

# ANTI-CORRUPTION MAGAZINE



- The Woes Of Ward 4: A Community Deserted?
- Four Police Officers in Bribe Storm
- Agonies of The Small Scale Miners

Defeat Corruption...Save The Community...Build The Future

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## *Editor's Note*

I welcome our readers to our latest publication, The Anti-Corruption Magazine which covers our journey in the fight against corruption so far. It has been a journey worth noting as the struggle against corruption has given us as an organisation, more energy and zeal to pursue it.

It has been a journey characterised by both joy and sadness. Joy in that we have managed to work with various communities to bring corruption into the public space, influencing debates around it and calling for justice. On the otherhand, sad in that we continue to discover that corruption runs deeper especially in the mining sector where a network of powerful individuals and groups are its drivers.

However, kudo's to everyone who has made this journey worth it especially young people who braved it all, stood up and joined us in the anti-corruption campaign. This publication narrates this journey, providing reflections about corruption in the mining sector, local governments and police service. We also cover how young people have been involved in this fight against corruption, expose challenges faced by women as well as small scale and artisanal miners in the mining sector

I hope you will find the stories engaging and challenging you to take action against corruption. As CYDT we are always open to everyone who supports our cause and I would like to urge young people to join us in this journey.

Remember, we need to Defeat Corruption...Save the Community and Build the Future!

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# EPOs Threaten Small Scale and Artisanal Mining



THE move by government to put about 95% of mining land in Matabeleland under exclusive prospective orders (EPOs) will cause conflict and corruption in the region, gold miners have said.

An EPO gives mining companies exclusive rights to search for minerals and peg claims. The license also protects one from competition with other interested parties. The license means that small-scale players in Matabeleland are left with no room for expansion as big mining companies had acquired huge chunks of land

which they continue to hold without working year- after-year.

Small scale gold miners in Matabeleland South revealed that these regulations were forcing them to either bribe government officials to get gold claims or mine illegally within the EPOs.

“...we are forced to either mine gold illegally or bribe government officials to give us gold claims in the areas already under EPOs. This, in turn, has resulted in clashes over gold claims,” a miner who identified himself as Mhlomuli Gwebu said.

In October last year, Ndodana Ncube died and five others were injured after artisanal miners clashed over gold claims at Vova Mine just outside Gwanda.

Ncube was an alleged member of a gang involved in the violent clashes.

Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF), the umbrella body representing small-scale miners, said EPOs were causing havoc in the communities.

“There are loopholes of conflict and corruption in that rights are vested on private individuals whom the Ministry of Mines cannot control. You also find that whilst we are trying to regularise the artisanal and small scale mining industry, there will be a lot also of those illegal mining activities within the EPOs,” ZMF spokesperson Dosman Mangisi, said.

“So definitely, there will be also conflicts because in some areas you will find that villagers or communities will be forced to being relocate because of these discoveries’, he explained. ...*To page 6*

## The Brutal Nature of The Mining Sector in Zimbabwe

**M**INING is one of the lucrative business ventures in the country and world over.

The sector has seen many people, especially men, benefiting from it and becoming millionaires if not billionaires.

But sadly, this is not the case with women who still finding it difficult to penetrate into the sector or even eke a meaningful living out of it due to a myriad of problems such as victimisation, dispossession of their claims by men, and gender-based violence.

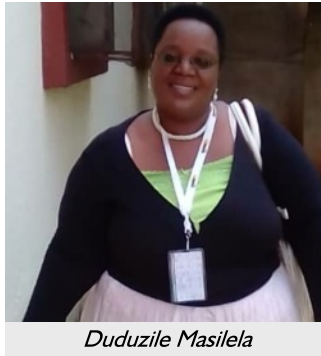
These challenges have resulted in many women fearing to venture into mining. "I remember in 2014 we were given a claim to mine as women in Esigodini area but our claim was taken away from us by government under unclear circumstances. We lost considerable amount of investment there. For instance, I paid a joining fee of US\$60 as well as US\$10 monthly subscriptions. We had bought our compressors and a tractor but we lost everything," said Duduzile Masilela, a Gwanda-based miner. She added that mine was later given to youth, forcing more than 60 women

to give up mining after these frustrations.

"Currently, I'm not mining. I have been busy sorting out my papers trying to acquire a mining claim in Gwanda to no avail," she said.

