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ISSUE
03
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WhatsApp: +263 71 270 4400
Tel: +263712704400
info@goldenglance.co.zw

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Mining

ZIMBABWE

WRITERS/ JOURNALISTS

Rudairo Mapuranga -
rudairomap@gmail.com

Shantel Chisango
shanteltynechisango@gmail.com

Precious Chikuruwo
preciouschikuruwo18@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS/ GUEST WRITERS

Sharon Tsuru

SALES & ADVERTISING

Kelvin Sungiso
kelvin@miningzimbabwe.com
Cell/Whatsapp: 0775523000

PUBLISHER
Timelison Media (Zimbabwe)

ABOUT PUBLICATION

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



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The "Mines Minister the country has been missing"

On the 1st of March 2021 ever since the debut of the Mining Zimbabwe Magazine also known locally as the "Mining Magazine" we witnessed Hon Winston Chitando interacting in a virtual event responding to questions not only from Members of the Mines Portfolio Committee but the public as well.

The virtual conference was chaired by Mines and Mining Development Portfolio Committee Chairman Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa and in attendance were members of the Mines Committee, miners and mining professionals who were able to join the zoom event.

Seeing and hearing the Minister responding to questions not only from the committee but the public was an iconic development that was long overdue. The key component which has been missing from the Mines and Mining Development Minister is availability for communication and interaction directly with the public (miners).

There were many unanswered pertinent questions that the Minister touched on demystifying some myths and clearing some wrong assertions something long overdue.

The Minister touched on hot topics of EPOs, Mining Titles, special grants, mines bill among others and for once the country heard it directly from the horse's mouth.

According to expert opinion, Strong communication in government departments creates trust in its citizens or people they represent. The hope is that this trust will inspire citizens to become more involved in their communities. As the relationship builds between departments and citizens, over time, citizens will come to realize that their concerns matter. Engagement keeps citizens informed on the projects that affect their taxes and their lives.

In this digital age there are many ways to communicate. It is highly recommended that the Minister utilises digital media as tools of communication and to ensure all Media Houses are all accommodated without favour or discrimination.

I can categorically state that the Minister we saw on Monday the 1st of March 2021 is "The Minister the country has been missing". Miners love that Minister, miners need that Minister, we loved that Minister and we believe the country deserves such dedication from the Minister. Zvisaperera ipapo!!

Let me thank you our valued reader for choosing us to be your choice for mining business news and updates. Remember to stay up-to-date with Zimbabwe mining affairs by visiting our website:
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I hope you Enjoy this month's read!! Until next time keep safe.

K. Sungiso



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Zimplats spends US\$224 million on mine redevelopment



ZIMPLATS Ngezi Concentrator Plant

ZIMBABWE'S largest platinum group of metals (PGMs) producer, Zimplats Holdings Limited, spent US\$224 on mines redevelopment exercise during the half-year ended 31 December.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The country's largest platinum miner has completed its redevelopment project at Bimha mine spending US\$100million against a budget of US\$101million.

"The Bimha Mine redevelopment project is essentially complete. A total of US\$100 million had been spent on the

redevelopment project as at 31 December 2020 against an estimated project cost of US\$101 million."

The miner has also spent US\$124 MILLION on the development of the Mupani mine against a budget of US\$264 MILLION during the half-year ended 31 December 2020

"The development of Mupani Mine (the replacement for Ngwarati and Rukodzi mines) is ahead of schedule and the project has started receiving fleets from the

depleting mines. Installation of key infrastructure is on schedule targeting full production in August 2025. A total of US\$124 million had been spent on this project as at 31 December 2020 against a project budget of US\$264 million."

The mining firm's body of Directors has also approved the upgrade of Mupani and Bimha mines, it has also approved the construction of a third concentrator plant at Ngezi with a budget cost of US\$297 MILLION.

"The board approved the implementation of Mupani and Bimha mines upgrade (the replacement for Mupfuti Mine) and the construction of a third concentrator plant at Ngezi at an estimated total cost of US\$297 million. Work on the projects has commenced targeting to commission the concentrator plant in 2022 with the Bimha and Mupani mines upgrades scheduled for completion in 2023 and 2028, respectively."

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Blanket mine production to increase 37 percent



Caledonia CFO: Mark Learmonth

New York Stock Exchange-listed Caledonia Mining Corporation's newly established shaft at Blanket Mine in Gwanda will increase production by 37 per cent by 2022 while at the same time extending mine life to 2034, the company's CFO, Mark Learmonth said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The company has invested US\$63 million funded from internal cash flows into the development and establishment of the central shaft according to Learmonth.

Last year Blanket Mine's annual gold production reached 58 000 ounces meaning with the newly established shaft, productions are going to reach over 80 000 ounces at the mine which will likely propel it to the best-performing gold mine in Zimbabwe in terms of production.

The company has however has set a target of

67 000 ounces top of the range production and 61 000 ounces bottom in 2021 CFO Mark Learmonth said in a corporate presentation released by the mining firm recently.

"Whether we achieve the bottom or the top of that range will depend on the timing of the commissioning of the central shaft.

"Caledonia has so far invested US\$63 million, fully funded from internal cash flows, into the



development of the new mine known as the central shaft.

"The central shaft, which will secure Mine life to 2034, is expected to result in improved

efficiencies, which will, in turn, reduce the all-in costs," Learmonth said.

The company's growth and development drive is in synch with President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa's vision for the mining industry achieve a US\$12 BILLION mark by 2023 contributing to the country attain an upper-middle-income earner position by 2030.

In October, Caledonia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government which is aimed at boosting the miner's investment portfolio and gold production.

Speaking at the signing ceremony President Mnangagwa said the coming on board of global giants like Caledonia is an indication that Zimbabwe is a safe investment destination.

As part of its commitment, Caledonia in the MoU undertook to take deliberate strategies that will see it producing over 500 000 ounces (about 14 tonnes of gold) by 2030.

"This ceremony is a milestone achievement towards our quest to attain a US\$12 billion mining sector economy by 2023," said the President after the signing ceremony.

"Furthermore, it is indicative of the Caledonia Mining Corporation's explicit interest to invest in our economy, affirming that Zimbabwe is a safe investment destination," he said.

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Caledonia hails Zimbabwe's investment climate



Caledonia CFO: Mark Learmonth

One of the country's biggest gold producers, Caledonia Mining Corporation has hailed Zimbabwe's investment climate saying the country is one of the safest countries to invest in Africa.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

Caledonia is considered as one of the major drivers of the economy producing an average of 56 000 ounces of gold annually at its Blanket Mine in Gwanda, proving that it is possible for Zimbabwe to produce 100

tonnes of gold in a quest to make the gold subsector a US\$4 BILLION industry by 2023.

According to Caledonia Chief Financial Officer Mark Learmonth the perception of Zimbabwe's investment climate has not been fair to what is on the ground. He said that Zimbabwe is a peaceful country with very minimum-security risks than many countries in Africa where investors have been running to invest.

"The perception of doing business in Zimbabwe is at an extremely difficult place, I will kinda say that's not entirely fair. One of the things people fail to understand is that Zimbabwe unlike many other places in Africa is quite a peaceful place. We don't have any significant security issues, we don't difficult with workers being attacked, we sell our gold to the government...we em-

ploy about 1650 people all are Zimbabwean." Learmonth said.

