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Mining ZIMBABWE

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The Export Ban on Lithium:

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ABOUT PUBLICATION

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

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CONTENT

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Introducing the Hyundai STARIA: The Futuristic Multi Purpose Vehicle

In today's fast-paced world, transportation plays a crucial role in our daily lives. Whether it's commuting to work, airport transfers, staff movements, or going on a family road trip, having a reliable and comfortable vehicle is essential. That's where the Hyundai Staria comes in. With its sleek design, advanced features, and spacious interior, the Staria is set to transform the way we move people.

Futuristic Design

One of the first things that catches your eye when you see the Hyundai Staria is its futuristic and aerodynamic design. The bold lines and dynamic curves give it a sense of motion even when it's standing still. The front grille seamlessly integrates with the LED headlights, creating a cohesive and modern look. The large windows not only enhance visibility but also contribute to an open and airy feel inside the vehicle.

Step inside the Hyundai Staria, and you'll be greeted by a luxurious and comfortable cabin that can accommodate up to 11 passengers. The spaciousness is truly remarkable, thanks to its long wheelbase and high roofline. Experience the ultimate in versatility with the Hyundai Staria's rotating seats, redefining comfort, and convenience on the go. Whether you're traveling with family, or for business, everyone will have plenty of legroom and headspace to relax during long journeys. The Hyundai Staria high grade has rotating seats, enabling a conducive environment for meetings while you are in transit.

It's not just about space; the Hyundai Staria also offers an array of advanced features that make every ride enjoyable. The driver's cockpit is designed with ergonomics in mind, ensuring easy access to all controls while minimizing distractions. The i nfotainment system boasts a large touchscreen display that provides seamless connectivity with your smartphone for navigation, music streaming, and hands-free calling.

The Hyundai Staria is not just a people-mover; it's also a versatile vehicle that can adapt to your needs. The second-row seats can be configured in various ways, allowing for easy access to the third row or creating extra cargo space when needed. The third-row seats can even be folded flat to create a comfortable sleeping area during long trips.

Impeccable Safety

The Hyundai Staria, with its advanced safety features, holds great potential in enhancing safety standards in the mining industry. The Staria's robust construction and reinforced body structure provide a solid foundation for withstanding harsh mining environments. Its intelligent safety systems, such as blind-spot collision-avoidance assist, can help prevent accidents by detecting potential hazards and alerting the driver. Additionally, the Staria's around-view monitor ensure improved visibility and minimize the risk of collisions. The all-new Staria comes equipped with 6 airbags, ensuring maximum protection for you on every journey. With its emphasis on safety, the Hyundai Staria can significantly contribute to safeguarding miners' lives and reducing accidents in the demanding mining industry.

Power & Efficiency

Under the hood, the Hyundai Staria offers an efficient and powerful 2.2D engine, turbo charged. The engines are designed to deliver excellent fuel efficiency without compromising on performance, making every journey enjoyable and cost-effective. In addition to its impressive design and features, the Hyundai Staria is also committed to sustainability. It incorporates eco-friendly materials in its construction and utilizes advanced technologies to reduce emissions and improve fuel efficiency. With the Staria, you can enjoy your travels while minimizing your carbon footprint.

Hyundai has always been at the forefront of automotive innovation, and the Staria is no exception. It represents a new era of multi-purpose vehicles that prioritize comfort, safety, and sustainability.

Whether you're a busy professional looking for a reliable commuting vehicle, an organisation looking for an Executive bus, or a family in need of a spacious and versatile ride, the Hyundai Staria is ready to exceed your expectations.

To sum it all up, the Staria is set to revolutionize the way we move people. With its futuristic design, advanced features, spacious interior, and commitment to sustainability, it offers an unparalleled driving experience. Whether it's for daily commutes, business trips or long road trips with loved ones, the Staria is ready to take you wherever you need to go in style and comfort. Experience the future of multi-purpose vehicles with the Hyundai Staria.

The Hyundai Staria is available in Zimbabwe at Hyundai Zimbabwe, Motorcity Complex, Seke Road, Graniteside.

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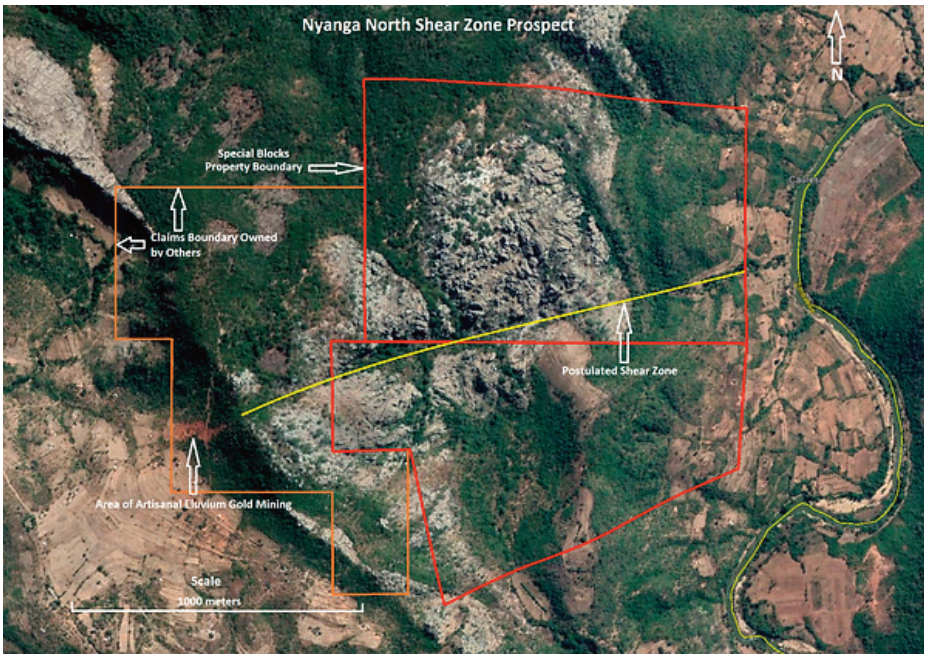
Zephyr Announces Zimbabwe Exploration Program

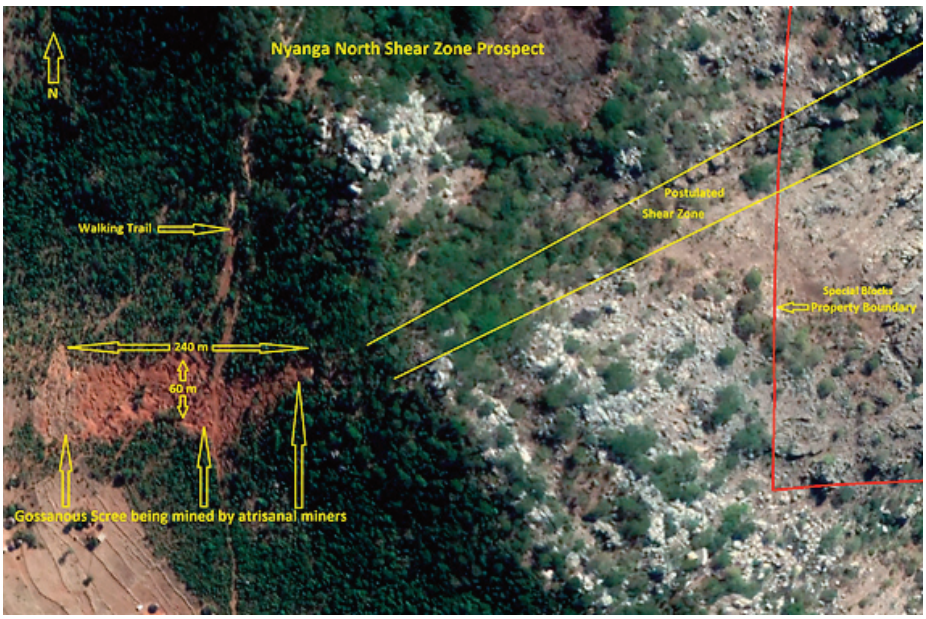


Zephyr Minerals Ltd. (TSXV: ZFR) ("Zephyr" or the "Company") is pleased to announce it intends to conduct ground magnetic and induced polarization (IP) geo-physical surveys over three gold properties, MC, MC-2 and Nyanga North; to be followed by a diamond drill program.

The MC and MC-2 properties are currently being mined for gold on a small scale by pits ten to twenty meters deep in the easily mined weathered zones. Although there is no mining currently at Nyanga North, there have been small-scale gold mining directly to the west, which is on strike with apostulated wide shear zone that trends onto Nyanga North and extends approximately 1.5km across the property. To the best of the Company's knowledge, the three properties have never been exposed to modern exploration methods and have never been drill tested.

Loren Komperdo, President and CEO stated, "The MC and MC-2 properties have many of the same geological characteristics as the Red Lake camp in Northern Ontario, making these two properties excellent targets for high-grade shear-hosted gold deposits. The Nyanga North prospect is on a shear zone where eluvial gold was discovered and minedbut little or no follow-up exploration has ever been done. All three of these properties have high discovery potential for significant gold deposits."