The introduction of Exclusive Prospective Orders (EPOs), is seen by small scale miners as huge blow to the sector as these favour Large Scale mining.

An EPO gives mining companies exclusive rights to



*Duduzile Masilela*

search for minerals and peg claims. The license also protects one from competition with other interested parties.

Women in small scale mining are also finding it difficult to purchase licenses for explosives and storage as these are expensive and first preference is given to men.

Suppliers are also demanding the US dollar yet women sell their product in EcoCash or bond.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe is giving small scale miners 70% retention of forex of their mineral proceeds. The balance of 30% is being paid through transfers.

"In terms of loans, collateral is a challenge. For example, banks would demand a house as collateral yet the house is being owned by your husband. Most women don't have collateral," Masilela said.

Although late last year sole gold buyer Fidelity Printers and Refiners set aside \$20 million to capacitate women in mining projects under its Gold Development Initiative Fund (GDIF), these resources are not easily accessible to women in mining.

These gaps should be addressed through realigning mining laws that are creating gender discrepancies in the mining sector, they say.

Masilela believes that women need mining education so that they can understand mapping, the mining environment, and quality control so that they improve the quality and quantity of their mined products.

# Federation calls for empowerment of women miners

**Z**imbabwe Miners' Federation (ZMF) Vice President Lindiwe Mpofu said ZMF was defining a progressive and step-wise approach to formalisation. This policy, she said, will see a legal mining title as the base of a pyramid of stepwise formalisation for women.

"Policy must reflect detailed guidance and regulation for legal, technical, and environmental licensing procedures, inspections, and worker formalisation requirements", said Mpofu.

Mpofu urged government to prioritise

formalisation of ASM women miners as this will greatly uplift vulnerable mining groups' rights and help incorporate ASM

into regional priorities.

"[Government] should develop a vision collectively inclusive of women ASM and address social inequalities, secure rights for women miners and protect the human rights of artisanal and small-scale miners in mining regions," she said.

She said government should make more viable areas of land available for women ASM by inspecting current exploration concessions, long-term creation and inclusion by the banking sector to accept claim title for ASM.

"Government should incorporate the different scales of mining into the mining code to properly recognise diversity and apply differentiated inspections according to the capacity and type of mining operation," she said.

"Women ASM associations through ZMF can bring down

the cost of supplies through economies of scale and help

women miners to access state services for formalisation."

"Government should consider creating training centres and promoting banking systems for Women ASM linking formalisation programmes to ethical certification initiatives," Mpofu said.



## EPOs Threaten Small Scale and Artisanal Mining (...From page 4)

The Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) recently convened an all-stakeholders meeting in Gwanda to deliberate on the issues affecting the mining sector, and it discovered that CYDT, which seeks to develop the skills of young people so that they can effectively and actively engage and participate in the country's political, economic and democratic processes, said the discovery that only 95% of the mining land in the region was under EPOs came as a surprise.

The organisation also noted that the Mining Act was silent on the issue of mine claims, yet this has proven to be the major source of conflict and corruption.

A number of families in Matabeleland South depend on mining as a source of living.



## Agonies of The Small Scale Miners

**F**or Desmond Tshele, an artisanal gold miner, money comes first, health second.

He is prepared to trade his life for gold—the precious mineral.

Like many other artisanal miners popularly known as “omakorokoza or otsheketsa” Tshele operates along Gwanda-Beitbridge road where he rummages the earth for gold.

“With the little that I get from this business I can be able to take my

kids to school and feed them,” the father of two, said while wiping sweat from his face using his cracked palm.

He is now dead tired as he started digging as early as 4am, pounding gold-bearing rock hoping his efforts will be rewarded with even the smallest nugget of gold. It’s now 7pm and he doesn’t show any signs of knocking off. This is how hard a life of an artisanal miner is.

They work for long hours but take home little. In Zimbabwe a lot of people risk their lives each and every day in search of the yellow metal. Some go to the extent of going underground in disused mine shafts which can collapse anytime.

Some of the disused mines go as deep as 500 metres. Just recently, about 70 artisanal gold miners were trapped in flooded shafts in Battlefields, 175 km west of Harare, an incident that the government declared a national disaster.

Only eight were reportedly managed to be rescued. Another gold miner, Thembinkosi Sibanda who operates in Inyathi, Bubi district said mining was not for the fainthearted.

