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ISSUE
66
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MINING
PROGRESS
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biggest lithium processing
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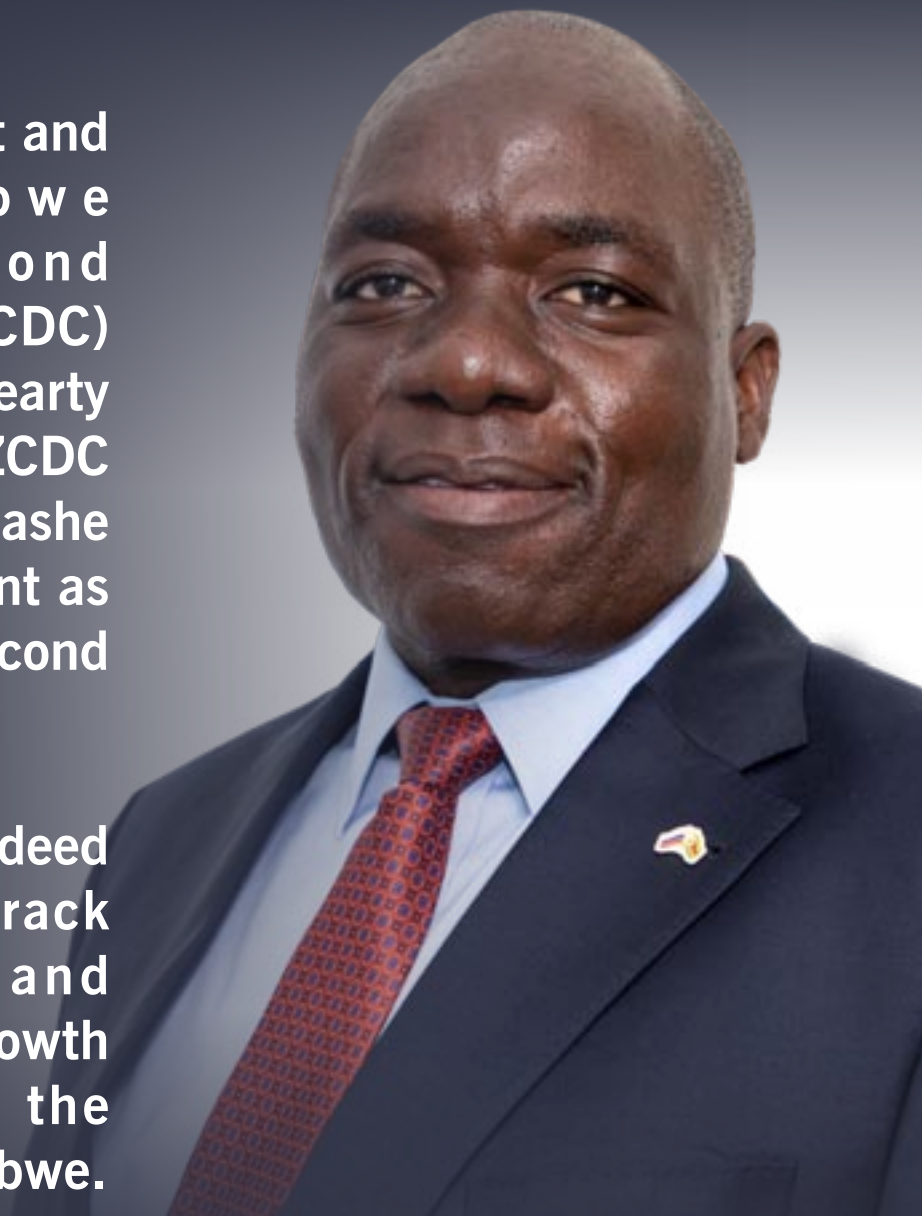


Congratulations on your appointment

The Board, Management and Staff of Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (Pvt) Ltd (ZCDC) would like to wish a hearty congratulations to the ZCDC Board Chairman Mr Munashe Shava on his appointment as the Chamber of Mines second vice president.

Your appointment is indeed exciting given your track record, experience and commitment to the growth and development of the mining industry in Zimbabwe.

We wish you a very successful and fruitful tenure.





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MUNASHE SHAVA

PROFILE

A close-up portrait of Munashe Shava, a middle-aged Black man with short-cropped hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red tie with a circular pattern. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression.

Munashe Shava is the Group Technical Director of Kuvimba Mining House and also Chief Operating Officer of the Grest Dyke Investments platinum division with over twenty nine years' experience of working in the Mining sector in Zimbabwe at strategic leadership level.

He is a seasoned mining executive with vast green-field and brownfield mining start-ups expertise.

He possesses solid multi mineral commodity experience across regional and national geographical environments.

Mr Shava is a member of the Association Of Mine Managers of Zimbabwe (AMMZ), the Southern Africa Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM), and the Institute of Directors of Zimbabwe (IoDZ).

Amongst his many leadership appointments, he is the Non-Executive Board Chairman of Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) and the Administrator in charge of Hwange Colliery Company Limited (HCCL)' reconstruction and Business Rescue Strategy.

Shava was recently appointed second Vice President of the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe.

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Zimbabwe commissions biggest lithium processing plant in Africa



President Emmerson Mnangagwa on the 5th of July 2023 commissioned the Arcadia Lithium processing plant which is the biggest hard rock lithium processing plant in Africa and is one of the top three hard rock lithium processing plants in the world.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The Arcadia lithium project in Goromonzi is owned by one of the world's biggest battery metal producers, Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt's Prospect Lithium Zimbabwe (PLZ).

The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development set a roadmap to create a US\$12 Billion industry by 2023 as a contribution to Vision 2030 with lithium being one of the key minerals to contribute to this growth.

PLZ invested US\$300 million on the rapid development of a lithium mine and a process plant at the Arcadia lithium project as it is geared to contribute significantly towards the attainment of the government's vision to achieve a US\$12 billion mining industry by the end of 2023.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe on the sidelines of the commissioning of PLZ 4.5 million tonnes per annum processing

plant in Goromonzi, PLZ Head of Corporation Social Responsibility (CSR) Mr Paul Chimbodza said the completion of the project is testimony that Zimbabwe is indeed open for business.

