



Issue 5, July 2019

THE WHISTLE BLOWER



- 160kg of gold ore disappears at Sheep Skin A Mine
- Fort Rixon Police officers Implicated

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The Editor's Note

Never Give Up

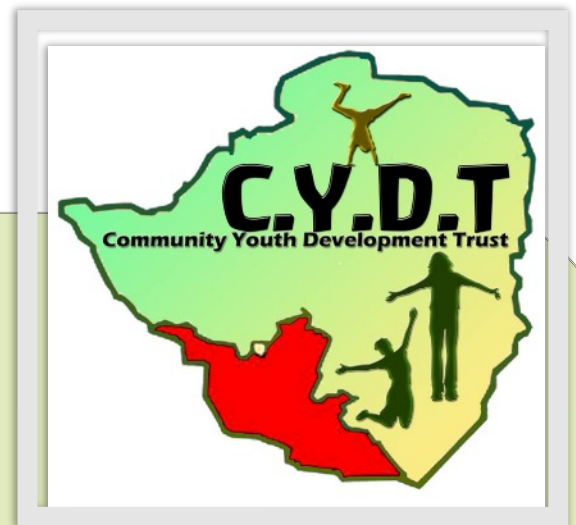
Esteemed Reader

It has been a bumpy road, but this has not deterred us in our fight against corruption. Credit to you, our reader of this newsletter, young people as well as all those involved in this cause. It is my hope that this newsletter has been informative and inspiring you to take action against corruption in your community.

In the struggle against corruption, we have come to note that women are subjected to many other various forms of abuse, making the sector unbearable. In this edition, we share sad stories of women who have been subjected to in human actions that include rape. This case is under police investigations and we hope justice will prevail. We also share the story of Siyabonga Cooperative who have managed to secure a mining agreement with a mine owner in Matobo. We hope the story of Siyabonga will inspire many others to not lose hope but take a stand against corruption so that they benefit from their locals resources.

In Fort Rixon, a gold ore heist involving three police officers is under investigation. Credit to the community whistle blowers as they are playing a critical role in exposing corruption. This is a reflection of how important it is for each one of us to play their part in fighting corruption.

Local resources are supposed to benefit locals first. That is not the case with the Farvic Mine where allegations of corruption in decision making has been exposed. Detailed here, the story of Farvic Mine shows how people from the region are being sidelined from benefiting from their own local resources. It is our hope as CYDT that through exposing such actions, ethical decisions will be taken by the public and private sector institutions to address this anomaly. To our whistle blowers and all those who have joined and are supporting our cause-NEVER GIVE UP!



Share your Story

Are you a victim of corruption? Do you suspect that someone is involved in corrupt activities? Let us cover the story. Get in touch with us through the following details:

Visit Us: No4, Rainbow Mall 1st Avenue Gwanda

E-mail: cydtmatsouth@gmail.com

Tel: +263 842821711

Twitter: @CydtMat or **Facebook:** Cydt Matsouth

Three Cops in 160 kg gold ore heist



Law enforcement agents like the police world over are considered as custodians of the law. They are meant to fight corruption, crime among other things for the development of their nations.

However, this seems not to be case with Zimbabwe anymore where police officers are deeply involved in corrupt activities especially in the mining sector.

Recently, according to the reports, three police officers based at Fort Rixon Police station were implicated in a 160kg gold ore theft at Sheep Skin A Mine.

According to a leaked police document dated 12 July 2019, the owner of Sheep Skin a mine Elijah Sithole (38), reported the matter of gold ore theft at Fort Rixon Police implicating the three police officers. Sithole alleged that one assistant inspector Mandipadza, sergeant Shumba and one constable Ruwanika stole his gold ore.

“Circumstances are that on 9 July 2019 at around 2pm, accused booked out OB

reference 3638/19 to a mine owned by Wilson Vimirayo Nyamiwa of Willowash stamp mill, Mount Royal Zulu 8 mine, Fort Rixon, to attend a scene of theft of gold ore travelling in a private vehicle, registration number unknown”, the police report read.

They passed through Sheep Skin A mine, Fort Rixon, where upon arrival they asked Witness Luphahla, an employee at Sheep Skin A mine, who operates the hammer mill to produce the documents for the hammer mill.

The police document stated that Luphahla advised them to enquire from Sithole, as he did not know where the papers were kept. It is alleged that they took with them a hammer mill crank, shovel, a sample dish and the blankets while he was milling.

“On 10 July 2019 at around 12 noon, the accused persons booked out OB ref 3648 using ZRP 230T and arrived at Sheep Skin A mine. When the employees, who were home crushing the gold ore preparing it

saw police officers, they fled leaving the ore behind”, the report read.

“The accused persons loaded the ore into empty bags that were on the ground and afterwards loaded the gold ore into the police vehicle. They went away with the ore to an unknown destination.

On 12 July 2019 at around 8am, the complainant (Elijah Sithole) came to Fort Rixon Police Station, making a follow up on his gold ore and could not find it at the police station.”

