

MINING & TRADE *Review*

Mining & Business News that Matters

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Women hype

- Oxfam empowers young miners
- ASMs trained in gemstone processing



Day 6 of the training: Trainers, Oxfam personnel and trainees enjoy a group photo

By Marcel Chimwala

Ten young women gemstone miners drawn from across Malawi are now empowered to develop their businesses to more profitable levels thanks to a 10-days gemstone cutting and polishing training programme held at Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute (SMEDI) centre in Mponela, Dowa with the sponsorship of Oxfam Malawi.

The training programme included courses in Business Management, Mining Policies and Procedures, Lapidary techniques, Cutting & Pre-shaping, Gemstone testing techniques, Gem tumbling techniques, and Doping & Cabochon polishing.

“If there is one thing the training has taught us, is to do business unusual and not as usual,” said Stafel Chipeta, the class president of the cohort during the closing ceremony of the training workshop.

Chipeta thanked Oxfam and SMEDI for the training programme but urged the two organisations to organise a second phase saying the participants need more time to practise with machines to perfect cabochon and faceting skills.

“From Business management, to digital marketing, to entrepreneurship, to gemstone cutting and polishing, we say thank you Oxfam and SMEDI. Mr Gama, the first time we saw you demonstrate with those machines, we would not have guessed that a few days later we would be fearlessly cutting stones to perform with the confidence of 10 men,” she said.

cont. on page 3

INSIDE



Sovereign constructs Community Centre for Malingunde community
Page 8 & 9



Occurrence of lead deposits in Malawi
Page 10



Government failing to follow up on ASM gold discoveries
Page 11



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Oxfam sponsors training of young women miners in gemstone cutting and polishing

Chipeta also urged Oxfam to link the women miners to networks in the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) subsector with the aim of strengthening local and international networking, as well as broadening their perception, learning best practices, and marketing their work.

She also requested Oxfam for grants that are meaningful and sustainable for purchasing modern machinery that will support their work to be self-sustaining through creation of competitive gemstone products that will increase demand for Malawian ASM products globally.

“All this expertise and knowledge gained, if not put into action will be a white elephant. Knowledge without resources (capital) to start a business is like a nice car with flat tyres, no locomotion, no targeted outcome,” Chipeta said.

Oxfam’s Young Women Empowerment Programme Assistant for Southern Africa Yolanda Maseya explained that the goal of Oxfam is to increase capacity and income for young women.

Maseya said: “It is through collaboration with SMEDI that we will provide spaces for young women to cultivate their ASM ventures there by boosting the youth employment rate through the creation of new jobs but also improving the country’s economic revenue through income generation in this new and booming field.”

“The economic empowerment of women not only positively impacts their own life situations but is also central to mobilising their potential for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.”

She thanked the resource persons at the training session, for imparting the young women with technical knowledge.

“It is truly inspiring to witness someone who cares about the craft like Mr. Gama genuinely and whole heartedly imparting knowledge so that generations to come benefit from this,” Maseya said.

SMEDI CEO Rodrick Chattaika thanked Oxfam Malawi for sponsoring the 10 young women to undergo the training and urged for continuation of the cordial relationship with Oxfam for the benefit of the nation.

He appealed to the graduates to apply the knowledge and skills acquired, when they go back to their respective work places.

Chattaika said: “The objective of this 10-days training reads; ‘Building Skills and Expanding Space for Youth Leadership.’ The training objective contributes to the outcome of; ‘Increased Capacity and Income for Young Women.’ Oxfam in collaboration with SMEDI will provide space for young women to cultivate Artisanal Small Scale Mining (ASSM) ventures thereby boosting youth empowerment rate through creation of jobs.”

“The above strategic direction taken by Oxfam is in line with SMEDI’s mandate of promoting and developing SMEs in Malawi to contribute positively to the country’s economic growth.”

“I am encouraged that these young women have acquired knowledge and skills that will enable them do better in their businesses.”

He also urged the graduates to actively engage Ministry of Mining for advice, where need be, in their day to day works.

During the training, officials from the Ministry of Mining were invited to brief the women on regulations governing the mining sector.

Chattaika said: “As we close training, take note that attending this gemstone cutting and polishing training is not the end. Instead, it is the beginning of our concerted efforts in making Malawi a predominantly exporting nation with you. Participants, training at SMEDI does not end in a classroom. Rather, it is a continuous process. Therefore talk to our trainers whenever you need any assistance. You can also find help from our Regional Offices in Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre.”

“My advice is that you should take this 10-day training as a step towards creation of new jobs and it all depends on what you do here after.”



Pauline Kakhobwe showcasing her knowledge learnt during exhibition on graduation day



Chattaika being taken through gemstone cutting and polishing processes by Sbusiswe Chasweka



Maziko Matemvu showcasing her expertise at gemstone grading process



Proud moments, graduate Triza and Maseya pose for a photo on graduation day



Trainees eagerly learning and working machinery during workshop sessions



Graduates in celebration mood



Graduation day, graduates proudly hold their certificates as they pose for a photo

EDITORIAL



BY MARCEL
CHIMWALA,
PUBLISHING EDITOR

Allocate funds for gold exploration

In the last five years, a number of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) gold mining hotspots have emerged across the country notably in Mangochi-Makanjira, Machinga, Balaka, Neno, Chiwamba and Lundu in Lilongwe, Dwangwa River area in Kasungu and Nkhotakota.

In countries that are organised, such discovery of alluvial gold mining sites is always a wake-up call for governments through Geological Survey Departments (GSD) to carry out geological follow ups to investigate the original sources of the alluvial gold, which sometimes leads to discovery of sizable quantities of gold that attracts large scale mining investors.

But it seems the Malawi Government does not have ambition to discover sizeable gold deposits as in our article on Page 11, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Mining Sangwani Phiri while agreeing with the importance of conducting gold exploration to follow up on ASM discoveries says government did not allocate funds to the GSD for such activities.