"The completion of the PLZ plant is testimony that you can successfully take projects from exploration to production so that talks a lot about the value chain of taking up the curve. It also buttresses the fact that we have got world-class deposits in Zimbabwe. This project here sits as the largest lithium processing plant hard rock in Africa and sits in the top 3 hard rock in the world. The official opening talks to the ease of doing business that you can take project from inception to production of an Annual throughput of 4.5 million tonnes a year," Chimbodza said.



In his address at the Event Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Hon Winston Chitando, said the commissioning of the plant was a step in support of the recently gazetted lithium policy which stipulates that no unprocessed lithium leaves the country.

"Your Excellency, my Ministry, together with all stakeholders in the mining sector, worked on a Lithium Policy that was recently effected by the government to provide guidelines on every activity pertaining to lithium mining and processing. I must say the Policy has started bearing fruit with local beneficiation of lithium being supported across the country. Our thrust should therefore be now aimed at ensuring value addition to these minerals once they are beneficiated," Chitando said.

The President giving his keynote address

"The processing plant is the 3rd biggest in the world"

commended PLZ for the construction of the plant that it was positive towards reducing unemployment.

"Construction of Prospect Lithium Zimbabwe's processing plant has directly brought about numerous employment opportunities for our people with a total of 3,000 people including contractors having been employed. Nearly 80% of both skilled and unskilled personnel employed by Prospect Lithium Zimbabwe are locals. This will therefore go a long way in reducing unemployment," President Mnangagwa said.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations! Makoroto! Amhope!
on being elected 1st Vice president of the Chamber of Mines.



Zimasco Private Ltd board and employees extend our heartiest congratulations to our Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Musekiwa on this new appointment.

We are proud of this milestone achievement and we appreciate your sterling works and immense contribution to the Chamber of Mines as the sector seeks to achieve US\$12 billion by 2023.

We wish you and your fellow members of the presidium a successful tenure

Creating Value

Shamva Mine: Overcoming Challenges to Maintain Consistent Operations



Shamva Mine is currently operating as an underground mine and employs innovative Sublevel Open Stopping mining methods that are tailored to the geometry of the ore body.

Sublevel Open Stopping is a mining method that is known for its efficiency and safety. The method involves mining the ore body in horizontal slices or levels. The levels are drilled and blasted, and then the broken ore is transported to the surface for processing. The approach is especially suited for the extraction of narrow veins and lodes that can be found in underground deposits.

This was said by Shamva Mine General Manager Engineer Gift Mapakame in a technical interview with Mining Zimbabwe at a recent tour of the gold mine by journalists from various Media houses. Eng Mapakame spoke about the challenges and solutions the gold miner goes through to maintain consistent operations.

“Shamva Mine is currently operated as an underground mine which employs Sublevel Open Stopping mining method applied in Longhole Stopping and Underhand Stopping variants. The variants are utilized to respond to the geometry of the ore body. Underhand Stopping is opted when the ore block requires more selective mining particularly in narrow veins to manage dilution whereas long-hole is opted when the block is more regular, broad and more continuous in mineralization. The latter earns itself to massive ore generation whereas the former limits ore generation into smaller

drill & blast cycles,” Mapakame said.

To ensure the safety of personnel and protect the environment, Shamva Mine adheres to ISO 45001, 14001, and 9001 standards according to Makapakame. He said the company’s Safety Health Environment and Quality Management system is designed to achieve zero harm and manage risks effectively. The mine continuously improves its systems by learning from unfortunate incidents, aiming for optimal safety and environmental sustainability.

“Shamva Mine has a Safety Health Environment and Quality Management system that conforms to ISO 45001, 14001 & 9001 standards for Occupational Health, Environmental Management and Quality Management. The objective of the system is to achieve zero harm to personnel, the environment and stakeholder ecosystems. The implementation framework ensures that we are able to identify hazards and risks within our siting of works including



Eng Gift Mapakame

those arising as a result of our operations and put controls to eradicate them or manage them to acceptable levels. By so doing, we believe we can tackle all potential risks that can affect our employees and environment. Yes, sometimes we have unfortunate incidents, but our spirit is to draw learning points from these unwanted events and ensure that we continuously improve the systems in place,” continued Mapakame.

Power distribution at Shamva Mine is designed per ZESA requirements and standards. However, the mine is exploring technology options to replace pneumatics as it is considered costly to run Mapakame said. Currently, the mine utilizes pneumatic-powered equipment for drilling and portable emulsion pumps for blasting operations.

“Design of Shamva Mines’ electrical power distribution conforms to ZESA requirements and standards. Shamva Mine utilizes pneumatic-powered equipment for drilling. This is inclusive of Underhand stopping and long-hole stopping as well as underground development. Subsequent blasting operations are carried out with Underground Bulk Emulsions which is handled using portable emulsion pumps. The mine is currently exploring technology options to replace pneumatics as it appears costly to run,” Mapakame opined.



Water for Shamva Mine is sourced from Mazowe River through an abstraction permit issued by ZINWA. The water is distributed to underground operations, where it is utilized and discharged into a drainage system. The mine has implemented settlers to trap suspended solids, allowing clear water to be pumped out for further treatment and recycling. Excess water is discharged into nearby streams according to relevant permits.



"Shamva Mine utilizes water from Mazowe River on an abstraction permit issued by ZINWA. The mine has a pump station located on the river bank 6km from the mine which feeds reservoirs onsite. The water is distributed into underground operations where it is utilized and discharged into cascading drainage and dewatering system. There are drains on each underground level which collect water and channel it down to settler silos which are established at mid-point depth and at the bottom of the mine. The settlers

trap suspended solids allowing clear water to be pumped out of the underground-operations. The water is received at the reservoirs on the surface where it is further treated for sediment and recycled back into the underground operation. Excess water particularly in the rainy season is discharged into nearby streams through the relevant discharge permit requirements. The water pumped from Mazowe is thus makeup water required to compensate losses in the closed recycling loop," Mapakame continued.

