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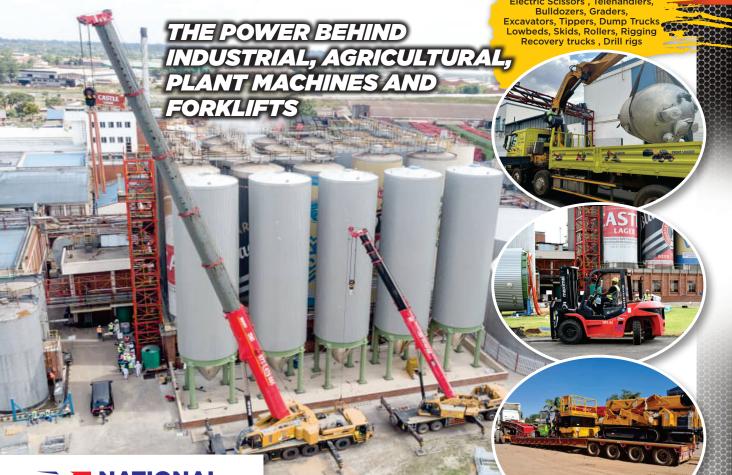


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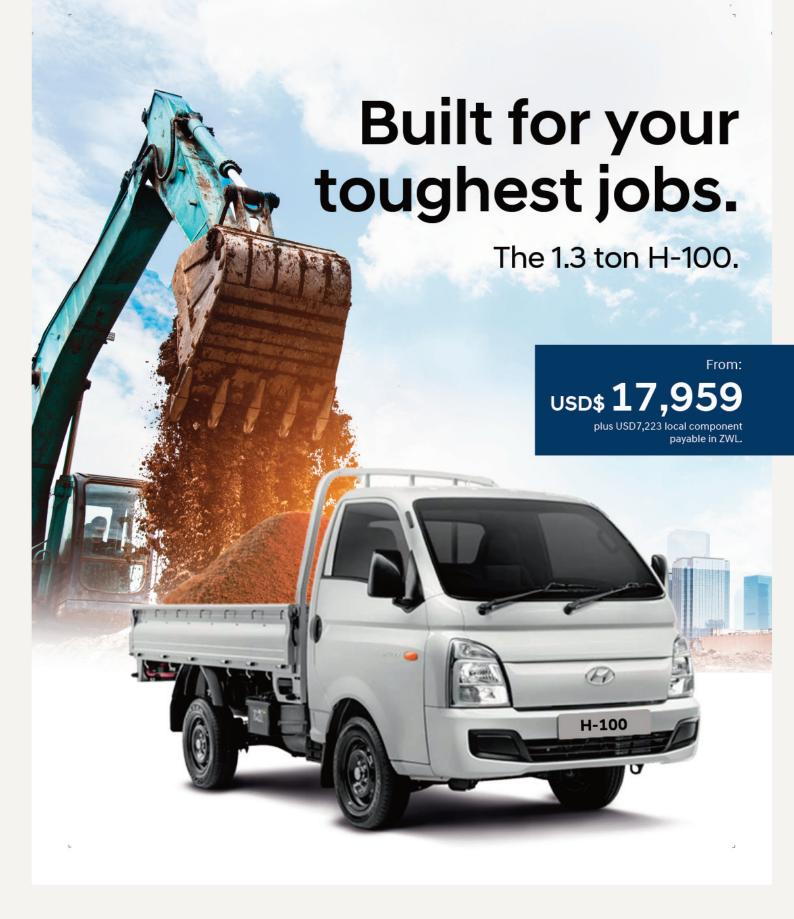












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WRITERS/ JOURNALISTS Rudairo Mapuranga Ryan Chigoche

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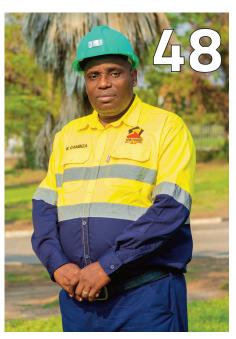




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### **Chitando Urges Gold Miners to Capitalize on Soaring Prices and Boost Production**

Mines and Mining Development Minister Winston Chitando has called on Zimbabwe's gold miners to take advantage of the current high international gold prices to increase production and secure the country's economic future.



Gold remains Zimbabwe's most valuable export, generating an average of US\$3 billion annually in recent years. The government projects that gold earnings will rise to at least US\$4 billion due to current investments in the sector. The mining sector, with gold as a key contributor, drives the economy, accounting for over 75% of the nation's total exports.

Minister Chitando stated that the increasing global demand for gold, driven by geopolitical instability, presents an opportunity for Zimbabwe to maximize its gold production. Unlike other commodities such as platinum and lithium, which have seen price declines, gold prices surged from around US\$1,900 per ounce in September 2023 to US\$2,500 per ounce in recent months.

