

THE



WHISTLE-BLOWER

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Defeat Corruption-Save Communities

Editorial

Dear Reader

To show CYDT's commitment in fighting corruption in Matabeleland South, it is with pleasure to bring you *The Whistleblower*, CYDT's quarterly newsletter that unpacks the state of mining in the province with a special focus on corruption.

The magazine consists of articles that detail the challenges faced by artisanal and small scale miners as well as the strategies that can be adopted to improve the working environment of miners.

It is the aim of CYDT to safeguard the rights of artisanal and small scale miners as the mining industry is one sector that has helped sustain families. Most families are poverty stricken, a situation that has been exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19 and as a result, mining becomes an activity which young people can escape poverty.

In this latest edition, CYDT also aimed at exposing how artisanal miners are being manipulated by corrupt gold barons as well as show how the #Zerobribe campaign is helping

mitigate corruption in the mining sector through its hardworking Zero Bribe team members trained by CYDT that consists of youthful whistle blowers.

In addition, as a way of protecting artisanal miners by eradicating long held stereotypes about artisanal miners, there is an article that detail artisanal miners' feelings with regards to the treatment they receive in the community and from the government.

You will find more stories with different topics about the mining sector in this magazine with the hope that you will find these stories interesting and educating.

Please have a happy reading and take good care, COVID -19 is real!

Your feedback will be appreciated

Bongie



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CSOs condemn impunity for crimes against artisanal miners



private and public life, and the right to have that dignity respected and protected” while Section 53 states that “no person may be subjected to physical or psychological torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

The youths also quoted other sections of the constitution such as Sections 54 and 55 which are against slavery, servitude and forced labour to further show that no worker in Zimbabwe must be subjected to inhumane treatment. Mat South youths encouraged other youths to continue demanding action in all social media platforms as a way of putting pressure on the authorities.

CYDT recently endorsed a petition that was initiated by Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR) <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/01/probe-abusive-chinese-employers> demanding thorough investigations from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) and Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) for thorough investigations with regards to cases of Chinese miners’ abuse of Zimbabwean mine workers across the

Mat South youths have condemned Chinese miners brutality towards Zimbabwe miners after watching a highly sensitive video and pictures showing a Chinese miners torturing and beating their workers for demanding unpaid salaries.

In an interview with CYDT, a Gwanda youth alleged that “Chinese miners have been getting away with various crimes in recent years for instance last year Matobo artisanal miners accused Yakutsi Investments mining firm bosses of beating and paying them what is less than the hours they are working.”

The youth also said that a similar issue happened in Maphisa where artisanal miners under the Thuthuka Cooperation group accused Chinese employers of beating them, of which all these cases went cold with time.

Another youth from Gwanda said “Chinese miners are friends with law officers and other highly respected officials which works in their favour when cases like these happen, therefore, independent human rights bodies are needed to put pressure on authorities so that these cases are solved swiftly.”

The youths said that by beating local miners, Chinese miners are breaking the law as the Constitution of Zimbabwe Section 51 states that “every person has inherent dignity in their

country.

Other organisations that endorsed the call by the MIHR include, Women’s Institute for Leadership Development, Matobo Youth Development Initiative, Rural Communities Empowerment Trust, Community Podium, Christian Legal Society Zimbabwe, South Western Region Gender Network, Ibhethu likaZulu, Greater Whange Residents Trust, Gweru Residents and Ratepayers Association, Lupane Youth for Development and Masvingo United Residents and Ratepayers Association.

In a statement, the MIHR said “this is not the first incident of Chinese miners torturing and abusing mine workers in the country. Incidences like these have been noted in Insiza District, Gwanda, Bubi, Hwange, Gweru, Matobo, Masvingo, Mutare and other districts of the country where mining is taking place.”

The statement went on to say that it is also critical to note that CSOs have gathered in many areas of the country where the Chinese miners are operating, that these acts of wanton human rights abuse by the Chinese to local Zimbabweans are rampant and the locals no longer report them because of the impunity they have experienced.