Shamva Mine has the potential for mechanization and automation, particularly in steep ore bodies. The mine is exploring the use of battery-powered mobile equipment to improve safety and efficiency, as well as to replace traditional and costly pneumatic-powered equipment.

Adherence to legislation and all applicable requirements is important for Shamva Mine. They have a robust Operational Control Framework in place and undergo rigorous internal and external audits to ensure compliance.

"Compliance to legislation and all applicable requirements constitutes our Licence to operate. At baseline survey, the mine has identified the legislative landscape that governs its operations and thus all our activities are structured in an

Operational Control Framework which adapts to the legislative requirements as a pre-requisite to help dictate the resource requirements and methodologies applicable. To ensure adherence, we have a rigorous audit protocol administered internally and externally to assist in identifying gaps in compliance and subsequently closing them out," Mapakame said.

Despite these efforts, Shamva Mine faces challenges that affect its ability to maintain consistent and predictive operations. One of the major concerns is the availability of power and potential load shedding, which disrupts operations. While the mine has a diesel-powered backup facility, it is not sufficient to sustain the entire operation and is costly to run due to high diesel consumption. Additionally, the pricing model for local supplies creates difficulties in controlling operating costs due to the perceived foreign exchange rate impact.

In conclusion, Shamva Mine strives to overcome challenges and maintain consistent operations while prioritizing safety, environmental sustainability, and compliance with regulations. The mine aims to improve efficiency through mechanization and automation and continues to adapt to the evolving operational landscape.

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The policy pays to repair or rebuild your home if it is damaged or destroyed by the risks covered. Most policies also cover detached structures such as a garage, tool shed, perimeter wall, solar fittings or gazebo provided that these have been included in the sum insured. The house is insured based on the gross value and not on the market value.

Furniture, clothes, sports equipment, and other personal items are covered at home and even when you travel with them on a world-wide basis. Expensive items like jewellery, furs, art, collectibles and silverware are covered, but usually require

valuation certificates or proof of purchase value.

Liability cover protects you against amounts that you are legally liable to pay for bodily injury or property damage to other people. For example, damage or injuries caused by your pets or if your tree falls over and destroys a neighbours property, the policy will pay for such

damages up to the limit insured. Unlike car insurance, home insurance isn't mandated by law. However, if you are financing your home, mortgage lenders have a vested interest in it. They will typically require you to have a home insurance policy in place. Even if you paid off your mortgage, your home is arguably one of your most valuable assets and it is wise to continue protecting it.

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UNYIELDING HEROES: BMC Proto Team Defies Challenges To Complete Rescue & Recovery Missions

In recent months, the BMC Proto team has proven themselves as unwavering heroes, dedicated to public safety through two challenging recovery missions. From navigating dangerous terrains to overcoming water-based rescues, the team's commitment and resourcefulness have been commendable. In this article, we will delve into the details of these two events and highlight the team's achievements, as well as the challenges they faced.

The first event, known as the Lumene Falls Recovery Mission, took place on April 3, 2023. The BMC Proto team received a call from ZRP Esigodini for a joint recovery operation at Lumene Falls. The mission required collaboration with the Fairbridge Sub-Aqua team and the BMC How Mine Proto team. The objective was to retrieve the body of a man who tragically slipped and fell from a height of approximately 15 meters into a plunge pool.

Despite numerous challenges, the team's meticulous planning and execution ensured a successful outcome. Before commencing the operation, they arrived at Lumene Falls and conducted a comprehensive risk assessment. The strong water rapids and heavy currents posed additional difficulties, but the team's safety precautions and determined efforts paid off. After several hours of careful work,

the body of the deceased was successfully recovered by 17:00hrs. The joint operation received praise from local authorities, the deceased's family, and the surrounding community.

The Carry Mine Recovery Mission took place on April 21, 2023. The BMC Proto team was summoned by ZRP Hillside to undertake a recovery mission at Carry Mine after the collapse of a shaft due to illegal mining activities. One man was trapped under a significant amount of ore, approximately 3 meters deep. The team's objective was to safely retrieve the deceased.

To ensure a successful operation, the BMC How Mine Proto team received a detailed briefing from the Hillside Officer In Charge and conducted a thorough risk assessment. The unconsolidated ground and subsiding conditions complicated the recovery efforts. However, through meticulous planning and adherence to safety protocols, the team successfully recovered the body by 17:19hrs.

The success of these recovery missions can be attributed to the BMC Proto team's unwavering dedication, collaboration with various agencies, and meticulous planning. The support from BMC How Mine Management in ensuring the welfare of the team is highly appreciated. Their commitment to public safety and their

ability to overcome challenges make them an invaluable asset to the community.

In the face of adversity, the BMC Proto team continues to display professionalism and determination, ensuring that every recovery mission is carried out with the utmost care. Their remarkable efforts serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the importance of unity, preparedness, and resilience in the face of challenging circumstances. These unyielding heroes of the BMC Proto team deserve recognition for their bravery and commitment to public safety.

With their dedication, the community can rest assured that they have a reliable and capable team ready to respond to any future challenges that may arise. The BMC Proto team stands as a shining example of heroism and selflessness, and their actions serve as a reminder that in times of difficulty, unity and determination can lead to successful outcomes.





How Mine, Hwange, Blanket Proto teams fitness excites judges

The level of fitness for the Proto teams which participated at the Mine Rescue Association of Zimbabwe Westzone Quarterly training exercise held at Metallon Corporation Zimbabwe's Bulawayo Mining Company (How Mine) recently excited judges, however, the judges pointed out a lot of areas which needed to be improved by the teams in preparation of the National Rescue competitions to be held later this year.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The WestZone of the Mine Rescue Association of Zimbabwe comprises of HowMine, Caledonia's Blanket Mine and Hwange Colliery.