We find this failure to allocate funds to GSD and the Ministry of Mining to organise the gold mining industry unfortunate as in his maiden State of the Nation Address President Lazarus Chakwera bemoaned the ills of illegal gold mining and smuggling in Malawi lamenting that the country is not poor as its gold worthy US\$85-million is being sold annually at the Dubai market in United Arab Emirates.

Chakwera further showed political will when he established a separate Ministry of Mining delinking it from Natural Resources and Energy and later in his weekly Press Briefings talked about establishing the Malawi Mining Investment Company to help bring sanity in the industry by among other things buying gold from ASMs to curb smuggling.

But it seems the gap between Chakwera's rhetoric and action by his government machinery is wide.

New gold buyers association to sanitize Malawi market

By Bester Kayaye

The newly formed Gold Buyers Association of Malawi (GBAM) says it is poised to bring sanity on Malawi's local gold market by, among other things, introducing a price determination model that will strengthen the country's extractive sector.

Gold trade in Malawi is currently carried out on black market leading to loss of revenue by government through smuggling.

GBAM Chairman, Maotcha Banda, told *Mining and Trade Review* that GBAM will promote and maintain positive working relationship among members of the association by regulating local buying prices, collaborating with government in revenue collection from the gold industry and ensuring that profits from gold benefit Malawians.

"We will link gold buyers and Government through the line Ministry," he said explaining that the association will help industry players, especially artisanal and small scale miners (ASMs), avoid unnecessary buying competition on the market.

The group will further facilitate access to industry information and advice, and project and equipment financing for its members.

GBAM is, currently, negotiating export deals with a Dubai gold buyer.

Banda also urged the mining and immigration offices to urgently deal with the influx of illegal foreign buyers on the local gold market.

The gold industry faces many challenges in pricing, smuggling, influx of illegal foreign miners and buyers,



Maotcha Banda at Machinga mining site

illegal mining methods, lack of expertise, lack of relevant legislation to guide policy directions and lack of common local point of sales.

"The association will not allow foreigners who are not properly documented to do the business in Malawi," said Banda.

He therefore called on government to establish selling points in all cities and to provide a conducive environment for local and international buyers.

Headquartered at Ntaja Trading Centre in Machinga district, GBAM has over 120 registered members.

Gold is currently extracted in Machinga, Lilongwe, Mneni, Kasungu, Ntcheu, Mangochi and Salima districts.

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ASMs mining gold in Machinga



Machinga gold particles



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Hamra to relinquish Malawi petroleum exploration licenses

By Wahard Betha

UAE petroleum exploration firm Hamra Oil has notified the Malawi Government of its intention to relinquish petroleum exploration licenses for Blocks 2 and 3 located in Malawi's Africa Rift System geological zone in the districts of Karonga, Nkhata Bay and Nkhotakota.

Responding to an emailed questionnaire, PRO for the Ministry of Mining Sangwani Phiri confirmed that the Ministry received the letter from Hamra on the issue but said the Ministry is yet to respond to the letter as it is yet to decide on whether to approve or revoke the proposal by the Company.

Hamra Oil Holdings submitted the letter to the Ministry of Mining requesting for license termination certificate on January 18th, 2021 citing the global novel coronavirus (Covid-19) as one of the reasons behind the relinquishment.

Phiri said in line with the law, the Ministry is still examining the conditions of the request and making sure that in case of granting the termination, the Company settles all outstanding issues.

He said: "Hamra submitted notices to terminate their licences for Blocks 2 and 3, nevertheless, the termination of the licences has not been approved yet by Government since the Ministry is working on a number of issues as required by the law."

"In this case, despite that Government has not approved their licence termination application, their intention is not in breach of either the Petroleum Act or the Licences."

"The submission was made in line with Section 79 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 1983 (Petroleum Act) (First Schedule on Relinquishment)," Phiri said.

Hamra submitted the termination letter a day before completing a year after the renewal of the license which raised suspicion that the company was running away from meeting expenses related to license obligations for the second financial year.

The second year after renewal of the licence was due to start on January 19th, 2021.

But Phiri said if the Government decides to grant the termination, they cannot react to such a development but rather follow what the law stipulates.

The Ministry and Hamra have been conducting community sensitizations in both Blocks since the licences were awarded, and Phiri said government will take a leading role to sensitise the community on the issue in case of relinquishment.

Government conducts community sensitization meet

ings in the tenement areas to disseminate information on issues including; number of Blocks demarcated in the country; companies operating in the available Blocks; oil and gas exploration activities taking place and; potential economic benefits of oil and gas production when discovery is made.

Phiri also said that the decision by Hamra to close their offices in Malawi does not mean that oil and gas exploration activities end with them.

He said people in the country should expect more oil and gas investors to come at an appropriate time when the Ministry decides to advertise the vacant blocks.

Phiri said: "Even if Hamra leaves, Government is urging the general public to continue trusting it. Oil and gas exploration is not a short-term venture. It takes years from the desk studies to the actual detailed exploration."

"Even if a company discovers oil and gas today, there is still a need to do appraisals to ascertain if the reserves are of economic value at the current petroleum markets."

"The works that Hamra conducted will provide a baseline which other companies can utilise to further oil and gas exploration from where Hamra stopped and possibly make a discovery for the benefit of the country."

"Exploration is an ongoing exercise and Government will continue exploration activities on behalf of Malawians."

Phiri further appealed to Malawians not to suspect any foul play by the company promising Government's insurance to follow all procedures to clear any outstanding issues before issuance of the relinquishment certificate.

He also urged all stakeholders to put their trust in the Government that it will handle the matter in accordance with law and they should not fear any corrupt practices as everything will be handled in a transparent and accountable manner.

Acting Country Manager for Hamra Oil James Chatupa also said there is no cause for alarm for Malawians on the relinquishment of the licenses as this happens in the upstream petroleum industry worldwide.