Further details of the exploration activity will be provided as the program develops.



The planned exploration the program described above is contingent upon the completion of the private placement described below.

The Company announces it intends to issue, by way of a non-brokered private placement financing, up to 4,000,000 units at a price of $0.09 per unit for gross proceeds of up to $360,000 (the "Financing"). Each Unit consists of one common share and one whole common share purchase warrant (a "Warrant") of the Company (the "Units"). Each Warrant will be exercisable to purchase one common share of the Company for $0.13 for a period of twelve months from the closing date.

The expiry date of the Warrants may be accelerated by Zephyr at any time if the volume-weighted average trading price of the common shares is greater than or equal to $0.26 for any 20 consecutive trading days. If this occurs, the Company may accelerate the expiry date of the warrants by issuing a press release announcing the reduced Warrant term whereupon the Warrants will expire on the 30th calendar day after the date of such press release.

Zephyr intends to conduct ground magnetic and induced polarization (IP) geophysical surveys over three gold properties, MC, MC-2 and Nyanga North; to be followed by a diamond drill program

Net proceeds from the funds raised will be used for mineral exploration programs in Zimbabwe, and for general working capital purposes. In connection with the offering, a finder's fee may be paid consisting of a cash commission equal to 7% of the gross proceeds raised under the offering and that number of non-transferable finder's fee warrants as is equal to 7% of the number of shares. Each finder's fee warrant will be exercisable into one common share of the Company at $0.13 per share, for a period of twelve months from the closing date. The expiry date of the finder's warrants are also subject to the same acceleration clause as the Unit warrants.

The Financing is subject to certain conditions including, but not limited to, the receipt of all necessary approvals including the approval and acceptance by the TSX Venture Exchange. All securities to be issued pursuant to the Financing will be subject to a four month hold period.

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Miners cease remitting royalties to RBZ

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) has advised miners and Mining companies to cease with immediate effect, remitting mining royalties to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) and instead remit to ZIMRA Commissioner General in compliance with the country's mining and financial laws.

Rudairo Mapuranga

A mining royalty is a sovereign right to receive payment based on a percentage of the value of the mineral exported.

In Zimbabwe, mineral resources are taxed at varying percentages payable in different thresholds from the local currency, forex and in kind.

Last year, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube requested mining companies to pay up to half of their royalties in local currency marking a u-turn on a 2020 decision requiring mining companies to pay the tax only in foreign currency, with President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa later on stating that companies will pay royalties to the government in the form of minerals (in kind) as a percentage of the mined resources.

According to a Public Notice released by ZIMRA, Royalties for platinum, palladium and lithium will be collected as 40 per cent in RTGS with the remaining 60 per cent in USD. Royalties for gold, diamonds and precious stones will be paid 40 per cent RTGS, 10 per cent foreign currency and 50 per cent in kind. And for all other minerals, it will be 50 per cent RTGS and 50 per cent foreign currency.

The following is the notice released by the revenue collection agent

"The Commissioner General of Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) wishes to advise all mineral exporters and Financial Institutions of the following payment arrangements for mineral royalties with effect from 1 August 2023 until further notice:

"1. Any taxpayers that were remitting mining royalties to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe should cease doing so and remit the mining royalties to the Commissioner General in compliance with the Revenue Authority Act [Chp.23.11], Mines and Minerals Act [Chp 21.05] and the Finance Act [Chp. 23.04].

"2. Any correspondence already issued regarding payment of mining royalties in kind that contradicts the provisions of the Revenue Authority Act [Chp.23.11], Mines Minerals Act [Chp 21.05], and the Finance Act [Chp. 23.04] is not valid and not enforceable.

"3. The interim payment arrangements for royalties in kind are aimed at absorbing challenges being faced by taxpayers to account for the royalties in full and in kind.

"4. When remitting the Royalties, the Financial Institutions shall be required to prepare and submit a schedule of payments made to ZIMRA on or before the 10th day of the month following the month in which they were deducted.

"5. The mineral exporters (mining companies or persons) shall be required to complete the return Rev 5Cs in USD and ZWL respectively and submit it to ZIMRA on or before the 10th day of the month following the month in which they were deducted.

"6. Further guidance shall be provided in due course on the handling of royalties collected in kind.

"For any further clarification, kindly contact your nearest ZIMRA office," It reads in part.

BULLION INSURANCE

Bullion insurance covers against the loss of gold, diamonds and other precious minerals at an insured site or in transit. The 'all risk' cover provides physical loss or damage protection, inclusive of theft and transit risks.

Factors affecting premium

There are several factors that affect the premium to be paid including:

a. The type of mineral to be insured. For example, the easier the likelihood of selling the mineral without a lot of paperwork, the higher the susceptibility of it to theft.

b. The security and risk management factors on site. Good and well-maintained systems reduce the incidence of loss on site by external theft, employee theft or fire damage.

c. The security and risk management around the transportation of the bullion. E.g. Will it be under armed guard or ordinary transportation? Is it done by an internal security team or a contracted external team?

d. The type of transport used. Will it be going by road or airlifted? If by road will it be an armoured vehicle with satellite tracking and other security features.

e. Past losses experienced. Have you had any past bullion losses and what risk management changes have been made to minimise similar losses occurring now?

Warranties

The specialised nature of bullion insurance and the high value nature of the insured product requires that they be handled in a specific manner. This often results in the insurance policy having warranties applied especially after a risk management survey has been carried out. A warranty is a term which must be exactly and literally complied with by the insured. Departure from the exact requirements even for reasons of necessity constitutes a breach and renders the policy void. These warranties can be about how the bullion should be handled, stored or transported.

Personal bullion

With the introduction of the gold coins, more individuals who have purchased them now face a new risk which may not be fully covered under traditional Home insurance coverage. If it's stored at a specialised vault, check with the facility provider whether their insurance will cover you as well.

At Firstlink we assist you to structure adequate cover for your bullion. Our clients also benefit from our dedicated claim's service in the event of a loss. Our approach removes the ambiguity and complexity often associated with mining insurance claims.

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Tichaona Chihambakwe is the Head of Business Development and Marketing for Firstlink Insurance Brokers.

The Export Ban on Lithium:

Resource Nationalism or Africa's Bargaining Chip?

The Inaugural London Indaba which took place towards the end of June, saw Zimbabwe and Namibia's decision to ban raw lithium exports as a hot topic of discussion. Some experts went as far as to comment that the countries were 'playing with fire'. The basis for this is that the export bans are allegedly against the WTO (World Trade Organization) regulations. This prompted this piece on whether Africa or Zimbabwe in particular, is finally in a position to leverage its mineral resources to Its people's benefit.

First, it's important to set the scene by providing some context as to why Zimbabwe's decision to ban raw or unprocessed lithium has caused such panic. As we are hearing more and more, Lithium is a 'future-facing' commodity. This is because lithium is a key component in hybrid and electric vehicle batteries, electronic devices, and battery storage power stations that will help reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change, in what has come to be known as global decarbonization.

Global decarbonization refers to a global move to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by moving away from global dependence on fossil fuels and towards what has been called 'green' or renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, et cetera).

It should be clear at this point that Zimbabwe's ban on raw lithium exports (as part of its beneficiation policy) is perceived as a threat to the global supply in that it would affect the development and supply of "environmental technologies" needed in the fight against climate change.

This sort of thinking leads one to surmise that it is being framed as a 'threat' because it provides Zimbabwe and other resource-rich African countries with an opportunity to leverage their natural resources for economic growth and development, which were once simply just taken during the imperialist era.

Simply calling the lithium export ban 'resource nationalism' is reductionist and ignores firstly, the reason behind the ban, and secondly, the many possible and much-needed benefits to Zimbabwe as well as other African Nations.

Let us begin with the former. Zimbabwe, home to one of the top 5 largest lithium reserves in the world, banned the export of raw or un-beneficiated lithium late last year (SI 213/2022) in response to trade leaks and deficits of up to €1 billion. While some may argue that there are alternatives to export bans, Zimbabwe's fragile economy may not have the luxury of experimenting with them.

Secondly, this beneficiation policy may have far-reaching impacts with the potential to revive the Zimbabwean economy. Some of these much-needed benefits include job creation, accelerated industrialization, an increase in government revenue, and the acquisition of technical know-how.

While the African Union has not necessarily supported export bans on minerals per se, it has recognized the value of mineral beneficiation in the AMV (African Mining Vision) -a road map designed to guide African governments in their natural resource management. According to Eunomix, The AMV has identified mineral beneficiation as a way in which African governments can catalyse economic growth and industrialisation. It is at this point that it should be stressed that there is no outright ban on lithium in Zimbabwe, just un-beneficiated or unprocessed lithium and the ban is a means to the end of beneficiation.