The teams were working on a written instruction that, "A three-man lashing crew was reported to have gone into the mine for an earlier shift at 15L20m Sub level 300N. Information received from the 14-level pump attendant is that there has been a reversal on the ventilation circuit. He noted foul air coming from the main access haulage towards where he was working at the pump station close to the

North shaft. He checked that access drive but could not proceed further due to the ambient conditions.

Team Instruction

"You are expected to proceed underground and do the following:

1. Assess the ambient conditions for 14 level, document and report your findings (Airflow, ground holing, visibility and temperature).
2. Locate the missing employees and render the necessary help required. Assist the employees out of the mine.
3. On completion of the task generate a report and submit it to the control official.

Judges from the Zimbabwe School of Mines, Ministry of Mines and Mining Development and How Mine ex brigades persons could not hide the fact that the teams' fitness was good but were also disappointed by the teams' shortfalls in different areas which need improvement.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe on the

sidelines of the competition Proto teams National Coordinator who was also a judge at the training exercise, Jaffrey Sanudi said the teams needed to improve when it comes to map reading.

"The teams performed well in terms of fitness although there is need for improvement. Key learning points that we noted, for example, we saw the need for improvement in terms of plan reading, in terms of articulation of sequence of events. We also noted that most teams did not pick the critical items they were supposed to identify as instructed," Sanudi said.

The Zimbabwe School of Mines representative at the Event Mrs Ndiweni said the teams performed well in terms of first aid but needed to improve in other areas.

"The first area of improvement is findings, and updating our documents. Most teams were living out vital information right from the control room to back. There is also an issue of sequential asking of questions. First aid was done well by all the teams. On fitness, the teams were fairly good but we need to improve," Mrs Ndiweni said.



Eureka gold mine: Source Dallaglio

5-Year Mining progress Recap

The mining sector in Zimbabwe has demonstrated steady growth since the appointment of Hon Winston Chitando as the Minister of Mines and Mining Development in November 2017. Despite some visible challenges and setbacks, the industry's overall progress has been remarkable.

Rudairo Mapuranga

In 2017, the mining sector's contribution to the gross domestic product was about 9 per cent, and the figure rose to over 13 per cent in 2022.

The Mining sector achieved more than 100 per cent growth in earnings under President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration, evidenced by the massive jump in mineral exports to US\$5,62 billion realised in 2022 when compared to about US\$2,7 billion in 2017.

Official Government figures show the mining industry alone has attracted more than US\$6 billion in new projects in the last four years, with a corresponding increase in output, export earnings, and massive job creation impact along the value chain.

The Emmerson Mnangagwa administration has worked tirelessly since taking office to revitalize the country's mining sector. Despite facing numerous challenges, the government has implemented several commendable initiatives to develop the industry and attract investment. Here are ten things the Mnangagwa administration has done right in Zimbabwe mining and outstanding issues that need urgent reforms:

1) Mining Law Reforms

The government introduced comprehensive reforms in Zimbabwe's mining laws to attract foreign investors and enhance transparency. The country opened up to doing business by scrapping the indigenisation and economic act which restricted heavily foreign capital in the country. Since the inception of the Mnangagwa administration, various world-class mining projects have been established including the Eureka Gold Mine project and processing plant, the Arcadia lithium project and processing plant, Sabi Star lithium project and processing plant among other projects. However, it should be noted that the sector

has failed to reach deadlines for other legislative reforms which include the Mines and Minerals Amendment bill, and the Precious Stones Amendment bill, among others which are aimed at streamlining mining operations and reducing bureaucracy.

2) Investment Policies

Official Government figures show the mining industry alone has attracted more than US\$6 billion

The government has created a conducive investment environment by implementing policies that facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI). These

policies include guarantees of property rights for investors and the relaxation of indigenization laws, allowing foreigners to hold controlling stakes in mining operations. Mining companies like Zimplats, Unki, Mimoso, and Caledonia have praised the government for allowing them to hold a controlling stake leading them to invest in mining growth and development. Zimplats has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government which will see the company investing US\$1.8 billion for its expansion projects with over USD 0.5 billion already invested.

3) Exploration Support and Geological Data Availability

Access to accurate geological data is vital for attracting investment and developing the mining sector. The administration has committed significant resources to promote geological exploration. The government initiated the Geo-Data Information System, which consolidates all geological data to aid mining companies in making informed decisions about resource exploration and development. However, the government has not adequately invested in geological surveys or made the data easily accessible to potential investors.

4) Mining Infrastructure Development

The government has prioritized the development of critical infrastructure to support mining operations. This includes investing in road networks, power generation, railways, and water supply systems to ease transportation and reduce production costs. There is an improved power supply which has lessened the gruelling power disruptions which have been engulfing the country for the first six months. Through the State of Mining Industry Survey Report of 2022, mining industry captains believe that the sector will grow significantly in 2023 but will be affected by power outages.

5) Engaging Stakeholders

The Mnangagwa administration has supported platforms for regular dialogue with mining industry stakeholders. These engagements have led to effective collaboration between the government, mining companies, communities, and civil society organizations, ensuring that all parties' concerns are addressed. Examples of such gatherings include the Annual General Conference for the Chamber of Mines, the President and Mines Minister are also a permanent feature at Mine Entra every year. The Minister of Mines and Mining Development has also created a miners' desk where he receives reports from Miners both large and small weeks through their respective Associations. The Ministry is also consistently in touch with Media Houses via some social media platforms, ensuring mining developments are made public. However, Mining has taken centre stage in Zimbabwe which has led to other voices in the industry advocating having the Mines Minister host press briefings once every week and answer questions related to the industry.

6) Initiatives for Responsible Mining

The government has introduced measures to promote responsible mining practices and sustainable development. This includes enforcing environmental protection laws, monitoring compliance with safety regulations, and promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to benefit local communities. However, the administration has not provided sufficient support and regulatory frameworks to promote responsible and sustainable artisanal and small-scale mining. This has resulted in informal mining practices, safety hazards, and a lack of fair working conditions for miners, increasing mine accidents.

