per cent increase in concentrators recovery rate.

The 6E metal production in final product increased by 26 per cent from the quarter ended 31 December 2019. 6E metal production in the final product for the quarter ended 31 December 2019 was affected by an increase in concentrate stocks and the build-up of inventory in the furnace on start-up after the 122-day major rebuild shutdown.

"Ore mined decreased by 3% from the previous quarter mainly due to a production fleet transferred from Rukodzi Mine, a higher productivity mine, to the lower productivity Mupani Mine which is under

development." Reads Zimplats quarterly report in part.

Platinum



The report shows that platinum production increased by 26 per cent to 66 965 ounces in the quarter ended 31 December 2020 from 53 107 ounces in the same quarter ended 31 December 2019, production increased by 3 per cent from 65 069 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 September 2020.

Palladium



Palladium production increased by 27 per cent to 57 553 ounces during the quarter ended 31 December 2020 from 45 367 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 December 2019. The company's palladium

production was up 3 per cent from 56 016 ounces produced in the previous quarter of 2020.

Gold



The company's gold production during the quarter ended 31 December 2020 was up 17 per cent to 7 839 ounces from 6 705 ounces produced during the quarter ended December 31 the previous year and 6 per cent up from 7 396 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 September 2020.

Rhodium



Rhodium produced during the quarter ended 31 December 2020 was up 23 per cent to 5 968 ounces compared to the comparable quarter of 2019 with 4 837 ounces. The metal was 2 per cent up from 5 828 ounces produced during the previous quarter.

Continued on next page



Ruthenium

Ruthenium has the biggest margin increase with 39 per cent increase production with 5 400 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 December 2020 as compared to the same quarter of 2019 with 3 883 ounces. It was however up by only 3 per cent from 5 262 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 September 2020.

Iridium



Iridium production increased by 28 per cent from 2 008 ounces produced during the quarter ended 31 December 2019 to 2 562 ounces. The metal also increased by 4 per cent from 2 453 produced during the quarter ended 31 September 2020.

According to the company's end of quarter report, tonnes mined de-

creased by 3% per cent from the previous quarter and tonnes milled increased 1 per cent from the previous quarter and cash cost per 6E ounce produced increased 2% from the previous quarter.

According to the report, total operating cash costs increased by 1 per cent from the previous quarter mainly due to local government rates and computer software licence fees which are paid bi-annually.

A total of US\$1.8 million was transferred from operating costs to closing stocks during the quarter compared to US\$5.6 million in the previous quarter. This was due to the 3 per cent decrease in tonnes of ore mined and a per cent increase in the volume of ore milled.

There was no build-up of concentrate stocks in the quarter. Consequently, operating cash costs per 6E ounce increased by 2 per cent from the previous quarter.

Other minerals produced by the most performing mine in Zimbabwe also increased despite the complications brought in by the Covid-19 pandemic with copper production increasing by 53 per cent, Nickel by 31 per cent while cobalt was up by 25 per cent as compared to the quarter ended 31 December 2019. Silver also increased by 3 per cent from the previous quarter ended 31 September 2020.

Scout Aerial Group receives Series B funding for expansion into the African region



Scout Aerial Group has today announced securing a second, seven-digit financing round led by a group of private investors. This is the second funding round, after only thirteen months since the previous round, due to the group exceeding their forecasted targets. The funding partners believe that Africa will continue to show growth across the portfolio and this funding round includes participation from new investors.



This new funding will help the group move faster on its exploration innovation efforts and expand its strategy to cover enterprise training solutions for the government sector drone technology in the African Region.

"We are witnessing unprecedented demand for innovative exploration solutions in the mining and energy sectors, and are leading the way for geophysical surveys across Africa," says Patrick Weeden, Managing Director of the Scout Aerial Group.