Chatupa said Hamra will handle the issue in a transparent manner and ensure that all issues regarding taxation, employment benefits and contracts with contractors and consultants are amicably settled before leaving Malawi.

"Hamra is a law abiding company and will handle all issues in accordance with the law so that it can come back to Malawi when there is a need in the future as business dynamics are always changing," he said.

On community awareness, Chatupa said Hamra has a consultant who will remain on the ground for some months after the relinquishment to sensitise the community in the tenement areas of the Company's decision.



Chatupa: Hamra handling issue lawfully

The Ministry demarcated Malawi's part of the African Rift System into six blocks which were awarded to different petroleum exploration companies as follows: Sacoil now Efora Energy Block 1 covering an area in Chitipa district; Hamra Oil Blocks 2 and 3; Rak Gas Blocks 4 and 5 covering areas in Dedza, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Machinga, Balaka, Blantyre, Mulanje and Phalombe; and Pacific Oil and Gas Block 6 covering lower Shire Districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje.

Pacific Oil was the first to relinquish its license followed by Efora Energy.

In a previous interview, Minister of Mining Rashid Gaffar told *Mining & Trade Review* that his Ministry is considering re-demarcating all vacant petroleum blocks to award to as many investors as possible as the current blocks are too large.

Gaffar said this is possible this time because the preliminary exploration conducted by initial tenement holders has given the government knowledge of potential areas to be followed up.

The Malawi Government is expected to re-demarcate the Blocks when it finalizes the development of the Upstream Petroleum Policy currently underway.

The Government is also working on the review of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 1983 to be in tandem with modern best practices.

Besides, Government is developing a model Petroleum Sharing Agreement (PSA) that will be used in awarding all the petroleum licenses in order to ensure a win-win situation between the government and investors.



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Sovereign constructs Community C

• Facility to be ready for use next month

By Wahard Betha

A SX-listed Sovereign Metals, which is busy with a Feasibility Study on the Malingunde Graphite Project in Lilongwe district, is constructing a community centre in the project area as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.

The Malingunde community have hailed the firm for building the facility which is projected to be completed next month.

Chairperson for Malingunde Action Group Lawrence Dickson told *Mining & Trade Review* in an interview during a visit to the construction site that the local community is thankful to the company for responding to their request to construct the facility despite the fact that the Malingunde Graphite Project has not yet entered a mining phase with the Feasibility Study yet to be finalised.

“The Company asked us to submit to them a list of development projects that we need as a community and among the priority projects we listed is the community centre. We initially thought they were just trying to hoodwink us to win community support but their fulfilment of this promise has eroded any of such fears,” said Dickson.

He said now that the promise is taking shape on the ground, the community is very grateful to Sovereign Metals.

The community allocated land for the construction of the facility and the investor is bearing all the costs of the project.

Dickson said: “As community, we are very happy because we were not expecting to receive such a big development by the company in our area.”

“We were lacking a place where we can be holding our community meetings or any public functions especially during sunny or rainy seasons when it is not possible to hold meetings at open grounds.”

He said it has not been feasible for the community to use school blocks to hold meetings as it disturbs students learning in classes.

Dickson also said the community will adequately benefit from the facility as it will host social events such as weddings at a fee with the proceeds to be used for maintenance of the building and to cater for other community needs.

He hailed Sovereign Metals for requiring that the appointed construction company recruits members of the Malingunde community as labourers for the project. He indicated that apart from the foreman and carpenter, the construction works are being done by the locals.

“The project has provided employment to members of the community as the Company has recruited workers including the builders, concrete mixers and women who are supplying water,” said Dickson.

The construction of the Community Centre started in December 2020 and is expected to have a capacity for over 100 people once completed. The cost for completing the Community Centre is US\$44, 000, approximately MK35-million, and includes installing solar power system, a perimeter fence, water borehole and procurement of furniture. The borehole was drilled and pump installed when construction started in 2020.



Front side of the community centre

Future of Malingunde graphite project

Commenting on the status of the Malingunde Graphite Project, Sovereign’s Country Manager, Dries Kruger, said the company will look at more CSR projects for the Malingunde community as part of a mining phase.

The Feasibility Study will be completed once the crucial marketing studies have been successfully completed and end-users of the graphite products have committed to sales agreements. The viability of the project is also dependant on prices of flake graphite on the international market.

Kruger said: “The market of graphite is showing signs of stabilising after a slump as prices recover. Lower prices were due to a lower demand because of global economic challenges. Increased pricing will have a positive impact on the feasibility outcome of the project and once

the project enters a mining phase the company is committed to do much more for the community.”

“Graphite prices are recovering after having declined and the challenge we currently face is to find end users which will commit to purchasing the Malingunde products. The company is actively working on the marketing of the products.”

Kruger said the company has in the past also undertaken smaller CSR initiatives in their project areas. The most significant of these was the drilling and installing of three boreholes while the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was being undertaken.

When operational, the Malingunde Graphite Mine is projected to pay a total of US\$200-million to the Malawi Government in form of taxes and royalties over a 15-years life span.



Inside the community centre



Lawrenc Dickson (left) posing with group treasurer



Community centre toilets

Centre for Malingunde community

• Kasiya continues producing exciting rutile exploration results



Lab Technician using a magnet to magnetically separate non-magnetic rutile from magnetic ilmenite

The estimated tax payable over the life of the mine is pegged at US\$150-million with additional US\$50-million in royalties.

The project will generate revenues during the operational phase in the form of taxation (30%) and royalties (5% of net sales revenue).

The overall level of revenue generated by the project is expected to create a noticeable increase to total government revenues. Increased business activity around the project will also provide increased tax revenue to the government.

Impact of Covid-19

Asked how the global novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has affected the Feasibility Studies, Kruger stressed that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the global economy which further negatively affected graphite prices and markets. To illustrate this further, Kruger indicated that Syrah's large Balama graphite mine in Mozambique has been on care and maintenance for the last year after halting production in 2020 but indications are that it will resume production soon. The pandemic has however not had a major impact on the ongoing desktop studies and reporting which are being finalised.