Zero Bribe team seeks to help artisanal miners formalise

The Zero Bribe team, a team of whistleblowers trained by Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) to help educate artisanal miners which will help them stand up against corruption says formalising artisanal miners' activities will safeguard artisanal miners from being robbed by corrupt gold barons.

Since they are not protected by the law, many artisanal miners from Mat South allege that authorities usually manipulate them by demanding bribes which makes their operations and survival difficult.

As way of solving the challenges faced by these artisanal miners, the Zero Bribe team said they are educating artisanal miners on how to formalise their activities which will ensure their safety and protection from corrupt officials who regularly and unfairly take their precious gold.

The Zero Bribe team claims that if artisanal miners' activities are formalised, there will be no reason for artisanal miners to bribe corrupt authorities.

"Formalisation will get rid of corruption in the sense that operations will be lawful; having gone through all avenues that cut down the middle man; who will give false documents that will always pull you down as means of corruption? When your documents are straight it enables you to take your products straight to fidelity and have proper records of your operations," said Nicholas Ngwenya from uMzingwane.

"I think formalising artisanal miners activities is the best way that will reduce linkages of gold in the country, most ASM will be getting fair bank rate prices, most buyers of gold in the country sell some of the gold at Fidelity and 70% of it is being sold outside the country," said Gabriel Moyo from Maphisa.

Moyo claimed that the process will improve the mining industry as most miners will be fully aware of their rights; understand what they can do, and reduce the gold leakages around the country.

Memory Ngwenya from Maphisa said "it will reduce rate of low compliance in returning returns, acquiring licenses which will reduce bribe demands by mainly CID because they won't be any major offences."



He also said that the formalisation of ASM will impacts the sector positively as it will put invincible operations in the open thereby making training and follow ups easy.

The Zero Bribe team agreed that most artisanal miners need to be taught about formalizing and its benefits as lack of knowledge in most of them has left them vulnerable to corrupt authorities.

They said that all necessary steps must be conducted so that artisanal miners will also support formalising their activities.

The Zero Bribe team said the government must also improve its treatment of artisanal and small scale miners which will help facilitate the process of formalising their activities.

They proposed that the government should ensure basic hygiene needs are provided through a clear policy framework, capacitation, and proper administration and monitoring of ASM.

It must also step up in ensuring that motivator factors are enhanced, by decriminalizing the ASM as was done in 2013 (enhancing status of ASM), ensuring opportunities for advancement of ASM miners; making it clear to ASM miners that they have a huge responsibility of boosting the country's total mineral produce and creating livelihoods in their local communities.

'We are people too...' - Miners

● Artisanal miners want respect, better treatment from the public

The literature gaps in giving attention to the downstream and upstream linkages that the artisanal and small scale mining creates in sustaining livelihoods and its contribution to the fiscus, has been one of the reason why Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in Zimbabwean has been undermined by the communities as valuable and a respected job.

Wrongfully, artisanal miners have been condemned to criminals, and enforced with stereotypes that have made them to be less regarded in the society.

Communities undermine and regard artisanal miners as uncivilised and lawless people, hence they label them as “otsheketsa, ogweja, omaripha, omantsheza, omahlal'egangeni, omadlazonke” which are all derogatory terms if directly translated from the indigenous languages and lingos that they are coined from.

To change these damaging stereotypes and misconceptions about artisanal miners, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) conducted programs that aimed at giving artisanal miners a chance to share how the treatment they receive from the communities affect them .

Artisanal miners told the CYDT that it is imperative for communities to change their behavior and negative lance viewing of artisanal miners, towards a positive outlook that, motivates the miners to be responsible individuals in their activities. They claimed that the condemnation and treatment which they receive from the community destroys artisanal miners` good psychological and emotional state of mind.

Artisanal miners revealed that these terms that are used to call the miners, bring about negative thoughts to the miners. “It is the way the people judge us that make us behave in the way we behave, to us it seems we are enemies to our communities,” said Thandolwenkosi Maphakela, an artisanal miner.

“For us to boost the lost self-esteem we resort to drug and substance abuse. These drugs help us quench the anger of discrimination which we are subjected to, from both our working environment and communities,” he added.

