



**MADI 2ND E-CONFERENCE ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING (ASM) AND CONFLICT MINERALS IN AFRICA**  
THEME: FORMALIZATION TO PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE ASM SECTOR IN AFRICA  
17 November 2020  
2-4:30 pm EAT  
ZOOM

**SPEAKERS**

 <b>DR. FRANK MUGENYI</b> Board Chairman- MADI	 <b>SHERIF HOSNY</b> Business Development Manager MineLab - Dubai, UAE	 <b>H.E. MAJALA MLAGUI</b> Deputy Governor Taita - Taveta - Kenya	 <b>MINSOZI SIBESO</b> Ministry of Mines & Energy, Namibia
 <b>RAYMOND KUDZAWU-D'PHERDD</b> Industry, Value Addition & Beneficiation Expert, MADI	 <b>CRISTINA MARIA VILLEGAS</b> Director of Mining at Pact USA	 <b>AMINA TAHIRU</b> Gold miner- ASM Team Lead WIM Ghana	 <b>DR. AMANY ASFOUR</b> Board Member - MADI President, African Alliance for Women Empowerment / BPW International, Egypt

**MORE INFO**  
Please visit: [www.ma-di.org/](http://www.ma-di.org/)  
To register please visit: <https://ma-di.org/e-conference-registration/>  
For details about the E-Conference, please contact  
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Vanessa Kisakye on [vanessakisakye@ma-di.org](mailto:vanessakisakye@ma-di.org)

## MADI's International Board Advisor Appointed President of International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)



Professor John Ludden, a UK-based Heriot-Watt University Professor and an International Advisor to the Board of Directors of MADI has been appointed to lead the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), which represents more than one-million geologists worldwide. Founded in 1961, the IUGS promotes and encourages the study of geological problems, especially those of world-wide significance, and supports international cooperation in the Earth sciences.

Professor Ludden said on his appointment: "I am proud to be elected as President of the IUGS, an organisation that has earned tremendous respect in the international science community.

"In my new role, I intend to focus the IUGS around the need to address the climate crisis and ensure that we are able to provide resources for the planet and for the energy transition."

In 2019, Professor Ludden joined Heriot-Watt University as a Bicentennial Research Professor and is based at the Lyell Centre, a partnership between the University and the British Geological Survey (BGS). Prior to this he held a number of influential roles in geoscience including leading the BGS as its Chief Executive Officer and prior to this as head of the earth sciences directorate of the CNRS France. In 2016, he was presented his CBE for Service to Geoscience and is a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

**Our sincere congratulations to Professor John Ludden with best wishes for his newest appointment.**

## TOP STORIES



EDITORIAL COLUMN  
ZAMA ZAMAS IN MZANSI  
PAGE 2



ASM 2 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME  
PAGE 3



EMPOWERING AFRICA'S MINERAL  
SECTOR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS  
PAGE 4



MADI NEWS AND EVENTS  
PAGE 5



FROM OTHER SOURCES  
PAGE 6

## ABOUT MADI

<http://www.ma-di.org/>

The Minerals Africa Development Institution (MADI) Limited is a social enterprise registered in Uganda as a company limited by guarantee with an aim of supporting African countries in sustainable mineral resources development. MADI de-risks the African minerals sector to ensure there are mutual social and economic benefits accruing equitably to all key stakeholders (public, private and communities) while protecting the environment.

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# PASSING ON THE MIC INSTEAD OF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE DELIBERATELY SILENCED, HOW ABOUT WE JUST PASS ON THE MIC? THEIR VOICES MUST BE HEARD!

## ZAMA ZAMAS IN MZANSI PART 1 OF 2

'I am not a criminal; I grew up here. This is my city, why can I not zama to make a living and feed my children. Why do they call us criminals when we are human beings who work hard just like them' – Tsitsigirl Louw- an informal miner from the city of Kimberley in South Africa.