"It did impact the Feasibility Study in that the global graphite market has been negatively affected. Before the pandemic, there was already a slump in the graphite price, a trend that the pandemic has further worsened. The prices and graphite market are however recovering. We have delivered samples of the potential graphite products to end-users for assessment and are working toward

potential offtake sales arrangements," he said.

Exciting rutile discoveries

In addition to the Malingunde graphite project, Sovereign is busy exploring for rutile in its large ground holding area in Central Region which continues to produce exciting discoveries.

The Central Malawi Rutile Exploration Project features two confirmed, discrete rutile mineralization styles hosted in saprolite (soft, friable weathered material) and sand.

The exploration project includes Sovereign's flagship Kasiya Rutile deposit whose Phase 8 drilling results released recently have unveiled a significant expansion of very high-grade rutile area.

During the Phase, Sovereign drilled 70 hand auger holes located within the extensive 66km² mineralized footprint, giving a green light to extend and define the very high-grade zones.

Sovereign's MD Julian Stephens said the results show well defined, very-high-grade rutile mineralized zones from surface with the majority occurring within a ~2.5km radius from a central point, having been defined by nominally 400m x 400m drilling.

Stephens said the high-grade areas will be targeted for additional infill drilling and metallurgical variability test-work in order to form the basis of a scoping study, planned for later this year.

He said: "These areas will be targeted for further, near-future infill drilling and metallurgical variability test-work in order to support our maiden Mineral Resource Estimate and Scoping Study."

"Kasiya is shaping up to be a very large, high-grade rutile deposit that may well become one of the largest primary rutile deposits in the world."

The significant rutile enrichment occurs in the top ~8 metres from surface with very-high grades, generally greater than 1.5% rutile occurring in the top 3-5m from surface.

Stephens explained that in most cases, drill depth was restricted by the hand-auger drilling equipment capacity and it is assumed that free-dig rutile mineralization should continue vertically to the base of the saprolite estimated at approximately 25m depth from surface.

The Company's objective is to delineate a large rutile resource that could support a long-life, large-scale rutile mining operation at Kasiya.

Sovereign has also identified other numerous saprolite hosted rutile prospects and targets within the Bua Channel, which is the Company's high-grade, rutile dominant, sand-hosted placer prospect along a 50km length of a fluvial channel system.

Drilling in 2020 over the southern part of the Bua Channel over ~8km confirmed excellent rutile grades with accessory ilmenite.

Sovereign Central Malawi Rutile Exploration project is strategically located in close proximity to the capital city, Lilongwe, providing access to a skilled workforce and mining and industrial services.

In addition, the location provides access to the operating Nacala Rail Corridor linking to the Indian Ocean port of Nacala in Mozambique, providing a low-cost transport solution and access to major international markets.

Sovereign has successfully set up its own heavy mineral laboratory in Lilongwe which has been operational since the end of 2019. Exploration samples from soil sampling and hand auger drilling programs are processed at the Lilongwe laboratory. This has lowered analysis cost dramatically and also greatly increasing turnaround time on sample results and decision making on exploration strategy and targeting. Only quality control samples are exported to laboratories outside of Malawi.

The Company has trained 10 local people from the Malingunde area as full-time laboratory technicians.



Shaking table used for separating lighter minerals from heavy minerals



Samples are deslimed and screened in the first stage of processing



Borehole at the construction site



TECHNICAL FILE

by Dr. Grain Wyson Phillip Malunga FIMMM

Minerals, Geology, Environment & Corporate Affairs Consultant

Occurrence of lead deposits in Malawi

Abstract

Lead in Malawi occurs in form of galena. The most prospective area is Central Malawi where several exploration companies are active. The galena is found in pegmatites and quartz rocks.

Introduction

Lead commonly occurs in mineral deposits associated with copper and zinc. Silver has also been associated with lead and can be an important by product. The metal is bluish grey in colour and has a metallic lustre. It has a specific gravity of 11.34. It is found in

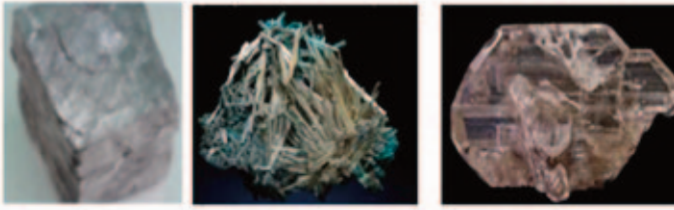
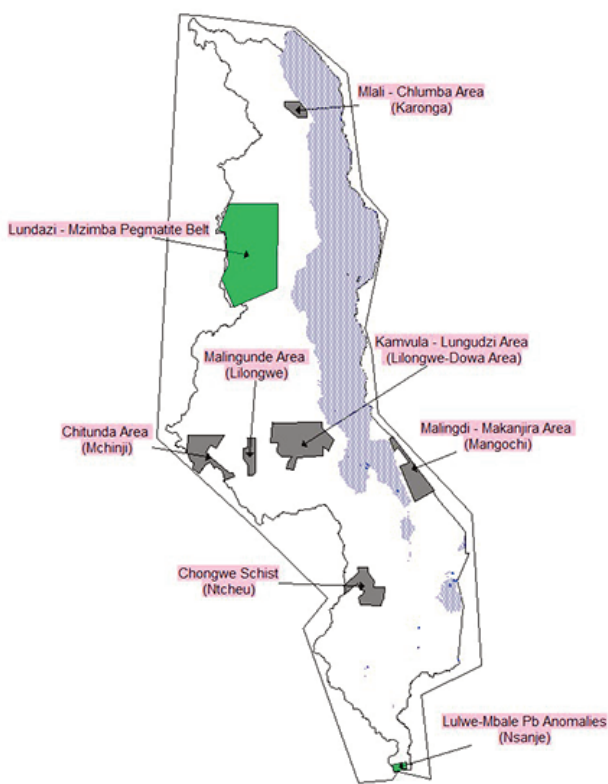


Figure 1: Lead Ores (galena, cerussite and anglesite)

association with sulphur/sulphate and carbonates. The main lead ores are galena (PbS), cerussite (PbCO₃) and anglesite (PbSO₄) (Figure 1). Its main origin is therefore either of hydrothermal or of sedimentary.