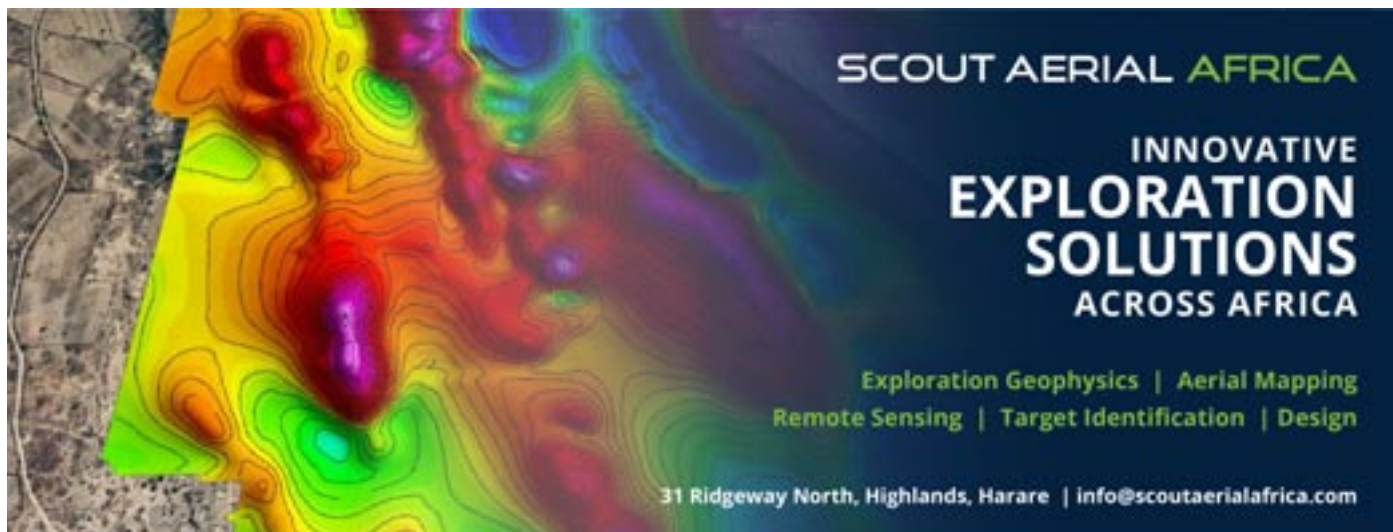
"This funding round will help us to broaden our reach into Tanzania,

Mali, Zambia and Mozambique and we are excited for what this means for economic development for the region as a whole".

"I strongly believe that working with the government to harness the benefits of new technology is essential for the mining sector and it all starts with the data and cadastral systems that host it". he added

Founded in 2011, the Scout Aerial Group specialises in remote sensing operations with a strong focus on innovative data solutions for mining and infrastructure. Having developed innovative exploration capabilities, Scout Aerial has a seen vast uptake of their technology in Africa. The utilisation of drones means that the company is able to provide extremely high-resolution magnetic surveys in a fraction of the time, as compared to traditional methods and they plan to open a training Academy that can service most of the African region. Strongly supported by an innovative team in Australia, the African company is forging ahead as a market leader in drone technology.

SCOUT AERIAL AFRICA plans to grow the team and open new strategic offices in the region as well as announce new partnerships set to take off in the third quarter of 2021.



Decarbonisation will need more, better mining



Mining remains a vital part of a low-carbon future, a fact that was confirmed by the topics prioritised at the recent Investing in African Mining Indaba's virtual conference this week.

By Andrew van Zyl

"The message was clear: mining is part of the solution as the planet addresses climate change through a range of renewable technologies," said Andrew van Zyl, partner and principal consultant at SRK Consulting.

The World Bank estimates, for instance, that production of minerals like graphite, lithium and cobalt could grow by 500% in the next three decades to meet demand for clean energy technologies. A single 3MW wind turbine requires 4,7 tonnes of copper, while solar photo-voltaic cells include glass, aluminium, silicon and even silver. The storage of this renewable energy in batteries is requiring increasing volumes of minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel and manganese.

Speakers at the Indaba had highlighted the sector's readiness not only to deliver, but to continue reducing its environmental and climate change footprint, said Van Zyl. The sector is a significant energy consumer, accounting for about 11% of global energy use. "As mines progress their environmental,

social and governance (ESG) strategies, the industry needs to continue moving toward climate-smart mining to cut its carbon and material footprints," he said.



Andrew van Zyl

He noted that the frequent lack of access to reliable grid power for mining sites around Africa has led many companies to develop and apply innovative hybrid energy solutions that include renewable generation in place of traditional fossil-fuel generation. Current hybrid plants already operate at lower cost and with a substantially smaller carbon footprint in off-grid settings. An example is B2Gold's Fekola gold mine in Mali, where there is a four-year payback and a reduction of 13 million litres per annum in fuel cutting annual carbon emissions by 39,000 t.

"These initiatives have allowed many mining

companies to move their attention beyond Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions those that they emit directly from owned or controlled sources to start addressing their Scope 2 emissions, which are indirectly emitted through the generation of purchased energy," he said.