Blanket Mine averages net profits of about 20 per cent of turnover, pay a dividend of about 20 per cent of profits, and reinvested the remainder back into the mine. The miner is still carrying a retained loss of \$88 million arising from exploration and redevelopment costs.

From a 2019 turnover of US\$75.826 million, the company made a profit of US\$ 18.680 million (net of an extraordinary item being an exchange gain) and subsequently paid a dividend of US\$3.395 million. The miner recently spent US\$60 million on a new shaft and are very aggressive investors of their profits in Zimbabwe, the gold miner is a very good partner for our country benefiting from the country calmest investment climate.

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Mirrorplex Lithium second drilling results encouraging



MIRRORPLEX (Pvt) Limited's Shamva lithium project has received promising first batch results for its second drilling phase from SGS labs in South Africa, the company Director Mr Nyasha Chidoh has said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The project which is postured to become Zimbabwe's biggest hard rock lithium resource results cements its potential to grow into a world-class lithium mine.

"We have received the 1st batch of results from SGS for our 2nd drilling phase, results looking very very good," Chidoh said. From the first batch 100 samples assays, 33 samples are over 1% Li₂O, max 2% and 12



Mr Nyasha Chidoh chatting to Mining Zimbabwe team on a tour of the lithium mine near Bindura

samples over 0.5% Li₂O at the same time 16 samples over 100g/t Ta, max 1.385 Kg while Ta values correlate with Li₂O % >1%. First drilling 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 at the project has revealed two more pegmatites containing high Li₂O grades up to 4.82% Li₂O.

Benchmark Mineral Intelligence has reported that battery-grade lithium carbonate prices increased by 68 per cent in the first 2 months of 2021 in China on the back of high battery demand this means that lithium projects development is going to increase if the prices of the metal continue to be on an upward trend.

According to Chidoh, there is no near enough lithium to be consumed by lithium users, a gap that will help the metal attract attention and increase its celebrity status. He said the upward trend in prices has a



Mining Zimbabwe team looks at samples at Mirrorplex mine near Bindura

positive effect on lithium project development in Zimbabwe.

"And it's clear there is nowhere near enough capacity in the pipeline. The global battery arms race will continue," Chidoh said.

Through President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa's vision for the mining sector accounting US\$12 BILLION annually, Lithium is expected to fetch half a Billion with the EV industry expected to supply 50 EVs million by 2030 this means consumption of the metal will continue to increase. Zimbabwe is the world's fifth-largest producer of lithium after Australia, Chile, Argentina, and China. The country is expected to account for at least 20 per cent of the mineral's supply on the world market in the near future.

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Large scale mining operations in Zimbabwe 2020

THE COUNTRY HAS MANY LARGE-SCALE MINES WHICH ARE WELL GEARED AND OILED AND ARE ACTIVELY PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE IN HELPING ACHIEVE PRESIDENT E.D MNANGAGWA'S VISION FOR THE MINING SECTOR TO ACHIEVE A US\$12 BILLION INDUSTRY BY 2023.

Zimbabwe's mining industry has become the leading horse towards the resuscitation of the economy.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The mining industry has of late become the country's largest foreign currency earner with nickel, gold and platinum group of metals leading in fetching the country the much-needed forex.

The government through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has a vision for the mining industry to earn the country US\$12 BILLION annually by 2023 an achievement that will have the capacity to transform the country's economy to yester-year's heights.

The country has many large-scale Mines which are well geared and oiled and are actively playing a critical role in helping achieve President E.D Mnangagwa's vision for the mining sector to achieve a US\$12 BILLION industry by 2023.

The following are **some** of the country's operating mines.

ZIMPLATS

Impala Platinum's Zimplats is Zimbabwe's leading mining firm contributing significantly to the national fiscus.

Zimplats specialises in platinum group metals such as platinum, palladium, gold, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium and osmium.



Zimplats is 87 per cent owned by Implats, a leading South African platinum producer. Its Ngezi operation is located on the Hartley Geological Complex on the Zimbabwean Great Dyke approximately 150 kilometres south-west of Harare.

The Hartley Geological complex is the largest of the PGM bearing complexes containing 80% of the known PGM resources in Zimbabwe. In FY2018 the operation produced 270 800 ounces of platinum in matte (including concentrate sold).

Zimplats operates four shallow mechanized underground mines, one open-pit and two concentrators at Ngezi. The Selous Metallurgical Complex (SMC), located some 77 kilometres north of the underground operations, comprises a concentrator and a smelter.

The company's Half-year revenue for the half-ended 31 December 2020 increased by 79 per cent to US\$674.9 million compared to the same period last year, largely driven by increases in average metal prices and volumes of metal sold.

RioZim

RioZim separated from Rio Tinto plc in 2004 and became a wholly-owned Zimbabwean company that produces gold, coal, toll

refines nickel and copper, it is listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange.

The group is divided into five distinct business units; RioGold, RioBase Metals, RioChrome, RioDiamonds, and RioEnergy. RioZim currently operates the Dalny mine, One step mines, Renco Gold mine in the south-east of Zimbabwe, the Cam & Motor gold mine in Kadoma, the Maranatha ferrochrome refinery in Kadoma, and the Empress Nickel Refinery near the city of Kadoma in Mashonalandwest. The group also owns 50 per cent of Sengwa Colliery Pty Ltd in Gokwe North.

The Renco Mine is 100 per cent owned by RioZim Limited. The mining rights are held through mining claims, a mining lease, and a special grant covering a total area of 2 736 hectares. The mine is located in the South-East of Zimbabwe in Nyajena communal lands, approximately 75km southeast of Masvingo.

Rio's flagship mine is Cam and Motor Mine located 130km southwest of Harare, 10km to the east of Kadoma, at Eiffel Flats on the site of the former Cam and Motor Mine. The mine was once the largest producer of gold in Zimbabwe and produced in excess of 150 tonnes of gold in its entire life.

Rio currently has several exploration projects across the country.

Premier Africa Minerals



Premier African Minerals Limited was established to acquire and develop mineral properties across Africa, especially in Western and Southern Africa. The Company has exposure to a wide range of commodities, including tungsten, lithium and tantalum, and rare earth elements as well as potash and limestone. In Zimbabwe, Premier is building a mining operation at RHA tungsten and conduction exploration programmes on its Zulu Lithium and Tantalum project as well as at exploration for Rare Earth Elements at Katete and Lubimbi projects.

Murowa Diamonds



RioZim holds a 22 per cent interest in Murowa Diamonds Pvt Ltd and is moving into the chrome mining and smelting industry of Sengwa Colliery Pty Ltd in Gokwe North, holds a 22 per cent interest in Murowa Diamonds Pvt Ltd and is moving into the chrome mining and smelting industry.

ZIMBABWE CONSOLIDATED DIAMOND COMPANY (ZCDC)

Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (Pvt) Ltd (ZCDC) 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.