### Introduction

In this article, which will be published in two parts, I argue that in the fight to balance the competing rights of mineral right holders versus the interests and constitutional rights of informal miners, the South African minerals sector and broader legal system needs to formulate policy that approaches formalization in a manner that vindicates the informal miners' section 10 constitutional<sup>1</sup> right to human dignity and upholds Agenda 2063's mandate for transformation on the continent.

### The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA)

South Africa is a country that is rich in minerals and mining plays a large role in the economy. In *Agri SA v Minister for Minerals and Energy*<sup>2</sup>, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng on behalf of the Constitutional Court, contextualized the socio-economic politics of the minerals sector in the country by stating that: "the architecture of the apartheid system placed about 87 percent of the land and the mineral resources that lie in its belly in the hands of 13 percent of the population. Consequently, white South Africans wield real economic power while the overwhelming majority of black South Africans are still identified with unemployment and abject poverty. For they were unable to benefit directly from the exploitation of our mineral resources by reason of their landlessness, exclusion and poverty. To address this gross economic inequality, legislative measures were taken to facilitate equitable access to opportunities in the mining industry."

The purpose of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act ("hereafter referred to as the Act")<sup>3</sup> as a legislative intervention, therefore, is one of redress. It is meant to create opportunities in the mining industry for groups of people that were systemically excluded from economically participating in the sector during apartheid. This includes informal miners who are often poor, black, unemployed women, men and youth – some of whom are undocumented refugees and stateless persons. Accordingly, the Act featured important provisions that reflect the progressive nature the Constitution strives to embody. Cognizant of the widening racialized, gendered and classist gaps between the rich and poor in the country, the Act set out to regulate the exploitation of the mineral and hydrocarbon resources in a manner that is equitable and sustainable by embodying key provisions. The first being the freezing of the ability to sell, lease or cede unused old order rights until they are converted into prospecting or mining rights with the written consent of the Minister for Minerals and Energy. Secondly, the Act abolished the entitlement to sterilise mineral rights, otherwise known as the entitlement, not to sell or exploit minerals.

Are the provisions of the Act sufficient to protect all stakeholders in the minerals sector? What mechanisms, if any does the Act provide for informal miners, whose participation in the minerals sector is often marred by generalizations of criminality and damage to the environment? Now that we have mentioned the gains achieved by the Act, it is time to do what the Act does not: center informal miners and frame them not as threatening

criminals, but as a marginalized group whose rights and interests need to be protected in the process of formalization.

I am by no means advocating for us to turn a blind eye to the material dangers that come with endorsing unlawful activities. Nor am I dismissing the disastrous damage to the environment that is a result of unregulated mining activities. It is also not my, or MADI's intention to minimize the astronomical loss of profits to public holders of mineral rights and their profits, that unregulated mining causes. The loss of tax revenue for the State through unregulated mining activity coupled with the exploitation of informal miners by criminal syndicates are also important issues that ought not to be dismissed or overlooked. However, in this article, I deliberately centre the voices and lived realities of informal miners who mine for diamonds in the old De Beers dumping sites in Kimberley South Africa. It is the voices, concerns and realities of these women and youth that are centred.

In post-apartheid South Africa, over 30 000 women, men and young people who are informal miners remain on the periphery of a lawful participation in the minerals sector. The legislative provisions of the Act<sup>4</sup> which in its implementation and effect criminalizes informal mining, operates to entrench already existing racialized, gendered, classist and disparities within the country. By prohibiting mining without the required statutory authorization, without providing for adequate mechanisms through which the most marginalized members of society can acquire the required authorization, further cements the structural and systemic exclusion of thousands of men, women and youth from participating in and benefiting from, the socio-economic fruits of the minerals sector harvest – on an equal footing with other stakeholders.