"The global demand for gold is rising as nations seek a safe-haven asset amidst economic and geopolitical uncertainties. This price increase presents a golden opportunity for us to not only maximize our production volumes but also benefit from the higher prices, especially at a time when other mineral commodities are experiencing subdued market conditions," he said.

The Minister of Mines and Mining Development emphasized that gold has always been a key resource for Zimbabwe's prosperity. With the right strategies in place, the country can leverage this resource to drive economic growth, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for its citizens, aligning with the Vision 2030 goal of achieving an upper-middle-income

However, Chitando also warned that illegal **opportunity** for us to not only extraction and smuggling of gold volumes but also **benefit from** undermine national the higher prices, especially at efforts to maximize its potential. He stressed the importance of ensuring that all gold is traded through official channels, specifically the Fidelity Gold Refinery (FGR), the nation's sole gold buyer and exporter.

"Our currency is backed by gold, making it even more crucial that all gold mined in Zimbabwe is traded legally through FGR. The ongoing gold mobilization initiatives have been successful, with positive feedback from the mining community and increased production," Minister Chitando said.

Chitando praised the gold sector's crucial role in national economic development, noting that last year's output was 30.1

tonnes, with a target of 35 tonnes in 2024. He also highlighted the importance of addressing gold leakages to side markets, which remain a challenge to the country's growth ambitions.

"For 2024, our gold delivery target is 35 tonnes. The key to achieving this lies in curbing the illegal trading of gold, which hinders the progress we aspire to achieve. This year, we have already seen some improvements, with gold deliveries reaching 20.7 tonnes by August, compared to 19.3 tonnes during the same period in 2023," he said.

Despite this growth, Chitando expressed concern that while large-scale miners increased deliveries by 10.4% in 2024 compared to the previous year, the small-scale mining sector only saw a 3.4% increase in deliveries, even with the significant rise in gold prices.

In August, the government removed the value-added tax (VAT) on gold deliveries through Statutory Instrument 105 of 2024, aimed at boosting output from artisanal and small-scale miners. This reform led to a 50% spike in gold deliveries

This price increase

presents a golden

maximize our production

a time when other mineral

commodities are

experiencing subdued

market conditions,"

from artisanal miners last month, reaching tonnes, with large-scale producers delivering nearly one tonne of gold in August.

Artisanal and smallscale miners traditionally contribute around 60% of Zimbabwe's gold output. In August alone, overall gold

deliveries surged by 36% to 3.4 tonnes compared to July's 2.5 tonnes, showing the success of the government's gold mobilization efforts. Minister Chitando affirmed that Zimbabwe is on track to further increase gold deliveries, thereby boosting tax revenues and royalties essential for national development.

"With the ongoing efforts in gold mobilization, we are well-positioned to continue ramping up production and generating much-needed revenue for the country," he said.

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The company has set the standard for servicing the largest fleets and providing top-notch support for mining operations. This success story reached a significant milestone recently, with R&S DieselPro Services delivering its 50th Liebherr R 920 excavator to one of its customers in Zimbabwe.

#### A Partnership Built on Quality and Trust

The partnership between R&S DieselPro Services and Liebherr began in 2017, marking the start of a prosperous relationship. Since then, R&S DieselPro Services has enjoyed immense success with the Liebherr brand. Developed for use in earthmoving, digging, and drainage, among other applications, the R 920 excavator has become a staple in Zimbabwe's construction contracting sector. This machine's competitive pricing and robust performance have made it a favourite among established and up-and-coming contractors.

#### Fueling Zimbabwe's Construction Boom

The country's increased construction activity primarily drives the success of the Liebherr R 920 in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean government has embarked

on massive reconstruction and rehabilitation projects to enhance domestic and regional connectivity. One of the most notable projects is the US\$300-million modernisation of the Beit Bridge border post, significantly improving border management and reducing the time commercial trucks spend at this critical gateway.

Moreover, the ongoing work on the 580-km Harare-Masvingo-Beit Bridge highway is a testament to the nation's infrastructure ambitions. With over 400 km of the project completed, this major thoroughfare, part of the North-South Corridor, is set to revolutionise regional trade. Similar efforts on the Beitbridge-Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Highway underscore the strategic importance of these developments.

#### R&S DieselPro Services: A Commitment to Excellence

A crucial factor in the success of Liebherr equipment in Zimbabwe is the exceptional backup support provided by R&S Diesel-Pro Services. The company's commitment to customer service, support, and satisfaction is unparalleled. R&S DieselPro maintains a quality-focused centre for refurbishing engines and transmissions to Original Equipment (OE) specifications and supplies original spare parts, ensuring that customers receive the best possible service.

According to Tendayi Kudumba, GM for Earthmoving at Liebherr-Africa, having a reliable dealer like R&S DieselPro Services has been central to their success in Zimbabwe. The company boasts a strong support footprint in major cities such as Harare and Bulawayo. It places high importance on technical training to its technicians, who are the lifeblood to keeping the clients equipment running.