. The Company is conducting exploration and resource evaluation programs across Zimbabwe and expects to open new mines in other parts of the country soon. ZCDC was issued with Special Grants 6026 and 6460 which vests mineral rights to carry out mining operations for diamonds in Chiadzwa and Chimanimani respectively.

The company has a 30 per cent stake in Alrosa Zimbabwe diamond exploration.

Anjin Investments

Controversial Chinese mining company, Anjin operates diamond mining in Zimbabwe at the Chiadzwa mining fields in Marange. Anjin had to shut operations back in 2015 after the Mugabe administration forced the closure of seven mining companies and the subsequent merger of their assets into the Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC).

The company was reported to be selling diamonds without the involvement of the Mineral Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) allegations the company has disputed.

Caledonia Mining



Caledonia Mining owns one of Zimbabwe's largest gold producers, Blanket Mine which produces around 60 000 ounces by 2022 the Company plans to increase its annual production by 45 percent up to 80,000 ounces.

Caledonia is committed to evaluating investment opportunities in Zimbabwe and

has entered into two option agreements to acquire the mining claims over Glen Hume and Connemara North in the Midlands province.

Falcon Gold



Falcon Gold Zimbabwe Limited is a gold mining and exploration company in Zimbabwe. The company owns Golden Quarry mine in Shurugwi. Founded in 1991, Falcon Gold Zimbabwe is a subsidiary of New Dawn Mining Group. New Dawn Mining Corp. is involved in the exploration, development, extraction, processing and reclamation of precious metal deposits in Zimbabwe. It primarily explores for gold, base metals and precious metals.

Falcon Gold Zimbabwe Limited also has an operational processing plant and ancillary infrastructure which supports a central processing plant that treats ore from Pickstone Peerless mine.

Duration Gold Mine

Duration Gold Limited offers gold exploration and production services. The company owns 5 core assets with historic production of 4.6 million oz. It also sells gold at international spot prices. The company was founded in 2006 and is based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Duration Gold Limited operates as a subsidiary of Clarity Enterprises Limited. One of its flagship gold mines is Vubachikwe, which is one of Zimbabwe's oldest gold mines and also Gaika, Queens mine among others.

Dallaglio Investments

Dallaglio is a gold mining company with the potential to become Zimbabwe's largest producer, producing 4 tonnes of gold



annually. The firm owns Pickstone Peerless Mine and The Giant gold claims in Chegutu District in Mashonaland West Province and Eureka Gold Mine in Guruve District, Mashonaland Central Province.

Bilboes Gold Ltd

Bilboes Gold Ltd, a subsidiary of Bilboes Holdings. Bilboes Holdings (Pvt) Ltd (Bilboes) own and operate the Isabella-McCay's-Bubi Oxide Complex, which comprises three existing gold mining operations. The company also owns When, Bubi and McCays gold mines in the southern region of the country.

Unki



Unki Mine is owned by Amplats and is located in the southern half of Zimbabwe's Great Dyke geological formation widely recognised as the second-largest resource of PGMs in the world. The Midlands-based miner is currently Zimbabwe's second-largest PGM producer after Zimplats.

Venice Mine

Venice Mine Complex (VMC) is a complex of mines in Zimbabwe that holds 106 mining blocks covering an area of approximately 2,664 hectares. It has extensive underground and surface infrastructure and over 100 years

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Large scale operating mines in Zimbabwe 2020

of recorded production. VMC was closed down in 2002 whilst under the management of Falcon Gold Zimbabwe Limited citing a lack of adequate exploration and development on the mine, the deteriorating economic climate in Zimbabwe and a low gold price.

VMC was acquired by Maris in 2015, with a plan for reinvigoration in a phased approach. In 2013, in partnership with managing director David May, Maris invested in a group of 32 mining blocks covering 5 mines, which had laid dormant since the 1980s: Bee Mine, Bee Eater Mine, Pamela Mine, Commoner Mine and Welcome Back Mine in Zimbabwe.

VMC is an investee company of the Maris Group, an Africa focused holding company that has been managing investments since 2006.

Golden Valley

Golden Valley mine is a gold-producing mine located in Patchway, approximately 18km from the City of Kadoma. It is currently owned by John Mack company with Head office located in Harare. The mine is one of the biggest producers of gold in Mashonaland West province.

Mimosa



Implats and Sibanye-Stillwater owned Mimosa mine in Zvishavane is Zimbabwe's third platinum producer after Zimplats and Amplats' Unki mine. As of 31 December 2020 Mimosa has 1.5 million oz of 4E PGM mineral reserves and 6.2 million oz of 4E PGM mineral

resources. The Mimosa mine is situated in the Wedza subchamber of the Great Dyke of Zimbabwe.

At Mimosa, the focus is being given to developing the Mtshingwe Shaft and further evaluating the Mtshingwe Block, extending the life of mine, stabilizing production profiles at current performance levels, and fast-tracking the conversion of mineral resources to mineral reserves.

Hwange Colliery



Hwange Colliery Company Limited is the leading coal producer in Zimbabwe and supplies the nation's requirements, including low phosphorus coal and coke. Hwange's mining operations are predominately open pit. The company owns, the Hwange Coalfield and Chaba Mine located in the north-western region of Zimbabwe; its head office is in the capital city, Harare.

Makomo Resources



Makomo Resources is the largest privately owned coal producer in Zimbabwe. The coal miner is located in Matabeleland. The company is 60 per cent owned by a group of Zimbabweans, while British and South African investors hold the rest. In July 2014 the company said it has plans to spend US\$1.5 billion on a 600-megawatt power plant in Hwange. Construction was planned to start

in 2018. Makomo would finance the plant together with Chinese investors. Makomo would mine the fuel for the power station; it also supplies the nearby state-owned Hwange power station.

Zambezi Gas



Zambezi Gas Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd is a wholly-owned Zimbabwean private limited company operating in the coal mining and coalbed methane exploration industry since its incorporation on August 1st, 2002. Zambezi Gas explores mine, process, and market coal, coke, and their associated by-products. The company has in its portfolio an operating mine with a mining license expiring in 2042 as well as an on-going CBM exploration project both of which are situated in the Entuba Coalfields in Hwange Matabeleland North Province. The Entuba Rail Siding is located just 2km from the Company's mining operation which is approximately 12km from Hwange town.

Chilota Colliery

Chilota Colliery began operations late last year and is now producing 30,000 tonnes of coking coal per month used to produce coke; the high-quality fuel needed by smelters. Chilota colliery is producing 30,000 tonnes of coking coal and about 30,000 tonnes of thermal coal for Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), which they are producing at Chaba Mines under a contract mining arrangement with Hwange Colliery. The colliery has also deployed some of its equipment to Hwange Colliery Company, the country's oldest coal mine where it is producing thermal coal under a mining contract.

ZIMASCO



The Zimbabwe Mining and Smelting Company (Zimasco) operates ferrochrome mines in Mashonaland West and the Midlands provinces. It also operates Zimbabwe's largest ferrochrome smelter in the Midlands town of Kwekwe.

ZIMASCO owns Mutorashanga, Valley Mine, Ironton Mine, Railway Block Mine and Peak Mine

The Kwekwe-based ferrochrome smelting company has six operational furnaces and each has the capacity to produce 200 tonnes of ferrochrome a day.