Sithole made a report to the police and investigations are said to be in progress under the ZRP Fort Rixon, RRB number 3860778. About 160kg of gold ore were stolen, whose value is unknown and nothing was recovered.

Contacted for comment, Matabeleland South Police Spokesperson Chief Inspector Philisani Ndebele referred the matter to National police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi who could not be reached for comment.

Women battle sexual violence in the mines



Women are slowly making inroads into the cash-rich mining sector which, for several decades, has been largely dominated by men.

Now you find women wielding picks and shovels alongside men as they scavenge for valuable minerals.

Women in mining not only have to battle male dominance in the mining sector, they also battle sexual harassment from the male counterparts.

Ntombiyokuthula Ndlovu who resides in Anymore Mupenda's mine compound in Collen Bawn religiously leaves her home each day when the first cock crows and joins a throng of women who have taken up artisanal mining in her community.

She spends the better part of her day tramping to and fro, carrying sacks on her back packed with river sand that she sifts through in hope of finding flecks of gold.

Working with their limbs in muddy water up to the knees, the women see small-

scale mining as a path to improve their livelihoods and bolster scanty family incomes.

On the 27th of July 2019 around 7pm, Ntombiyokuthula was coming from the panning sites and heading to the mine compound when he was blocked by two gold panners who were carrying an axe and an Okapi knife. The two miners threatened to kill her and forcibly sexually harassed her.

"I was coming from the panning sites and going to the mining compound when two miners emerged from the bush and threatened to kill me if I did not give in to their demands.

I was sexually abused by the miners and after the incident they told me that if I report they would kill me", she said.

The rape incident terrified her and she went to report the matter to the Collen Bawn Police Station under case number 5663343. Ntombiyokuthula identified one of the miners who raped her as

Sikhumbuzo Sibanda, a male adult aged 38 years.

Police tracked down and found the accused at the mining compound and he was arrested while his other counterpart identified as Christopher Nyoni is still at large. She was referred to Gwanda Provincial Hospital for medical examination.

Police investigations are in progress.

The mining industry is often portrayed as being inherently violent and the mining zones as particularly a hostile environment for women.

The mining culture has been presented as "hyper-masculine" producing masculinities akin to those that emerge through initiation ritual gangs.

Such masculine cultures are encouraging more violence against women, particularly sexual violence. It is imperative that government create initiative that arrest sexual abuse of women in the mining sector.

Women in mining bemoan various forms of abuse



Women in the mining sector say they continue to be abused by their male counterparts and have called on government to put in place some measures to protect them.

Women who have been brave enough to try their luck in the sector say they face sexual abuse, physical abuse as well as discrimination and this has reduced their ability to make a telling contribution in the sector and has seen some women even quitting.

In the initiatives that CYDT conducted in the resource-rich communities of Matabeleland South, many women told stories of how they have had to look for new claims after the ones they previously owned were taken over by men or illegally invaded by organized machete gangs.

Anita Murengi a miner explained her ordeal at one of the Accountability, Transparency and Inclusion Platforms conducted by CYDT that when she was in the process of getting proper paperwork for her claim and getting proper paperwork for her claim some men were already working on that claim and getting

money but they did not pay a single cent to her.

Many women in artisanal and small scale mining concurred and revealed that this was a common occurrence and they want the government to look into it and act urgently.

Some women have lost property to robbers with the police not doing much to recover the property even though the culprits were known.

Most women feel betrayed by the law enforcement agents in addressing claim ownership wrangles between them and their male counterparts and they bemoan lack of police action against criminals in the mining sector.

Ms Selina Machokoto, a women miner from Maphisa in the Accountability, Transparency & Inclusion Platforms conducted in Maphisa urged women to speak out and let the world know when they are being abused.

“Women face a number of challenges but they never speak out. Let’s document our

challenges and make use of the many social media platforms”, said Ms Machokoto.

Campaigns on social media have had a huge impact internationally and many women have had their abusers brought to book after speaking out. Social media can help combat cases of abuse against women in mining.

The mining sector has made huge strides to empower women and ensure that they become equal participants in the sector that is seen as being anchor of the national economy.

In 2018 the Zimbabwe Miners Federation elected a woman president, Henrieta Rushwaya and this was viewed as a victory for women and huge step towards their recognition in the sector.

However, what is yet to be seen seven months on is whether she will open the lid on the numerous cases of abuse against women and ensure that perpetrators were brought to book.

Farvic Mine scandal

Recently at Farvic gold mine, three top ranking officials were fired from their jobs after a jumble of illicit proceedings at the Gwanda based gold mine.

These shady mine authorities, two Geologists and a manager were investigated for corruption after allegations of biased allocations of mine claims and looting of mine equipment such as explosives leading to the dismissal of all three.

Mr Tendai Chikonodanga who was the Geologist responsible for allocating mine claims to local people as a form of giving back to the community was entangled in crooked dealings after it was discovered that he used his influence to allocate claims to his friends rather than to people who had legally attained the rights to the claims,



Premises of Farvic Mine

It was later discovered that Chikonodanga would go behind the scenes and commence mining activities on these claims for his own financial gain. It was later discovered that some of the claims were being owned by him, which led to him being fired from the mine.