“I started off as a grain miller but sold my machinery and invested in mining. I bought a



claim thinking that mining was going to give me more returns but I have since discovered that mining is not for the fainthearted,”

He said he applied for a \$10 million loan from Fidelity Printers and Refiners in 2017 but nothing had materialised to date.

“For me to get a loan I have to put my house as collateral and if anything wrong happens and I fail to service the loan, I can lose my house and go back to zero due to this mining...,” he said.

“It’s a struggle. We are struggling. Sometimes when I look back I think I was better off in the grain milling industry. Mining is a struggle,” Sibanda said.

The history of small-scale mining in Zimbabwe dates back to the period well before colonisation.

It contributes much to the Zimbabwean economy and an estimated 300,000 people are directly involved in gold panning activities along the 5,000km of Zimbabwe’s major rivers, including Mazowe, Angwa, Insiza, Bubi and Runde.



# The Woes Of Ward 4: A Community Deserted?



This tape serves the community of ward 4 . Public as it is, it is subjected to abuse by anyone but it is the resi-

The community is also vulnerable to health risks as it shares public toilets (Left). Ancient as these toilets appear, they are used by more than.....residents. One wonders how the Municipality has failed to provide better services to this community

Service delivery is the most fundamental need of any community. The community elects leaders whom they see capable of solving issues that affect them and developing lives in their community. The community of ward 4 which is located in Jahunda Township is the oldest township in Gwanda.

Built in 1970 and divided into two sections, the area currently harbors 900 residents with 60% being youths. Ever since the area was built the community has been using a public toilet which has not been renovated and has become not only an eye sore but a looming hazard.

The facility is in a state of dilapidation and the community continues to use the toilet system despite the toilet having a poor reticulation system. The area is not only plunged into a health time ticking bomb because of the poor toilet facility, the poor sewage system which is always bursting has also escalated the health crisis in the area.

"Sewages are running across our yards, the issue of sewage has been part of us as the municipality has failed to permanently solve the problem. We fear for the health of our children who play around the sewage",

Zanele Nyathi a resident in the area said.

The people in the area have not only lamented of poor toilet facilities, the water system and the houses have made life to be difficult for some of the residents staying in the township.

The community has only one public water tap. The residents have for long complained to the municipality that they need another tap and toilet system considering the growing population in the area and every elected councilor have saved their terms without even addressing the issue.

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# The Anti-Corruption Whistle-blowers

*How were the Whistle-blowers on corruption established?*

In our fight against corruption we adopted various approaches and one of these was to get the community involved. Two successful training were held in Gwanda and Matobo districts targeting small scale, artisanal miners and young people who exhibited interest in mining activities.



Langelihle (Whistle-Blower)

*How many whistle-blowers were trained?*

A total of 12 young women and 37 young men benefited from these trainings from the two districts. In Gwanda they were randomly selected in all 10 wards. In Matobo most of them came from ward 3, 5, 4, 16, 17 and 22.

*What stories have they been reporting on?*

Two months after being trained, the whistle blowers managed to conduct

community research and gathered evidence on corruption cases especial in the mining sector. These stories were covered through monthly newsletter "The Whistle-blower" which become our important advocacy tool against corruption.

*How are they viewed by the community?*

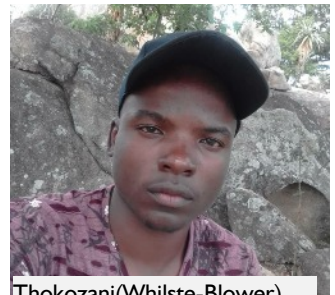
Their work is appreciated by some members of the community who know that corruption is the root cause of poverty and poor service delivery in the community. While those who have strived on corrupt practices have been their enemies.

*How do they report their stories?*

They share their stories with the organization on WhatsApp, via email, write on notebooks, and some drop by the office to share their stories. CYDT then further verifies the information gathered before taking the issue with the relevant authorities who are either the police, Ministry of Mines or CID mines and minerals section.

*What challenges do these Whistle-blowers face in this line of work?*

Most corrupt individuals operate as a syndicate and mostly powerful individuals such as politicians and business people. Operating as syndicates, these have people within the communities who act as their eyes and ears, collecting information for their bosses. As CYDT we then take over the issues and conduct further research and advocacy.



Thokozani(Whistle-Blower)

*What are the future plans?*

We are planning to escalate the fight against corruption by training more whistle-blowers and rejuvenating the current ones with new skills on reporting and gathering evidence.