Similo Ndlovu from uMzingwane said, “behaviour is largely sponsored by the community as the field of ASM is judged as the



position occupied by pervers, people who live like there is no tomorrow.”

Ndlovu went on to say that communities label ASM with bad names because in Zimbabwe respect is given only to intellectuals.

Matabeleland South youths proposed that there is need to enforce behaviour change, through outreach exercises that would help sensitize the mind-sets of both the artisanal miners and the community to correlate towards harnessing the artisanal and small scale mining sector.

One member of the community Meluleki Sibanda said “these miners are our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, so as long as unemployment remains a concern and the sector considered informal, it means government is doing nothing in addressing the plights of the small scale miners.”

He said it is the government that has caused enmity and disunity amongst these groups. Sibanda alleged that the government is criminalising this informal sector hence some corrupt government officials are the ones perpetrating corruption to the miners, and are stifling prospects of formalisation as they fear to lose control and ill-gotten wealth gained through corrupt practices.

Mat South youths also said that the government must address the gaps within the existing policies governing the mining sector; policies that will bring into awareness that artisanal miners are not criminals but miners surviving economic challenges through mining.

From analogue to digital cadastre system...

● enhancing transparency, accountability in the mining sector

In a mining sector that has extremely suffered from lack of transparency, accountability and corruption due to various root causes such as the continued use of the analogue/traditional cadastre ways of distributing mining claims, Mat South youths say it is time to adopt the digital cadastre system to assist the sector combat mining irregularities in the province.

To provide reliable, accurate and timely information about mining claims so as to avoid disputes that are common in the mining sector, the Mines and Minerals Bill (MMAB, 2015) was introduced to amend the 1963 Mines and Minerals Act. In the MMAB (2015), Section 14 to 18 provide for the establishment of the cadastre system.

Presided by the cadastre registrar who is also the permanent secretary of mines, the cadastre system is an electronic management and recording of processes that creates mining rights and titles.

According to the act, the system will be used to profile all mining licenses in Zimbabwe which will ensure compliance of title holders to operational standards set under section 14 of the MMAB. The government promised that by early 2021, the mining sector would have adopted the innovative computerised cadastre system.

With the digital cadastre system, instead of relying on manual system which is slow and has created voluminous papers and documents, the Ministry of Mines will now rely on the computerised system which will significantly ease workloads done through the manual system. Mat South youths aware of the cadastre system say that it is time to fully adopt the system that promises to assist in enhancing transparency in the mining industry.

Nokuthaba Ncube a youth from Gwanda said that “the adoption of the new act which involves the section of the cadastre system will help combat corruption in the mining sector. We hope that the new act will also provide for provisions that adopt contract disclosures which will enhance the disclosure of contracts by the government and improve transparency and accountability.”

Nicholas Ngwenya from Umzingwane claimed that if finally implemented, the system will foster sustainable development as it will mitigate corruption and illicit financial flows in the industry.

He went on to say that with the cadastre system, citizens’ right to access mining licenses information will be enhanced which is the limitation of Mines and Minerals Act (1963), hence improving transparency in the mining sector.

Mat South youth said the time taken to record and retrieve mining information will be improved using the cadastre system while the system will also improve accuracy in terms of identifying mining properties.

They pointed out that the generation and access to reliable information for instance mining titles and mining contracts will be enhanced.

“The cadastre system will enable efficient and fast reaction from the government to settle disputes and pegging complaints over claim boundaries. The system will also help mitigate delays in applying for a prospecting certificate of registration and inspection,” said Andiswa Ndlovu from Maphisa.

According to the cadastral system, mining disputes will be solved creatively such as disputes over claim boundaries. In the case of solving disputes, Section 344 of the Bill speaks of dispute regulation process between miners.

It states that the “Cadastre Registrar will order parties to stop mining activities where one party has lodged a dispute with the Ministry or at the courts.” The provision also highlights that “the Ministry should endeavor to resolve the dispute within a reasonable period.”