Lead occurrence

Limestone and dolostone have hosted pockets of argentiferous galena, cerussite and sphalerite while Precambrian to early Cambrian rocks, popularly known as basement rocks, have also hosted the mineral. In Malawi most prospective rock types are pegmatites, graphitic granulites, schists, quartzites and nepheline gneiss. Some occurrences have been observed in Nsanje, Ntcheu, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba (Figure 2).



Lead tenements

Several licences (Table 1) have included lead as one of the prospective minerals alongside gold, graphite, niobium, silver and zinc. Dowa area has mining claims and several applications awaiting approval. The Malawi Mining cadastre shows 9 active licences and 8 applications pending approval. These include small scale mining licences.

COMPANY	TENEMENT NUMBER	LOCATION
Africa Commodity Traders Limited	EPL 565	Lilongwe
Continental Expo Limited	EPL 548	Lilongwe
JP Import and Export	EPL 555	Lilongwe
Lancaster Exploration Limited	EPL 475	Mchinji
Luvinda General Dealers	EPL 581	Lilongwe
Mka Exploration Limited	EPL 544	Mchinji
Plinth Mining Group	EPL 477	Ntcheu
Tatai International Mining Company	EPL 472	Mangochi
ZRS Limited	EPL 486	Lilongwe

Conclusion

Malawi has potential for economic discovery of lead deposits, especially galena. Central Malawi has the highest potential in pegmatites, graphitic granulites, schists and quartzites. Southern Nsanje has nepheline gneiss while Tsangano area shows potential in Chongwe schist.

The demand for lead is in the production of motorized vehicles (lead-acid batteries), ammunitions, radiation shielding in medical analysis and video display equipment. Use of lead

as additive in petrol has also contributed to an increase in its demand.

There is informal galena mining in Dowa – Salima area and being exported to countries such as Israel and China. The value of exports are not known and there is need for Geological Survey Department to take an active role in establishing the resource potential of these areas before they can attract serious private sector investment.

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Government failing to follow up on ASM gold discoveries

By Tawonga Mayuni

The Ministry of Mining says it is failing to conduct geological follow ups of alluvial gold deposits discovered by Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASMs) across the country due to lack of funding and the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) restrictions.

PRO for the Ministry Sangwani Phiri told *Mining & Trade Review* in an interview that discovery of specific areas which are sources of alluvial gold deposits being mined by ASMs across the country is currently a tall order to accomplish mainly because of financial constraints the Ministry is encountering.

“Discovery of specific sites that are sources of alluvial gold deposited downstream is currently a tall order to accomplish. This is so because of the financial constraints the Ministry is going through, otherwise it could have been one of the major milestones we could have loved to achieve,” he said

Phiri said due to financial challenges, government does not have some exploration equipment including a machine for detecting gold deposits.

“The machinery for detecting gold could have helped in spotting where reef and other gold types could be. This is important and it was going to help serious miners to invest in such investment opportunity,” he said.

Phiri also said Covid-19 restrictions, which are making it difficult to mobilise equipment as borders of a number of countries remain closed, are a major stumbling block to the exercise of tracing gold deposits in the country.

Covid-19 restrictions have also weighed on progress on exploration projects by the Geological Survey Department (GSD) as experts are working in schedules.

For the past years, the Malawi government has been struggling to deal with illegal alluvial gold mining by ASMs with a number of hotspots emerging including

Makanjira and Namizimu forest reserve and Unga River in Mangochi, Nanthenje and Lundu in Lilongwe, Dwangwa and Bua River in Kasungu, Machinga and Neno.



Phiri: GSD not following up gold discoveries

In a report, Veteran Geologist Grain Malunga said all these areas being mined by ASMs were already known through previous geochemical exploration of stream sediments as well as recent geophysical surveys.

He said these targets are usually underlain either by schists and granulites or marbles and calc-silicate granulites.

“The main source of gold in these areas seems to be quartz veins and sulphide bands associated with hydrothermal activities,” said Malunga.

The Department of Mines has been granting exclusive prospecting licenses (EPLs) for gold to a number of firms including Portuguese firm Mota-Engil which conducted preliminary exploration in Lisungwe in Neno.

UK Firm South East African Mining (SEAM) also conducted exploration in Kasungu, and when its EPL expired the tenement was taken over by a local firm Tushiya Gold Mining Company which also failed to advance the project to feasibility study stage.

In some countries, geological investigations of gold discoveries by ASMs have led to discovery of sizable quantities of gold that have attracted interest of large scale miners.

in his maiden state of the nation address in parliament, State President Lazarus Chakwera bemoaned that Malawi is still a poor country though gold from the country worth millions of dollars is sold annually at the Dubai market in the United Arab Emirates.

Chakwera’s government has listed mining as a major sector to drive industrialization in the Agenda 2063 which was recently launched by the President.



ASMs mining gold in Kasungu



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI
MINISTRY OF MINING

PRESS RE-RELEASE

THE OUTCOME OF THE KAUNIUNI AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

The Government of Malawi, through the Ministry of Mining with funding from the World Bank and European Union conducted a countrywide Airborne Geophysical Survey (locally called Kauniuni). This was a second survey following a similar one that was conducted in 1984-1985 by Hunting Geology and Geophysics Limited from the United Kingdom. The Kauniuni had improvements in technical specification of the preceding survey.