There was significant scope for such progress in South Africa, the continent's energy powerhouse, where mines continue to rely on coal-fired power from the central utility. A number of large mining companies are preparing to implement renewable generation projects as soon as the necessary regulatory provisions are in place, said Van Zyl, and this is likely to considerably reduce their Scope 2 emissions.

"The technological innovations which will help drive decarbonisation, however, also hold strategic risks for mining companies," he said. "The pace of technology advancement in batteries, for example, is much faster than the general timeframe for developing new mines and production capacity."

Various technologies still jockey for dominance, and it is far from clear which commodities will be the 'winners' in the commercialisation contest. It is even unlikely that any specific minerals will be in permanent high demand, as price spikes will quickly ignite searches for cheaper alternatives.

"In this environment, mining companies will have to manage a volatile price landscape, which tends to complicate the process of costing a project's viability and raising finance," he said. "Good technical work in mine planning and implementation becomes more important than ever, as is securing your position on the right part of the cost curve."

Andrew van Zyl, partner, and principal consultant at SRK Consulting. SRK is an independent, global network of consulting practices in over 45 countries on six. For more information, visit www.srk.co.za

Mines, corporate social responsibility or investment and the disaster risk burden



Rescuers and relatives discussing rescue plans at Ran mine collapse in Bindura

Disasters by their nature are very difficult to fully comprehend and each one has its own uniqueness.

By Edmond Mkaratigwa (PhD Candidate of Energy, Innovation and Sustainable Technologies and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development) & Albert Maipisi (PhD in Disaster Management and Public Administration).

The main reason disasters are difficult to comprehend is their unpredictability in terms of spatial and temporal impacts as a result of advance hazard, vulnerability and risk analytic limitations. In many cases, these disasters are usually fully understood after their manifestation and whereas the understanding can be achievable, after some few years the real effects and characteristics of these calamities are usually forgotten as societal narratives become more historical than prospective. In that context, the mining community must start or continue to broaden their risk thinking beyond profitability which has mainly emphasised business continuity as opposed to more whole-of-entity or sector-wide risk reduction approaches. A lot has

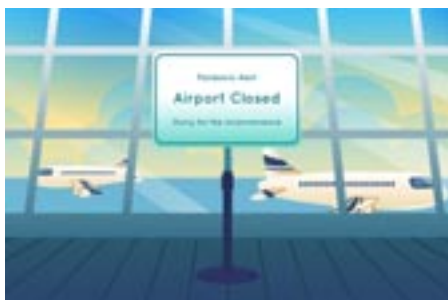
been written and debated around sustainability whose strands include corporate social responsibility or investment (CSR/I) which are currently buzz concepts in the mining sector, never mind divergences in their theoretical meanings, interpretations and practical application.

Whereas disasters come with different impacts to society depending on their magnitude and societal economic, social, human and political vulnerabilities among others; once they are anticipated and being or have been experienced, the next desirable action is to strategically think in terms of their mitigation, adaptation, resistance and resilience building. These disasters also impact natural as well as juristic persons. Those natural and legal personas definitely have different interests and that happens because they have diverse immediate and long term visions, anticipations and challenges. Covid-19 has aroused the thinking and in fact many mining firms have been seen to be very active during this period in terms of implementing CSR/I interventions. As is predominant in CSR/I literature on Zimbabwe and South Africa among other countries, it remains a fact that mining companies in these countries

mainly invest in community humanitarian response interventions, education and health emergencies among others. One of the main challenges of disasters, unfortunately, is that once the hazard has gone, those who will have not experienced the calamity at a personal level might presume it as was merely a fictitious event and sometimes investments made to fight the hazard and vulnerabilities may become white elephants or they equally vanish thereafter because they are vastly consumables.

The debates which are raging-on are around the sustainability of whatever interventions the communities have received or witnessed as having been received in their communities although sometimes those interventions will have sustained life at that time too. In this instance, the primary disaster and its compound effects have brought with them dynamics at the minerals market with both gains in some circumstances and dismal losses in other cases. Those imbalances have existed but companies have to sustain themselves including through other support mechanisms even where markets can be made virtually dysfunctional. This calls for change in ways of doing business and preparatory unmeasured thinking around risk perceptions for both corporates and natural persons. With the slump in profits for some of the entities, the society continues to demand for some kind of share from mineral extractions being carried out by the different entities with the new thinking actually moving towards categorising water and other natural resources like forests, as part of minerals from which their usage and destruction by mining companies as the 'commons resources', have to bring back some form of royalties to adjacent communities.