Responding to the cadastre helping solve disputes in the mining sector, one youth from Gwanda said this shows how the cadastre system is designed to cover the gaps that have long existed in the mining sector which will lead to healthy and transparent sector.

When the cadastre system was first proposed, concerns over the Permanent Secretary of Mines holding both the registrar of the mining cadastre and chairperson of the Mining Affairs Board responsibilities were raised by mining critics from Mat South. They claimed that it violated the separation of powers something which could affect transparency and accountability.

A Beitbridge academia that recently spoke with CYDT said that “the Secretary of Mines should not hold the post of the Cadastre Registrar. Why should the secretary occupy so many roles? This could actually leave the secretary overwhelmed with work and fail to adequately deal with all the issues, therefore, it is only logical that someone else takes over the job.”

The Beitbridge academia added that since the cadastre system involves the electronic management and recording process, a professional who is extensively competent in information and communication technologies must manage it. This will enhance proper conduction of the cadastre system.

The use of pen and papers is simply outdated compared to the digital cadastre system which will ensure efficient and accuracy boundary redefinition and land registration. This system will also enable easy information storage and retrieval.

It will help mitigate duplication errors as well as enable easy access of information by the public, therefore, improving transparency in the distributing of mining claims in Mat South.

Immediate protection and support of Artisanal miners needed



Instead of sleeping with an empty stomach, artisanal mining provides young miners with money to put food on the table, therefore, it is high time that artisanal miners are fully protected by the government.”

Memory Ngwenya, an artisanal miner from Maphisa said the reason artisanal miners use disused mineshafts is caused by the cost required to prospect for new claims.

He went on to say that getting a prospecting license itself is expensive so it becomes much easier to start mining in old and abandoned mineshafts.

Artisanal miners alleged that the centralization of resources was the root cause for the challenges they face in Mat South, noting that the mining sector is not fully equipped to deal with issues affecting the mine industry at local level.

As a result of marginal protection and support of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe, Matabeleland South suffered yet another tragic mineshaft collapse that left six artisanal miners trapped in Matshetshe in Umzingwane District after heavy rains pounded the area in November 2020.

In most cases, artisanal miners operate without full protection gear. They also go underground without professionals responsible for surveying and determining the safety of the mineshafts leaving them vulnerable to accidents like sudden mineshaft collapse.

In addition, authorities responsible for helping trapped miners are not fast in responding to these accidents, for instance, in the case of Matshetshe Mine victims, it took almost a week for the Civil Protection Unit to respond to the matter.

Speaking with Community Youth Development Trust (CY-DT), Artisanal miners claimed that the continued trivialization of artisanal miners by the government despite contributing a lot of gold overall has left them vulnerable.

“Since artisanal mining is criminalized in the country, we do not receive any form of help from the government. We do not have necessary equipment for exploring the safety of mineshafts we operate in. In simpler terms, we are on our own,” said Similo Ndlovu, a miner from Umzingwane.

Ndlovu also said “artisanal mining is a source of income in the province. It helps many young people survive unemployment and poverty.

“The Ministry of Mines is under-capitalised, they do not have man power especially at the local level to comprehensively deal with issues that requires urgency in the mining sector for example you find that the Gwanda Mining District offices which includes Matobo, Umzingwanen and Gwanda itself has not more than ten staff,” said Ngwenya.

He added that “these staffs have different offices for instance one of them is for the mining and engineering, the other one is for metallurgical department and the other one is for the inspection department. Therefore, the government must first employ enough staff in every district who will inspect and make sure that miners adhere to mining conditions.”

Artisanal miners proposed that the Ministry of Mines must identify and train youths at local level that will be responsible for helping artisanal miners conduct their activities in a safe and approved manner.

“Since mining is the major source of income in Zimbabwe, the government must provide highly trained professionals who will deal with assisting miners at local level to conduct their operations in a safe a way,” said Bekithemba Ncube, vice chairperson of Small Scale Miners Association in Maphisa.

Ncube went on to say that “these people will be advising miners on the proper time to go underground as well as help inspect how strong the ground is in areas where miners want to undertake their mining activities.”