#### **Achievements and Milestones**

The company's achievements are a testament to its capabilities as a dealer. R&S DieselPro Services was the first to sell three Liebherr TA 230 articulated dump trucks in Africa, now hard at work at the Freda Rebecca Gold Mine in Bindura, Zimbabwe. These trucks haul ore from underground tunnels to overland crushers, showcasing their efficiency and reliability in demanding mining applications. The local launch of the Liebherr TA 230 Litronic articulated dump truck (ADT) in June 2022 marked another milestone. Several units operate in South Africa and Zimbabwe, proving their mettle in some of the most challenging mining environments.

Furthermore, R&S DieselPro Services boasts the largest population of Liebherr PR 736 dozers in southern Africa, with two more units set to be delivered to a flagship construction contractor in Zimbabwe.



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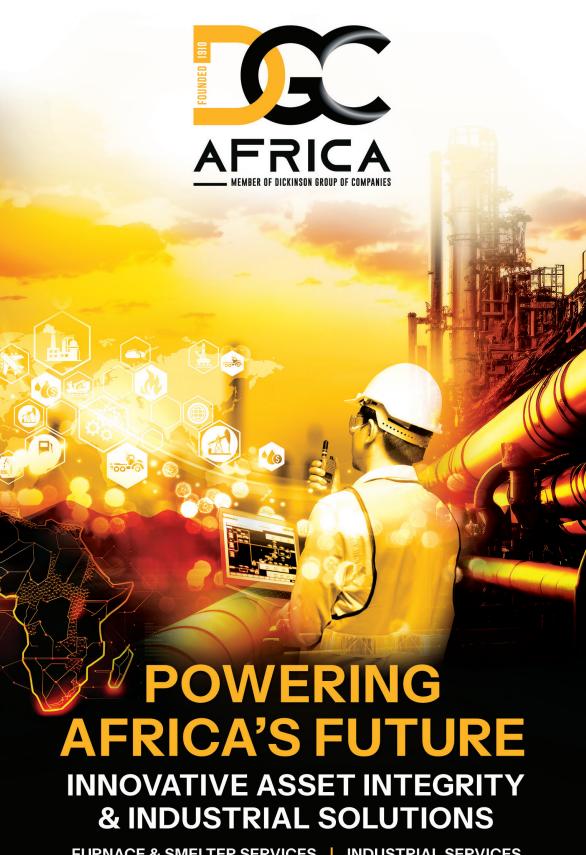
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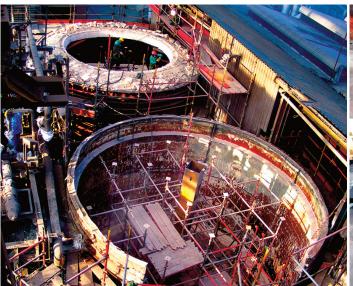






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With offices strategically positioned in South Africa, Mauritius, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar, DGC Africa leverages its extensive experience and technical expertise to deliver solutions that ensure optimal performance and efficiency. The company's portfolio of services is tailored to each client's operational challenges, offering bespoke solutions that align with their industrial requirements.

At the heart of DGC Africa's service offerings are its furnace and smelter services, which play a critical role in maintaining the operational integrity of key assets across various industries. These

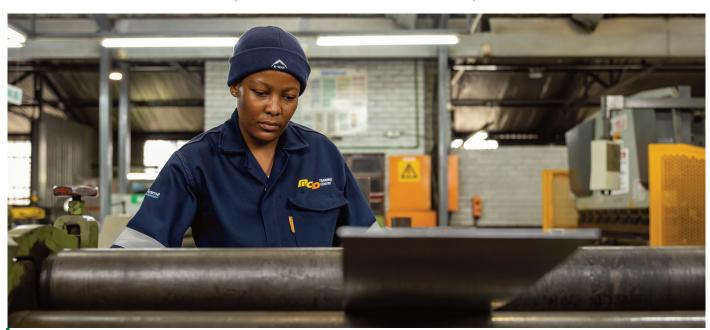
services include complex furnace rebuilds, detailed inspections, and specialised refractory installations, all aimed at enhancing productivity, reducing downtime, and ensuring safety. By integrating advanced technology with decades of industry knowledge, DGC Africa helps its clients navigate and overcome the operational challenges posed by harsh industrial environments.

Additionally, DGC Africa delivers a broad range of other industrial services, such as industrial linings and mechanical engineering. These services enable companies to protect their assets, streamline operations, and maintain high

safety standards, contributing to longterm sustainability and operational excellence.

# Empowering Africa's Workforce: DGC Workforce Solutions and Local Collaboration

An essential part of DGC Africa's long-term strategy is its commitment to empowering local communities and developing the continent's workforce. This commitment is exemplified through DGC Workforce Solutions, a pivotal division of DGC Africa that focuses on addressing the complex and evolving workforce needs of African industries.