Without much ado, it is clear that most of the interventions by mining companies during the Covid-19 pandemic were community bound and not society bound or a mix of the two with the community receiving more related investment. The investors have been focusing more on their surrounding communities and that approach is buttressed in arguing that the society is taken care-of through taxes deposited to the national treasury while extra or voluntarily initiated interventions are for the proximate kith and kin who are usually the threat to the entities' day to day operations. That is some other form of risk reduction and that is right! Further, where other humanitarian supports have been extended to vulnerable communities, they are often given to few selected households or groups in perceivable acts of diplomacy and for media reportage as public relations aerobatics. Even so, that is very much appreciable because such interventions advanced in the spirit of Ubuntu always cover some vulnerability gaps. The challenge is that, often after those publications of humanitarian acts, it also paints a picture that those communities are already catered for, yet that may not be sustainably real and in trying to be just, injustice in the manner of making other interventionists assume the area has been catered for already can be the result depending on the standpoint of the observer. Hence the question again, for whose benefit are the interventions implemented?



If the Covid-19 disaster had continued to keep the airspace blocked and the economy dysfunctional for an even longer period, most likely temporally and spatially broader

interventions would have been expected by the society even where companies experience less meaningful generation of new income during and in the aftermath of the disaster period and requires recapitalisation. That broader thinking points to the need to continue rethinking and innovating towards newer CSR/I approaches. There is a need for a more sustainable mechanism that does not rely on year on year profits alone but an investment that focusses on the community or society including post-mine life. In South Africa, there is such as a vehicle that is in the form of trust with a lean administration that reduces the entity's cost burden on the fund and conscious of avoiding creating parallel structures to those already existing in the different mining organisations.



The trust can help to achieve synergy between different companies whose interventions are similar and hence has the potential to increase the impact of programmes being implemented. Notwithstanding the disadvantages that can be witnessed as a result, the administration of the fund can be more transparent and independent of external interference, which can create trust among stakeholders. The fund can grow and cushion mining entities against rising demands that are usually directly focused at the company particularly as a result of high poverty levels in most of these developing countries and mining communities. In addition depending on the terms of reference of the entity that can administer that fund, it can be tasked to innovate, implement, monitor and evaluate interventions hence also has potential for continual improvement. Companies will have

direct control of their fund and can even plan their post-life relative to sustainable development that encompasses community-level economic and environmental sustainability. Many mining areas are now ghost-towns or communities where companies have closed or ceased operations, leaving more people increasingly vulnerable, implying that current CSR/I solutions are not community or society centred but implicitly still more corporate sustainability centred.

Let us imagine that in the first three years of the creation of such a corporate social responsibility and investment vehicle, half of the total amount dedicated for that purpose is deposited for investment in that trust with less spending. If the trust staffed with smart professionals is tasked to invest that fund with maximum support from the board of trustees, it is almost convincing that the trust can survive even in the coming lean mining years and post mine life. That arrangement can transform the current theory of CSR/I to corporate social responsibility and investment (CSRI) as those activities can be amalgamated for conduction concurrently using both internal and semi-internal staff with a risk reduction and resilience inclination globally trending. This approach can hedge mining companies from constant fire-fighting and threats of insecurity of their mining rights from local communities and the society at large. Covid-19 is an opportunity for innovation as is common globally with disasters which have broadly created necessity which is also the mother of invention.



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

Nyenje calls miners to adhere to safety and Covid-19 regulations



Mr Makumba Nyenje

Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF) chairperson Makumba Nyenje has called on small-scale and artisanal miners to avoid casual movements during the lockdown to curb the spread of the virus in the mining sector.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Nyenje who recently established an environmental safety and health administration organisation called Zimbabwe Safety, Health and Environmental Trust (ZIMSHET) in an endeavour to reduce accidents in the small scale sector said miners were facing a double risk of the pandemic and accidents which needed a strong presence of support groups to minimise the hazards posed.

"Miners are allowed to work 24/7 during the lockdown period but casual movements should be restricted. Covid-19 pandemic is real and miners are facing double risk.

"Underground a lot of mine accidents are being recorded and on the surface, we need to stay safe from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is the reason I teamed up with some members to preach about safety, health, and Environmental protection issues," he said.

Nyenje through ZIMSHET has called on small-scale and artisanal miners to 1. avoid close contact and overcrowding when working 2. clean and disinfect equipment and frequently touched surfaces, 3. sanitise or wash hands with soap, and 4. stay home if they feel sick.