Data acquired through the Kauniuni project were rock properties for radiometrics (Thorium (Th), Uranium (U) and potassium (K), magnetics covering the whole country and gravity from three selected blocks. This data was interpreted by the Geological Survey Department with technical assistance from a consortium of Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) and Geological Survey of France (BRGM). Interpretation work was designed to improve the understanding of mineral potential for the country and identify new mineral potential targets.

The Ministry of Mining through the Geological Survey Department would like to inform the general public that the Kauniuni project had the acquisition and interpretation of data as its main output. However, the acquired data interpretation is limited to identification of mineral potential targets. It is a requirement that further geological investigations are conducted to unveil true mineral potential.

The findings are available and can be obtained at a nominal fee from the Department of Geological Survey in Zomba.

For more information regarding the outcome of the Airborne Geophysical Survey (Kauniuni) and any other geological matters in the country, please contact the Directorate of Geological Survey Department on +265 1 524 166/+265 (0) 995 445 308.

J.C.N. Mkandawire
Secretary for Mining
11/03/2021

COMPANIES REGISTRATION 5664

TPN NO



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

COMPANIES ACT
(NO.15 OF 2013)

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

ON CHANGE OF NAME

(SECTION 52)

The Registrar of Companies for Malawi hereby certifies that

PALADIN (AFRICA) LIMITED

having by Special Resolution changed its name, is now incorporated under the name of

LOTUS (AFRICA) LIMITEDGiven under my hand and seal at Blantyre, Malawi, this 4TH day of **MARCH**, Two
Thousand and **TWENTY ONE**

R.G.


CHIPWAY M.K. CHIRAMBO
Deputy Registrar of Companies

04 MAR 2021

MINING & SOCIAL ISSUES

with Ignatius Kamwanje



The Author is a Consulting Geoscientist with experience in Mineral Exploration, Mining Geology, ESIA, Ground Water Resources and Occupational Safety, Health and Environment.

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Aligning Mining to Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, United Nations (UN) member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030 after relinquishing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDG agenda provides a successor framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that covered the period from 2000-2015. The SDGs represent the world's comprehensive plan of action for social inclusion, environmental sustainability and economic development. Mining companies will be called on to extract responsibly, waste, use safer processes, incorporate new sustainable technologies, promote the improved wellbeing of local communities, curb emissions, and improve environmental stewardship. Mining companies committed to the SDGs will benefit from improved relationships with governments and communities, as well as better access to financial resources. Those that fail to engage meaningfully with the SDGs will put their operations at risk in the short and long term.

Meeting the SDGs by 2030 will require unprecedented cooperation and collaboration among governments, non-governmental organizations, Civil Society Organisations, development partners, the private sector and communities. Achieving the SDGs will therefore require all sectors and stakeholders to incorporate the SDGs into their own practices and operations.

Mining companies will be called on to extract responsibly, waste, use safer processes, incorporate new sustainable technologies, promote the improved wellbeing of local communities, curb emissions, and improve environmental stewardship. Mining companies committed to the SDGs will benefit from improved relationships with governments and communities, as well as better access to financial resources. Those that fail to engage meaningfully with the SDGs will put their operations at risk in the short and long term.

The mining industry has the potential to positively contribute to the SDGs. Mining can foster economic development by providing opportunities for decent employment, business development, increased fiscal revenues, and infrastructure linkages. Many of the minerals produced by mining are also essential building blocks to technologies, infrastructure, energy and agriculture. However, mining has contributed to many of the challenges that the SDGs are trying to address – environmental degradation, displacement of populations, worsening economic and social inequality, armed conflicts, gender-based violence, tax evasion and corruption, increased risk for many health problems, and the violation of human rights. In recent times, the industry has made significant advances in mitigating and managing such impacts and risks, by improving how companies manage their environmental and social impacts, protect the health of their workers, achieve energy efficiencies, report on financial flows, and respect and support human rights. Importantly, mining companies' positive contributions to the SDGs include both improvements towards the SDGs and the corresponding targets as well as preventing or mitigating negative impacts.

While the mining industry is diverse, the scope and nature of typical mining activities highlight some common opportunities to leverage and contribute to the SDGs. Opportunities for mining companies to positively contribute are found across all of the goals and individual companies will need to do the analysis to understand how their business can make an impact. A company's specific actions and opportunities will depend on the local social, political and economic context, the mineral resource base, the phase of mining activities (mineral exploration, development, production, mine closure).

Three key areas, where sustainable development can be applied in mining assert the cooperation and integration of technical and economic activities that were agreed as necessary to ensure economic growth, ecological protection of natural resources and environment, and social development including safety at workplaces and community development.

(A). Mapping Mining to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1. Social Inclusion

Mining can significantly impact local communities, bring economic opportunities, but also brings challenges relating to livelihoods and human rights:

(a) SDG1 (End Poverty), SDG5 (Gender Equality) and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities):

Mining generates significant revenues through taxes, royalties for governments to invest in social-economic development, in addition to opportunities for jobs and business locally. Mining companies can take an inclusive approach by working with communities to understand the mines' actual and potential positive and negative impacts. Companies can also support participatory local decision-making processes regarding the mining operations, the equitable allocation of benefits and the resolution of grievances, and identify and expand opportunities to strengthen the voice and influence of marginalized groups, including women, to ensure that inequalities are reduced, rather than reinforced, by the economic opportunities a mine may bring.

(b) SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

Mining can contribute to peaceful societies and the rule of law by preventing and remedying company community conflict, respect for human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, avoiding illicit transfers of funds to public officials or other persons, ensuring transparent reporting of revenue flows, and supporting the representative decision making of citizens and communities in extractives.

2. Environmental Sustainability

Mining activities normally cause impacts on land, water, flora and fauna, climate and people that depend on these resources:

(i) SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG15 (Life on Land)

Mine development requires access to land and water, presenting significant adverse impacts on lands and natural resources that can be mitigated or avoided.