On a continental level, the language of the Agenda2063 text can be interpreted as placing a positive duty of care on States to formulate policy on the formalization of informal miners in a manner that is transformative and protects and vindicates the interests and rights of women and the youth. The first aspiration seeks to create prosperity on the continent that is based on inclusive growth and sustainable development by transforming economies and creating jobs. The goal is to achieve the aforesaid aspiration by transforming Africa's economies through beneficiation from Africa's natural resources, manufacturing, industrialization and value addition, and by raising productivity and competitiveness.

The language of Agenda 2063 is particularly important as it commits to creating a continent that is prosperous, peaceful, united and integrated, 'where the full potential of women and youth are realised, without freedom from fear, disease and want.' One can therefore interpret the text to mean that achieving a prosperous, peaceful Africa is intrinsically linked to, and dare I even say, dependent upon, removing all existing institutionalized barriers that hinder and prevent women and youth from realizing their full potential without freedom from fear, disease and want. This includes informal miners such as Tsitsigirl.

**To be continued...**

**REABETSWÉ MATSELENG SEAKECO**

**Officer - Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework Department, MADI**

<sup>1</sup> Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996

<sup>2</sup> 2013 (4) SA 1 (CC)

<sup>3</sup> 28 of 2002.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

# MADI ASM 2 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

MADI ASM 2 E-CONFERENCE ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING  
 ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING (ASM) AND CONFLICT MINERALS IN AFRICA  
 THEME: FORMALIZATION TO PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE ASM SECTOR IN AFRICA

E-CONFERENCE PROGRAMME  
 November 17, 2020 2 – 4:30 PM East African Time

Time	Topic	Presenter
2.00 – 2.10 PM	<b>Introductory Commentaries</b>	<b>Raymond Kudzawu-D’Pherdd</b> , Head, Industry Value Addition & Beneficiation, ASM, Women & Youth, and Blue Economy - MADI
2.10 – 2.15 PM	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Ugandan Government Representative (TBA)</b>
2.15 – 2.30 PM	<b>Highlighting the 3 Cs of Value Addition as a panacea for Africa’s contemporaneous industrialization vehicle: a prologue to the Value Addition Agenda</b>	<b>Dr. Frank Mugenyi</b> Founder and Chairman of the Board, MADI
2.30 – 2.45 PM	<b>Unlocking the ASM potential for Africa’s Jewelry Industry</b>	<b>H.E Majala Mlagui</b> Deputy Governor Taita -Taveta County Kenya
2.45 – 3.00 PM	<b>Supporting Small Scale Enterprises in the ASM Sector Building Entrepreneurship of Women and Youth</b>	<b>Dr. Amany Asfour</b> Board Member, MADI & President–African Alliance for Women Empowerment / BPW International, Egypt
3.00 – 3.15 PM	<b>Challenges and Opportunities for the Women in Mining in the ASM Sector.</b>	<b>Dr. Amina Tahiru</b> A Small-Scale Mining Operator and Team Lead, Women in Mining, Ghana
3.15 – 3.30 PM	<b>From Mines 2 Market: expanding the PACT WORLD model to accelerate formalization in the ASM Sector in Africa</b>	<b>Cristina Villegas</b> Director, M2M at PACT WORLD, USA
3.30 – 3.45 PM	<b>Challenges and the Opportunities for formalization of the ASM: Scaling up the Namibian Experience for the Continent.</b>	<b>Minsozi Sibeso</b> Acting Deputy Director, Small Scale Mining Division, Ministry of Mines, Namibia
3.45 – 4.00 PM	<b>Africa can ride on available Technology to make a Business Case for Artisanal Small-Scale Mining and improve the Socio-Economic status of the continent?</b>	<b>Sherif Hosny</b> Business Development Manager, MineLab - Dubai UAE
4.00 – 4.25 PM	<b>Q&amp;A Discussions</b>	<b>Moderator</b> <b>Dr. Frank Mugenyi</b>
4.25 – 4.30 PM	<b>Wrap-up and Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. Frank Mugenyi</b> Founder and Chairman of the Board, MADI