Blanket Mine constructs an isolation center at Phakama clinic for COVID-19 patients.



centers and hospitals across the province are getting overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients.

Why then, is the Ministry of Health and the local authority not commissioning the isolation center, to decongest Covid-19 patients in the province?”, lamented another resident from Gwanda.

When the Town Clerk of Gwanda was contacted for comment, on why the isolation center was still not operational, since Phakama Clinic is local authority run clinic. She shared that, the building was indeed complete but they were some other human resources issues that were being worked on by the Ministry of Health.

“The local authority is not the only the key player in the development of the isolation center. The Ministry of Health and Child Care is the overall seer of the development of the center, as they are the ones given the mandate to regulate and address on Covid-19 developments.

Canadian based resource group, Caledonia Mining Corporation which is owner of Blanket Gold Mine, situated in the provincial town of Matabeleland South, Gwanda, has been playing an important role as key driver in facilitating community development through its Cooperate Social Responsibility Programs.

The mining company has been a key driver of community development in Gwanda in the past years through provision of various forms of infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, water, and electricity, and also support for adjacent agricultural projects.

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the mining company constructed an isolation center at Phakama clinic in Gwanda, as part of its efforts to improve the capacity of the town and province, to be able to contain infections on the novel virus and also protect its citizens.

The isolation center was completed in December 2020 but it is still not functional, hence there have been outcries from the residents in the town on why the isolation center is still not functional, amid the second wave of the Covid-19, that is being experienced across the country and is claiming lives.

“It is very confusing and disturbing why the isolation center is not functioning when it is complete. We currently facing one of the deadliest waves of the Covid-19 pandemic and nothing is being said by our authorities on what is stalling the isolation center to be operational”, said one residents residing in phakama who chose to remain anonymous.

“People are dying in big numbers across the country due to rise in infections, and it is being reported that our isolation

I understand the ministry is working on human resources issues and other safety health measures, to ensure that the isolation center meet the required WHO guidelines for handling of Covid-19 patients”, said Mrs. P Nkala

Corporate Social Responsibility is a business process a company adopts beyond its legal obligations in order to create added economic, social and environmental value to society and to minimize potential adverse effects from business activities. After having announced a record gold production for the year 2020 which saw the miner’s total annual hitting almost 58 000 ounces.

“Record total gold production during 2020 was 57 899 ounces, the top end of the company’s revised increased guidance,” said the company in a notice. In a notice to shareholders, the mining company, said it is looking for even better returns in 2021 and in the future.

The record haul by Blanket Mine comes at a time ,the Government is pushing for mining production ramp up, that is poised to see the country’s total mineral exports earning US\$12 billion from 2023 onwards up from US\$2,7 billion in 2017.

As much as the second republic seeks to achieve Vision 2030 of having an upper middle income economy, through the National Development Strategy I: 2021 – 2025 (NDSI), which is anchored on mining.

It is crucial that the government promulgate laws that ensure mining companies to promote CSR programs, so as to drive economic, social and environmental sustainable development in the local communities.

Formalize the ASM and create policies that reduce corruption so as to realise US\$12bn mining industry

Artisanal and small scale gold mining in Zimbabwe, has been playing a significant role in resuscitating the economy and alleviating poverty in the communities around the country, due to its increased production in the past years.

Since 2014, following the decriminalization of the ASGM by the government, as part of its efforts to formalize artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the deliveries of ASGM to the formal market have grown exponentially to the extent of surpassing that of Large Scale Gold Mining (LGSM) at some point in time.

In 2019 artisanal and small scale gold miners combined were responsible for 63% of the gold production, although it is unclear whether artisanal mining or small-scale mining is the biggest contributor of the two. In July 2020 the ASGM was leading in gold production after they delivered 700 kilograms of the yellow metal to fidelity printers, compared to large scale mining who delivered 650 kilograms.

However, the deliveries of the ASGM declined to Fidelity by the year end, due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. As ASM is highly labor intensive, the regulations on the novel disease called for a reduction in the number of people working on mining sites which in turn reduced production levels in the mines.