7) Fostering Public-Private Partnerships

The administration has actively pursued partnerships with both local and international mining companies to accelerate investment in the sector. By partnering with the private sector, the government aims to take advantage of their resources, expertise, and technology to maximize the sector's potential. The government has successful partnerships with various investors to form Kuvimba Mining House (KMH) which has been resuscitating some of the country's biggest Mines which include Shamva Gold Mine.

8) Simplified Licensing Process

The government has simplified the process of obtaining mining licenses and permits. By reducing red tape and bureaucracy, this initiative has encouraged both local and foreign investors to initiate mining projects promptly, promoting economic growth and job creation. However, the small-scale miners in highly mineralised provinces e.g. Mashwest, Midlands have instructed the Portfolio Committee on Mines to craft a law that mandates the Ministry to ensure titles are out within 90 days.

9) Supporting Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

The administration recognizes the importance of the ASM sector in Zimbabwe's mining industry. It has instituted programmes to formalize ASM operations, provide training, access to capital, and support services to empower small-scale miners, contributing to poverty alleviation and economic empowerment. The Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF) a body which represents the artisanal and small-scale miners regularly sits with the

Minister of Mines and Mining Development to report on matters of concern in the industry. The ASM has been growing significantly accounting for over 67 per cent of gold deliveries to the country's sole buyer and exporter Fidelity Gold Refinery (FGR).

10) Promoting Mineral Value Addition

The government has placed a strong emphasis on value addition and beneficiation of minerals. This involves encouraging mining companies to process minerals locally rather than exporting only raw materials, aiming to increase job opportunities, revenue generation, and industrial development. Recently the country commissioned the biggest hard rock lithium processing plant in Africa at Arcadia lithium mine with plans to establish lithium carbonates processing plant underway. In the Platinum Group of Metals (PMG) sector, plans to set up a smelter are underway. The establishment of Africa's biggest iron and steel plant is also underway in Manhize where Dinson Iron and Steel Company (Disco) is establishing a world-class Iron and steel plant.

The Mnangagwa administration's efforts towards revitalizing Zimbabwe's mining sector are commendable. There are almost zero complaints from ASM on late gold payments and Large scale mines' gold can now apply to export their gold.

These initiatives have attracted significant FDI, promoted responsible mining practices, empowered local communities, and enhanced the country's overall economic development. Despite the challenges ahead, these accomplishments demonstrate the commitment of the government to leverage the mining sector's potential to uplift the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans.



Identify ASM critical mineral project for funding, government told



Small-scale mine workers pose for a picture with ZMF Mashwest leaders

The government of Zimbabwe through its quest to formalise and regularize the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) sector for mining growth and

development has been advised to identify a few small-scale mining projects in the ASM sector to fund in order to set a clear revolution plan.

Rudairo Mapuranga

Critical minerals are used to manufacture advanced technologies including mobile phones, computers, fibre-optic cables, semiconductors, banknotes, and defence, aerospace and medical applications. Many are used in low-emission technologies such as electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, and rechargeable batteries. Some are also crucial for common products such as stainless steel and electronics these include lithium, tantalite, graphite, nickel, copper, and rare earth elements among others.

Currently, the ASM industry has not been attracting enough capital inflow as most miners are using only their savings to fund projects in this capital-intensive sector resulting in low and stagnant growth.

Stakeholders in the mining industry have been advocating for measures and models to be structured and implemented for the

country to witness groundbreaking growth in the ASM industry as this will have positive effects on the country's economic development.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe mineral economic expert Lyman Mlambo said identifying these projects would create a database that will be important for planning and identifying potential funders.

"Identifying these projects and documenting their status is an important exercise on its own, as it creates a database for ASM in critical minerals. This database is important for planning the effective participation of ASMs in the green transition, including gender balance as most woman miners are in the ASM sector. Of course, such a database would be useful to financial institutions seeking to support green transition among ASMs.

"Talking of capital flowing into the ASM, financial institutions work with formalized entities - there is a need to ensure that those ASMs working on critical minerals get their papers in order. There are various conventional (well-known) ways of supporting small businesses financially, and these ways can be applied here. The government can create a loan guarantee scheme (guaranteeing loans to be advanced by financial institutions) specifically focused on supporting ASMs

mining critical minerals. Government can facilitate the acquisition of investment and operating capital flows into the ASM sector by negotiating and guaranteeing the following: hire purchase agreements; equipment lease agreements; advance payments by buyers of critical minerals which money is used to produce the critical minerals for uptake by the creditors (some kind of a consumer credit); cash advance by mine suppliers to ASMs at nominal or zero interest rates, for purchase of the former's equipment and consumables and later repayment (suppliers credit); joint ventures; carried interest and free interest (where title holder meet their financial obligations in a joint venture through future profits or conversion of title into capital contribution); angel investors (individual investors into small firms); venture capital finance (limited partnerships specializing in investing in the equity of young firms); etc. Note that all these efforts can be executed without government facilitation or guarantee - these are well-documented or well-known ways of financing small firms. A very important factor to be underscored here is the formalization of the ASMs involved," Mlambo said.

Continued on page 19>>



Lithium miner Shelton Lucas said identifying critical projects can set an example for financial institutions to be attracted by the ASM industry. This will lead to a proliferation in value addition and beneficiation investment overall making the ASM attractive.

"It is a good idea that the government or financial institutions should identify critical mineral projects (lithium, graphite, copper, antimony and nickel) to find them as to encourage capital to flow into the sector.

The major capital funding should be prioritised on beneficiation by concentration of the aforementioned minerals so that they reach the required threshold which is above the rejection grade by so doing also cutting down on logistics and warehousing losses and also hedging the

miners. However, this also comes with a lot of challenges whereby if any venture becomes lucrative some of the miners will be disenfranchised by some of the big wigs and subsequent punitive measures will follow the likes of carpeting all probable mining sites with EPOs, statutory instruments against pegging of some of the minerals. The horizontal forward integrations will now encourage private financial institutions to fund or get involved in the financial process.

"The ASM can attract the so much needed capital by forming associations that are miners oriented and have a collective approach in advocating for beneficiation plants because the government is laden with a lot of projects it will take time for them to attend to this plight," said Lucas.