ZIMSHET which will mainly focus its work in the Southern part of the country is looking forward to performing a safe small-scale mining sector through seeking to perform on behalf of relevant stakeholders functions such as mandatory inspections, serious accident investigations, and investigations of hazard complaints (imminent danger).

The organisation is also seeking to curb the pandemic in the small-scale mining sector by encouraging miners to ban visits as well as minimizing contract workers.

ZIMSHET has vowed to monitor the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health and well being of the communities miners are

operating in and to assess where miners can come in to provide support.

According to Nyenje ZIMSHET will encourage miners to safeguard the communities they operate in.

"We are also looking forward to small scale miners to practice corporal social responsibility so that communities appreciate the work of small scale and artisanal miners," Nyenje said.

Zimbabwe has been plagued with mine disasters over the past few months, often resulting in the death of scores of miners. However, most deaths have occurred at illegally run disused mines.

The Minister of Mines and Mining Development Winston Chitando underscored the need for orderly mining in the country saying this will go a long way in preventing mine accidents.

"Adequate, regular inspections are one of the critical things that we need to ensure that we mitigate against the accidents. According to the law, inspections at mining concessions should be done at least four times per annum." Minister Chitando said.

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Understanding Zimbabwean Mining Law: Amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05]



DO MINING RIGHTS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER FARMING RIGHTS?

1. Background

1.1 As Zimbabwe endeavours to amend the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05] ("the Act"), it is important that we consider several issues in their context and the need to catch up with the ever-evolving mining industry. An in-depth analysis of the current Act is necessary in order to identify areas that require urgent amendment and issues that are already provided for but require implementation. The first area of analysis is the contentious farmer-miner relationship. There exists a complex relationship between farming and mining, wherein most minerals are found within the heart of arable land. It would also appear that there is no legislation that governs the farmer-miner relationship in relation to the competing land-use save for the Mines and Minerals Act and one is tempted to believe that the odds favour the miner.

1.2 The current Mines and Minerals Act in most parts refers to private ownership of land as it was drafted to suit the old land tenure system that prevailed at the time it was promulgated. There is, therefore, need for the amendment to take cognisance of the new land tenure titles and provide the same advantages enjoyed by private landholders.

1.3. One cannot help but wonder why prior

to 2009 there appeared to be a harmonious co-existence between farmers and miners. Could it be that the law that promotes the co-existence of the two is already there? If so why are we failing to make the same law work for the new farmers and the miners? Is it because of the new land tenure system or is it about the numbers? All these questions need answers which we as a nation need to provide by coming together and realising that both farming and mining are livelihoods hence the need to respect existing boundaries and reconcile diverging interests.

2. Is the farmer protected under the current mining law?

2.1 There is a requirement under section 38 of the current Act that every person who intends to prospect for minerals must give notice to the land owner or relevant authorities. This requirement benefits all stakeholders as it promotes transparency and gives room for negotiations and planning for the co-existence strategy. However, this notification is not made mandatory because the Act provides for a fine in the event that the miner fails to give such notice and the failure does not in itself invalidate the pegging.

2.2 This give and take position might have worked under the previous land tenure system wherein the farmer owned a vast piece of land and possibly there were very minimum inconveniences between the two, as opposed to the current scenario wherein the hectareage has been reduced to the extent that competing land use and friction are inevitable. Thus, it is desirable to make the requirement to give notice mandatory under our current land tenure system. However, the issue of notice should not be misunderstood to mean consent.

2.3 As a result, those conducting farming under private land, or running forestries will receive direct notification, while notice to those farmers in Communal Lands will be given to the relevant local authority and not necessarily to the individual to be affected by the mining activities. As it stands, the new farmers holding offer letters, permits and 99 year leases are not yet covered.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment:

- To broaden the scope to include the current land tenure titles.
- The farmer or occupier to be directly affected in the Communal Land should be notified.
- Make notice mandatory and remove the option of a fine, put in measures to ensure that land owner does not resist notification and make the rendering of notice affordable for the prospective miner.

3. The current Act makes it clear that a miner has no surface rights, and should make temporary structures to shelter themselves and workers. We have noticed the new crop of miners who have turned the mining locations into their homes and constructed permanent structures to live with their families and this has resulted in conflict between the land occupiers and miners. The miner has no right to conduct any activities on the surface save for those related to mining processes within the issued blocks. The expectation is that the miner after exhausting the mine, should rehabilitate it and leave the farmer to continue to enjoy their surface rights.