The effects of the beneficiation policy remain to be seen but it can be said that if the people of Zimbabwe are to truly benefit government needs to take certain issues very seriously, firstly, ensuring that labour is being sourced locally and that the labour conditions are fair and humane, as well as ensuring there is a real transfer of technical know-how, secondly industrialization must be monitored to ensure that that the buildings and equipment have structural integrity and are future-facing or 'green' in line with global decarbonization. Thirdly, the increased revenue must be transparent and accounted for and lastly, responsible and sustainable mining practices need to be adhered to that protect the natural environment and the communities that inhabit them.

C.T. BOLTS

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Uranium might be another Lithium for Zimbabwe

As the world is eagerly pushing for Net-Zero Emissions Operations by 2050, an opportunity is rising in nuclear energy. In making a nuclear future, reality will require a lot of uranium thus giving Zimbabwe the chance to participate strongly in a cleaner future due to the mineable Uranium deposits in the country.

Rudairo Mapuranga

It is a fact that the push towards clean energy is overdue or overdone. According to the World Nuclear Association, in 2019, there were 479 plants either being proposed, planned, or under construction. Just as the growing electric vehicle (EV) market will require lithium, making a nuclear future a reality will require Uranium and lots of it. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 set off a spike in uranium prices, and the forecast is for those prices to only move higher in the next several years. According to Statista, global demand for uranium is expected to reach 209 million pounds by 2035. To achieve that goal, new uranium assets will have to be discovered. Zimbabwe with its uranium deposits will therefore have a chance to tap into the nuclear future.

According to renowned geologist and gemstone expert Mr Jean Rheiner, there is a potential for Zimbabwe to start extracting uranium resources provided government policies are favourable. He said his company discovered a good deposit of uranium which needs an investment of US$100 million to be operational.

"I had been working on Uranium in the early 1980s and discovered a good small deposit in the North of the country. By then prices collapsed and my Company pulled out. In the last few years some companies (Canadian and Chinese did some work on those projects but pulled out too. Price of Uranium is still low and the economic situation is not favourable. Those deposits are still around and will probably need a US$ 100 million investment to be operational," Rheiner said.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe mining metallurgical Consultant Sharon Tsuro said although there is a need to relax policy on the extraction of the resource it should however be more inclined to limit the exportation of raw forms of the commodity.

She said the country should find a way to take advantage of the clean energy prospects by utilizing the current resources because as the world progresses cleaner resources might be discovered in future.

"Policy should be more inclined to limit the exportation of raw forms of the commodity from exploration to fully functional operations. Parties interested should set up laboratories in Zimbabwe and carry out all activities here to improve infrastructure as well as promote employment," Tsuro said.

Mineral resource governance expert Mr Tapuwa O'bren Nhachi said Zimbabwe should learn from great lessons in mineral resource governance. He stated that the country could benefit from its uranium exports by developing a uranium mining industry, partnering with other countries, ensuring equitable benefits, and avoiding corruption.

"By developing a uranium mining industry the country will have a cooperative advantage that most uranium gifted countries have. The uranium mining industry will or should sustainably extract and process the uranium reserves. If done properly this could create jobs and generate revenue for the country.

"To gain experience and to produce the intended results Zimbabwe could partner with other countries to develop its uranium industry. For example, the country could work with countries that have expertise in nuclear technology to develop its uranium reserves.

> ***"The lessons from the diamond and gold mining value chain can be used as a not to do"***

"Equitable distribution of resources and revenue will be key. Zimbabwe should ensure that the benefits of uranium mining are distributed equitably. This could involve working with local communities to ensure that they benefit from the industry and that their social economic rights are achieved and respected.

"However the Elephant in the room is Corruption. The responsible authorities should take necessary and sustainable steps to avoid corruption in the uranium industry. The major reason why Zim never realised much or anything tangible from the diamond discovery is corrupt activities.

"The lessons from the diamond and gold mining value chain can be used as a not to do. To assist with an effective anti-corruption crusade Zim could involve implementing transparency measures and working with international organizations to ensure that the industry is well-regulated.

"It's unfortunate that any mineral extraction project is highly capital intensive and this can be a burden to both investors and host countries if a win-win situation can not be reached. This is not new and Zimbabwe could invest in exploration to identify new uranium deposits. This could involve working with international partners to bring in expertise and technology and the finances required for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe.

Develop infrastructure: Zimbabwe could develop infrastructure to support the uranium industry.

Since this is for the international market Zimbabwe should strategically market its uranium internationally to attract buyers. This can be done through internationally tested honest consultancies. A lot should be involved including but not limited to attending trade shows and conferences to showcase the country's uranium reserves," he added.

"The most important but most neglected aspect is the environmental and social responsibility that miners and government should the mining must be conducted in a sustainable, environmentally and socially responsible manner. This should involve implementing regulations to protect the environment and working with local communities to ensure that their rights are respected," he concluded.

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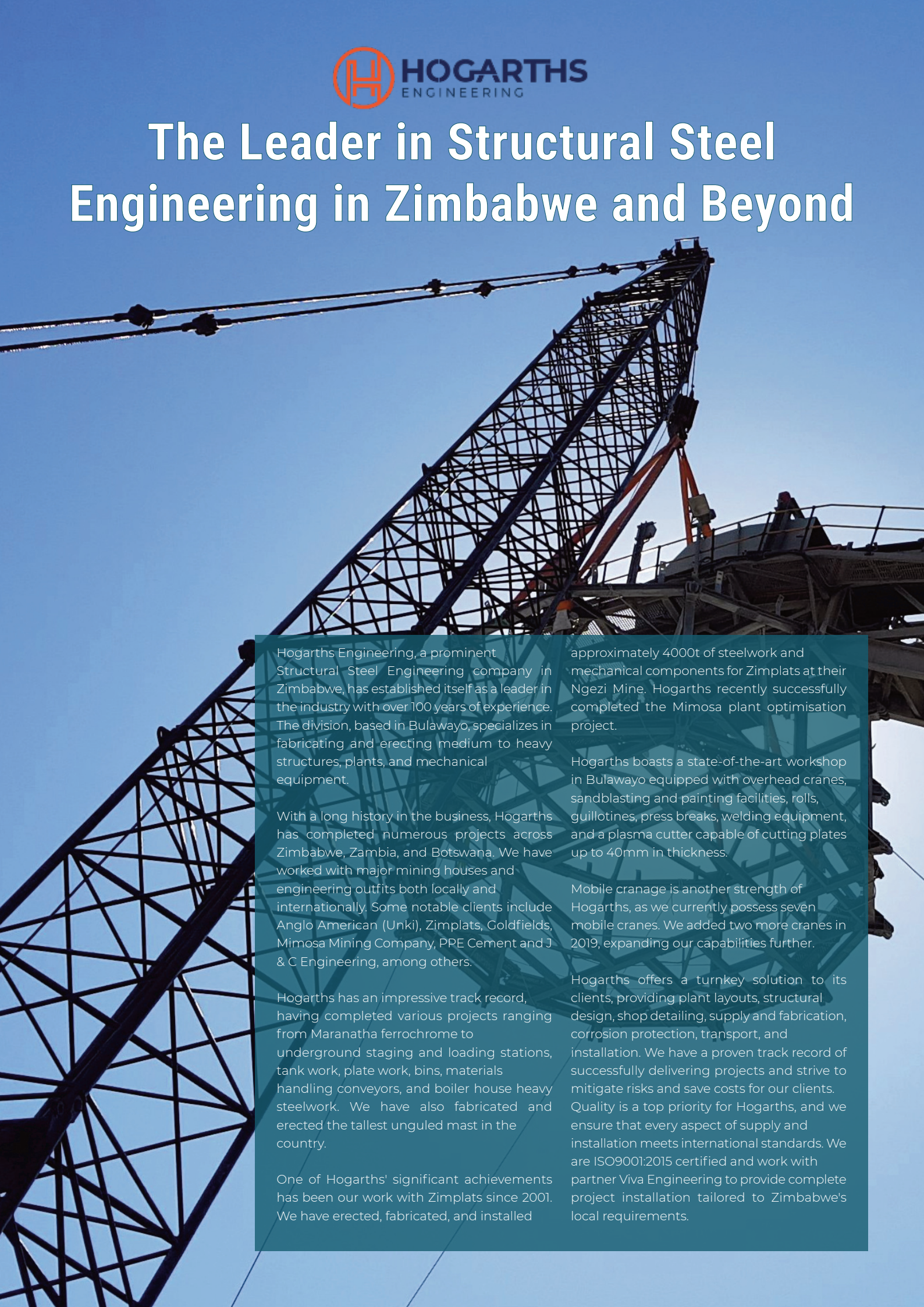

Hogarths Engineering, a prominent Structural Steel Engineering company in Zimbabwe, has established itself as a leader in the industry with over 100 years of experience. The division, based in Bulawayo, specializes in fabricating and erecting medium to heavy structures, plants, and mechanical equipment.

With a long history in the business, Hogarths has completed numerous projects across Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana. We have worked with major mining houses and engineering outfits both locally and internationally. Some notable clients include Anglo American (Unki), Zimplats, Goldfields, Mimosa Mining Company, PPE Cement and J & C Engineering, among others.