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED, IT IS NOT TOO LATE

MORE INFO

**Please visit: [www.ma-di.org/](http://www.ma-di.org/)**

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For details about the E-Conference, please contact  
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## EMPOWERING THE AFRICA'S MINERALS SECTOR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Minerals Africa Development Institution (MADI) Limited is a social enterprise registered in Uganda as a Company Limited by Guarantee with an aim of supporting African countries in sustainable

mineral resources development. MADI was established to de-risk the African minerals sector to ensure that there are mutual social and economic benefits accruing equitably to all key stakeholders (public, private and communities), while protecting the environment.

For MADI, partnerships for equitable mining and mineral sector in Africa are of utmost importance. Thus, for our institution, it is imperative to work with the African Union (AU) and other African and international agencies supporting the social, environmental, economic development and structural transformation of Africa in an inclusive and sustainable manner as defined by Africa's Agenda 2063, Global 2030, and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV).

However, partnerships with official African and international development institutions are not going to bring the expected outcomes unless the other key stakeholders such as private mining companies, miners, artisanal miners, governments, local communities and associations, including universities, research institutions and academia are left aside. We should also not forget important factors such as diversity and inclusion, bearing in mind the unique characteristics of the African mining and mineral sector formal and informal workforce as their challenges continue to plague the sector as written by *South Africa's DIMI Chairperson, S. Ndlovu*.<sup>5</sup>

Various partnerships support and improve mining and minerals sectors' contribution to social, economic and environmental development. In addition, they enable stakeholders' dialogue and consultations and may contribute to overcoming challenging environmental and political conditions. Another important aspect is the promotion and exchange of knowledge on different levels: community, national, regional and continental as an important element in mitigating potential negative impacts and bringing stakeholders together, thus contribution to the economic integration in Africa.

Establishing and maintaining successful partnerships is a long-term process. It does require a significant commitment of time and effort of all actors and partners, including resources. In establishing partnerships, partners should take into consideration their respective commitments and expectations of the outcomes and benefits at various levels, not only on the partnership level.

### The Policy Framework for Successful Partnerships

At MADI, we recognize that each partnership in the Mining and Minerals Sector in Africa can be more beneficial for Africans if they are linked to and support the delivery of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Africa's Agenda 2063, Global 2030, and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). SDG 17 specifically promotes public, private and civil society partnerships.

The dialogue with potential partners with the common interests and objectives in the mining and mineral sector in Africa is a first step towards a more structured engagement at the African level. For MADI, the aim is to establish a framework for concrete partnerships to support our own goals and objectives for de-risking the African minerals sector to ensure that there are mutual social and economic benefits accruing equitably to all key stakeholders. Equally important is that our partnerships must work towards supporting the delivery of the SDGs in Africa. In the next step, MADI works with partners to identify areas in which such a partnership could be most effective in order to identify concrete actions and expected outcomes.

### MADI's principles for partners in a successful partnership are:

- The common, honest and transparent objectives of a partnership, equal among partners and built on trust with clear roles and responsibilities.
- Partners need to be strategic to ensure sustainability for partnership.
- Partnership goals and objectives should be aligned with the national, regional and/or continental plans
- Holistic approach in developing partnerships – if linked to SDGs, partnerships should focus on more than one SDG for Africa's development.
- Partnerships and partners must leverage core competences and bring on board local partners to achieve impact and not only outcomes.

### The UN Partnership Guidebook

The UN Partnership Guidebook is called the SDG Partnership Guidebook. It is a flagship publication of the SDG Partnership Accelerator and serves as a practical resource to help build high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to convey the magic of how multi-stakeholder partnerships at country level can deliver significantly towards the Sustainable Development Goals and provide guidance on how to build robust, effective collaborations that can achieve extraordinary results.