We shall also do community awareness building initiatives so that everyone is involved in the fight against corruption.

# The Woes Of Ward 4: A Community Deserted?

*(...From page 8)*

“The local authorities promised that they will address the situation but we are now fade up of their unfulfilled promises. During campaigns for elections, aspiring councilors tell us that they will address these issues but once they are elected into office they turn a blind eye on what they promised us”, Zanele Nyathi said.

In the area they some families still use the same old houses which were built in 1970, and these families have for long complained the councilors that they should upgrade this house as there is living in a squashed existence.

The houses are one rooms and you will find a family of four to six all sharing the room and one wonders where is privacy in such a way of living. How do children grow morally upright in such way of living?

The outgoing councillor Mr Mduduzi Ncube shared that, he had managed to achieve developments in the ward.

He said he availed service industrial stands for SMEs in the ward for people to do projects and conduct their businesses in a legal way.

When asked what he done in addressing toilet and sewer problem which had created a health hazard for the residents.

He shared that he had upgraded the facility by installing chambers and showers but people vandalized and stole the utensils.

“It is so sad that when you want serve people and help alleviate their problems, some people are busy thinking how to steal and vandalize that which should serve them”, said the former councillor.

On the housing issue of one rooms he said that, he had for long engaged the municipality to upgrade the houses and they told him that they were having financial challenges in getting funding from the government to upgrade the houses.

However he said he had managed to convert 80% of the houses to be on ownership. He boasted that he also changed a policy in the municipality which disallowed children of deceased parents to be sole owners of the houses which their parents had left them.

When the current Mayor of Gwanda, Jaston Mazhale was interviewed on why the area was not developed, he shared that he had received many complaints from the residents on the housing, toilet facilities and water problems in the ward.

He said that he had included the issues in his budget and was going to address all the problems which the residents of ward 4 were facing with the help of the councillor.

The Mayor also reported that a housing project funded by UNDP was on the cards. The project is expected to address the issue of right to shelter as the current rooms occupied by Ward 4 residents are a death trap.

Lack of development of this area has raised many questions from the residents themselves who fill that it is not only poor planning by the Local Authorities but also corruption that has kept them stuck in such situations.

# Our Fight against Corruption



ABOVE: Maphisa residents during a roadshow.  
LEFT: Artists delivering anti-corruption message

CYDT has been using road-shows to raise community awareness on corruption. This strategy led to victims of corruption in the mining sector to come out and demand justice.

- Awareness raising

The fight against corruption in the mining sector needed an active community, aware of the dangerous of corruption especially to the enjoyment of its rights. CYDT conducted awareness raising through road shows in Gwanda and Matobo districts.

This was a way of creating a collective responsibility amongst the community so that it actively engages in the fight against corruption, moreso, because the minerals that were being exploited and benefiting the elite politicians and business people were theirs.

Through awareness raising, some miners in these areas gathered courage to come up and share their stories on how they have been victims of corruption. The stories of these miners were captured through our documentary tittle *The Khuphuka Mining Saga*.

The impact of awareness raising has also led to other ordinary members of the community coming up to report suspected cases of corruption. Our awareness raising is a continuous process as we believe that ever citizen has a responsibility to fight corruption

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# Our Anti Corruption Fight

*(...From page 12)*

## ● Exposing Corruption in Local Authorities

The fight against corruption could not be limited to the mining sector only although this was the primary focus of our project. During our anti-corruption campaign, we discovered that Local Authorities were not clean either. Infact, development was largely stalled due to corrupt activities by power bearers.

The major scandals we exposed were that of Matobo rural district council and Gwanda Town Council. For Matobo, the Mahetshe Community was incensed by media reports that the council had funded a water access project to a tune of \$22k yet that was not the case as the project was supported by a overseas well-wisher and the council did not put even a penny to it.

The community believes such acts by the council were scandalous and therefore forensic audits should be conducted as there is likelihood that council funds were abused the story is a cover up.

As for Gwanda council, the contested issue is that of the allocation of Greenland land to the construction of a Youth Centre which young people would use to develop themselves. However, months later the area has been taken up by Zanu PF supporters and residential houses constructed.

This is seen as corrupt act driven by political interference and therefore stalling youth development as the calls for a Youth Centre have been ongoing for a long time now.

## ● Corruption in The Mining Sector

In our Newsletter The Whistle Blower. We covered how small scale farmers were victims of corruption through intimidation, arrests and abuse of power by the powerful business people and politicians.