Hogarths has an impressive track record, having completed various projects ranging from Maranatha ferrochrome to underground staging and loading stations, tank work, plate work, bins, materials handling conveyors, and boiler house heavy steelwork. We have also fabricated and erected the tallest unguled mast in the country.

One of Hogarths' significant achievements has been our work with Zimplats since 2001. We have erected, fabricated, and installed approximately 4000t of steelwork and mechanical components for Zimplats at their Ngezi Mine. Hogarths recently successfully completed the Mimosa plant optimisation project.

Hogarths boasts a state-of-the-art workshop in Bulawayo equipped with overhead cranes, sandblasting and painting facilities, rolls, guillotines, press breaks, welding equipment, and a plasma cutter capable of cutting plates up to 40mm in thickness.

Mobile cranage is another strength of Hogarths, as we currently possess seven mobile cranes. We added two more cranes in 2019, expanding our capabilities further.

Hogarths offers a turnkey solution to its clients, providing plant layouts, structural design, shop detailing, supply and fabrication, corrosion protection, transport, and installation. We have a proven track record of successfully delivering projects and strive to mitigate risks and save costs for our clients. Quality is a top priority for Hogarths, and we ensure that every aspect of supply and installation meets international standards. We are ISO9001:2015 certified and work with partner Viva Engineering to provide complete project installation tailored to Zimbabwe's local requirements.

With an in-country and on-site presence, Hogarths can quickly resolve on-site issues and make necessary changes, reducing site comeback rates and potential delays. Our dedicated project managers and transparent communication provide clients with a single point of contact and regular updates on project status.

Our efficient cross-border logistics, coupled with our expertise in handling customs and clearance procedures, result in shorter delivery lead times and significant time savings for clients. We leverage technology such as STRUMiS tracking software to maintain stringent management and provide real-time visibility of projects with our partner Viva Engineering.

"Hogarths offers a turnkey solution to its clients, shop detailing, supply and fabrication, corrosion protection, transport, and installation."

Overall, Hogarths Engineering's extensive experience, impressive track record, state-of-the-art facilities, and commitment to quality make us a reliable partner for structural steel engineering projects in Zimbabwe and beyond.

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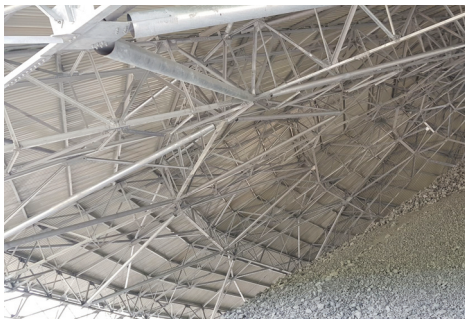
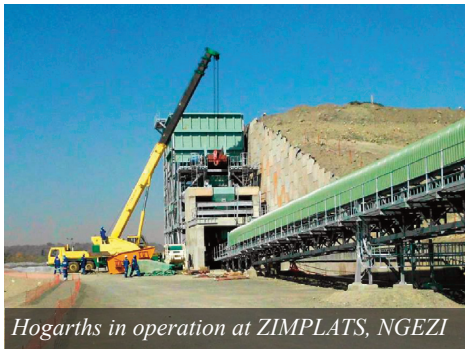
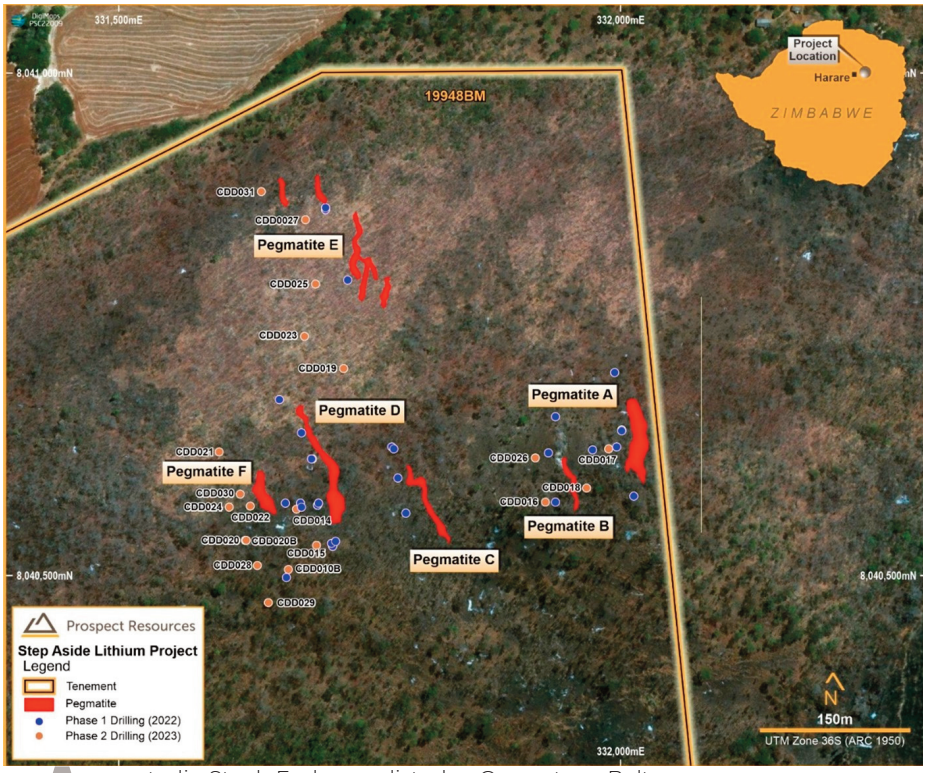




Hogarths in operation at ZIMPLATS, NGEZI

Step Aside Phase 3 drilling commences



Australia Stock Exchange listed mining and exploration junior Prospect Resources commenced Phase 3 drilling at its high-grade spodumene, Step Aside Lithium project with the program targeting to drill 5000 metres to be completed in approximately 3 months.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The Phase 3 drilling programme which commenced post-end of the quarter is designed to target strike and depth extensions of the defined lithium mineralisation and scout-drill key soil anomalies.

The Step Aside Lithium Project is located within the Archaean Harare Greenstone Belt, approximately 35 km east of Zimbabwe's capital city Harare, with the claim covering approximately 100 hectares (see Figure 5). Step Aside is 8 km north of the Arcadia Lithium Project, which was discovered by Prospect and holds a Mineral Resource estimate of 72.7 million tonnes grading 1.02% Li2O. The Arcadia asset was sold to Huayou Cobalt by Prospect in mid-2022 for approximately US$422 million cash.

The Step Aside Project consists of a folded sequence of meta-sediments of the Gwebi and Mapfeni Members, of the Passford Formation. These meta-sediments are intruded by north-trending pegmatites, dolerites and quartz veins of the Mashonaland Suite, which make up the youngest rocks found within the Harare Greenstone Belt.

Broadly, six visible mineralised pegmatites (denoted "A" to "F") have been identified within meta dolerite host rocks at Step Aside. Individual pegmatites, geologically mapped at the surface, are all generally parallel to one another, striking roughly north-south with dips of 60-75˚ to the west geologically mapped at the surface. Pegmatite A on the eastern side and Pegmatite D to the west are the widest, measuring 5-15m thick and 4-20m thick, respectively. The strike lengths of the A, B, C, D, E and F pegmatite outcrops at the surface, are between 50m and 120m long.

Observations made previously by Prospect during drilling at Arcadia show that several parallel narrow pegmatites can coalesce into thicker pegmatites down dip, indicating the potential that parallel pegmatites outcropping at Step Aside could conjoin to form a comprehensive, lithium-mineralised pegmatite system at depth. Bifurcating pegmatites have also been noted from drilling at Step Aside, which might also indicate the emplacement of the pegmatite deposits during a period of active faulting in the region (the Mashonganyika Fault Zone).

Phase 3 drilling programme commenced
The excellent diamond drilling results returned from the recent Phase 2 programme at Step Aside, in addition to the generation of potential southerly extensions to the deposits at Pegmatite B, D and F from the lithium-in-soil geochemical sampling work, indicate that the high-grade spodumene mineralisation defined to date, could extend much further both along strike and down dip.

According to Prospect, the Phase 3 program has two key objectives, Strike and depth extension testing of the defined Pegmatites B, D and E; and Scout exploratory drilling south of the Pegmatite B and D/F deposits in areas with strong, coherent, lithium-in-soil geochemical anomalism (refer Prospect ASX release dated 25 May 2023).

The Phase 3 program is planned to comprise 4,000 - 5,000m of diamond drilling and take approximately 3 months to complete. First assays are expected to be returned from late July.

Completion of Phase 2 Diamond Drilling Programme

On 1 May 2023, Prospect announced the completion of the Phase 2 diamond drilling programme, comprising a total of 20 drill holes for approximately 2,221 metres, targeting strike and dip extensions of Pegmatites A, B, D, E and F.