This guidebook states that "it is designed to be valuable to individuals and organisations with varying degrees of familiarity with

working in partnership, and in a wide range of contexts. However, you can approach the material in different ways depending on your specific circumstances. Specifically:

- ❖ **If you're starting a partnership from scratch:** the guidebook will help you confirm that working in partnership is the right



<sup>5</sup> <https://www.saimm.co.za/journal-comments/784-empowering-the-african-minerals-industry-through-diversity-and-inclusion>

approach, and take you through a systematic process to develop and manage a partnership through distinct phases. We suggest starting with the 'Building Blocks' section.

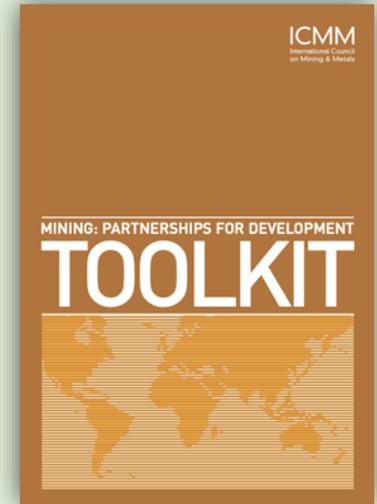
- ❖ **If you're already involved in a partnership:** if you are already working in a partnership, or in a number of different types of partnership, and you just need some quick advice about how to make it work better, start with the 'Partnership Health Check Tool'.
- ❖ **If you're a partnership sceptic:** perhaps you have heard a lot about working in partnership and you are unconvinced of its value. Believe it or not, we share your skepticism! Most partnerships fall short of their promise. But we believe that partnerships can create enormous value, *if* they are set up and managed effectively. Have a look at the 'value creation' section.
- ❖ **If you're a development specialist working in partnership with the private sector for the first time, good luck!:** in this guidebook we include a long introduction to working the private sector since this is where there seems to be least experience. Start with 'Business as a key development actor and partner'.
- ❖ **If you're from the private sector working in partnership with the development sector for the first time, good luck!** The guidebook aims to provide accessible ways to understand how large international development institutions, operate and view the world, especially large NGOs and the United Nations system. Start with 'A new era and a new approach to international development'.
- ❖ **If you are required by a donor to work in partnership as a condition of receiving funding, OR if you've been told to work in partnership as a way to raise money for your organisation:** while financial flows *can* be generated through working in partnership, raising money is not a good starting point. Read the 'value creation' section to find out why.

experienced colleagues up to speed, either by highlighting certain sections and tools, or simply recommending the guidebook to them. “

### The ICMM Toolkit for Successful Partnerships

Although there are many partnerships already established in mining and minerals sector in Africa, for the first time partners the process of establishing their own agreement may prove to be a daunting task regardless of their potential.

There are many ways the partnerships can be structured and implemented. One of the most recognized tools has been developed by the **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)** in cooperation with a number of stakeholders, such as the World Bank, the IFC, mining companies, universities and research institutions. The objective was to help prospective partners develop successful partnership model and thus, [Toolkit for Successful Partnerships](#) has been developed.



However, one should have in mind that this Toolkit is only applicable when one or more of the partners are mining companies. For other types of partnerships, the Toolkit must be modified to match the structure and objectives of a specific partnership.

The ICMM is an international organisation dedicated to a safe, fair and sustainable mining and metals industry. Bringing together 27 mining and metals company members and over 35 national, regional and commodities association members, ICMM strengthen environmental and social performance and serve as a catalyst for change, enhancing mining's contribution to society. Every ICMM company member adheres to ICMM's Mining Principles, which incorporates comprehensive environmental, social and governance requirements, robust site-level validation of performance expectations and credible assurance of corporate sustainability reports.

The application of the CIMM's Toolkit allows users to develop an improved understanding of what issues, policies and practices may be helping or preventing host communities, regions or the country from benefiting more fully from mining.