Bikita Minerals



The Bikita mine is the largest lithium mine in Zimbabwe. Bikita is owned by Southern Africa Metals and Minerals Limited chaired by investor Mr Wilfred Pabst. The mine holds the world's largest-known deposit of lithium at approximately 11 million tonnes. The mine is located in southern Zimbabwe in Masvingo Province.

How Mine

Howmine is owned by Metallon Corporation. How Mine has been in operation since 1942 and has produced over a million ounces of gold to date. It comprises a single underground operation, where ore is processed at

a central processing facility, using a combination of conventional milling and a carbon-in-leach process. The mine has recently seen an increased number of fatal accidents.

Redwing mine

Redwing Mine is owned and operated by Metallon's King's Daughter Mining Company Limited. Redwing Mine resumed production in 2015 following dewatering. The mine is located in Manicaland province in the east of Zimbabwe, about 20 kilometres northeast of the city of Mutare and 265 kilometres southeast of Harare.

Freda Rebecca



The mine is owned by Sotic International Zimbabwe the company that owns Bindura Nickel Corporation. Freda Rebecca gold mine was previously owned by Freda Rebecca Holdings (Pvt) Limited and ASA Gold Limited (formerly Mwana Africa Ltd). The mine is one of the country's leading gold and silver producer. Sotic also owns Mazowe or Jumbo mine previously owned by Metallon Gold.

Sabi Gold



Sabi Gold mine is a gold mine owned by Anesu Gold and the State of Zimbabwe. Includes Sabi Extra, Canada, and White Sabi to the north and Monte Carlo and Hazard to

the south, all located within the main shear. The mine is one of the country's largest producers of the yellow metal.

Dorowa Minerals

Dorowa Minerals is wholly owned by Chemplex Corporation and is the only phosphate mine in Zimbabwe. Mining is by opencast method and involves ripping and dozing in soft rock and drilling and blasting in hard rock.

Imerys Vermiculite,



Imerys Vermiculite is an Australian owned mining firm that owns Shawa mine in Buhera, Manicaland. Shawa mine has one of the largest vermiculite deposits in the world. Much is being talked about the mine's contribution to the national fiscus but it, however, remains one of the largest vermiculite mines in the world.

Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC)

BNC is operated and majority-owned Sotic International a company owned by business mogul Kuda Tagwirei. BNC is listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange. The company owns Trojan Nickel mine, Hunter's Road, Maligreen Gold Mine, Makaha Deposit and Shangani Nickel mine. The Shangani Nickel Mine is in Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe. The site was first discovered in 1969. The mineralization at this location is from the Neoproterozoic era 2.80 to 2.50 billion years ago. TROJAN NICKEL MINE LTD is located in Bindura, Zimbabwe, and is part of the Metal Ore Mining Industry.



Kuvimba Mining House

New player Kuvimba was established last year and is 65 per cent owned by the government with the balance held by management through a Mauritius-based company Quorus. Kuvimba is also the majority owner of listed Bindura Nickel Corporation and is seeking to acquire chrome and more gold assets.



The company is also linked to Darwendale platinum mine and owns Shamva, Jena, Golden Kopje, Elvington, ZimAlloys and Sandawana mines. Kuvimba already has interests in mining assets, including gold, chrome, nickel, gemstone, platinum group metals (PGMs) and chrome. The company according to experts has the potential to become Zimbabwe's biggest miner at the same time becoming the largest producer of gold, PGM and Chrome among other minerals. It is set to embark on exploration works at Golden Kopje and Elvington gold mines to establish their commercial viability and It

wholly controls gold mines, Freda Rebecca.

TN Gold

TN gold is a mining company owned by Business mogul Tawanda Nyambira. The company owns Arcturus Gold Mine which previously belonged to Britain based Metallion Gold. The Goromonzi based Acturus mine is one of the oldest operating mines in Zimbabwe and has the potential to produce one tonne gold per annum.

Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC)



PPC Ltd, a leading supplier of cement, lime and related products in southern Africa. The company owns Colleen Bawn mine in Matebeleland South. PPC Has two plants in Bulawayo and Colleen Bawn. The two PPC Zimbabwe plants are among the most modern in southern Africa and well located to serve both the Zimbabwean and neighbouring export markets. Combined, they have an annual capacity of 760 000 tons of cement. The Bulawayo plant can produce another 300 000 tons of cement per annum with clinker supplied from PPC's South African operations, while the installation of a new cooler and upgrade to the kiln at Colleen Bawn increased capacity by around 20% in 2010.

PAN AFRICAN MINING (PVT) LTD

Pan African Resources is a mid-tier African-focused gold producer with a production capacity in excess of 170,000oz of gold per annum. The company owns Muriel Mine, Aryshire Mine and AMT 97 Mine.

Lafarge

Lafarge Cement Zimbabwe is one the leading cement and allied products producers in Zimbabwe. The company has two mining operations where limestone is extracted. These include Mbubu in Mashonaland East Province and Sternblick quarry in Harare. Lafarge Cement Zimbabwe has an installed Plant Capacity of 500 000 tonnes per annum

Conclusion

Despite facing economic challenges for over a decade, mining in Zimbabwe is still going strong. It is an undisputed fact that mines and mining companies need to up their game to increase production. The government can also neccessitate increased production by maintaining consistency and improving service delivery which is seriously lagging behind in the Mines and Mining Development Ministry (MMMD).

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Evaluate foreign mining investors



Privelage Moyo addressing workers recently at Khazsham mine in Norton

The government of Zimbabwe has been urged to assess the kind of investment foreigners would be coming to finance in the mining sector eliminating repetition of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) investments which should be reserved to locals.

Rudairo Mapuranga

According to Norton Miners Association Chairperson Mr Privelage Moyo, the country should consider investors who come in to bring development and growth as well as aiding technological expertise not those who replicate what the locals are doing and even do it dismally than the locals.

"Going forward as a country also in light of the future of mining, we need to evaluate our so-called investors who are coming in to replicate the ASM operations, starting from our all-weather friends from China, Indians, Pakistanis, and other nationals.

"Our minerals are depletable hence the need to reflect as we progress. As it stands our Indigenous artisanal and small-scale miners are performing much better although with huge challenges unlike those who are well advanced in many ways from technology, machinery, access to capital etc".

"We need investors who bring growth to our country, community and our people through knowledge transfer but what's prevailing on the ground is bad, locals employed by these foreign investors are subjected to the same mining methods being done by our locals with nothing new or innovative being introduced and to add insult to injury our people are sometimes subjected to inhuman treatment by these so-called foreign investors," Moyo said.

Last year, Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF) implored the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development to reserve small scale-mining for locals to ensure that they are not eclipsed by foreign-owned conglomerates. With the Federation President Ms Henrietta Rushwaya saying they will continue to lobby for small-scale mining to be solely reserved for locals.

"We have been making submissions to the responsible ministry that small-scale mining must be a preserve for indigenous Zimbabweans and we still stand by that notion as ZMF," said Ms Rushwaya.

"If that was embraced, then we will not be in this predicament of disturbances that are affecting production".