3.1 Some people have even gone further to acquire land by mischievously applying for mining licences with no intention to mine but for the purpose of acquiring land for

Understanding Zimbabwean Mining Law: Amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05]

settlement. The Ministry of Mines is currently incapacitated to follow up on production returns, monitor compliance and this has created several complications for the already strained farmer-miner relationship.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment:

- Provide for punitive measures for instance the use of section 381 of the Act or cancellation of title after two written warnings without an option to appeal. This will ensure that each party stays within its lane.

4. A farmer whose land is less than 100 hectares held privately or a person authorised to occupy by the owner (this covers the new tenure holders as authorised by the state), within a village or Communal Land is protected in that a miner should first get express consent to mine. This is a reasonable position considering the size of the land involved. Consent is not mandatory for a farm that is more than 100 hectares as this could stifle mining altogether. The current process is very protracted and affected farmers are not getting recourse on time. The main cause is the use of the original parent boundary of the farm as used by the previous owners instead of the current subdivisions as issued to the new resettled farmers.

4.1 The Minister is empowered by the Act under the same section to issue title over ground that is less than 100 hectares should he deem it necessary in the event that consent is denied by the land occupier. This leaves farmers very vulnerable, however this might become necessary in the event that a very valuable mineral is found and it would be in the best interests of the nation for such mineral(s) to be extracted. Thus indeed when it becomes necessary mining rights take precedence over farming rights.

Issues to be considered by new amendment:

- Cancellation of any issued mining title without consent over land that is less than 100 hectares.
- Ministry of Mines to work together with Ministry of Lands and use the current farm boundaries used by resettled farmers and not the original parent boundary, when considering applications.
- Issue of compensation should come into play should the Minister insist on issuing title over land that is less than 100 hectares or this discretion should be removed altogether in order to protect the interest of farmers with smaller pieces of land considering that the smaller the farm the more restricted the arable land.

5. The Act provides that if a dispute arises between a miner and farmer on whether or not the land is open to pegging and prospecting, the matter should be referred to the Administrative Court. It goes without saying that court processes are intimidating for most of the less sophisticated people and tend to be more expensive and take longer. While litigation is pending, the relationship on the ground continues to deteriorate.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment:

- Set up a court meant to deal with land and land-use conflicts as has been done in other countries, for example in Kenya. This will expedite the process as the said court will be dealing with such cases only, whose rules and procedures are less complicated; OR
- Designate a well equipped and resourced neutral administrative institution to deal with these issues. For example the Zimbabwe Land Commission [emphasis is on the issue of resourcing].

6. A private landholder according to the Act should register a maximum of 200 hectares of arable land with the Mining Commissioner to preserve the land against pegging and prospecting. However, this infringes the rights of farmers by implication. In the event of an invasion by miners, only the registered 200 hectares cultivated are protected at law; anything outside the set maximum 200 hectares is subject to possible disturbances. This section safeguards the interests of those with more than 100 hectares, to the extent so provided.

6.1 The registration of the 200 hectares must be done to the satisfaction of the Mining Commissioner. This leaves most farmers uncomfortable as there is a likelihood of bias towards miners by the Mining Commissioner. If land is the purview of the Minister responsible for Lands then why should the registration be done within the Ministry of Mines? Most farmers are ignorant of the fact that besides having to comply with set parameters by their regulating authority, they also have Ministry of Mines requirements to comply with as well.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment:

- Remove the restriction of registering 200 hectares, and denounce mining within active cultivated land to promote the commercialisation of agriculture, and invoke the use of co-existing contracts and schemes as already provided for by the Act.
- If at all registration is required should it be done with the Ministry of Mines at the discretion of its officials? Should we retain the protection to cover 200 hectares only?

Understanding Zimbabwean Mining Law: Amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05]

7. The Mines and Minerals Act require that the landowner or occupier be consulted before a miner is allowed to peg a site upon which to set up accommodation, a mill, dump or any other related purpose. This requirement promotes negotiation between farmer and miner. However, the Mining Commissioner has the discretion to allow or forbid the registration of the site. It would appear as if officials from the Ministry of Mines have too much discretion at their disposal to make decisions that affect both the land and mining domain.