(ii) SDG7 (Energy Access and Sustainability) and SDG13 (Climate Action)

Mining activities, are energy and emissions intensive, presenting opportunities for greater efficiency as well as expanding access to energy

3. Economic Development

Mining can have a local, regional and national impact on economic development and growth that can be leveraged to build new infrastructure, new technologies and workforce opportunities

(a) SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

Mining can generate new economic opportunities for citizens and members of local communities, including jobs, training, and business development relating to mining operations, associated service providers, or new local economies linked to the mine.

(b) SDG9 (Infrastructure, Innovation and Industrialization) and SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)

Mining can help drive economic development and diversification through direct and indirect economic benefits and by spurring the construction of new infrastructure for transport, communications, water and energy. Mining also provides materials critical for renewable technologies and the opportunity for companies to collaborate across the supply chain to minimize waste, and to reuse and recycle.

Achieving sustainable development is challenging and the mining industry must ramp up its engagement, partnership and dialogue with other industry sectors, government, civil society and local communities. To realize the full potential for contributing to the achievement of the goals, mining companies must continue to work to integrate changes into their core business and, along with the mining industry as a whole, bolster collaboration, partnership and meaningful dialogue with government, civil society, communities and other stakeholders.

(B). Aligning mining issues to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

(i) Mining and Poverty eradication (SDG1)

- Disclose details of payment to host governments (PWYP) through royalties and taxes
- Supporting non mining Social Livelihoods like food security and water supply to communities

- Championing inclusive employment by engaging locals.

- Provide training and mining expertise to locals for a successful succession plan

(ii) Mining and zero Hunger (SDG2)

- Explore synergies through agriculture and innovations and transparent management of water resources

- Keep land/ farms free of pollution

- Partnering with agriculture to support food security and prevent malnutrition

(iii) Mining, good health and well-being (SDG3)

- Championing Occupational Safety and Health in the mining workplace
- Prevent occupational diseases like TB, Cirrhosis and prevalence of STIs etc through counselling and other programs
- Prevent toxic pollution in air and surrounding environment

(iv) Mining and quality education (SDG4)

- Upgrading local skills thru provision of training, apprenticeship and graduate programmes. etc

- Provide opportunities for collaboration with universities to design mining programmes in their curricula

- Train for sustainable livelihood opportunities beyond mine closure

(v) Mining and Gender equality (SDG5)

- Provide opportunities for women in mining
- Practice gender inclusion across the project life cycle
- Establish gender sensitive grievance mechanisms and health related issues

(vi) Mining, clean water and sanitation (SDG6)

- Water conservation and recycling of wastewater
- Water/air quality monitoring
- Water management through alignment with government policies.
- Support local participation in capacity building of water management practices.

(vii) Mining and affordable clean energy (SDG7)

- Improve energy efficiency
- Incorporate renewable energies
- Explore co financing programmes in energy

(viii) Mining decent work and economic growth (SDG8)

- Provide steady income through employment.
- Enhance trade and create small companies to supply products to the mine
- Create mining towns/urbanization.

(ix). Mining Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9)

- Transfer technologies and introduce new innovations
- Develop infrastructure like water systems, buildings road upgrades
- Support surrounding and local industries in supply chain.

(x) Mining and reduced inequalities (SDG10)

- Establish inequality related risks and establish baseline welfare statistic before mining commences
- Champion inclusivity by employing, training and employing even the vulnerable, marginalized people
- Encourage participation of communities in revenue collection, budgeting etc.

(xi) Mining and sustainable cities, communities (SDG11)

- Discourage chemical, physical and water pollution from urban mining activities through unnecessary waste disposal occurring close to cities
- Establish rehabilitation of mined areas through re-afforestation and create urban green cities.
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly.

(xii) Mining and responsible consumption, production (SDG12),

(xiii) Mining and climate action (SDG13),

(xiv) Mining and life below water (SDG14),

(xv) Mining and life on land (SDG15)

(xvi) Mining, peace, justice strong institutions (SDG16),

(xvii) Mining and partnerships for goals (SDG17)

Youths push for good governance of minerals sector



Jere: NYCM empowering youths

By Nelson Gonjani

The National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCM) says there is need for proper regulation of the minerals sector and formalization of Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASMs) in order for the sector to create more jobs for Malawi's young people.

CEO for NYCM Dingiswayo Jere said in an interview that on its part, NYCM is involved in the African Development Bank (AfDB) financed Jobs for Youths Project which started in early 2020, and is empowering many young graduates in mining related courses to start mining related businesses.

Jere said through this initiative, the Council is playing a role in the fight against ille-

gal mining activities, which have gained ground in the country over the years.

He said "We have involved the communities, traditional leaders, the youths, Universities like Malawi University of Science and Technology(MUST) and even the Government through the Ministry of Mining as the many key stakeholder in the sector in the awareness component of the programme."

"The awareness campaign will ensure that youths are aware of the benefits of taking part in the mining sector, value addition techniques, procedures to acquire proper documentation, and profitable markets for their products. The process will involve defining the markets, the requirements for the market defined and products defined, including the transportation so we pleading with the Ministry of Mining to play its central role in the project," he said.

He said the project will require the hand of the Ministry of Mining in the identification of mining cooperatives to receive relevant technical, business and marketing training.

Jere said besides recruiting graduates in mining related courses in the mining field as ASMs, the project will benefit existing ASMs through assisting the Ministry of Mining in the formalization process for the subsector.

"Most ASMs are doing hand to mouth business because of lack of knowledge on sustainable and profitable mining practices. The government is also losing income that would have been generated through payment of license fees, taxes and royalties with precious stones being sold to smugglers at the black market. When the industry is formalized it will be a win-win situation for the government and the miners as the miners will generate increased income by selling their products to organized markets at a profit and government will realize more revenue in license fees, taxes and royalties," said Jere.