"We hope the ministry will consider our plight and enforce this because even local reinvestment is more likely where you have mining proceeds in the pockets of locals," she said.

Participation by foreign companies in mining, the ZMF reckons, should be ideally directed to capital-intensive conglomerate mining.

"Government policy in the New Dispensation is very clear: the country is open for business, but I think we can benefit more if our foreign partners are directed to capital-intensive projects," she said.

"There are a number of mineral-rich deposits that are lying idle because there is no local capital to finance them, so as a federation, we think our foreign colleagues should help us in such areas."

Currently, small-scale gold miners deliver the bulk of the metal more than half of the total production compared to large-scale companies.

The Uselessness of Economic Development Incentives



The granting of tax holiday among other economic benefits to foreign-owned firms in the mining sector in a bid to attract more investment can be described as an unclearly thought idea with the potential to harm economic growth and development than encouraging and sustaining it.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The government through the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Professor Mthuli Ncube awarded mining companies like Great Dyke Investments and Prospect Resources tax incentives for a period not exceeding five years, a move that attracted criticism from many people.



Professor Mthuli Ncube

It is a majority view that Zimbabweans are going to benefit very little from Prospect Resources' Arcadia Lithium mine as the miner is privileged to bank-abroad proceeds from the productions at the mine.

Arcadia Lithium mine last year secured a special economic zone giving it the privilege or ability to bank offshore and in foreign currency, an exemption of withholding tax for dividends, remittances and royalties.



Farai Maguwu

Tharisa's Karo Resources was also awarded a special economic zone with similar benefits.

The special privileges granted to the mining firms means citizens are going to benefit very little from the companies considered to be FDI nothing from it will add to the GDP. Centre for Resource Governance President Mr Farai Muguwu said the decision by the government to favour the lithium investor with all those benefits was an act of treason to our mineral governance and sustainability. He said that the government position in giving

this miner such a precious treatment was unpatriotic as it would not benefit citizens but only the investor.

"It's a serious transgression and violation of our constitutional rights. It is also a very unpatriotic decision," he said.

It is a fact that tax holidays that are overgenerous or poorly designed can result in giving money away without affecting investment and operating decisions. Even worse, the economic incentives can be captured by politically connected firms and used as a merry-go-round for diverting public funds into political finance.

According to Chrome Miners Association Chairperson Mr Shelton Lucas, there might be corruption going on with regards to the privileges given to Arcadia.

"These guys have an unfair advantage and there is an invisible hand at play who is helping them," he said.

It also a fact that granting tax incentives is not sufficient to compensate for the poor investment climate leading investors to look for transparency and security.

However, Parliamentary Portfolio on Mines and Mining Development Chairperson Mr Edmond Mkaratigwa said the government is being forced to enter into deals that to some may seem to be against national interest because it is paying for the inequities that we committed by the previous governments. He said that the country was at a very difficult stage that required in to rebuild trust and confidence that we attract investment.





Mines Portfolio Committee Chairman Hon E Mkaratigwa

"On Arcadia, we are in a very difficult time as a country and we are rebuilding up our trust that was lost before.

"Therefore at that stage, we may have to compromise on some areas. For example, the money is coming from Canada, Britain or Australia, our previous challenge in attracting investors has been currency inconsistencies and property rights issues among others and sometimes you can say, as individuals can bank in other countries, you can also allow them to bank in order to create trust that they will recuperate their capital." Hon Mkaratigwa said.

The government however despite the fact that it wants to build trust to attract investors it seems companies seeking to invest are leading it by the nose, getting to the negotiating table with an unfair advantage from tax holidays, onsite clearance and ability to bank all its money offshore.

In this view, Hon Mkaratigwa said the decision of granting the privileges to the miner were beneficial to the country however the government needed to be more transparent in contract negotiations so that people may be fully versed with what they can have.

"Last time and these days I always give the case of BHP in Zimbabwe. Many people say it mined and left but people forget that it in-

cubated a project and did the exploration then sold it over to Zimplats that we now admire much. It is therefore in my view that the government should

continue to be more transparent in the contract negotiation processes so that we reduce speculation among citizens.

Exploration requires more capital and many investors are not interested in greenfield businesses due to its risky nature hence they may need some incentives." he said. A study by the World Bank confirms that tax incentives are far less effective at encouraging investment in weak investment climates than in strong ones meaning that countries like Zimbabwe should build a base to be more transparent than giving out tax holidays as a way to lure investors.

Compared to tax systems with a low general tax rate and a broad base, tax systems with incentives, particularly in countries with poor tax administration capacity, may give the image of a country lacking transparency and accountability. Moreover, if tax incentives are only granted to new investment project, existing ones may feel disfavored.

Tax incentives are ineffective in the face of

an unattractive investment environment.

Policy instability creates a triple-whammy against the effective use of tax incentives.

Firstly, it translates into immediate business costs such as unreliable electricity supply and lack of infrastructure, meaning that the gap to project viability is larger. Secondly, the general perception of country-risk raises the investor's hurdle rate for investment.

Thirdly this risk perception also reduces the



trust that companies put in the specific tax incentives, leading them to discount the value of tax breaks promised.

Mick Moore argues that in situations of weak democratic accountability and legitimacy tax exemptions are used as tools to generate support and to discourage oppositional activity—they persist because they succeed as a political tool, rather than because they are effective as an economic tool.

Tax holidays counterproductive, ZIAMU



The Zimbabwe Advanced Mine Workers Union (ZIAMU) said tax holidays given to miners extracting rich mineral deposits are counter-productive advocating for the government to do the right thing by dealing with the imbalances created by investors.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

The country has given new mining projects like Great Dyke investments, Prospect Resources' Arcadia lithium project and Tharisa's Karo Resources economic incentives that were considered unfair to the country's growth and development of the mining sector and the economy at large. ZIAMU said it was highly uncalled for the government to choose a desperate way of trying to lure investors through deals that are visibly imbalance in sectors that is lucrative and attracts many investors.

"Granting Tax holidays is counterproductive. there is no need to grant a tax holiday for a product that is in demand. This a highly lucrative mining sub-sector that can easily attract other investors. Unfortunately, the government has not shared information on what necessitated this tax holiday." The

Union said.

The President of Mali's Chamber of Mines Abdoulaye Pona has been calling for African governments to consider benefiting more from their mineral wealth than allowing imbalances in the extraction of the minerals.

"What we're asking for today is for African countries to be able to benefit more from their mineral production," said Pona. The historical power imbalance between mineral-rich but cash-poor countries and multinational mining companies has left a legacy of bad deals that have been overly generous to investors.

The Mugabe led administration introduced the unpopular Economic and Indigenization act as a way to make sure that citizens benefit more from the country's mineral wealth than multinational companies. According to research companies mining in Africa tend to benefit more their mother countries than the countries they are mining in, for example, the Special Economic Zone status awarded to Prospect Resources' Arcadia Lithium Project in Goromonzi prove

to be more on benefiting the extracting firm than the country.

According to the Special Economic Zone the company acknowledged, it provides logistical and financial advantages-an ability to bank offshore and in foreign currency, custom clearance at mine site and exemptions of withholding tax for dividends, remittances and royalties.