8. In section 31 of the Act, we note that the Act protects landowners or occupiers with less than 100 hectares by making it a pre-requisite for the miner to get consent from the farmer before pegging or mining on the said farm. This position was neutralised to further expressly give mining precedence over farming in terms of Part V of the Act in section 63 of the current Act. A miner is given an opportunity under this part to request the Mining Affairs Board to disregard the reservation as provided by section 31 (a) and (g). It does not appear as if the value of a mineral that the miner intends to extract is used as the basis for considering the application, instead, a miner just has to indicate on a balance of probability that minerals are likely to occur within the area which the application is related to. Though there is a requirement for the landowner or occupier to respond to the application, a heavy onus is placed on the farmer to prove why a miner should not be granted leave to proceed with mining on a farm that is less than 100 hectares.

8.1 It would appear that there are two ways by which a miner can still mine on a farm that is less than 100 hectares without the consent of the farmer. Firstly under section 31 (1)(g)(iii), the Minister may proceed to

authorize the issuance of title over this land or in terms of Part V wherein the miner can apply through the Board. In either case, the miner is not required to prove anything more beyond their desire to mine.

8.2 Part V makes it clear that there is a need for the farmer to be compensated to the extent that the farmer is injuriously affected by the mining in terms of section 80. On the other hand, the landowner or occupier can make a High Court application to be bought out in terms of section 82. However, it is impossible for the land occupiers under the current land tenure titles to be bought out because they only possess the right to use and not ownership. Section 82 would have been very useful in the event that the land is question is too small for both farming and mining to co-exist, and the mining activities would sterilise the ground to levels unsuitable for any agricultural activities. This can be caused by the chemicals used during the mining processes or the method of mining.

Clearly, preference will be given to mining, whether it is out of necessity or convenience and this threatens agricultural activities.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment

- Broaden the section to protect current tenure title for compensation consideration and to be bought out in terms of section 82.
- Clarity as to whether it is the Minister in terms of section 31(g)(iii) or the Mining Affairs Board in terms of Part V that should approve the exemption.

9. The issuance of other titles such as mining leases, special grants, exclusive exploration license only requires the

prospective miner to notify the land occupier and a heavy onus is placed on the land occupier to provide satisfying objections against the issuance of mining title over his land.

Issues to be considered by the new amendment

- There should be a general desire to protect the agricultural sector for food security and promote safe mining, hence the need to balance the two.
- Government to gazette a standard farmer -miner land-use code as has been done by other jurisdictions (parties may adjust to suit their circumstances). The code will indicate the national will to promote the peaceful co-existence of the two main economic pillars.
- The type and potential value (to the nation) of mineral(s) to be extracted should be used as a basis of consideration for exemption.

The Act has made provisions to promote the co-existence of both miner and farmer by providing for planned schemes. The farmer will present a work plan if s/he intends to cultivate within the mining blocks and this scheme is approved and registered with the Mining Affairs Board. The miner will not disturb the workings within the agreed time-frame and the farmer is expected to clear the ground within the agreed timeframe. The government should, through regulations, gazette fees payable to farmers for their ground being used by the miner as provided for at law. The Minister of Mines should seriously consider putting section 188 of the Act into force if miners and farmers are to co-exist, otherwise, miners will continue to be forced to enter into partnership by land occupiers.

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Farmers have no right to claim partnership because after benefiting from the land reform they have never been forced into any joint venture by non-beneficiaries considering that the land still remains state land and the minerals also belong to the state. It is clear without a shadow of a doubt that in Zimbabwe mining takes precedence over farming, yet our economy is agrarian. No wonder Zimbabwe is no longer the breadbasket of Africa, there is a preference for quick returns at the expense of

agriculture but unfortunately, the nation is yet to benefit from the proceeds of the quick returns. Without a doubt, agriculture continues to feed the nation and provide employment. One can only hope that the pending National Land Policy will bring a balance to the two main economic pillars of the nation, as we wait for the Mineral Policy.

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**The information set above is by way of guidance. Specific advice should be sought on merit for each case.*

Zimbabwe exports over 0.5 Million tonnes chrome to China in 2020



Zimbabwe which has the second-largest high-grade chromium deposits in the world exported over half a million tonnes to China accounting for nearly 4 per cent of the country's total imports in 2020.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

China the world's largest chrome ore consumer imported over 14.4 million tonnes of Chrome in 2020, approximately 1 million tonnes of chrome ore flows into China every month.

Despite boasting to have the second-largest Chromium deposits in the world, Zimbabwe was number 3 on Chinese chrome ore imports by countries with South Africa leading accounting for 79 per cent of the total imports producing over 11.3 million tonnes

and Turkey following with over 0.6 million tonnes, 4 per cent of the total imports.