The Ministry of Mining is, currently, working on formalizing ASMs across the country following the emergence of hotspots where middlemen are buying precious minerals from ASMs at unrealistically low prices to sell in foreign markets at a whooping profit.

The illegal mining hotspots mostly mining gold have attracted foreign buyers from countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia and as far as China.

The popular illegal gold mining hotspots are in Makanjira in Mangochi, Machinga, Balaka, Dwangwa River area in Kasungu, Chiwamba, Lundu and Malingunde in Lilongwe, and Nkhotoakota. The Malawi Government failed to use law enforcers to evacuate the illegal miners.

Government to recruit District Mining Officers

By Tawonga Mayuni

The Malawi Government is working on plans to deploy Mining Officers in all the country's districts starting with those districts with active mining operations including illegal Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) hotspots.

Malawi, which is fighting to overcome the problem of illegal mining and smuggling of precious stones including gold, has Regional Mines Offices in Mzuzu and Blantyre which work in coordination with the Department of Mines (DOM) headquarters in Lilongwe in the governance of the sector.

Consequently, there have been calls from stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for the government to recruit District Mining Officers to help in bringing sanity to the sector.

Commenting on the issue, Public Relations Officer for

the Ministry of Mining Sangwani Phiri said plans of decentralizing DOM are underway.

"On the issues of decentralization, the Ministry has plans to ensure that technical mining experts are deployed in all districts of the country starting with mining districts that host illegal mining hotspot areas such as Mangochi, Balaka, Karonga, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mzimba and Rumphi," he said.

The duties of the Department of Mines include issuance of licenses, inspection of mining activities to ensure that they are being carried out in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, and sensitization of the general public on mining issues.

The absence of DOM offices in the districts, according to CSO leaders, has resulted in a host of problems that disrupt mining operations in the districts such delays for the miners to acquire permits and licenses.

National Coordinator for Natural Resources Justice

Network (NJRN) Kennedy Rashid said the absence of DOM offices or representatives in the districts has also resulted in misinformation on mining issues including Corporate Social Responsibility among communities in mining areas.

"There is a need for the Ministry of Mining to open offices in districts where there are conflicts between communities and mining companies due to lack of transparency by government on the mining projects.

Why is it so difficult to decentralize DOM into districts to reach respective communities with awareness messages on mining projects taking place in their areas?" he said

Rashid also said lack of decentralization in the DOM has resulted in failure of the Department to regulate ASM activities which are characterised by illegal mining and smuggling of gold and other precious stones that are being mined in several hotspots across the country.



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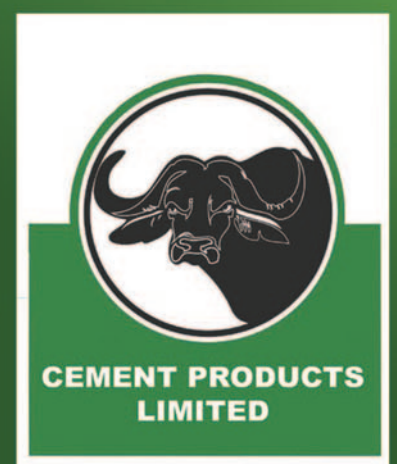
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CSOs finally submit input for MWEITI report



Muthali: Politically connected people spoiling industry

By Wahard Betha

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in the extractive sector have finally submitted their input for the compilation of the fourth Malawi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MWEITI) report after months of protests demanding government to take action on the corruption allegations involving a top government official and an investor for Ilomba Granite Mine in Chitipa over the renewal of the mine license..

CSOs form part of Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG) for MWEITI and without their input, the MWEITI report risked not to be approved by Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) International Secretariat in Norway and Malawi risked suspension from the global initiative.

In response to CSOs demands for action on the corruption allegations, Principal Secretary for the

Ministry of Mining Joseph Mkandawire expressed acknowledgement on the malpractice and condemned all acts of corruption and misconduct in the mismanagement of non-renewable natural resources by individuals and companies in a press statement.

In an interview with *Mining & Trade Review*, Chairperson for Natural Resources Justice Network (NRJN) Kossam Munthali said the CSOs appreciated the action by the Ministry of Mining which indicated in the Press Release that it wrote the Anti-Corruption Bureau to inform the graft busting body on the Ilomba issue and in reaction, they submitted their input to MWEITI on February 26, 2021.

He said: “We agreed with the Ministry of Mining that they should issue and release a public statement accepting the corruption allegations that took place within the Ministry. And now it has been published in our local newspapers that is why we have submitted our input.”

“Our stand was clear to them that there is this big elephant that they are failing to see. Let the Tonse administration be challenged to address this issue of corruption in extractive sector. Now that they have accepted that corruption is real and is serious, from our part, our conscious is clear,” he said.

Munthali said the CSOs were impressed with the commitments that the Government made in the Press Statement to fight corruption.

However, Munthali said the CSOs will be sleeping with eyes open to ensure that the Government fulfills the commitments listed in the statement.

Validation process to assess whether the country is really practicing EITI principles will be done in June when the new financial year commences.

But Munthali said it is unfortunate to see all previous MWEITI reports carrying almost similar recommendations which he described as an indication

that Malawi is not embracing the EITI reforms.

“Look at the tobacco industry, there is commitment but because big fishes, politically connected people, are in this mining industry, they are untouchable. Even those working in the Ministry are using innocent brothers who mine illegally using hoes and are the ones arrested in police raids against illegal miners and at risk of environmental dangers including death when mines collapse on them,” he said.

He accused officials at the Ministry of lacking action on the issue of formalization of Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (ASMs) despite that the ASM policy was adopted in 2013.

In a separate interview, Coordinator for MWEITI Catherine Chilima confirmed to have received the input from CSOs and said the body is yet to meet to discuss when they will officially launch the report.

For the first time, the report which used to be compiled by a German consultant, had a local company as an independent administrator.



ASM mining needs formalisation

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