Mr Dennis Changira, the resident geologist was also sacked after he was implicated in a scandal that involved hiding and tempering with documents that represented proof of gold production figures and also under declaring the amount of gold being produced at Farvic mine. It is alleged that he was being paid by his superiors to carry out these illicit deals.

This robbed the workers and the nation at large since the undeclared gold never reached Fidelity, rather it was exported to the neighbouring countries such as South Africa. Changira is suspected to have been paid by a circle of top officials who sought to benefit from the loot,

however allegations led to him being investigated and later on sacked.

Matabeleland South province continuously faces marginalisation, vicious cycle of poverty and economic deprivation due to some 'outsiders' elements at the helm of the mining sector who use their influence to further isolate the native locals who are usually Ndebele speaking people who are the majority in the province.

Positions of influence in the majority of mines around Mat South have been strategically offered to the Shona speaking people, who also further marginalise the local Ndebele people by imposing their relatives and friends in the majority of jobs available in all mining sectors.

This unethical trend has degraded the well being of the Ndebeles to the extent of halting youth empowerment through employment in these mines. Despite the rising awareness campaigns by various

civic society organisations on corruption in the mining sector,

Mining officials operating in Matabeleland south province are still using their positions and influence to corruptly distribute mine claims among the youth across the province. Mat South as a mineral resourceful province is faced with the responsibility to produce a significant amount of gold ore, which constitutes a considerable percentage of the overall gold produced in Zimbabwe as a whole.

It is also of paramount importance, as it is a cooperate social responsibility that the people of Mat South benefit from these resources through community development projects to be funded by these mining companies as a way of paying tribute to the local people especially the youths who are facing the biggest challenges such as unemployment in economically crippled Zimbabwe.

Women Cooperative gets a Stake at Stella Mine



Members of the Siyabonga Women in Mining Cooperative based in Maphisa, Matobo district

In a bid to correct this anomaly, Siyabonga Women in Mining of Matobo, a co-operative of women who joined forces to economically empower themselves by venturing into the small scale mining sector, was formed.

Recently, these women were given permission to mine at Stela City Mine owned by one Fisani Moyo, albeit after a long struggle.

For instance, for that to happen they had to approach the Zimbabwe Miners' Federation president Henrieta Rushwaya, the head of Ministry of Women Affairs as well as Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT).

The co-operative is now mining in the mine under a rent to buy initiative, after they had to battle Fisani again on the agreement of returns they would have to oblige to.

As his benefits for being the owner of the mine, Fisani was charging the cooperative 17 wheelbarrows of gold ore, or 7 tonnes of gold ore which is an act of corruption.

The group bemoaned that the ploy by Fisani to extort their hard earned gold ore in such a manner was unfair and prejudicial to them. "It's unreasonable to demand such amount of ore as a way of honouring returns, hence especially from us women.

We won't be benefiting anything from the mining but subjected to labour the labour of making rich", said Sakhile Moyo, one of the women in the cooperative.

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WOMEN comprise of about 15% of the estimated 50,000 small-scalers miners in Zimbabwe, according to the reports, but surprisingly remain poor.

A 2017 report entitled: Women's Economic Empowerment in SSB – Recommendations for the Mining Sector, reveals that though the mining sector remains a key driver to economic growth and transformation in Zimbabwe, rarely has it delivered benefits in

ducing poverty and improving livelihoods for the majority of the population.

Young women in mining do not only have to fight cultural barriers to fully benefit from their local resources, they have to fight corruption which has further marginalised them to fully benefit from their local resources and created a non-conductive environment to the advancement of women in mining.



To report corruption or if you are suspecting corruption feel free to contact the Anti-Corruption Commission on the Toll Free Number: **08010101**

Say No To Corruption!



*This may be you.
Consider your
actions. Don't
pay a bribe.*

Women Cooperative gets a Stake at Stella City Mine

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This resulted in the co-operative settling for a rent to buy deal with the mine owner, who has made enemies with artisanal and small scale miners in Matobo because of his corrupt activities.

“The rent to buy deal is a better deal, as we won’t be prejudiced of our mineral ore, compared to the 7 tonnes of gold ore which we would have to give him, which is triple the 5% of the returns which we used to give Mike Stone, the former owner of the mine who sold the mine to Fisani Moyo”, said Sakhile Moyo.

Currently, Zimbabwe is still governed by the 1961 Mines and Mineral Act, which was enacted during the colonial era. Calls are now mounting to ensure the new mining statutes are more gender responsive.

The country is going through a reform process called the Mines and Mineral Bill, which is not yet approved by the president.

However, CYDT through its anti-corruption campaign which seeks to arrest corruption in the mining sector has been lobbying and advocating that the Bill should explicitly provide for

women to get an equal share of mining claims.

The campaign by CYDT seeks to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in the mining sector and that artisanal and small scale miners are not closed out from benefiting in the mining sector.

This success story by Siyabonga Women Cooperative will inspire a lot of women and help challenge the status quo through proving that women are also capable of playing a key role in the mining sector.