This move was described by the President of Centre for Resource Governance Mr Farai Muguwu as an unpatriotic and imbalance move meant to benefit Prospect Resources than the country.

"It's a serious transgression and violation of our constitutional rights. It is also a very unpatriotic decision." he said.

A study by the World Bank confirms that tax incentives are far less effective at encouraging investment in weak investment climates than in strong ones meaning that countries like Zimbabwe should build a base to be more transparent than giving out tax holidays as a way to lure investors.

Diamond-conflict a cause for concern in Africa, Kimberly Civil Society



The Kimberly Process Civil Society Coalition (KPCSC) is calling for an end to diamond-conflict taking into consideration the harm people living nearby large-scale diamond mines are facing.

By Shantel T Chisango

Emphasising on the brutality diamond miners are facing, KPCSC stated that there is a need for diamond miners, companies, and retailers to come together with solutions on how to curb diamond-conflicts.

Diamond-conflicts have not only affected human-lives but have gone to the extent of ending innocent lives brutally.

Investigating the issue of diamond-conflicts, Kimberly process spoke to Ibrahim, an activist from Sierra Lionne who stated that the diamond supply chain is anti-conflict free and that innocent people are brutally dying. "It is very urgent for the world to know that the diamond supply chain is not conflict-free. Far from being 98% conflict-free. So many

people have died innocently just because the only crime they committed is they are born and bred in the mines."

Governments and mining companies also commit atrocities in Africa's diamond fields, frequently in countries that are not at war. Adding on, Heritier, an artisanal miner from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) said the treatment they receive from security forces stating that it is inhumane.

"As the diamond was in the hands of my little brother they were beating him until they broke his ribs and a leg," said Heritier.

Progress, a farmer from Zimbabwe says if diamond retailers from other countries were aware of the circumstances being faced by those who mine diamonds they would not consider even buying the diamond at all. Diamonds that fuel civil wars are often called "blood" or "conflict" diamonds. Although many diamond-fueled wars have now ended, conflict diamonds remain a serious problem. The Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition

is the umbrella organization that acts as an observer of the Kimberley Process on behalf of civil society which was created 20 years ago to stop the flow of conflict diamonds.

Representing communities affected by diamond mining and trade, they strive to improve diamond sector governance in their home countries. Their local and regional expertise enables them to follow up on KP implementation on the ground and articulate a grassroots perspective on the diamond sector at the KP forum.

The coalition includes representatives from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. One member is based in Belgium, which is the home country of the world's principal trading hub for rough diamonds.

In Zimbabwe, the coalition is coordinated by the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA).

Business approach to Artisanal Small-Scale Miners- Mining Syndicates



Brenda Vhiriri

This article takes a critical analysis of small-scale mining and its formalization through registered mining syndication. ASM has both the positive and negative socio-economic impacts on the country but its pivotal role towards the national revenue and foreign exchange earnings and alleviating poverty within various communities in Zimbabwe cannot be ignored. It is therefore necessary that measures be put in place to improve its sustainability and promote a business mindset within the sector.

It would appear that mining syndicates are embraced by government to allow small-scale miners with no capacity to register companies to come together in order to share responsibilities and liabilities associated with registering mining location. Most women have found this as a cheaper option to penetrate the mining sector.

It would also appear that most women who are into small scale mining prefer to come together in order to pull up resources and also as a sign of strength because the mining industry can be very hostile in the event of discovering a good output commonly referred to as "kuputika."

A group of two or more people can, after following the laid down procedures of pegging a mine in terms of the Act, approach the Ministry of Mines for registration as a mining syndicate. Parties are favoured

with a form which all the parties sign and are issued with a certificate of registration in the name of the mining syndicate, while their names are listed at the back of the certificate of registration.

Legal provisions for Mining Syndicates

1. Section 61 of the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05] (hereinafter referred to as the Act) generally makes it possible for a group of people to come together and be jointly and severally liable in respect to a registered mining location.

2. Section 61 (1) provides that a partnership should have a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people.

3. High Court Rules, 1971 Order 2A, Rule 7 defines association to include a partnership, a syndicate, a club or any other association of persons which is not a body corporate.

Thus a registered mining syndicate has the capacity to conduct business, to sue and to be sued. Section 61 of the Act does not provide much in terms of how unregistered partnerships should further self-regulate as it relates with the administrator.

Section 61(3) the mining syndicate must appoint an accredited agent who resides in Zimbabwe for purposes of ensuring compliance with the Act in connection to the mining claim and not the partnership (my emphasis). At any given time, the mining syndicate can revoke the agency and appoint another person or alternatively the accredited agent may choose to resign by notifying the Mining Commissioner in writing. There is nothing that precludes the syndicate members from choosing one of their own members for such an appointment.

It has turned out that most mining syndicates do not make any further attempts to formalise their mining activities outside the

certificate of registration and this has resulted in a lot of problems for the mining syndicate members.

Some of the problems arising from lack of founding documents

1. Mining syndicate members have experienced victimisation as, one can be ousted from the syndicate through a simple action by fellow syndicate members who will request for a new form and complete the form at the exclusion of the unwanted member. The new mining syndicate will simply complete transfer forms and a new certificate of registration is issued in favour of the "new mining syndicate".

In the absence of documentation such as the constitution, partnership agreement, and operating procedure manuals, it is difficult for the ousted member to allege unfair treatment. Worse still the victimised member has no space to complain as some lack the resources to approach the courts for a recourse, while the Ministry of Mines can not assist much if there are no laid down procedures of dismissal.

2. Mining syndicates have also experience usurped power by accredited agencies who tend to detect and override the decision-making powers of the syndicate members. In some instances, the accredited agents have at their discretion removed some syndicate members from the syndicate and caused changes within the partnership. Out of ignorance syndicate members believe that the accredited agent has power and control over the partnership because he interacts with the Ministry of Mines on a day to day basis. Yet this person in essence is an employee or an appointee whose sole purpose is to be a communication point with the Ministry.

Business approach to Artisanal Small-Scale Miners- Mining Syndicates

3. It would appear as if the Ministry of Mines does not require much as proof that a fair process was done to eliminate the unwanted member and most people are victimised out of the syndicate. Some ousted members are replaced by accredited agent's person of choice.

4. In some instances, some syndicate members are denied entry into the mine by fellow syndicate members through the use of thugs commonly known as "mabhuru." Part of the syndicate members will proceed to extract gold and enjoy the proceeds at the exclusion of the other members. The police can not interfere in this civil "shareholder" matter. Further the perpetrators' names are also on the certificate of registration as such they have every right to extract, process, and sell the gold. As mentioned above even the Ministry's hands are limited in the absence of clear clauses that provide for such fall out and yet the court would provide a lasting solution but it is beyond the reach of many syndicate members.

5. The absence of operating documents also makes it impossible to decide the way

forward in the event that relations have soured and parting ways would be the only reasonable and peaceful solution.

6. The issue of the shares of a deceased member need to be addressed in the constitution.

7. Potential investors, sponsors or creditors have no confidence to support artisanal small-scale miners due to the absence of the business touch, undefined roles and responsibilities together with uncertainty aggravate the mistrust.