According to Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development Chairperson Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa, "There is a need for funding and the market is the best source of business financing as it proves the viability of the business while it equally motivates the business owner to deliver.

"The aspect of identifying special minerals is good but it always has to remain a business case except where the benefits will still be strategically derived in the longer term. In that respect, I am saying, we need to continue to look at all feasible resource mobilisation mechanisms available, while at the same time, capacitating our miners so that they are made ready to grow into bigger miners. Capacitation can assist in building the right mindset for business, among those to be funded."

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Zimbabwe National Institute of Rock Engineering Hosts Successful AGM and Symposium, Advancing the Field of Rock Engineering



The Zimbabwe National Institute of Rock Engineering (ZINIRE) recently conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Symposium in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

The event took place on the first of July 2023, the event brought together professionals and experts in the field of rock engineering to discuss and deliberate on various issues and advancements in the industry.

The AGM served as a platform for the ZINIRE members to discuss ongoing projects, share experiences, and present their achievements over the past year. It provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the challenges faced and collaborations achieved in the pursuit of promoting rock engineering in Zimbabwe.

One of the key highlights of the event was the Annual Symposium, which featured presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics related to rock engineering. Experts from various disciplines shared their perspectives, research findings, and innovative solutions in areas such as rock mechanics, geotechnical engineering, slope stability analysis, and underground excavation techniques.

The Symposium began with a keynote address by Dr. John Masunda, an esteemed rock engineer, who highlighted the significance of rock engineering in the development and sustainability of

Zimbabwe's infrastructure. He emphasized the need for continuous education and collaboration to address the unique challenges faced by the country in this field.

Various technical sessions were conducted throughout the day, covering diverse aspects of rock engineering. These sessions served as a platform for researchers, practitioners, and students to exchange knowledge, share case studies, and explore cutting-edge techniques in the realm of rock engineering.

Presentations by young researchers and students added a fresh perspective to the symposium, bringing forth unique ideas and novel approaches to rock engineering. This showcased the dedication and enthusiasm of the younger generation in contributing to the advancement of the field.

A panel discussion on the future of rock engineering in Zimbabwe was a major highlight of the Symposium. Experts from academia, government agencies, and industry stakeholders participated in a thought-provoking conversation, addressing emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field. The discussion highlighted the importance of sustainable practices, technological advancements, and capacity building for the future growth of rock engineering in the country.

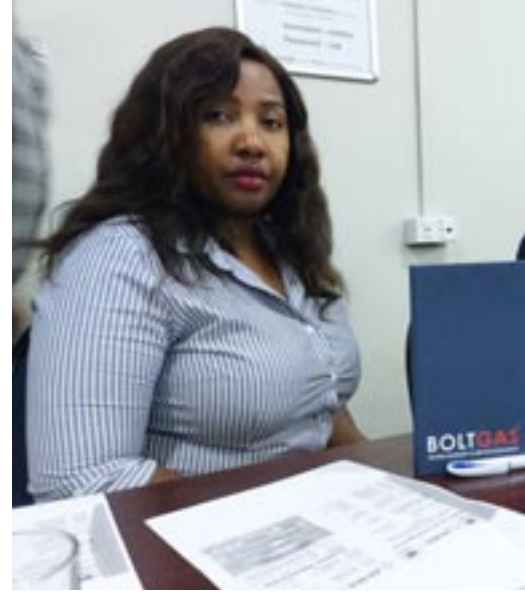
In addition to the technical sessions, the

AGM also included networking opportunities and a trade exhibition, where companies and organizations showcased their products, services, and new technologies in the rock engineering industry. This facilitated collaborations and partnerships between academia, industry, and government entities to enhance the overall efficiency and safety of rock engineering practices in Zimbabwe.

The successful conclusion of the AGM and Annual Symposium was a testament to the dedication and commitment of the ZINIRE in promoting rock engineering as a key discipline in Zimbabwe. The exchange of knowledge, expertise, and experiences during the event will undoubtedly contribute to the continued development and growth of rock engineering in the country.

As Zimbabwe moves forward in its pursuit of sustainable infrastructure development, the importance of rock engineering cannot be understated. It is through events like the ZINIRE AGM and Annual Symposium that professionals come together to share insights, address challenges, and pave the way for innovative solutions that will shape the future of rock engineering in Zimbabwe.

The event saw Bindura Nickel Corporation's Geology Superintendent Renias Tirivabaya appointed ZINIRE President. Tirivabaya will be deputized by Unki's Omberai Mandingaisa.



Zimbabwe National Institute of Rock Engineering (ZINIRE)
 HOW MINE
 Technical visit
 Thursday 30 June 2023
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe



AMMZ conducts a technical visit at BNC



The Association of Mine Managers of Zimbabwe (AMMZ) on the 7th of July 2023 conducted a technical visit at Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC) in Mashonaland Central where different stakeholders within the mining industry including mine Managers, service providers and students graced the event.

Discussions at the Event were centred on the concerns of service providers and production performance at the Kuvimba Mining House (KMH) owned Nickel producer.

While the visit was an insight to service providers due to exposing situations and challenges in the sector and for them to find opportunities in those challenges, the participation of students at the technical visit was a takeaway for many mine Managers.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe on the sidelines of the technical visit AMMZ Vice President Engineer Abel Makura said the participation of students at these events was encouraging as this would empower the students to carry the mining industry to a greater height in future when they become decision makers.

"This technical visit was different because we had an opportunity to see students taking part for the second time. The students are the leaders of tomorrow, these visits will expose them to real industry challenges and how they can come up with solutions way before they become captains of the industry. As an Association, we would be happy if we have students more often on these visits," Engineer Makura said.

During technical discussions at the event,

service providers lamented the situation where mining companies take pride in late payments resulting in the service providers more often suffering losses since prices would be pegged mostly in RTGS which of late has been losing value due to inflation.

Suppliers also raised concerns centred on late payments.