The Phase 2 programme followed on from the successful Phase 1 maiden programme of mixed RC and diamond drilling completed last year (refer Prospect ASX Announcement dated 20 October 2022), which outlined extensive, consistent, steep dipping, spodumene-dominated lithium mineralisation in all pegmatites targeted. The goal of the second phase programme was to extend the defined lithium mineralisation at Step Aside both along strike and down dip – which was successfully achieved.

High-grade lithium identified from promising assay results

Throughout the quarter, Prospect received promising Phase 2 assay results which generated encouraging extensional intersections of high-grade mineralisation across the target pegmatites.

Pegmatite D has been extended along strike and down dip, Pegmatite B has thickened at depth and Pegmatite E has generated significant drill intersections of high-grade lithium mineralisation. All these deposits demand significant follow-up drilling in the next phase of exploration at Step Aside.

Continued on page 19>>

Pegmatite D

Pegmatite D was targeted by six diamond drill holes during the Phase 2 programme. All holes intersected lithium mineralisation in the targeted positions. Drilling to date has confirmed that the pegmatite dips at between 60° to 75° to the west, steeper than was mapped at surface (40°-45°).

Mineralisation has now been identified over a lateral extent of 160m strike and is open both down dip and along strike to the south.

Best results returned for Pegmatite D during the Phase 2 drilling included:

- ***5.96m @ 1.08% Li2O from 100.27m (CDD014);***
- ***5.17m @ 1.13% Li2O from 120.83m (CDD021);***
- ***2.89m @ 1.57% Li2O from 120.63m (CDD030);***
- ***5.13m @ 0.85% Li2O from 52.4m (CDD015); and***
- ***1.41m @ 1.46% Li2O from 138.0m (CDD029).***

Additional drilling for Pegmatite D is being designed, and the area south of CDD029 has yet to be targeted. Recent regional soil geochemistry in that area shows coherent and anomalous lithium in surface sampling and therefore, a potential extension of the defined mineralisation in that general direction along strike.

Additional drilling for Pegmatite D is being designed, and the area south of CDD029 has yet to be targeted. Recent regional soil geochemistry in that area shows coherent and anomalous lithium in surface sampling and therefore, a potential extension of the defined mineralisation in that general direction along strike.

Pegmatite E

Five diamond drill holes targeted Pegmatite E in the Phase 2 programme, which is located at the far north-eastern end of the Step Asde licence. Whilst drill holes CDD019 and CDD023 are now interpreted to have been drilled too far to the west of the interpreted southerly strike of the deposit, the remaining three holes generated multiple intersections of moderate to wide zones of high-grade lithium mineralisation, that n places exceeded 1.5% Li2O, and in the case of CDD031, exceeded 2.5% Li2O. The Pegmatite E deposits are complex, bifurcating in places, but the overall tenor of the lithium grades are very favourable and located close to surface. In addition, the dip of the mineraised zones defined, appears to be shallower than elsewhere at Step Aside.

The best results returned for Pegmatite E included:

- ***6.28m @ 1.09% Li2O from 67.52m (CDD031), including 1.14m @ 2.63% Li2O from 70.55m;***
- ***3.49m @ 1.59% Li2O from 67.96m (CDD025);***
- ***3.82m @ 1.04% Li2O from 55.66m (CDD025); and***
- ***3.09m @ 1.01% Li2O from 26.63m (CDD027).***

Follow up drilling as part of the upcoming Phase 3 drilling programme will target the Pegmatite E system further to the south and east (to infil the gaps missed by CDD019 and CDD023) and the north, where strong drilling intersections and anomalous lithium-in-soil geochemical anomalies indicate additional prospectivity.

Pegmatite B

The Phase 1 drilling programme at Step Aside returned shallow, but relatively modest, narrow intersections of lower-grade lithium mineralisation from two RC holes completed directly west of the outcrop for Pegmatite B.
These holes
returned 3m @ 0.74% Li2O from 37m (CRC005) and 3m @ 0.93% Li2O from 22m (CRC006) respectively. A third hole (CRC007) from the Phase 1 programme was drilled too far to the east and missed the potential northern extension of Pegmatite B. The Phase 2 programme stepped the drilling back under the initial intersections, with very pleasing results returned from both diamond holes completed.

The results returned for Pegmatite B were:

- ***5.96m @ 1.02% Li2O from 57.27m (CDD026); and***
- ***5.13m @ 0.34% Li2O from 82.0m (CDD016)***.

The widths of these two intersections are very encouraging, showing an apparent thickening of the pegmatite body with depth, compared to the Phase 1 RC drilling results, and returning a strong tenor intercept within CDD026. Figure 10 shows a long section through Pegmatite B and new high-grade intersection in CDD026.

Pegmatite F

Nine holes in the Phase 2 programme targeted the Pegmatite F system, directly west of Pegmatite D, with four of these targeting both deposits. Pegmatite F was not targeted during last year's Phase 1 drilling campaign. Whilst the average lithium grade returned from the drilling of Pegmatite F has been in line with the other deposits evaluated at Step Aside, the intersections are narrower and the deposit appears to bifurcate to the north. However, this deposit is interpreted to remain open to the south.

Significant intersections returned from Pegmatite F included:

- ***1.74m @ 1.42% Li2O from 52.7m (CDD020);***
- ***2.00m @ 1.17% Li2O from 33.0m (CDD022); and***
- ***0.87m @ 0.91% Li2O from 34.2m and 1.11m @ 0.83% Li2O from 38.28m (CDD030).***

Pegmatite F is at the western extremity of the lithium-rich pegmatite swarm defined at Step Aside to date. However, lithium-in-soil geochemical sampling indicates that it may yet further develop and thicken to the south, perhaps even coalescing with Pegmatite D, based on current interpretations.

Geochemical Soil Sampling

Prospect has also received a full set of lithium assay results from its geochemical soil samplng programme undertaken across the Step Aside tenement. These results have strongly indicated the presence of additional lithium mineralisation to the south of the Pegmatite D and F outcrops, and potentially Pegmatite B, and north of Pegmatite E (see Figure 11 for representation of the geochemical soil sampling results).

A coherent, wide, lithium-in-soil anomaly of >200 ppm Li extends for at least another 200m south of the Pegmatite D and F outcrops and is interpreted to represent a "blind" mineralised extension of these deposits undercover. Similarly, a relatively strong anomaly presents up to 150m south of Pegmatite B. The anomaly north of Pegmatite E appears to stretch to the northern limit of the current tenement holding. All these areas represent excellent walk-up drilling targets for the next phase of exploratory work at Step Aside, based on the strength and extent of the lithium soil anomalies and the lack of any subsurface drill testing having taken place in those areas previously.

Interview: General Manager Sandawana Mines, Godwin Gambiza

Can you please provide an overview of the current exploration activities taking place at the Chandawana lithium mine?

Exploration at Chandawana is taking place in a 38,8 square kilometre lease owned by Kuvimba Mining House. The exercise is aimed at finding the total lithium resource and associated minerals like Tantalite, niobium, emeralds, and beryllium.

The programme is divided into four phases. The first is almost complete and a resource of 29 million tones at an estimated grade of 1.42% of lithium oxide has been estimated. This consists of 20 million tonnes of Measured resource, 2 million tons of Indicated Resource and 7 million tonnes of Inferred Resource.

A second phase targeting 30 million tonnes of lithium oxide has been planned and will commence end of August 2023.

At the end of all phases, it is expected that the mine will achieve 200 million tonnes of Resource.

What specific objectives and goals are the exploration teams aiming to achieve through their efforts at the mine?

• Phase 1 -Unlocking a Resource amounting to 26 million tonnes of Measured Resource @ 1.8% lithium oxide.
• Unlocking 30 million tonnes of Indicated and inferred Resouce in Phase 2.
• Unlocking 200 million tonnes of lithium oxide by the end of the exploration exercise.

How extensive is the exploration area being covered, and what methods or techniques are being used to identify potential lithium deposits?

The lease area covers 38,8 square kilometres.

Methods used include:-

1) electromagnetic Survey
2) Geological Mapping
3) Trenching
4) Soils sampling and analysis
5) Diamond drilling

Are there any specific geological features or indicators that the exploration team is focusing on while exploring for lithium at the mine?

· The team looks for pegmatite rock and spodumene within the pegmatite
· Future exploration will also look at the contact between pegmatite and serpentinite. This is where Berrylium and Emeralds are found.

What technologies or equipment are being utilized to aid in the exploration process and enhance the efficiency of identifying lithium deposits?

Electromagnetic technology, geological modelling, X-Ray Diffraction techniques and Wet Chemical analysis using ICP and AAS are some of the technologies and methods being utilised to aid exploration.

Can you share any preliminary findings or significant discoveries made during the current exploration initiative at the Chandawana lithium mine?

This exercise is still ongoing but so far significant ore bodies that are estimated at 20 million tonnes of measured resource, 2 million tonnes of Indicated Resource and 7 million inferred resource have been discovered. This is from phase 1 of the exercise. The program is entering phase 2 targeting 30 million tonnes of Indicated and Inferred resource

Are there any notable challenges or obstacles that the exploration teams have encountered while conducting their work? How are these being addressed?