However, because most artisanal small-scale mines are low-tech and unsophisticated people, it is difficult for the sector to improve on its own, mining syndicate should have constitutions and other founding documents. Thus, governments, bigger mining companies and Chamber of Mines and other non-profit organisations must play an expanded role in bridging critical information, technology and economic gaps.

Recommendations

1. Promoting a business mind set approach

to syndicate (small-scale) mining.

2. Assist registered mining syndicates with formalising and documenting partnership agreements

3. Implementing sector-specific legislation;

4. Contributing to community development and providing increased economic support; and

5. Providing training and educational assistance, and playing an expanded role in the dissemination and transfer of important information and technologies.

Thammary Brenda Vhiriri is a practising Attorney, Conveyancer and Notary Public at Zuze Law Chambers, registered with the Law Society of Zimbabwe with a wealth of experience in Land and Mining Law, Commercial Law, Constitutional Law, Property Law. She writes in her personal capacity and can be contacted on +263772979277 WhatsApp or +263715057007 or email brendavhiriri@gmail.com

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



Blanket Mine builds two wards at Phakama Clinic



Caledonia Mining's Blanket Mine in Gwanda, Matebeleland South has completed building two isolation wards at Phakama clinic in its efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

According to Caledonia, the two isolation wards built by its mine in Gwanda will have 10 beds each, a 135L autoclave machine for

sterilization, an anaesthetic machine, a ventilator and two multiple parameter monitors.

"Blanket committed to building 2 isolation wards at Phakama Clinic. Now completed, each ward has 10 beds. The centre is equipped with a 135L autoclave machine for sterilisation of the clinic tools, anaesthetic machine, ventilator & 2 multiple parameter monitors." The company said.

Caledonia and Blanket Mine are responding actively to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in particular the threat it poses to Blanket Mine's employees, their families, the broader community and the continuity of its operations.

Caledonia last year pledged to donate a ZWL\$ 5 million per week via direct assistance to COVID -19 related projects in the Gwanda area and the broader Bulawayo area. The group promised to continue with this donation as long as Zimbabwe is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and Blanket Mine can continue producing and selling gold to Fidelity Printers and Refiners. Caledonia's group, its management and employees have faced many challenges in the past and have consistently demonstrated a great deal of resilience. Caledonia is confident that the same spirit will prevail in the face of this challenge.

Caledonia Mining is a profitable cash generative gold producer with a strong growth profile, Caledonia's primary asset is the Blanket Mine in Zimbabwe. By 2022 the Company plans to increase its annual production by 45%, up to 80,000 ounces.




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Gemology Centre, transparency necessary in rebuilding Gemstone sector



Gemstone Miner Mr Jean Rheiner

Zimbabwe needs to improve its regulations on gemstone mining and trading at the same time creating a Gemology Centre which will be responsible for certifying and pricing Gemstones in order to increase our exports of the stones back to yesteryear's heights, Legendary Gemstone miner Mr Jean Rheiner has said.

Rudairo Dickson Mapuranga

A Gemology Centre is an office that supports the efforts of small-scale miners and traders and allows the Government to capture the true value of its gemstones based on international guidelines.

The country has since lost its place as one of the largest suppliers of the world's aquamarine and topaz among other stones' spot due to unclear and straining regulations taking an exporter over 2 weeks to process papers yet taking less than 4 hours in other countries in the region.

In Zimbabwe, an exporter will pass through more than 10 offices and waits for 2 weeks or more for a permit yet it is attainable in a single day in other countries.

Rheiner said it was important for the country to rebuild its gemstone sector back to yesterday's heights as this will help the

country in achieving President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa's vision for the mining sector becoming an upper-middle-income earner by 2023.

He said it was of great importance for the government to facilitate the growth of the sector through opening schools that teach and encourage citizens to impress their gemstone wealth and safeguard it from smugglers.

"When I came in the 1980s, Zimbabwe was very big on aquamarine and topaz production. How can we rebuild that today? It has to be redone but in redoing it has to be facilitated of course. In Madagascar, there are schools which teach them how to do it," Rheiner said. Rheiner lamented the failure by the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) to have a simple process for gemstone exporters. The process takes more time than in other countries leading to exporters getting frustrated thereby choosing other destinations.

According to Rheiner, for the growth and development of the gemstone mining and exporting sector, a Gemology Centre was of uttermost importance. The Gemology centre will function better separated from MMCZ but supported by the government.

"We need to have a gemological Centre in Zimbabwe. The centre needs to be supported by the government away from MMCZ as in Afghanistan which is being led by Zimbabwean Gemologist Clever Sithole," he said.

According to one of Zimbabwe's finest young Gemologist Mr Maison Phiri, a gemology centre was the way to go in supporting and establishing the gemstone sector. However, trade policies and mining laws are to be favourable for the gem industry.

Phiri said the focus for the country should be building such an initiative in order to become a regional centre for gemstone trading.

"I cannot say detached or not detached from MMCZ, however, it is true that a Gemology Centre is the way to go. But that is not just the issue. It starts with the change of gemstone mining and trade policies. We need to stand up to the table and compete with Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa policies in terms of market attractiveness. Next, we need to identify what this Gemstone Centre shall be capable of doing. If it is done well, it can actually become a regional Centre. Because this Gemology Centre as I envision it is absent in the whole of SADC," Maison said.

According to Phiri, the export procedure needs to be shortened and cheapened in relation to other minerals simply because the supply is the artisanal miner who sometimes produces 2 cups of gemstones and maybe a value of US\$100 but still has a market. Most of these miners do not have tenure and need an incentive to achieve sustainable mining. On the side of buyers, the export procedure is long and buyers would rather buy gemstones in Zambia than in Zimbabwe because of this. We need to reduce the persecution of gemstone dealers by relaxing some of our regulations he concluded.

Discipline, consistency and alignment in the Mining sector



Mining is the linchpin of the Zimbabwean economy. It is positioned there through the National Vision 2030. Discipline, consistency and alignment are critical as we are poising ourselves for growth as a country.

By Edmond Mkaratigwa

One area that Zimbabwe needs to continue tackling and mastering is the discipline in policy consistency and in maintaining scaled-up energy for legal, policy and practice alignment to the national vision.

The main glue to the achievement of those aspects is the availability of a definable national ideology. Critically a definable national ideology cannot be overemphasized as it casts the line to be towed, of-course within the confines of national statutes, conditions and feasibilities. The world is a hotchpotch of ideas (both new and old) and countries are not spared from the confusion associated with the different perspectives, their attractiveness mainly due to availability of funding and acceptability into the "league of smarter nations", yet the country must choose that which works most for itself before such adaptations, and for its political, economic, social, technological and environmental sustainability and posterity agendas. This article in that line of thinking raises debate on why national legal and policy frameworks are sometimes inconsistent, lacking timely alignment

particularly with a special focus on specific mining areas and, lacking the discipline to keep the policies and practices legally and administratively stable. Focus is given to riverbed mining as an example.

In Zimbabwe, riverbed mining was recently banned by the government. Riverbed mining spans from alluvial and eluvial, to diluvial mining. Riverbed mining has existed in the country for many years and flip floppingly, it has been legalized, illegalized and both legalized and illegalized. The current scenario is the latter.