Mozambique was fourth on China's list with over 3 per cent, Oman was fifth with nearly 3 per cent followed by Pakistan with nearly 2 per cent, Albania on seventh with over one per cent producing over 0.2 million tonnes and Iran was slightly above 1 per cent producing over 0.1 million tonnes.

Other countries like India, Madagascar, Papua NG, Brazil, Sudan, UAE, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Philippines, Afganistan, Russia, and other countries accounted for the remaining percentage.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's Chrome production is very low with miners complaining of predatory buying with buyers taking the

country's chrome ore from artisanal and small-scale miners at US\$12 to US\$25 per tonne making many abandon chrome mining (small scale and artisanal miners are the country's largest chrome producers accounting for over 70 per cent of production).

Zimbabwe recently emerged as the most likely beneficiary of South Africa's proposed chrome ore export tax in a recent Fastmarkets' poll. Fastmarkets examines the investment prospects for Zimbabwe's chrome sector and some of the hurdles the domestic industry faces, and why participants showed particular confidence in the country.

Following South Africa, Zimbabwe enjoys the world's second-largest high-grade chromium ore deposit of approximately 10 billion tonnes, around 12% of global reserves, according to the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

However, the chrome-rich nation produced just 866,000 tonnes of chrome ore and concentrate in 2019, accounting for 2.5 per cent of global output that year, according to the International Chromium Development Association.

Artisanal and small-scale mining disasters-what can be done?



Relatives and friends converge to pray at a shaft collapse at Task Syndicate mine in Chegutu

Zimbabwe like many other African countries has seen an ever-growing number of artisanal and small-scale (ASM) miners. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), these provides direct employment for up-to thirteen million people worldwide. However, work in these small-scale mines comes with so many risks to human safety, health and environmental as most in this sector makes use of rudimentary methods.

Most of these accidents are as a result of flooding, inhalation of gases, rock-falling, explosions, poor mine ventilation, miners re-entering and mining closed off (abandoned) mines and destroying the pillars. Cave-ins have also contributed to these accidents especially with those doing alluvial mining. Some get killed or injured on conveyor belts or on processing machinery. Quite a number have also been electrocuted.

The health of the miners is not spared too. Chronic mercury poisoning often happens as the miners use mercury in the processing of gold. The miners are exposed to a lot of dust which results in silicosis and other lung diseases like tuberculosis.

Artisanal and small-scale mining activities have some serious environmental impacts too which include animal migration, noise, soil

erosion and pits which are not rehabilitated after mining activities.

The above shows a serious problem within our society which calls for serious and immediate intervention. I hold a strong understanding that this can be prevented. As a Safety, Health and Environmental Practitioner, I hold to the idea that all accidents, except those that are caused by natural factors, can all be prevented.

It starts with all miners understanding the moral need to protect the safety and health of those who are working for them, those going into the deep earth to extract the minerals for them. A responsible miner must be disturbed in his heart getting another human to work without all necessary safety measures in place. Once the mine owners adopt a positive mindset towards the safety and health of their workers, we will see a significant reduction of these accidents.

At the government level, through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, I recommend that it should be a requirement that all mine managers hold at least a certificate in safety, health and environmental management on top of the blasting license.

The formalisation of all artisanal and small-

scale mines needs no more emphasis on the reduction of small scale mine related accidents. One would also note that some of these miners find it difficult to access financial aid without being formalised.

At the small scale mine, the workers must adopt and practice some basic safety practices starting with the basics like a daily safety talk before work starts, an inspection of the work area including shafts, tools, shoring supports, electrical cables are well insulated and no naked cables, check compressors, dewatering pumps etc to see if everything is in good condition.

From the above basics, the small scale miners may then gradually move away from the informal ways and adopt proper safety and health management systems like those designed by **AMOSASAFETY (Pvt) Ltd**, a leading safety, health and environmental management consultancy firm in South-ern Africa which has also become Zimbabwe's only accredited by the Ministry of Mines to do such work.

Miners should take cognisance of the legal requirements particularly the Mining (Management and Safety) Regulations (SI 109 of 1990) as well as the Health and Sanitation Regulations (SI 182 of 1995). These provide a lot of provisions in the interest of safety and health not only for small scale mines but every mine in Zimbabwe.

NO-ONE SHOULD MAKE MONEY AT THE EXPENSE OF SOMEONE'S SAFETY AND HEALTH!!!

Article written by Anderson Magawa:
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Minerals and Location found in Zimbabwe

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



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