No major challenges or obstacles identified so far. The exercise has largely been according to the plan.

What environmental impact assessments have been conducted to ensure the exploration activities are being carried out responsibly and sustainably?

An EIA has been issued to cover the exploration exercise. An EIA identifies all adverse conditions and provides ways to mitigate any impacts, including rehabilitation. We are following recommendations in the EIA.

What measures are in place to ensure the safety of the exploration teams and minimize any potential risks associated with their work?

- Risk assessment is carried out every day before the commencement of work.
- Safety talks are carried out every morning.
- Safety inspections are carried out daily by supervisors.
- A Safety Complaint book has been provided for employees to record any safety-related observations.

How does the current exploration align with the long-term development plans and objectives of the Chandawana lithium mine?

Chandawana aims to be a world-class mine producing 4,5 million tonnes of lithium concentrate sustainably per annum. This can only be achieved through intensive exploration. The exercise aims to produce 200 million tonnes. This dovetails into the 4,5 million per annum production for a period exceeding 20 years.

Are there any plans to expand or modify the exploration activities based on the progress and findings thus far?

The findings so far are very exciting and have given an impetus to intensify the exercise as this provides a strategic fit with the overall company objectives.

How does the current exploration initiative fit into the overall strategy for the Chandawana lithium mine's future production and supply of lithium?

The current exploration initiative fits well with the overall strategy- Chandawana Mines to be a world-class producer of lithium and related products. In order for it to achieve that, it then has to have a huge high-grade resource. This is exactly what the current exploration exercise aims to achieve - A 200 million-tonne deposit.

Are there any partnerships or collaborations with external organizations or industry experts involved in the exploration activities at the mine?

The two laboratories analysing samples are from South Africa (Intertek and SGS). Two of the 4 exploration companies are foreign and the other 2 drilling companies are local. Both local and foreign geologists are working on the project.

Can you provide any insights into the timeframe for completion of the current exploration phase and potential future exploration initiatives?

The 4 phases of exploration should be completed within 2 years. But there would be a need to look for the other minerals that the exercise is not specifically looking at, for example, emerald. These require a different exploration technique. These will then fall into a different programme outside the 4 phases.

What impact do you expect the results of this exploration to have on the overall profitability and sustainability of the Chandawana lithium mine?

Overall profitability would be very high considering that most deposits that are being found outcrop to the surface. Sustainability is also guaranteed driven by the positive exploration results that have been obtained so far. A huge deposit guarantees profitability and Sustainability.

Survey Requirements for Building a New Tailings Storage Facility: Understanding the Survey Controls

Building a new tailings storage facility (TSF) is a complex undertaking that requires careful planning and execution. One crucial aspect of this process is conducting accurate and comprehensive surveys. Surveys play a vital role in ensuring the safe and efficient construction of TSFs, as they provide critical data for design, monitoring, and compliance purposes. In this article, we will explore the survey requirements for building a new TSF and discuss the survey controls that must be implemented to ensure the success of the project.

Survey Objectives

The primary objective of conducting surveys for a new TSF is to gather accurate and reliable data about the site, topography, and geotechnical conditions. This information is essential for designing the TSF layout, determining the storage capacity, assessing potential environmental impacts, and establishing monitoring systems. Additionally, surveys help in identifying any potential risks or hazards that may affect the construction and long-term stability of the facility.

Survey Controls

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of survey data, several controls must be implemented throughout the surveying process. These controls include:

1. Survey Planning and Design: The first step in conducting surveys for a new TSF is to develop a comprehensive survey plan. This plan should outline the specific survey objectives, methodology, equipment requirements, and data collection techniques. It should also consider any legal or regulatory requirements that need to be adhered to during the surveying process.

2. Ground Control: Establishing accurate ground control points is crucial for precise surveying. Ground control points are fixed reference points on the site that serve as a basis for all subsequent measurements. These points are typically established using Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) or traditional surveying techniques such as total stations. Ground control points should be strategically distributed across the site to ensure adequate coverage and minimize errors.

3. Topographic Surveys: Topographic surveys provide detailed information about the existing land contours, features, and elevations. These surveys are typically conducted using aerial photogrammetry, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), or conventional ground-based techniques. Accurate topographic data is essential for designing the TSF layout, determining cut and fill volumes, and assessing potential water management requirements.

4. Geotechnical Surveys: Geotechnical surveys focus on collecting data about subsurface conditions, including soil composition, strength, and stability. These surveys involve drilling boreholes and collecting samples for laboratory testing. The geotechnical data obtained from these surveys helps in designing the TSF foundation, slope stability analysis, and determining the appropriate engineering properties of the tailings material.

5. Environmental Surveys: Environmental surveys assess the potential impacts of the TSF on the surrounding environment. These surveys include mapping vegetation, identifying sensitive areas, and assessing potential risks to water resources. Environmental surveys also play a crucial role in complying with regulatory requirements and obtaining necessary permits for TSF construction.

6. Monitoring Surveys: Once the TSF is constructed, ongoing monitoring surveys are essential to ensure its stability and compliance with regulatory standards. These surveys may include regular topographic monitoring, geotechnical instrumentation, and environmental monitoring. Monitoring surveys help in detecting any changes or potential issues that may arise during the operation of the TSF.

Conclusion

Accurate and comprehensive surveys are vital for the successful construction and operation of a new tailings storage facility. The survey controls discussed in this article are crucial for ensuring the accuracy, reliability, and compliance of survey data. By implementing these controls, project stakeholders can make informed decisions based on reliable information, minimize risks, and contribute to the safe and sustainable management of tailings.

This article was written by Donald Mboyi. Mboyi is a survey student at the Midlands State University (MSU), he writes in his own capacity.

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The effectiveness of Mine Closure plans

Sudden closure or closing of Mines without a proper closure strategy can bring about a host of challenges to stakeholders and communities which includes but are not limited to a rise in poverty, deterioration of living standards, increase in outward migration, emergence of crime and diseases, decline in the provision of services, reduction in employment opportunities in the mine and second-order employment, loss of foreign exchange and limited money circulation.

Rudairo Mapuranga

Closure plan development includes in-house specialists such as senior management, mine engineering, environment, external affairs, legal and financial staff. This internal team, frequently led by consulting specialists to assist in "workshopping" the risks and opportunities presented by integrated closure planning, can come out of the closure planning process with stronger working relationships and a better understanding of the business.

Mine closure planning involves planning effectively for the after-mining landscape that is all activities required before, during, and after the operating life of a mine that is needed to produce an acceptable landscape economically.

Increasing public expectations for environmental protection and the increasing value of the natural environment as recreational space will continue to drive regulatory requirements and mining practices in the future. Mine closure planning has been and in many cases still is, left until near the end-of-mine life, often leaving little time, financial provision and/or resources for effective closure planning and decommissioning. This has resulted in many Mines in Zimbabwe shutting down and leaving a lot to be desired for the communities involved. Mining town such as Shurungwi, Mashava and Mvuma are perfect examples of poor mining closure towns.

Although it is not easy to specify when the closure of the mine should occur (since this decision is influenced by several factors such as the market price of the metal or the cost of mining), all mines benefit from having a closure plan that is fully integrated and updated in the general business plan, that assumes a realistic cost and that establishes the time to run it.

The Shutdown of Mines like Shabane Mines, Mashava Mines, Mhangura Mines, and ZISCO among others brought above negative effects to the growing towns which included deteriorating infrastructure and the end of sporting activities. Currently, Gaths Mine Stadium which used to be one of the best stadia in the country has deteriorated due to the closure of Gaths Mine and King Mine in Mashava.

To deal with such challenges caused by mining closure, Mine closure planning has to be done at the starting point of the mining operations and needs periodic review and revision during its life cycle to cope with the market due to geotechnical constraints, safety and economic risks, social and environmental challenges.

Social and economic benefits of a comprehensive closure plan

The social and economic benefits of closing a mine are usually significant and underline the importance of early preparation. A wide variety of alternative uses for mined lands is available including adapting post-closure landscapes for forestry, agriculture or wildlife habitat, or use of land for recreational purposes. Some post-closure land uses have the possibility of generating economic benefits which could potentially facilitate transfer of the site to a third party once closed or provide for ongoing post-closure operating and maintenance costs.

Gaths Mine which use to be one of the biggest asbestos producers is now housing Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) Arts and Commerce campuses. If a relative plan was in place for the closure of the mine, one of the infrastructures that are now useless for example Gaths Mine Stadia could still be in use and will have been developed for University sports.

Closure strategy at Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (Zisco)

To ensure that stakeholders are not going to be affected by the closure of their mine and Mining value chain business as was the case from the period 2008 when the company shut down due to different reasons. Zisco is planning to develop a comprehensive closure strategy that will see through all problems created by a sudden shutdown of the mining value chain company.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the ZISCO Steel media tour in Redcliff last month, the company body Chairman Engineer Martin Manuhwa said his company was working to establish a strategic and comprehensive closure plan that will ensure that stakeholders are not affected by an unplanned closure.