With a legacy rooted in over a century of industrial service provision, DGC Workforce Solutions offers a comprehensive range of services that include specialised recruitment, flexible labour hire models, workforce management, and consulting services. By bridging critical skills gaps, fostering local The company's talent, and ensuring mechanical engineering regulatory compliance, capabilities cover mineral DGC Workforce Solutions process engineering, plays a significant role in structural and piping driving Africa's industrial

development.

A key initiative in this regard is the collaboration with
Browhil Trading in Zimbabwe. As
DGC Africa continues to expand its footprint in Zimbabwe, DGC Workforce
Solutions will partner with Browhil Trading to provide tailored workforce solutions that meet the demands of Zimbabwe's growing industrial sectors. This collaboration aims to offer artisanal training, skilled labour provision, and

workforce compliance services, ensuring that Zimbabwe's industries have access to a highly-skilled, adaptable, and compliant workforce.

In Zimbabwe, DGCA Zimbabwe, a joint venture between DGC Africa and Browhil Trading, already de-

livers essential services to the mining and metals smelting sectors. The venture provides crucial services, including furnace rebuilds, mechanical engineering projects, and refractory installation, all while fostering community development by

training and employing local talent. This partnership exemplifies DGC Africa's broader strategy of combining global standards with local expertise to boost local employment, enhance industrial capabilities, and contribute to the socioeconomic growth of Zimbabwe.

#### A Vision for Africa's Industrial Future

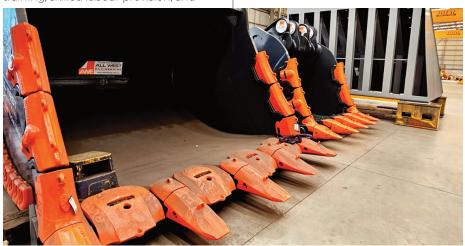
As DGC Africa continues to expand its reach across the continent, its focus remains firmly on innovation, sustainability, and community empowerment. The company's dedication to delivering world-class industrial services, combined with its commitment to local workforce development, positions DGC Africa as a key player in Africa's industrial evolution.

Whether through furnace and smelter services, mechanical engineering, or the strategic workforce solutions provided by DGC Workforce Solutions, the company remains a trusted partner for businesses seeking to enhance their operational efficiency while contributing to local development. DGC Africa's ability to merge technical expertise with deep local insights ensures that its clients are well-equipped to meet today's industrial challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of tomorrow.

As DGC Africa strengthens its presence in countries like Zimbabwe and beyond, the company continues to deliver critical industrial solutions that are driving the future of Africa's industrial landscape.

#### Contributors:

Justin Nothnagel (Director Business Development, Dickinson Group of Companies) Douglas Mhazo (Managing Director, DGC Zimbabwe)



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# Despite 3.7% IMP Increase,

#### Major Minerals Face Significant Production Decline

According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStats), the Index of Mineral Production (IMP) for the second quarter of 2024 increased by a modest 3.7% year-on-year. This growth was mostly driven by gold, but the report highlights a concerning decline in the output of all other major minerals.



While gold production remains resilient, other sectors are struggling, raising questions about the sustainability of Zimbabwe's mining industry.

By Ryan Chigoche

The IMP is a key economic indicator that tracks changes in mining output relative to a baseline period. This latest report covers data from the first quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2024, using administrative information from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

In the second quarter of 2024, gold's output index surged to 118.2, a significant increase from 95.3 in the previous quarter, reflecting a quarter-on-quarter growth of 23.9%. Zimbabwe produced 8,230 kg of gold, up from 6,638 kg in the first quarter, with small-scale miners contributing substantially.

However, gold was the only major mineral sector to record growth. The lithium production index soared to 5,587.3, a year-on-year increase of 1,010.4% from 503.2 in the second quarter of 2023. Yet, production dropped to 884,860 metric tons from 940,138 metric tons in the first quarter, a 5.9% decline attributed to falling prices,

which prompted producers to reduce output.

Nickel's output index for the second quarter was 85.1, a 12.8% drop from 97.6 in the same period last year. A quarter-on-quarter decrease of 7.0% saw production fall from 4,046 metric tons in the first quarter to 3,761 metric tons. The sharp decline in nickel prices, which have plummeted from over \$100,000 per ton in 2022 to around \$19,000, has negatively impacted profitability for Zimbabwe's largest producer, Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC).

Platinum's output index in the second quarter was 129.5, a 6.84% year-on-year decrease from 139.1 in 2023. Production dipped from 4,987 kg in the first quarter to 4,426 kg, likely due to a slump in platinum group metal (PGM) prices. However, producers expect a production rebound as prices stabilize.

Diamond production dropped to 1.1 million carats, down from 1.4 million, resulting in an output index of 255.4 for the second quarter, a 2.2% year-on-year decrease. The quarter-on-quarter decline was more pronounced, at 16.9%, from 307.2 in the first quarter.