The stories we covered revolved around Zanu PF linked elites who were using their political mileage to abuse the powerless miners. Covered through a 15 minute documentary is the story of Khuphuka Mining Cooperative, a mining group from Matobo district that has

been involved in a long time conflict with Fisani Moyo a gold baron from Gwanda.

The conflict has been that of violation of community rights and also criminal abuse of the group by Moyo through use of force and illegal means to buy gold from the group members.

Recently, it has turned out that the Khuphuka saga is deeper than what we expected as there are various high level Zanu PF officials involved.

# Plumtree Town Council Corruption stalling development

**Z**ANU-PF run Plumtree Town Council has botched the construction of new sewer ponds after failing to pay the contractor, leading in the stoppage of the project, amid allegations of misappropriation of funds.

The new ponds were being constructed to cater for the Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle houses known in the border town as George Silundika suburb which has had no sewer reticulation since 2005.

Gate Engineering which won the tender to build the ponds has abandoned the project six months ago after the council management failed to pay it for work done.

The project was still at foundation level and all has reportedly been washed away by the rains which fell in the border town since onset of the rainy season. The company also left its workers unpaid for over 10 months.

George Silundika suburb has spent the last 13 years with its residents still resorting to

open defecation, a situation which exposed them to waterborne diseases.

The project which was commissioned in September 2017 was also to cater for 708 housing units planned under the ZB Bank and council partnership housing.

Residents have accused the council management of misplaced priorities and misuse of public funds and were now calling for the government to do a forensic audit of the local authority's books.

"I have been there and spoke to the people who are manning the place. They told me the projects stopped five months ago after the contractor abandoned the project due to non-payment by council", said Ricahrd Khumalo, the Chairperson for Plumtree Combined Residents and Development Association (Pcrada).

The also accuse the council of buying luxurious vehicles at the expense of public health safety thereby creating a

health time bomb in the border town.

Khumalo added that the failure of this project was a result of poor management, misplaced priorities coupled with corruption.

"This bad service delivery is a result of poor management, corruption and misplaced priorities which also affect the economic growth of our town.

Our local authority should maximize on the effectiveness of revenue collection through securing great value guarding against fraud, waste and corruption.

They also should be concerned about the public health safety at the expense of purchasing luxurious vehicles," he said.

Contacted for comment council chairperson, Fanisani Dube said he was not allowed to divulge anything to the press.

This case is not isolated as Local Authorities have been accused of poor planning and



# Four Police Officers in Bribe Storm

## CORRUPTION

continues to dog Zimbabwe's mining sector, prejudicing government of the much needed revenue to boost the struggling economy.

What is more painful and appalling is information gleaned from records that the

tide is being perpetrated by the police and government officials - the very people who are supposed to combat it.

Recently, four police officers stationed at Gwanda Criminal Investigations Department (CID) gold section were alleged to have forced Gift Mzizi—a miner—to bribe them after they had arrested his wife, accusing her of possessing explosives.

Mzizi is a gold miner based in Maphisa, Matabeleland South under chief Nyangazonke. Mzizi revealed that four police officers, only identified as Mandlenkosi Dube, Chede, Mthando and MaNcube, raided his home on January 30, 2019 searching for "illegal stuff."

"They arrived at around 5am and found my wife alone since I was in Gwanda. They searched all the rooms until they discovered explosives. They demanded to know the owner of those explosives. She told them it's me," he said.

Mzizi said the police officers arrested his wife, forced her to sign a warned and cautioned



statement and told her that she should call her husband to come back home.

She complied.

"I drove from Gwanda to Maphisa and found them still with my wife. I told them that I

have come, hence they should release my wife and I'm prepared to be arrested but they refused. Instead they said we needed to talk," Mzizi said.

Mzizi said the police officers told him that his wife had confessed to a crime and she would be jailed for 9 years. They then demanded a US\$1000 bribe from him to secure his wife's freedom.

"However, my wife started crying and I felt compassion for her and I agreed to look for the money," he said.

He said he managed to raise US\$500 and \$200 bond. After the payment, they released his wife.

Contacted for comment, Chede and Dube said they were not allowed to speak to the press while Mthando said he did not know Mzizi. Matabeleland South police spokesperson chief inspector Philisani Ndebele said he spoke to Mzizi and urged him to report the case to the police.