"We have seen that as an industry we are disadvantaging Suppliers at the same time disadvantaging the industry because some of the services we would need might end up becoming expensive. We will find ways to make sure that the challenges facing service providers have been dealt with," AMMZ Vice President said.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe a student from the Midlands State University (MSU) Tawanda Talent Muchena who took part in the technical visit encouraged other students to find time to be part of the visits.

"My advice goes to the rest of the students who are in the mining departments or mining-related programs. AMMZ Technical visits are events where you get to network and rub shoulders with industrial captains, Miners, metallurgists, and geologists, amongst other professions. This is a platform where people get to share ideas, knowledge and synergies. In addition, the AMMZ Technical visits are events where students can get a better understanding of how mining is carried out and be able to differentiate or rather correlate the academic concepts of mining cycles and real word mining cycles hence the need to attend AMMZ Technical visits amongst others," Muchena said.

He said he had managed to learn a host of ideas including the mining methods used

at BNC.

"The AMMZ BNC visit was a well profound and fruitful event. Personally, I learnt a significant number of things notably, the mining method used which is sublevel caving.

"Sublevel caving is an underground mining method in which the ore body is undermined, causing it to cave or collapse under its own weight. This creates a series of interconnected caves or voids, through which the ore can be recovered. The remaining rock is left in place for stability.

"At BNC the ore is mined from top to bottom, the makes it easy to utilise the ore pass. Gravity acts as a force that forces the ore to descent to lower levels, at around level 37 the Electric LOCOs then carry the ore to the crusher where the ore is crushed to the required size before it is transported to the last level where it awaits for hoisting to the stockpile for processing.

"Lastly the issue of ore grade was of interest as the mine now utilises the low-grade high volume method, unlike in the past few years where they used the high-grade low volume method. The shift from high-grade low volume to low-grade high volume has been a result of depletion of High-Grade Deposits amongst other reasons," he said.

Presenting at the Event BNC Geology Superintendent Renious Tirivabaya who is also ZINIRE President said production performance has been negatively impacted by a decline in the footprint of the high-grade massive resource which necessitated a rapid transition in the mining model from a low-volume, high-grade strategy to a low-grade, high-volume strategy.

"In terms of strategy, we are shifting our strategy from high-grade to low-grade high-volume strategy. On the foot of the main ore body that where your massive is, the in terms of depression of the massive it's not a physical depression that is visible to the naked eye but if you look at the size of the massive in terms of pursuing it, the way we were doing it it's no longer viable. Previously we would develop a level, and mine it for 3-4 months, now when you develop that short stripe massive you develop for 3 months and stay there for 1 month so it was no longer viable for us hence the need to change the strategy," Tirivabaya said.



Association Mine Managers of Zimbabwe (AMMZ)
Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC)
Technical visit

Friday 7 July 2023
Bindura, Zimbabwe



PLZ begins feasibility work to manufacture battery-grade lithium



Prospect Lithium Zimbabwe (PLZ) has already started feasibility work to interrogate the process of value-adding its lithium to battery grade in the form of either lithium carbonates or lithium sulphate, PLZ Chairman Dr George Feng said.

Rudairo Mapuranga

Speaking at the official commissioning of

PLZ's Arcadia lithium mine processing plant in Goromonzi on the 5th of July 2023 Dr Feng said his company was going to fulfil the government's condition for it to produce battery-grade lithium with works to start construction of the plant in its initial stages.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe on the sidelines of the event PLZ head of Corporate Social Responsibility Mr Paul Chimbodza said the company was considering creating a lithium-grade manufacturing plant to attract battery manufacturers to come and set up at the source "than" export products and manufacture elsewhere.

"Already you may have heard Dr George Feng already alluded that feasibility work has already started to interrogate the process of doing value add, either in the way of lithium carbonates or lithium sulphate. The aspiration is that with these battery grade lithium products being readily available in Zimbabwe, we think that it will be easier to attract battery

manufacturers to come and set up at source that export products and manufacture somewhere," Chimbodza said.

The government of Zimbabwe wants lithium miners operating in the country to work towards producing battery-grade lithium locally and could impose a tax on exports of lithium concentrate in future.

Last year, Zimbabwe banned the export of unprocessed lithium ore to stop rampant digging and smuggling of the mineral by artisanal miners, ordering that only lithium concentrates could be exported.

It now wants miners to go beyond the production of concentrates, which are shipped for further processing outside the country, mostly to China.

"Obviously, what the government wants is to move up the value chain, but it won't happen overnight," Minister of Mines and Mining Development Hon Winston Chitando said in an address at the Event.

Zimbabwe starts issuing chrome ore export exemptions

The Cabinet of Zimbabwe has approved recommendations by the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development for the exemption on the ban of export of chrome ores by concerned companies, for the to complete construction and expansion of furnace and processing facilities.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The Cabinet in April 2021 banned the export of lumpy chrome ores with immediate effect and the export of chrome concentrates effective from July 2022. Chrome mineralization occurs mainly in two forms namely: lumpy ores which are fed straight into furnaces; and alluvial ores, like sands, which are upgraded into higher value sands for feeding into furnaces, commonly referred to as chrome concentrates.

According to the government of Zimbabwe through the Minister of Information Senator Monica Mutsvagwa, the country is endowed with the world's second-biggest resource of chrome ore

which is required for metallurgical processes such as steel manufacturing. She said the ban was to enable companies to invest in the requisite facilities to value add to ferrochrome.

"With the technology currently in use on most of the furnaces in the country, unless the concentrates undergo an agglomeration process, there is a limit to the extent to which they can be utilized in the furnaces. The rationale for banning the export of ores and concentrates was for companies to invest in the requisite facilities to value-add to Ferrochrome. This policy still stands, and companies have started the process of constructing smelting furnaces. To enable these companies to raise the necessary capital, Cabinet has approved recommendations by the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development for the exemption on the ban of export of chrome ores by the concerned companies, in order to complete the construction and expansion of furnace and processing facilities," Minister Mutsvagwa said.



INTERVIEW: Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Managing Director Mr Patrick Maseva Shayawabaya



Patrick Maseva Shayawabaya

Could you please provide an overview of your role as the Managing Director at Freda Rebecca?