The copper output index was 139.3, reflecting a 1.72% year-on-year decrease as production fell from 3,013 metric tons in the second quarter of 2023 to 2,961 metric tons. A significant quarter-on-quarter decline of 19.8% was recorded, down from 173.5. Despite having substantial copper reserves, Zimbabwe's production lags behind other countries, even as global demand for copper is expected to double by 2035, largely driven by electric vehicle (EV) production.

Coal's output index dropped to 148.7, a dramatic 67.8% decrease from 461.6 in the second quarter of 2023. A quarter-on-quarter analysis showed a 45.2% drop from 271.4 in the first quarter.

The data was compiled using the Laspeyres Index formula, with 2019 as the base year, per the United Nations' International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production (IRIIP) 2010.

Zimbabwe's mining sector is highly diversified, with nearly 40 minerals, of which the top 10 include gold, platinum, coal, nickel, chrome, diamonds, black granite, copper, asbestos, and silver. The sector generated US\$5.1 billion in 2021 and US\$5.6 billion in 2022.



















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# Hwange's US\$20 Million Turnaround Strategy: A New Dawn for the Coal Giant

Hwange Colliery Company Limited (HCCL), now rebranded as HCCL Holdings Limited, has invested nearly US\$20 million as part of a comprehensive turnaround strategy aimed at reviving the fortunes of Zimbabwe's coal mining giant.



nder the leadership of
President Emmerson
Mnangagwa, Hwange Colliery
Company has become
another major success story,
with a turnaround that has increased output by over 100%.

Rudairo Mapuranga

This significant investment, spanning various sectors, is not only transforming the company's operations but also reshaping the outlook of Hwange town, which the company owns.

HCCL Holdings was placed under



administration in August 2022 after it fell into financial distress.

The administrator .Munashe Shava, a mining projects startup specialist and experienced mining professional, is leading the reconstruction plan to ensure the company returns to profitability. HCCL has been posting positive results since the third quarter of last year.

During a recent technical visit by Mining Zimbabwe, CEO William Gambiza shared insights into the restructuring and developments underway at HCCL, showcasing a clear pathway toward sustainable growth and diversification. According to Gambiza, HCCL's turnaround strategy is built on a foundation of diversification and the creation of seven independent entities.

He noted that this move is a strategic decision to enhance operational efficiency, reduce overhead costs, and increase the company's ability to attract specialized investments in various sectors.

The seven new entities formed under HCCL Holdings Limited include:

Hwange Mining and Processing Company Hwange Property Company Hwange Medical Company Hwange Zambezi Agriculture Company Hwange Lubimbi Energy Company Hwange Khula Fund Main North JV Company

These companies, each focusing on specific areas of the business, are at various stages of development.

Gambiza highlighted that while the mining and processing business remains the backbone of HCCL, the diversified ventures will ensure the company remains agile and competitive in the evolving market landscape. The mining and processing operations, currently producing low-value products, have received significant capital injections aimed at upgrading facilities and boosting production capacity.

According to Gambiza, the goal is to shift from low-value to high-value products, which is critical for the company's longterm growth.

"At the moment, the reconstruction plan entails creating new companies. The mining company, a going concern, has retained the core business of exploration, mining, processing, and marketing coal. However, the current product mix is mainly low-value products," Gambiza explained.

Continued on the next page >>



The US\$20 million investment has been strategically allocated across various projects to enhance efficiency, improve processes, and position HCCL for future growth. Key projects include:

#### **Coke Oven Battery Resuscitation**

A US\$8.2 million internally funded project aimed at reviving the Coke Oven Battery. Once operational, it will enable HCCL to produce coke, a high-value product used in the steel industry, significantly boosting the company's revenue streams.

#### Wash Plant Upgrade

A US\$3.1 million upgrade to the wash plant, improving coal processing capacity to ensure the company delivers a higherquality product to the market.

#### **Underground Mining Project**

Estimated at US\$4 to US\$4.5 million, this project aims to revitalize underground mining operations, which have the potential to tap into richer coal seams and increase output.

#### Mid-life Interventions

HCCL has spent approximately US\$1 million on mid-life interventions for its plants, including US\$250,000 for

refurbishing Plant A and a planned US\$245,000 for upgrading wet screens in Plant B, ensuring the infrastructure remains operational and efficient.

#### **Hesco Project**

Set to receive a capital injection of around US\$3 million, the Hesco project will focus on improving environmental and safety standards, ensuring HCCL aligns underground mining operations, with modern mining best practices.

Despite the ongoing increase output. restructuring, HCCL's production and financial figures show positive signs. In the first half of the year, the company recorded nearly two million tonnes of coal output, generating revenue of US\$87 million. These figures underscore the company's potential for growth, particularly as it moves toward producing higher-value products.