"Our approach is from cradle to cradle, so as we design the new systems, we must also have a demolition plan and recycling plan. As Zisco we believe in the circular economy where most of the scrap is recycled. There will be no waste as we go forward, we really believe in the circular plan and we will make a strategic and comprehensive closure plan after the feasibility study to ensure that mine closure minimally affects stakeholders," Engineer Manuhwa said.

Engineer Martin Manuhwa said part of the closure strategy is to ensure that workers will not be owed money by the company after closure as was the case with the Shutdown of the iron mining, Steel manufacturing and value addition company.

Conclusion

It should be noted that planning for mine closure is a complex process because it encompasses the decommissioning project, land rehabilitation, post-closure monitoring, and the necessary provisions for future land management after the mining cycle is complete.

Mining companies must however prioritise responsible closure of their mines – as responsible and compliant mine closure is good for business and society. There is potential for industry collaboration and innovation to support well-planned mine closures that ensure the sustainability of local communities and the natural environment.

Zimbabwe should urgently enact a clearly defined CSR policy

Mashcentral stakeholders in attendance at the Public consultations on the New Mines bill

One of the biggest issues Mining Communities have with Mines operating from their areas is "not benefitting anything from the operations". But what should the communities get from Mining operations?

Keith Sungiso

In Zimbabwe, there is no specific law that makes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandatory, so when the communities raise these issues Mines are not really obliged to do anything if they choose not to. In a bid to foster sustainable mining practices and promote responsible corporate citizenship, stakeholders and industry experts in Zimbabwe are calling for the implementation of a comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy into the Mines and Minerals Act. The move aims to address longstanding concerns regarding environmental degradation, social impacts, and economic disparities associated with mining activities.

Many communities are having to resort to a misguided opinion of accusing mines and miners of looting when these very mines are licensed to extract the very minerals they will be accused of looting, moreover paying the required taxes.

Local communities in Mutoko for example are crying foul over the manner in which black granite mining is being carried out by private companies. They accuse the companies of wantonly destroying the environment and damaging road networks through the movement of heavy-duty trucks transporting heavy blocks of granite. The trade has gone on for decades with communities demanding "something" be done to improve their locales yet the problem remains, "nothing in the law mandates the mining companies to offer any contribution". CSR is currently optional.

Zimbabwe, rich in mineral resources such as gold, Lithium, platinum, chrome and diamonds, has seen a surge in mining operations, posing challenges for communities living near mining sites. The absence of a clearly defined CSR policy has allowed some mining companies to disregard their obligations towards local communities and the environment. An unnamed mining company bought cabbages for a funeral and reported that as CSR. Another bought a box of cheap exercise books after years of operating and proudly stood up as CSR champions.

Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa

What exactly is CSR?

CSR is the continuing commitment by businesses to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as the community and society at large.

According to ISO 26000, social responsibility is not merely a “neutralizing” action applied at the end of production/distribution to fix what has been generated or displaced. Rather, it is a proactive mindset that should be incorporated across all levels of planning, execution, and stakeholder interaction.

In ISO 26000, social responsibility is described as a multi-faceted approach that, like quality, should be integrated into all aspects of how a company conducts its business.

Here are several reasons why Zimbabwe should urgently enact a clearly defined CSR policy within the Mines and Minerals Act:-

Improving Social Welfare

Mining activities often disrupt local communities through displacements, pollution of water sources, damage to roads and limited access to essential resources. A dedicated CSR policy will establish mechanisms to mitigate negative these social impacts. Mining companies will be required to invest in community development initiatives, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, thereby improving the overall standard of living in affected areas.

All communities during the Edmond Mkaratigwa-led Mines Portfolio Committee instructed the legislators to add a law that mandates miners to pay a monthly fixed fee that should be charged on all mines as a condition to get Mining rights during the Mines and Minerals amendment bill HB 10 2022 public Consultations.

Environmental Protection

The implementation of CSR measures in the mining sector will ensure that companies adopt responsible mining practices. A robust CSR policy will emphasize the need for sustainable resource usage, effective waste management, and proper land rehabilitation post-mining activities. By safeguarding environmental integrity, Zimbabwe will pave the way for a greener and more sustainable future.

Transparency and Accountability

Incorporating CSR policies into the Mines and Minerals Act will enhance transparency and accountability in the mining industry. It will also improve the perception of government from rural mining communities. By legally obligating companies to fulfil their CSR commitments, stakeholders will be better informed about companies' social and environmental activities. This will improve public trust, protect communities' rights, and prevent unethical practices.

Attracting Foreign Investment

A clear CSR policy would significantly contribute to Zimbabwe's desirability as a safe and responsible mining destination for international investors. With the growing global demand for ethically sourced minerals, adherence to CSR principles becomes an essential criterion for foreign investors. A well-implemented CSR policy will create a positive image for Zimbabwe, leading to increased investment opportunities and economic growth.

International Compliance

Many countries have already established CSR regulations in their mining sectors. By enacting a comprehensive CSR policy, Zimbabwe will align itself with international standards, enabling better integration into the global mining market. This will promote not only responsible mining practices but also facilitate partnerships and trade agreements with countries that prioritize ethical resource procurement.

To progress toward a sustainable and ethical mining industry, Zimbabwe must seize this opportunity to enact a clear CSR policy within the Mines and Minerals Act. Strengthening accountability, protecting the environment, promoting social welfare, attracting foreign investment, and complying with international standards are crucial steps toward transforming the mining sector into a catalyst for sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

Why Should CSR be included in the Mines bill?

According to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa, the Mines and Minerals Amendment bill includes ideas that are going to force mining companies to undertake CSR.

"There are a number of ideas but the loud and clear message is that CSR must be made part of our enforceable laws. Ideas are that whatever promises are made before project implementation should be followed up and come to fruition. Also, the road network that they use should not be left worse off after extraction. There are many issues and these include contributing to local Trusts and facilitating such to ensure community and investor harmony. It should be further noted that these issues we appear to be forcing on investors may in the near future become a norm as competition shall rise and when such issues we are always raising may become part of the natural selection criteria of investors, as competition rises. Zimbabwe is not static, it is reasserting itself and it is important that investors heed to this call. Key advocacy points we have raised are transforming from mere Corporate Social Responsibility to Corporate Social Investment. Something that leaves sustainable benefits than something that legitimizes the resource curse outcomes common in many other developing countries. Ours is a leap forward and cascading benefits through possible local market enhancement so that we broaden our economy from over-dependence on staples," Mkaratigwa said.

It however should be noted that despite being no mandatory CSR law miners like ZIMPLATS, and Caledonia are leading the way in benefitting communities they are operating from.

Green Transition: ASM should not be left behind

As the world is moving towards the adoption of a green energy future, the Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector should not be left behind in terms of getting access to mining fossil fuels and participation in green energy minerals such as lithium, copper, nickel and other minerals that are essential for non-carbon emission future.

Rudairo Mapuranga

While the Transition to green energy is essential to combat climate change, fossil fuels should not be abandoned but exploited while the demand and market for them is still huge.

Recently Zimbabwe discovered a huge potential for oil and natural gas with the country also rich in coal with over 600 million tonnes of proven resource.

Despite climate change activists calling third world countries' investment in fossil fuel to cease if there is any chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the point beyond which climate impacts are expected to worsen significantly. Experts have been calling for third-world countries to exploit their fossil fuels to fund the adoption of green energy. They believe that third-world countries are not yet ready at the moment to go green as this would leave the government coffers with a very huge debt therefore what needed to be done was to exploit the fossil fuel at their disposal to fund green energy.

This therefore means that Zimbabwe should accelerate its fossil fuel exploitation for it to be able to fund the green energy future therefore the ASM should be part of the exploitation of coal and other minerals that are deemed a hazard to climate.

Individuals within the ASM sector must be involved throughout the green energy revolution process to ensure changes are in tune with realities on the ground at the same time ensuring that small players adopt future technologies in mining.

To create long-term sustainable ASM green energy strategies, a number of things need to be considered. These include creating a platform for positive and regular dialogue between ASM stakeholders and government to provide a conduit for consultation on changes, informing dialogue based on research on mining communities and establishing a co-created roadmap outlining interventions with input from various stakeholders, including non-mining ones, at all levels.

The Mines and Minerals Act states that, the rights to explore and mine coal, mineral oils or natural gases may only be acquired under special grants which are issued in two phases namely, the exploration stage and mining stage. It is expensive for small players to get a special grant for coal mining. Experts have therefore been calling for the government to relax this law to ensure the ASM are partly empowered to extract fossil fuels such as coal.

According to mineral economic expert Mr Lyman Mlambo the ASM should be empowered to be part of the green transition before fossil fuels are phased out completely from the market. He said the resource should be extracted so that it will not be left useless for future generations.