In May 2020 Fidelity Printers and Refiners announced a new gold trading framework, regarding how gold payment arrangements for gold deliveries from Artisanal and Small- Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and Large Scale Mining (LSM). The FPR gazetted that it was paying a flat fee of US\$45 per gram of gold from ASGM while deliveries from LSM were to be paid 80% in US\$ which was to be transferred to local ZW\$ at the prevailing official exchange rate.

The changes were not limited to payment arrangements for gold deliveries but included new requirements for gold buyers. Small gold buyers needed to be licensed as agents for FPR with attendant terms and conditions. The arrangements made by the FPR on gold trading arrangements, were not conducive enough for the operations of most artisanal and small scale miners who were subjected to corrupt practices from the gold buyers, licensed by the FPR to buy gold from the miners.

This was also revealed in the Policy Debate Meetings that were conducted by Community Youth Development Trust with miners in Matobo, Mzingwane and Gwanda. The miners bemoaned that it was on record that, they were the biggest contributors of gold deliveries and important source of livelihood for the majority, with over 3 million dependents but their sector remained vulnerable to corrupt practices and marginalization, due to existing laws and policies that governed the sector.

“The current Gold Trade Act criminalize us to possess and conduct any gold dealing, and this has created many loopholes that has exposed many miners to bribery by law enforcement agents and prejudice from gold barons.



On top of that, the Mines and Minerals Act does not protect miners from but rather enforce a red tape system for artisanal and small scale miners to benefit from the mining sector”, said Khumbulani Nyoni, a small scale miner from Matobo.

One of the youth advocates who was part of the Policy Debate Meeting in Gwanda proposed that, the realization of mining rights and titles was one of the crucial steps towards growth in ASGM.. Some of the miners who were in the platform, shared sentiments that, having access to mining rights and titles was limited, as they also wanted open access to fully operational free market.

“We want to be given free access to trade in gold, without being criminalized so that we are not subjected to prejudice and corrupt practices which we currently experience”, said the miner.

The Government of Zimbabwe currently is working on amending the Mines and Minerals Act, which is expected to bring a market-based conducive investment climate providing the stability, consistency, competitiveness and transparency in the sector, paving way for the formulation of mineral policies and facilitating the resuscitation of strategically closed mines.

In addition, the government according to Prof Ncube is also working on to review the gold trade act at the same time capacitating gold mobilization and buying agents as well as continuing to review gold marketing conditions and capacitate law enforcement institutions.

As part of its advocacy mission to ensure the formalization of the ASGM and ensure the recognition and protection of the miners in the sector as key stakeholders in the mining sector. CYDT developed a position paper which was submitted to Parliamentary Portfolio on Mines and Mining Development, to ensure that their concerns and needs are captured, when the Mines Bill and Gold Trade Act are reviewed before being passed into law.

The cry of the Community, Stamping mill mounted without community consultation

Mining, is a very important source of livelihood that also contributes significantly to the economic growth and development for many communities in Zimbabwe.

Gwanda is a provincial capital of Matabeleland South, endowed with rich gold deposits that has seen increase of mining activities around town as well as domestic immigration.

As such the town has become a hub of mining activities, which has become a source of employment and livelihood for both young and old, women and men. Many families in Gwanda urban and rural communities sustain their families through mining activities with the majority of them being artisanal or small-scale miners.

However, mining on the other hand has its own detrimental effects to the environment and the communities living within the area, if it is not sustainable practised and maximum compliance with the statutes and law of the land not enforced.

Residents from ward 6 and 9 in Gwanda, having been complaining about the negative impact of the mining activities which are taking place near their communities, which have become a serious threat to their homes.

Have bemoaned the establishment of a stamping mill that is causing cracks to their houses and its noise pollution associated with its activities. What even angers the residents living in the ward is that, they were not consulted as a community prior to the licensing of the stamp mill in the area.

“We can’t have a stamping mill here, take into consideration damages that we see in the houses of our fellow residents in Garikai ward 8”, commented Thamsanqa Moyo a resident from ward 6.