"The success we have achieved so far has largely been due to the production of low-value products. However, we see great opportunities to shift towards high-value products. This requires further capital injection, but we are confident that the projects we have in the pipeline will allow us to tap into new markets and increase our profitability," Gambiza added.

US\$4.5 million, the

underground

project aims to revitalize

which have the

HCCL's turnaround strategy is not only designed to stabilize the company's operations but also to position it as a key player in Zimbabwe's coal mining industry.

Diversification into other areas, such as agriculture, energy, and real estate, combined with Estimated at **US\$4 to** 

strategic investments in core mining operations, indicates that the company is on track to regain its status as a coal giant. potential to tap into richer coa

> seams and The commitment to upgrading facilities and developing new products aligns with broader industry trends, where companies are increasingly focused on adding value to raw materials and reducing reliance on low-value exports.

> > With the injection of nearly US\$20 million into its operations, HCCL is well on its way to a full-scale recovery, promising brighter days for both the company and Hwange town. The ongoing projects and diversification initiatives are expected to yield results in the coming years, positioning HCCL as a leading player in Zimbabwe's mining landscape.

> > > Continued on the next page >>



#### Workers Excited by Hwange Turnaround

The restructuring of Hwange Colliery Company Limited into HCCL Holdings, under the leadership of William Gambiza, has sparked renewed optimism among workers, who are now confident in the company's gradual recovery as a giant in Zimbabwe's mining sector.

HCCL Holdings is one of Zimbabwe's largest employers, with a workforce exceeding 3,500 people. The company directly employs 1,767 workers, including 1,502 permanent employees and 265 contract workers. The contract workers consist of trainees, apprentices, graduate learners, student nurses, and those on fixed-term contracts. Additionally, around 2,000 employees are engaged by five contractors working on behalf of HCCL, bringing the total workforce to approximately 3,700 employees.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe, HCCL Holdings Workers' Committee Chairman. Deliverance Nyoni, said that under the new management, working conditions have greatly improved. Workers now have the opportunity to sit down with the CEO and discuss how the company can grow.

"Management has allowed workers to express their views on how the company is run, and we've been able to contribute ideas for the growth of the mine," Nyoni

He added that the work culture has shifted, fostering a closer relationship between employees and management. This new culture has boosted production and created an environment where employees feel more connected to the

company's success.

"Working conditions have improved greatly, and no one is afraid at work anymore. The CEO is not just a boss; to us, he's a friend. I hope he doesn't fire me for saying that, but that's how it feels. There's no longer a fear of being victimized, and the production results reflect that. For years, we've talked about transforming Hwange Colliery, and now, under the new management, we're seeing real change. A major structure is being built that will elevate us to a different level compared to other coal mines"

Nyoni also highlighted new programs introduced by HR to benefit workers. "For example, we now have our own internal medical fund, customized for Colliery workers. We've also started the Colliery Fund, which allows employees to borrow money from the company for personal projects. The aim is to ensure that when we leave the company, we are in a better position. This is a great initiative, and we hope the momentum will continue. I'm confident it will, and we want people to know the true story of what's happening on the ground."

HCCL Holdings CEO, William Gambiza, emphasized that effective leadership is about influence and ensuring that everyone, from the shop floor to the top, is involved in achieving the company's objectives.

"Full involvement leads to full results, fostering autonomy, psychological safety, and commitment within the team," Gambiza explained.

"Our team's role has expanded beyond salary discussions to actively participating in the company's business objectives and plans. The key to success is prioritizing people first, with strategy coming second."

"You asked about my secret, my strategy. Leadership varies from person to person, but it's about influence and the people. If you don't involve people, you can't achieve set objectives. Partial involvement gives partial results. Involving everyone, from the shop floor to the top, creates a united team. Autonomy, the ability to express

themselves, psychological safety, and commitment are all present.

talks anymore. It's unfair

for any company to run

for a month without the

For years, we've talked "I've told my team that their about transforming role isn't just about salary Hwange Colliery, and now, under the new management, we're seeing real change. A major structure is being built that will elevate us to a different workers understanding the business plan, whether level compared to other coal mines." it's monthly, quarterly,

- D. Nyoni

half-yearly, or annually. Their role has broadened beyond money matters; they are now part of achieving our business objectives, targets, and plans. Everyone is running the race together. The secret is people first, strategy second," he concluded.





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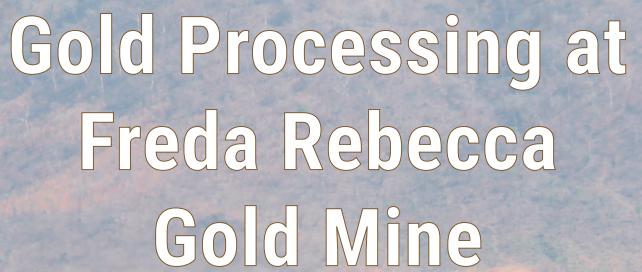
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# **FUELING MINING OPERATIONS**

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On the 6th of September 2024, Mining Zimbabwe joined the Association of Mine Managers of Zimbabwe (AMMZ) on its 2024 third-quarter technical visit to Freda Rebecca Gold Mine, located in Bindura.