Existing legal and policy positions allow riverbed mining only in Save and Angwa Rivers. Without adequate data to substantiate the claim by environmentalists that only Save and Angwa Rivers are mature enough to sustain riverbed mining, the main idea is whether the country should accept every new idea that comes without giving adequate thought to the broader national impact of the move to national sustainability. Another view is whether the oscillations backwards and forwards will not continue into the near future, creating a negative atmosphere of inconsistency, indiscipline and endless legal and policy recalibrations.

Indeed, riverbed mining has got many merits and demerits to environmentalists and other livelihoods sustainability options but the argument superior to those two is whether

those considerations will significantly feed into the national vision 2030. Zimbabwe has boasted of gold deposits and sometimes these deposits are in our rivers which will finally deposit the minerals into the oceans. Current gold production levels have been going down, partly due to increased restricted mining areas. Particularly, responsible mining is critical to balance between mineral production, mitigation of adverse impact on the environment and how the mining operations can help towards achieving the national vision 2030.

What is even more important is the national strategy and methodology adopted towards the vision. Definitely in that regard, in the short to medium terms, the country needs money to transform and position itself on the best pedestal for growth through industrialization which all needs funding. The country has opened itself for business investment from about and far and has to also lead in its quest to achieve its vision by adequate facilitation that requires measured and well-thought-out strategies, cooperation and unity of purpose.

Whereas riverbed mining is becoming more preferable by many local and foreign investors due to the simplicity of alluvial over reef mining methods involved, it is important to strengthen monitoring of operations while avoiding moving forwards and backwards without adequate justification.





Angwa River - Image credit African Pitta Camp, Masoka

The main motivations are two-fold. Firstly, the gold that is yielded, and secondly, the de-siltation that occurs leaving the river able to hold huge volumes of water for livestock, human use and agricultural activities all along the stretch of the river. The river's ecosystem will once again grow back. Currently, large swathes of rivers are dry during the dry season and hence being unable to sustain the communities that live along the river or the associatory ecosystem. Once desilted, the river will be able to store accessible water. Green-belts will possibly be created, from which serious agricultural activities can be done.

River sand mining is a big issue in many countries including India and sand abstraction is now believed to be at a faster scale when compared to the natural development process of sand particles in the rivers. Given the continued high demand for sand in the construction industry, a framework has to be developed for sustainable abstraction than to simply ban sand abstraction completely, especially in a developing country. The same applies to the Zimbabwean context with regards to the many forms of mining. The country needs to be led by its ideology and vision, and all influences that come along should not

detract the country from its main objectives. The existence of advocacy is critical in all societies and these advocates should also understand and support the national thrust and help craft frameworks that can be implemented in phases, and incorporating the advocates' ideas which are normally international, without fully throwing off the gauntlet.

In ending, advocates who normally overly get to be dogmatic about ideas may not be as constructive, in the current Zimbabwe that requires more of a middle of the road approach to its development. Investors in their various classes are coming-up in different forms and with different areas of interest, but certain areas like riverbed mining can be made acceptable with particular conditions for example where small-scale miners are concerned. The fact that Angwa and Save Rivers have been left for riverbed mining is also a good case study for the broader riverbed mining sustainability in the country and that should not just be a matter of stopping its existence. It only confuses when this kind of mining is again opened within a short space of time from the last ban as that reflects poor discipline, consistency and alignment of the national policy and legal frameworks

to the national vision and ideology.

On the other hand, Angwa and Save rivers are not as prolific when it comes to riverbed gold mining. The mining sector to a larger extent demands high capital investment and may involve long term investment planning hence the need to ensure the maintenance of policy, legislative and administrative discipline, consistency and alignment in our unwavering move towards attracting national investment and achievement of vision 2030. Lack of discipline, consistency and alignment which are keys to national development, can keep the country engulfed in corruption, over-bureaucratization that breeds corruption, as well as subsequent nepotistic over meritocratic tendencies. Nepotistic approaches can lead to targeted flexing of particular policies and laws; a practice that the government has moved away from and strongly condemns.

[Edmond Mkaratigwa (Ph.D. Candidate of Energy Innovation and Sustainability; holder of an MBA in Energy and Sustainability and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development. The article is personal and independent from positions associated with the author)].

Premier African Minerals appoints New York based EAS Advisors LLC as US corporate advisor



Premier African Minerals Limited, is pleased to announce the appointment of New York-based EAS Advisors LLC (EAS) as its US corporate adviser, primarily to assist with introductions to institutions and funding to enable the Company to proceed with the development of its current mining and exploration projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular a Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) at the Company's Zulu Lithium project in Zimbabwe.

Founded by Edward Sugar in 2008, EAS is a boutique global advisory firm focused on helping early-stage mining and industrial groups access US and international financial markets and institutional capital.

Having participated in over US\$6 billion in transactions since inception, EAS has been instrumental in a number of financing arrangements and has a sound record for backing early finance deals for a number of natural resource focused companies.

George Roach, Chief Executive of Premier commented:



"I'm delighted that we have brought on EAS as our US corporate advisers. We're looking forward to working with them as we develop our US profile and take significant steps forward in the development of ZULU."

EAS founder, Edward Sugar said:

"With ever-increasing EV demand the need for development of lithium projects becomes more essential. We're looking forward to working with the Company regarding its ongoing finance, particularly regarding the Company's Zulu lithium project, as well as lifting its profile in North America."

About EAS Advisors

EAS Advisors, LLC is a private, New York-based boutique corporate advisory firm providing a service to small and mid-cap companies operating predominantly in the natural resource and commodity sectors. The foundation of EAS's business is built on industry knowledge, capital markets insights and access to traditional and alternative sources of capital. In addition to exposure to US investors, EAS provides companies with access to local industry contacts to support their growth and expansion. EAS operates under the broker-dealer license of Odeon Capital Group LLC a member of FINRA/SIPC/MSRB/NFA.

About Premier African Minerals Limited



Premier African Minerals

Premier African Minerals Limited (AIM: PREM) is a multi-commodity mining and natural resource development company focused on Southern Africa with its RHA Tungsten and Zulu Lithium projects in Zimbabwe.

The Company has a diverse portfolio of projects, which include tungsten, rare earth elements, lithium and tantalum in Zimbabwe and lithium and gold in Mozambique, encompassing brownfield projects with near-term production potential to grass-roots exploration. The Company holds 5,010,333 shares in Circum Minerals Limited, the owners of the Danakil Potash Project in Ethiopia, which has the potential to be a world class asset.

In addition, the Company holds a 19% interest in MN Holdings Limited, the operator of the Otjozundu Manganese Mining Project in Namibia.

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BULAWAYO

Corner Falcon street & Wanderer Street, Belmont, Bulawayo

Tel +263 (292) 471 591 -4

VOIP +263 8677 007 184

Cell +263 719 713 141

Emails sales@ctbolts.co.zw/marketing@ctbolts.co.zw

HARARE

36 Birmingham Road, Southerton, Harare

VOIP +263 8677 007 184

Cell +263 782 713 141

Emails salesh@ctbolts.co.zw/accountsh@ctbolts.co.zw

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