Another youth, Future Ndlovu noted that, it was even saddening that the owner of the stamp mill was not even known. “We don’t even know who is the owner of the stamp mill which also points to lack of transparency and accountability in the mining sector”, he lamented.

Florence Ndlovu resident from ward 9 , said that “ There putting people’s lives in danger , as chemicals that are used have potential health hazards to the people and environment

” .All these plights of the community came to surface during a meeting organised by CYDT, which was aimed at promoting transparency and social cohesion in the mining sector and its communities.

This resulted in the organisation petitioning the EMA, the local authority and Ministry of Mines in order to assist the affected communities. The petition was developed with the residents and also signed by the residents, who then also went on to submit the petition to the responsible authorities.

The petition submitted by the residents serve as advocacy for the removal of the stamp mill near their residents, and for the responsible authorities to act with immediate effect. As a

result, EMA together with the local authority are working towards revoking the licence of the stamp mill, as they now argue that, they did not sanction the authorisation of the stamp mill, because it was brought to the public domain.

This also indicates the existence of corrupt practises in mining activities, particularly in the awarding of mining licenses, without following proper procedures and

regulations required.

This also further shade more light on practices by the Municipality of Gwanda in implementing projects without the public concern. “One man’s meat is another man’s poison”, this was a statement that one Youth commented concerning the allocation of the stamp mill.

The implication from the statement was that, the stamping mill will be good for the owner who shall make fortunes from the stamping mill but at the expense of the destruction of houses and environment in the community.

The Zimbabwean constitution gives the room for community to be engaged before any community development, hence the residents were not consulted prior to the authorization of the stamp mill.



Unpacking the causes of conflict in Mat South's resource rich communities



Mashonaland and easily get a license. Uyaqalisela nga vele' (would you even dare)."

The paper also found that EMA is involved in the process of getting a claim as respondents highlighted that "the agency sometimes approves certain areas that would be owned by locals for example without following the right process of consultations."

Another participant in the baseline study said "sometimes the ministry gives someone a mining certificate to mine *emasimini akho* (in your fields) without any consultation. You only learn about that when you see someone bringing papers from the Ministry that they have been given permission to mine."

The paper also established that poverty was also behind common conflicts in the mining sector. According to the research, Umzingwane district youths that

Poverty, corruption, tribalism and poor policies are some of the major causes of conflicts in resources rich communities in Matabeleland South, a study has established. Commissioned towards the end of 2020 by CYDT with the aim of establishing the major causes of conflicts that has led to loss of lives in mining communities, this baseline study was conducted in Matobo, Gwanda and Umzingwane districts.

The baseline report established that the double allocation of mine claims was a key cause of mining related conflicts.

"...double allocation of mine claims by the Ministry of Mines has led to conflicts among those allocated the same area. According to young miners, double allocation is a result of corruption in the ministry considering that the ministry has data base and maps of areas that would have already been pegged," reads the baseline report.

The report went on to establish that the allocation of claims to 'outsiders' at the expense of locals also causes conflicts and directly quoted one participant as saying

"We expect these resources to be given to us first, but you will notice that even if you apply it takes time yet people from other areas easily get mining licenses. We feel this is done deliberately because for example, you cannot go to

participated in the research said poverty due to high levels of unemployment left youths with no choice but to move from one area to another in search of greener pastures.

Tribalism was also identified as a cause of conflict in the mining sector. The baseline research highlights that, "...although these conflicts are driven by poverty, they tend to be tribal as mining gangs are organised on tribal lines."

This establishment was buttressed by a participant who is a local Councillor from Umzingwane District who said that "they come from various parts of the country and group themselves on tribal lines then attack locals especially in areas where gold deposits are quite good...their strategy is 'attack, grab, destroy and disappear'. They take anything that they find including equipment and leave you for dead."

It is imperative to also highlight that the paper proposed various recommendations that can be considered to mitigate conflicts in the mining sector these include, "the ministry should engage the ministry of mines and polish out the issue related to the allocation of mining licenses without its knowledge and approval and Gwanda municipality and local government institutions in general need to invest in technology such a GIS and map out land use and effects of mining activities for effective decision making and future planning."