The Toolkit is structured along the six priority partnership themes:

1. Mining and poverty reduction;
2. Mining and economic development: Revenue management;
3. Mining and economic development: Regional development planning;
4. Mining and economic development: Local content;
5. Mining and social investment; and
6. Mining and disputes resolution.

The Toolkit recognizes that “There are, however, no universally agreed definitions for these themes. In fact, different interpretations may have, in part, led to differences of opinion about mining's actual and potential economic and social effects.”

### Partnering as an essential approach to SDG impact

The 2030 Agenda is based on an interconnected economy, society and environment



- ❖ **If you already know a lot about partnership and consider yourself an expert:** you may already be very experienced in partnership, either as a practitioner or as a broker/facilitator; in which case you can use the guidebook as a refresher and, indeed, to challenge our findings; we are always in learning mode ourselves! You might also consider using it to bring less

**BOJAN VOJINOVIC, Global Affairs & Partnerships, MADI**

## PARTNERSHIPS

Minerals Africa Development Institution (MADI) Ltd and the Institute of Earth Sciences (IST) of the Faculty of Sciences and Techniques at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

MADI is currently working on concluding similar MoUs with the following African institutions:

- The Department of Geology of the University of Namibia
- The Makerere University Business School of Uganda
- The Uganda Investment Authority
- The School of Geosciences - University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana
- The Africa International Trade and Commerce Research (AITCR), Nigeria

## UPCOMING EVENTS - CONFERENCES

### ANNONCE DE LA CONFÉRENCE ÉLECTRONIQUE DE MADI EN FRANÇAIS

FIN NOVEMBRE 2020

*Politiques, cadres juridiques et réglementaires  
relatifs aux minéraux en Afrique de l'Ouest et  
du Centre: défis, lacunes et solutions*

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MADI E- CONFERENCE IN FRENCH

END OF NOVEMBER 2020

*Minerals policies, legal and regulatory  
frameworks in West and Central Africa:  
challenges, gaps and solutions*

L'objectif de cette conférence d'une journée est de discuter des principales questions de cadre politique, juridique et réglementaire qui ont empêché l'Afrique l'Ouest et du Centre de réaliser son potentiel dans le secteur des minéraux.

La conférence explorera comment accélérer la domestication des cadres politiques sous-régionaux et continentaux tels que l'AMV.

*Les détails à suivre. Pour des mises à jour et des nouvelles sur cette conférence francophone, veuillez visiter <https://www.ma-di.org/> régulièrement.*

The objective of this one-day conference is to discuss the main policy, legal and regulatory framework issues that have prevented West and Central Africa from realizing its potential in the minerals sector.

The conference will explore how to accelerate the domestication of sub-regional and continental policy frameworks such as AMV.

*Details to follow. For updates and news on this Francophone conference, please visit <https://www.ma-di.org/> regularly.*

## FROM OTHER SOURCES



## ASM IN ZIMBABWE

### NCUBE MUST FORMALISE ARTISANAL MINERS IN 2021 BUDGET: ZELA

BY HARRIET CHIKANDIWA/STEPHEN CHADENGA

October 17, 2020

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2020/10/ncube-must-formalise-artisanal-miners-in-2021-budget-zela/>

Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube has been urged to include policy reforms in the 2021 national budget which will decriminalise artisanal mining activities, given the reports that small-scale miners were actually remitting more gold than big mines to Fidelity Printers and Refiners.

This was said by the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (Zela) in its 2021 budget proposal paper presented in Parliament early this week. The organisation has also petitioned Parliament to investigate machete gangs that are terrorising artisanal miners.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Jacob Mudenda has since referred the petition to the Edmond Mkaratigwa-led Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines.

"Formalisation of the sector will help to reduce revenue illicit flows from the artisanal and small scale miners. There are low levels of tax compliance in the ASM players, largely because they are treated as illegal and there is inadequate financial support to the sector," the Zela statement on the 2021 budget read.