#### By Rudairo Mapuranga

The visit provided a comprehensive overview of the Hybrid mining operation, including an in-depth tour of its gold processing plant.

Led by Tinashe Chikomo, Senior Plant Metallurgist, the surface team of visitors was guided through each stage of the gold processing plant, from the geology of the Freda Rebecca mine to the final production of gold bullion.



#### **Ore Characteristics and Crushing Circuit**

Freda Rebecca Gold Mine processes ore with an average Bond Work Index of 20 kilowatt-hours per tonne, a natural pH of 9.0, and a bulk density of 2.8 tonnes per cubic meter. According to Tinashe Chikomo, the ore is sourced from both the Freda open pit and underground operations, as well as from Shamva, to meet the mine's monthly processing capacity of 230,000 tonnes.

The ore first undergoes primary crushing in a series of jaw crushers. The mine operates three jaw crushers: a 50 by 60-inch crusher with a capacity of 600 tonnes per hour, and two 48 by 42-inch crushers, each with a capacity of 450 tonnes per hour.

These crushers feed three processing plants: the CIO1 plant, commissioned when the mine first opened; the CIO2 plant, commissioned in 2016; and the CIO3 plant, commissioned in April 2022. For secondary crushing, the plant operates two



4.25-foot Simon's cone crushers, two 5.5-foot cone crushers, and one 4.25-foot cone crusher. This crushing circuit produces an output of approximately 180 tonnes per hour, which is sent to the milling stage for further size reduction.

#### **Milling Circuit**

The processing plant at Freda Rebecca operates three semi-autogenous (SAG) mills, each measuring 16 by 24 feet, and three ball mills, each measuring 12 by 14 feet. The combined capacity of these mills allows the mine to process approximately 50 tonnes of ore per hour per mill. Chikomo highlighted that Freda Rebecca processes around 2.8 million tonnes of ore annually, with 2.2 million tonnes sourced

"At full capacity, our plant processes between 7,500 and 8,000 tonnes per day, utilizing approximately 15,000 cubic meters of water daily," Chikomo said. He further explained that around 67% of this

operations, and an additional 600,000

from Freda's pit and underground

tonnes from Shamva.

water is recycled, while the remainder is sourced primarily from the Mazowe River.

#### Thickening and Leaching

After milling, the slurry undergoes thickening in two thickeners with diameters of 25 meters and 15 meters, respectively. These thickeners concentrate the slurry to a pulp density of approximately 50% solids before it is sent to the carbon-in-pulp (CIP) leaching circuit.

Freda Rebecca's CIP processing plant consists of four 2,000-cubic-meter tanks and fifteen 600-cubic-meter tanks. Around 60% of these tanks are dedicated to leaching, while the remainder handle carbon adsorption. The plant employs a cyanide consumption rate of 0.4 kilograms per tonne of ore processed, and the same rate applies to lime usage.

Chikomo emphasized the importance of oxygen in the leaching process: "We inject around 4 tonnes of oxygen per day into the leaching tanks to improve the kinetics of the process and increase gold recovery."



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#### **Elution and Gold Recovery**

Once gold is absorbed onto the activated carbon, the carbon is transferred to the elution circuit, where the gold is stripped from the carbon. The mine operates a 6-tonne elution plant, designed and developed by Anglo American Research Laboratories, to achieve optimal gold recovery. The stripped gold is then recovered through electrolysis cells before being sent for smelting.

TN. SNR

Freda Rebecca has two smelting furnaces: a 0.5-kilowatt electric induction furnace and an LP gas-fired furnace. The smelting process produces gold bullion with a purity level of 70-90%, the remaining elements being primarily silver, with trace amounts of iron and copper. The bullion is subsequently sent to Fidelity Gold Refinery for further purification.

"We have consistently maintained an average recovery rate of around 80%, with

the plant processing approximately 100,000 tonnes of ore per month," Chikomo said.

He added that Freda Rebecca produces around 6,200 ounces of gold per month, with 75% of the ore coming from Freda's operations and the remaining 25% from Shamva.

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#### Water Management and Tailings

Water management is one of the primary challenges faced by Freda Rebecca, particularly due to the depletion of natural sources such as the Mazowe River. Chikomo pointed out that the mine consumes about 15,000 cubic meters of water daily, with two-thirds of this volume being recycled. However, the remaining third is sourced from the Mazowe River, which is under strain due to prolonged drought conditions in the region.

"We are in discussions with relevant authorities to explore sustainable options for water extraction, ensuring that we can continue operations without exacerbating the depletion of natural water resources," Chikomo said.