"The discovery of gas amidst the thrust towards greener technology isn't an issue at all for a number of reasons:

1) We still have more than two decades, perhaps more than 3 decades, before fossil fuel can be phased out completely from the market, so the strategy is to accelerate our exploitation while demand is still there - remember a resource is a resource because there is demand for it;

2) these resources belong to both this generation and the next generations right now when they still got value, we don't want to leave something useless to the next generations when we had the opportunity to convert it into income before it became obsolete;

3) there are many countries whose economies are dependent on fossil fuel and wars are actually still being fought today for that resource, so the world is still so much interested in it;

4) We can actually use the proceeds from fossil fuel to fund the development of cleaner and greener energy - that happens to be one of the wisest things to do;

5) another is to invest in offshore investments that can earn interest for the country in forex and the fund can expand overtime to catalyse the long-term development of Zimbabwe;

6) an interesting thing to note is that the global north is the one with the capital that is being invested into fossil fuel in the global south, especially in Africa - that should tell you something - where is Invictus Energy based?;

7) Zimbabwe needs energy NOW to meet its current energy deficits." Mlambo said.

It is expected that the production of minerals such as graphite, lithium, and cobalt could increase by nearly 500% by 2050 to facilitate the transition to net zero. Certain minerals have already seen a significant jump in production, such as lithium, where production has risen from 28,100 tonnes in 2010 to an estimated global total of 82,000 tonnes in 2020.

As the production and use of these metals and minerals proliferate, the importance of a circular supply chain will become more apparent, as most renewable and low-carbon technology uses recoverable metals. This offers the opportunity for the recycling and re-purpose of technology such as electric vehicles (EV) at the end of their operating life.

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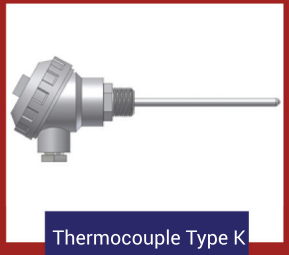
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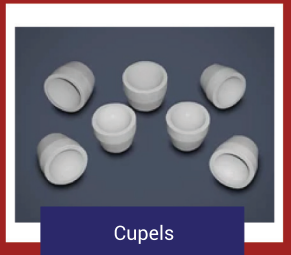
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Bindura Nickel records 3.7 million fatality-free shifts

Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC) continues with its amazing record to achieve zero harm in the mining industry by achieving a total of 3.7 million fatality-free shifts as at 31 March 2023 with the last fatality having been recorded in June 2015.

Rudairo Mapuranga

According to BNC Abridged Audited Financial Results for the year ended 31 March 2023, the company's safety environment remains impressive with the mine recording a new record of 3.7 million fatality-free shifts, three lost time Injuries and COVID-19 cases remained under control during the year.

"As part of the Company's pursuit of sustainable mining goals and initiatives, and given the inherently hazardous nature of mining operations, Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) systems are continually being upgraded and improved to enhance sustainable operations. The main area of focus continues to be on instituting and deepening the desired SHE culture in order to prevent accidents, promote good health for employees and their surrounding communities, while minimising environmental harm, in line with the Company's Zero Harm policy"

"In line with the foregoing, the Company ended the year with the COVID-19 pandemic under control and has nevertheless, continued with preventative measures and control programs to ensure the pandemic remains under control."

"A new record of 3.7 million fatality-free shifts was achieved as at 31 March 2023, with the last fatality having been recorded in June 2015. Three Lost Time Injuries were recorded in the year, versus two in the prior year," the BNC report shows.

The Company continues to comply with applicable environmental legislation and remains SO 140012015 and SO 450012018 certified.

Unki production increase by 2 percent

Despite mining through higher internal waste areas, platinum group metals (PGM) production at AngloAmerican-owned Unki Mine in Shurungwi increased by 2 per cent during the first half year compared to the same period last year, Anglo American Platinum Limited (Amplats) PGMs Production Report for the second quarter ending 30 June 2023 shows.

Rudairo Mapuranga

The mine's total PGM production during the half year of 2023 was 121 500 ounces compared to 119 600 ounces produced during the period 1 January to 30 June of 2022.

However, Unki PGM production decreased by 11 per cent to 59,000 ounces against 66 300 ounces produced during the comparable period of 2022. The decreased production was a result of mining through planned higher internal waste areas.

The PGM also took a 6 percent decrease during the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter of 2023 where production was at 62 500 ounces.

Amplats owns Mogalakwena Mine, Amandelbult Mine, Unki Mine, Mototolo Mine, Modikwa Mine (jointly owned) and Kroondal Mine (jointly owned).

The whole of Amplats PGMs sales volumes (from production, excluding sales from trading) decreased by 8 per cent to 1,108,700 ounces due to lower refined production.

According to Amplats CEO Natascha Viljoen, total PGM production from own-managed mines decreased by 10 per cent to 526,700 ounces with PGM production from Amandebult mine decreasing by 19 percent to 147,900 ounces for the quarter. This was driven by short-term operational challenges at Tumela which has since been mitigated, the 2022 closure of Dishaba open pit and Merensky concentrator and continued challenging ground conditions at Dishaba.

She said PGM production at Mogalakwena mine decreased by 7 per cent to 242,400 ounces. She added that In line with guidance, the company continued to mine lower grades which resulted in a 7 per cent reduction in 4E built-up head grade to a guided 2.70g/t compared to 2.91g/t in Q2 2022.

Viljoen said Mototolo PGM production increased by 2 per cent to 77,400 ounces, largely due to improved grade. She added saying that Eskom load curtailment deferred own managed mines metal in concentrate production by c.21,500 ounces

"Our total PGM production was 9 per cent lower compared to the prior period. Production was impacted mainly by short-term operational challenges and infrastructure closures at Amandelbult as well as expected lower grades at Mogalakwena. Despite mining through higher internal waste areas, Unki continues to deliver a stable tonnes output along with Mototolo.

"We delivered lower refined production of 1,073,800 PGM ounces due to our planned asset integrity program at our processing operations.

"While we continued to manage heightened Eskom load-curtailment, it impacted 29 production days for the quarter contributing to a build-up in work-in-progress inventory of c.38,900 PGM ounces.

"We remain on track to achieve our 2023 guidance, with a strong focus on demonstrating our resilience through safe, stable, and capable operations for the remainder of the year," Viljoen said.

How Mine Proto Team Rescues Artisanal Miner from 26m Deep Shaft

Mkwalini - Early morning, August 4th 2023, Bulawayo Mining Company's How Mine Proto team was urgently called out to the Mkwalini artisanal mine for a daring rescue mission. Reports suggest that Tumirai Mutera popularly known as Dhewa, an artisanal miner, fell into a 26-meter-deep shaft while under the influence of alcohol.

The How Mine Proto team arrived on the scene at 7 AM and immediately conducted a thorough Issue Based Risk assessment to identify and mitigate all potential risks associated with the rescue operation. With safety as their utmost priority, the team meticulously analyzed the work area and implemented necessary measures to ensure the well-being of everyone involved.

After assessing the situation underground, the Proto team provided First Aid to Dhewa, who required urgent medical attention. The team then prepared to evacuate the individual from the deep shaft. To secure Dhewa, the team used a makeshift hoisting conveyance locally known as a windlass and employed secondary support using hemp rope for added control.
Due to the irregular shape of the shaft, a traditional basket stretcher was deemed impractical, as it could have resulted in Dhewa colliding with the side walls during the ascent.
Instead, the team employed a full-body safety harness set equipped with a double lanyard directly attached to the casualty. This ensured the safe extraction of Dhewa, even in the challenging terrain of the meandering shaft.

At 8 AM, the How Mine Proto team successfully rescued him from the depths of the mine. The rescued miner was then immediately transferred to the waiting medical practitioner from BMC How Mine, who had been stationed on the surface. After a brief medical assessment, Dhewa was swiftly evacuated to the United Bulawayo Hospitals for further medical attention.

The heroic efforts of the How Mine Proto team have been praised by both the mining community and local authorities. Their professionalism, swift response, and dedication to ensuring the safety of all involved in the rescue operation deserve the highest commendation.

This incident also serves as a reminder of the inherent dangers associated with artisanal mining and the importance of adhering to safety protocols to prevent such accidents. The mining community urges all miners to prioritize their safety and well-being to prevent future incidents of this nature.

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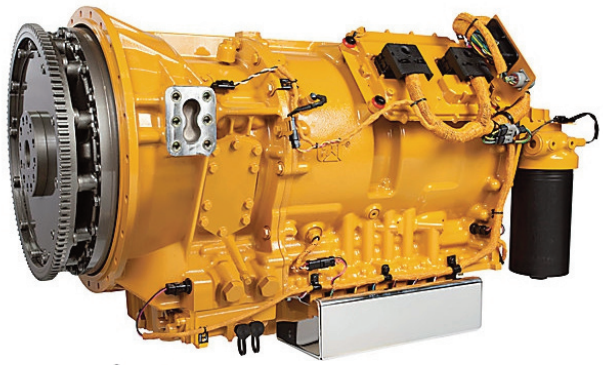

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