A: Together with the Board, I develop the strategy of the Company and thereafter lead the Management team in its execution.

How long have you been working at Freda Rebecca, and what has been your most significant achievement during your tenure?

A: I joined Freda Rebecca in July 2022. I have strengthened systems and ensured that procedures are adhered to company-wide, without exception.

What strategies have you implemented to ensure efficient operations and successful outcomes at Freda Rebecca?

A: I have ensured that there is an uncompromising focus by all employees on the attainment of safety, production and cost targets.

How do you ensure compliance with regulations and safety standards in the mining industry?

A: Mining environments are inherently unsafe. Therefore, compliance with

regulations and safety standards is non-negotiable and non-compliance has consequences, including dismissal.

Can you share any initiatives that you have undertaken to promote sustainability and responsible mining practices at Freda Rebecca?

A: There have been no new initiatives in this regard as Freda has always operated in full compliance with all laws and regulations of the country. In addition, Freda is ISO45001 and 9001 certified and we will seek to maintain these certifications.

How do you encourage and foster a positive work culture and environment within your team at Freda Rebecca?

A: I accept that do not have a monopoly of knowledge and ideas. I, therefore, seek, value and encourage my team to freely contribute and express themselves on any issues under discussion.

What challenges have you faced as the Managing Director, and how have you overcome them?

A: Trying to change the culture of the Company. It is a process which will take time to achieve but the I am satisfied with

the progress so far.

What steps have you taken to build strong relationships with stakeholders, including local communities and government authorities?

A: I work very closely with all key stakeholders in the province like the Office of the Provincial Minister and all Government agencies, Bindura Town and Rural Councils. Freda recently partnered with the Provincial Minister in preparing for the National Independence celebrations which were hosted in the Province and we also assist the Bindura Town Council in meeting the clean water requirements of Bindura residents. Through our CSR initiatives, we have assisted Bindura Provincial Hospital and local schools. We also provide attachment opportunities to +/-60 students from local universities and also have 22 graduate trainees.

In your opinion, what sets Freda Rebecca apart from other similar mining companies in terms of its operations and values?

A: Easily accessible ore bodies extractable by shallow underground and open pit mining. Freda is also ideally located on the outskirts of Bindura, only 87km away from Harare and served by a major all-weather road and has easy access to most of its inputs and services.

What is your vision for the future of Freda Rebecca's and what are your plans to further enhance its growth and success in the coming years?

A: The priority at this time is a successful conclusion of the exploration programme currently underway on Freda's Lease Area in Bindura that will hopefully result in a longer life of mine for the existing operations. Elsewhere in the country, the Company has highly prospective claim holdings which have the potential to be major gold mining operations of the future.

Careen Madzore: Geology Technician to Business Dev Manager



Careen Madzore

How are you, can you please tell me about yourself and how you ended up at your position (Mine Vision Systems)?

My name is Careen Madzore. I am employed by Mine Vision Systems as a Business Development Manager for Africa. I hold a Diploma in Mining Geology, Bachelor's degree in Geology, a Certificate in Strata Control, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management and a Blasting licence. I am currently busy with my MBA. I started my career at Unki Mines in 2010 as a Geology Technician. I held several positions within the Unki Mine Mineral Resources department before relocating to South Africa. Over the past 3 years, I held several management positions in Mining Business Development locally and internationally.

What does your company do and how has been business for the past 5 years?

Mine Vision Systems is a United States-based company which focuses on bringing vision-related technology and software algorithms to the mining industry. Mine Vision Systems is a pioneer in the underground 3D mapping space. The company aims to provide products and services which improves efficiency, safety, production and automation in mining through unmatched data collection and workflow. Mine Vision Systems invented the FaceCapture™ mapping system which utilizes

world-class software to help acquire data for better and faster decisions. The FaceCapture™ mapping systems can be utilized in any underground mine. Over the past 5 years, the company has been involved in a lot of research and design of better FaceCapture™ mapping systems. The company has delivered more than 100 units worldwide.

What is the role of a Business Development Manager at Mine Vision Systems?

As a Business Development manager, my role is to develop strategy and roadmap for sustainable growth of Mine Vision Systems in Africa by developing a network of contacts in the Mining Industry. I am also acting as onsite technical expert working with existing customers to help them get the most out of the FaceCapture™ mapping system.

What is your strategy for future growth?

Mine Vision System's strategy is to grow the market share by developing new products to serve the mining industry. The company is also diversifying and developing in new markets. The goal is to have our FaceCapture™ mapping system utilised in all the underground mines.

How have you responded to the increased regional competition?

Innovation- our product is innovative, unique and cost effective which gives

Mine Vision System a competitive advantage over competitors.

Do you see countries such as Zimbabwe becoming your major priorities for growth as a company?

Zimbabwe is my priority, the mines are open to new technologies and innovative products. 60% of my sales come from Zimbabwe. The mining industry in Zimbabwe is expanding and the need for products and services is increasing.

You recently attended the Zimbabwe National Institute of Rock Engineering (ZINIRE) Annual General Meeting, what were the takeaways from the event?

I was very impressed with the turnout of the Rock Engineering practitioners, almost all mines were represented. Rock Engineering is something which was lagging behind in the industry for long, through ZINIRE all mines are beginning to realise the importance of this event. As a supplier, I had an opportunity to meet my industry colleagues and showcase my company's products and services.

Zimbabwe will host various mining events during the last quarter of 2023 like the MineEntra, will your company be part of the gatherings?

This is a good opportunity to showcase Mine Vision System products and services. Attending this event will allow me to network with my target clients, generate leads, attract new customers and build a good relationship with my customers.

As a woman, what advice can you give to young women who would want to be like you in future?

Own the decisions you make and own your career. If there's something you want to do or an opportunity you want to take, go for it. Mining has nothing to do with gender. If you work hard you will excel. Through hard work, I rose from a mere technician to a continent representative. It's a long and sometimes frustrating path, but keep on believing and developing yourself.



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