The mine's tailings storage facility (TSF) is also a key focus area, as the current dam is nearing the end of its lifespan. To address this, Freda Rebecca is in the process of expanding its TSF by 50%, adding an additional 100 hectares to the current footprint. The expansion is expected to be completed by December 2024, allowing the mine to continue safely depositing tailings while recycling water for processing operations.

#### **Technological Innovations**

Freda Rebecca has made significant investments in technology to enhance



operational efficiency. One of the key innovations is the installation of automatic sample cutters, which take samples every four minutes. This technology is crucial for gold reconciliation and metal accounting, ensuring that the mine has accurate data on gold recoveries at every stage of the process.

"We have also installed a 10-tonne-per-day oxygen plant, which has significantly reduced our reliance on external suppliers. Previously, we were purchasing oxygen at \$75 per kilogram, with delivery costs adding up to \$3,000 per day. Our in-house oxygen plant has drastically reduced these costs," Chikomo explained.

Additionally, Freda Rebecca has implemented a cylinder-filling manifold, allowing the plant's boiler shop to fill oxygen cylinders internally. This innovation has eliminated the need for costly external purchases, further reducing operational costs.

The engineering department plays a vital role in ensuring that the plant operates at optimal levels. "Our target is a plant availability of 92%, with a utilization rate of 96%. These metrics are essential for ensuring we meet our production goals efficiently," Chikomo said.

The gold processing plant at Freda Rebecca Gold Mine exemplifies the use of advanced technology and innovative solutions to optimize gold recovery and enhance operational efficiency. Despite challenges such as water shortages and tailings management, the mine continues to play a crucial role in Zimbabwe's gold production, contributing significantly to the country's Vision 2030 goals.

Through continued investment in technology, sustainable practices, and efficient resource management, Freda Rebecca is well-positioned to maintain its status as one of Zimbabwe's leading gold producers.



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# Strategic Developments Drive Sabi Gold Surge in Production

Zvishavane-based gold mine, Sabi Gold, has attributed its significant surge in productivity to exploration, shaft development, and machine availability.



The miner is reportedly on course to achieve its target of producing 60 kg of gold per month, Mining Zimbabwe can report.

By Ryan Chigoche

Before entering judicial management, Sabi Gold Mine processed 6,000 tons of gold ore, yielding 12-18 kg of gold monthly. With an increase to 25,000 tons processed per month, Sabi has more than doubled its output, now producing 40 kg of gold.

This 166% increase occurred under the new investor, Anmack Mining Private Limited, which took over in 2022 after the company was released from judicial management.

Speaking to Mining Zimbabwe, Costa Takawira, the director at Sabi Gold Mines, detailed how the mine achieved this feat. He attributed the success to extended exploration and shaft development, as they are currently conducting both underground and open-cast mining.

"But the team also implemented other processes. Initially, we planned to use a heap leach, but upon reviewing the costs, we found it was quite expensive. We then decided to send all the material intended for heap leaching into the plant, making a few modifications. This approach has

significantly increased our productivity, along with our machine availability, which consistently remains above 92%," Takawira explained.

"The main reason for Sabi's increased production is our development of multiple shafts. When we took over Sabi, there had not been much exploration done by ZMDC. We evaluated which shafts we could further develop and

brought in several consultants to assist us. Consequently, we have developed a number of shafts within the mine, allowing us to produce from both underground and open-pit sources," Takawira added.

He noted that they are currently exploring another area across the river at Sabi Gold Mine, where they are extracting a significant amount of ore.

Machine availability has also played a crucial role in boosting productivity, and Takawira expressed confidence in achieving the set target of producing 60 kg of gold monthly. By year-end, they aim to reach this target, thanks to the completion of phase two, which involves deepening the shaft from level 10 to level 14, providing

access to more underground ore.

To meet these targets, Sabi has upgraded its crushing plant to process 1,000 tons per day, up from 250 tons. They have added an extra mill and installed a primary crushing circuit. Additionally, they have enhanced leaching capacity by adding six Carbonin-Pulp tanks and installed a dewatering cyclone to improve operational control

clone to improve operational control in the processing plant.

the first recorded

Before entering judicial management, Sabi Gold
Mine processed 6,000 tons of gold ore, yielding 12-18 kg of gold monthly. With an increase to 25,000 tons processed per month, Sabi has more than doubled its output, now producing
40 kg of gold.

production occurring in 1909. The mine was acquired by ZMDC in 1984.

The Sabi mine claims were

first pegged in 1890, with

ZMDC previously owned 100% of Kimberworth

Investments, trading as Sabi Gold Mine. However, the mine encountered difficulties and was placed under judicial management, initially overseen by Wesley Sibanda, who passed away in 2019.

In 2019, Oliver Mutasa of Crowe International took over as judicial manager until April 2022, when the mine was handed over to Anmack Investments and ZMDC after all creditors were paid their dues.

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