"The informality of the ASM activities has jeopardised the capacity of the sector to contribute towards domestic resource mobilisation of the country."

In 2019, artisanal miners accounted for 63% (17,478.74 kgs) of total gold deliveries (27,650.26 kgs) to the government's sole buyer.

Zela noted that the artisanal miners sector had also been associated with a number of disputes arising from multiple claim ownership. "There is no transparency in the awarding of claims, and this has fueled corruption, leading to loss of claims by women and men in the sector. Ultimately, this has affected livelihoods for a number of women."

Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) director Wonder Phiri yesterday said women should play an active role in the mining sector to promote economic recovery.

Phiri said this during the launch of a collaborative research done by CCMT and the Midlands State University Gender Institute which looked at challenges and opportunities for women in Zvishavane district.

"This research paper is being launched at a time the country's economic recovery is being anchored on the mining sector. It cannot be business as usual without women involvement in mining. Women's involvement should go beyond selling trinkets at mining spots," he said.

Phiri added that there was need to solve all gender disparities in the mining sector, as well as to address mining conflicts that deter women from participating in mining activities.

## MOZAMBIQUE WITHDRAWS PROSPECTING LICENSES

<https://www.whyafrica.co.za/mozambique-withdraws-prospecting-licenses/>

**14 November 2020 – The Mozambique government has withdrawn more than 2,000 mining prospecting licenses over the last five years because the holders failed to initiate mining activities.**

According to Adriano Sêvano, director of the Mozambique National Institute of Mines (INAMI), 145 prospecting rights were withdrawn this year alone. Prospecting and exploration licences in Mozambique are initially granted for two years in the case of construction minerals (renewable for an additional two-year period) and five years for all other minerals (renewable for an additional three-year period), for areas of up to 198 hectares and 19,998 hectares respectively.

Among the 145 mining licenses withdrawn in 2020 was the gold prospecting licence for a Manica company owned by former Mozambican president Armando Guebuza. According to Sêvano, Guebuza's prospecting right was registered in an area where it should not have been. "The license is located less than two kilometres from the Zimbabwean border," Sêvano explains. Although the decision to cancel Guebuza's license seems to be a political one, Sêvano adds that the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy is investigating another case of a mining license granted outside Mozambique's "mining" borders. Whether political "arm wrestling" or not, Sêvano says that "these conditions cannot be tolerated."

Sêvano says a total of 16 companies in the mining sector in Mozambique suspended activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, with more than 500 workers losing their jobs. Among those at a halt is Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM), whose chairman of the board is Samora Machel Júnior.

On Wednesday, two more companies in the mining sector announced the suspension of activities. "The pandemic situation is worrying. The mining sector is suffering from this shock. Unfortunately, this situation continues, and we are managing it. There is no doubt that it is a great loss for mining activity in Mozambique," says Sêvano.

According to the news agency Club of Mozambique, the government also announced that it is evaluating 132 potential investors for a future renewable energy production plant in Dondo, in the Sofala province of Mozambique. This assessment comes 40 days after the launch of the renewable energy auction contest by President Nyusi in Maputo.

Because of the high number of potential investors, the Energy Regulatory Authority (ARENE) was forced to extend the deadlines for expressions of interest for the Dondo plant. "The initial deadline would have ended next week (16 November), but due to the growing number of expressions of interest, we decided to extend it to 23 November," the Energy Regulatory Authority's Paulo da Graça said.

Of the 132 potential investors, 30 are Mozambican entities, both companies and individuals.

The Dondo plant will be the first of four in the country, all of them able to produce 120 megawatts of clean energy, aimed at achieving universal access to electricity in Mozambique by 2030. Renewables will be decisive in achieving this goal. Solar energy is the most abundant renewable energy source in Mozambique with a potential 23 000 gigawatts, although hydropower accounts for most projects (more than 5.6 GW).

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