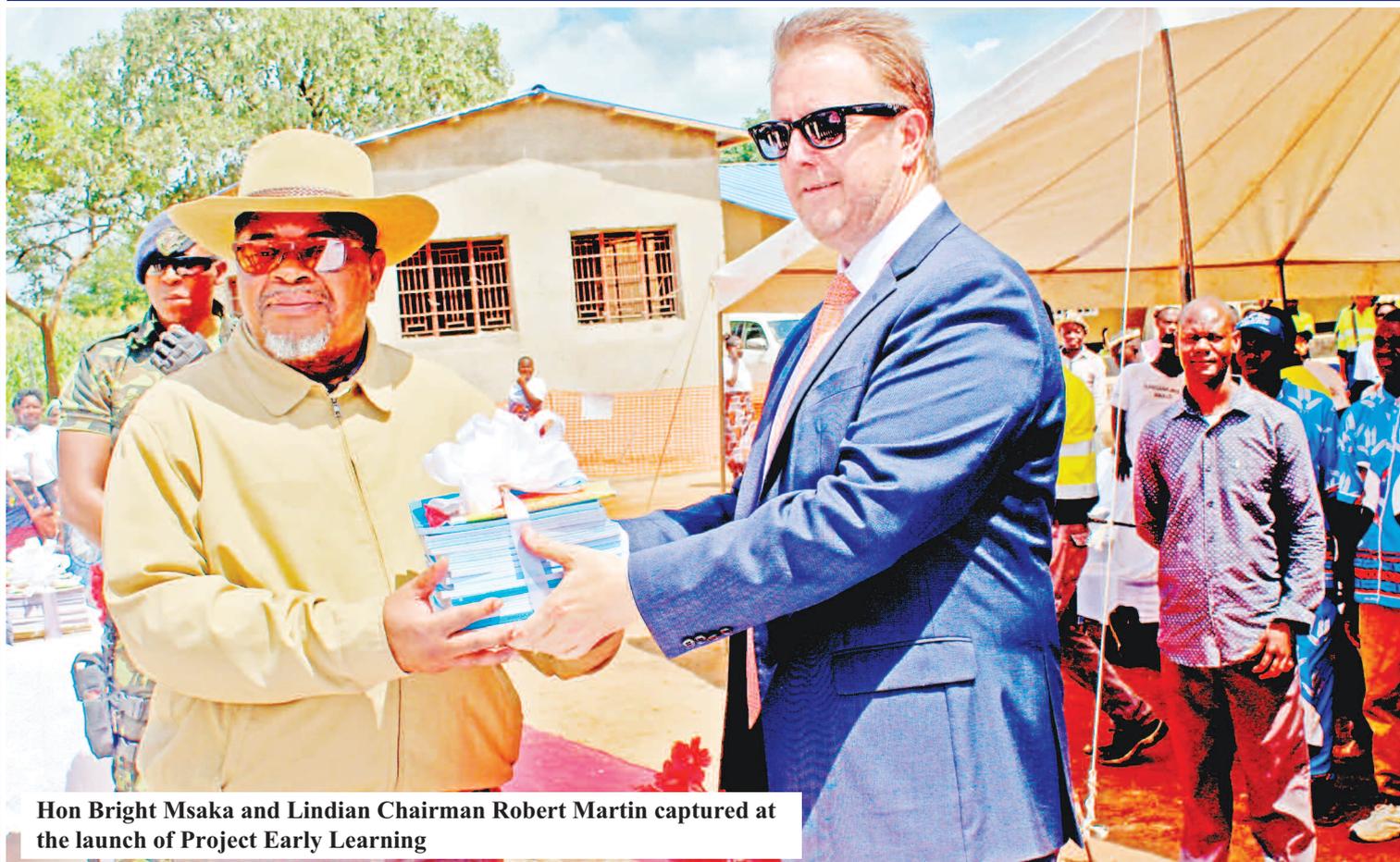


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• Lindian facelifts local primary school with Project Early Learning



Hon Bright Msaka and Lindian Chairman Robert Martin captured at the launch of Project Early Learning

Kangankunde Primary School in rural Balaka District is fast transforming into a modern primary school with new decent infrastructure all thanks to ASX-listed Lindian Resources, which is rebuilding the existing school infrastructure including new classroom blocks with improved ventilation and chalkboards. Additional works will include an administrative office, gender segregated toilet blocks with septic systems and hand-wash stations, water and sanitation improvements, and simple paved walk-

ways to enhance safety and accessibility, and sports fields for children.

In parallel, Lindian will provide every learner attending Kangankunde Primary School with uniforms, shoes, books, and stationery; supporting full participation in early learning with dignity and confidence.

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Lindian launches Project Early Learning at Kangankunde School

By Marcel CHIMWALA

A SX-listed Lindian Resources, which is preparing to kickstart rare earth mining at Kangankunde in Balaka, has launched the Project Early Learning at Kangankunde Primary School, a government and community-based initiative designed to support access to safe, inclusive and supportive early education and ensure the benefits of the Kangankunde Rare Earths Project are shared with the local community from the earliest stage of the project.

The project was officially launched at the school by Malawi's Minister of Education, Science and Technology Honourable Bright Msaka who was accompanied by Lindian's Executive Chairman Mr Robert Martin and Executive Director Mr Zac Komur.

The colourful ceremony which also marked Malawi's commemoration of World Education Day attracted government officials, traditional leaders and members of the local community.

Speaking at the ceremony, Msaka hailed Lindian for the project that is changing the face of Kangankunde Primary School through the construction of various infrastructure including new school blocks, staff offices, a fence and a netball court.

Msaka said: "This is the kind of investment that a company which is serious minded and is thinking of corporate social responsibility should do. This is the investment in the community that we expect. I want to say thank you very much to Lindian for the quality school that they have given us."

He asked the local community to maintain cordial relations with Lindian to ensure that the Company is able to start production and generating mineral sales revenue in order to be able to commit more funds to community development projects.

Mr Martin said Lindian has been working with the Kangankunde community for some time, and Project Early Learning is a natural extension of that relationship.

He said through the company's ongoing community engagement, education has consistently been raised as a priority and the leadership of Honourable Msaka has been instrumental in turning that shared priority into meaningful action.

Mr Martin said: "Our community engagement plan helps guide where support is most needed and ensures resources are directed to areas that will make a real difference. In this case, that meant focusing on early education and practical improvements that support both students and teachers, in close alignment with the Ministry of Education's objectives and the needs of the local community."

"Kangankunde is not only important for the local community but for Malawi as a whole. The project is already creating jobs, supporting local contractors and building skills, with these benefits only expected to grow as development continues. It also demonstrates Malawi's ability to host large scale, responsible mining projects, helping positioning the country as positive and investable mining jurisdiction."



Mr Martin taking HonMsaka through the Project



Books were donated to Kangankunde learners during the launch



New classrooms are being built at Kangankunde



Hon Msaka launching the new netball court

"This initiative has been developed in partnership with the government of Malawi under the guidance of Honourable Msaka SC and the Ministry of Education in close collaboration with the local community. It reflects our long-term commitment to Kangankunde, and as the project continues to develop, we will keep working closely with government and community leaders to ensure the benefits are shared over the long term."

He said initiatives such as Project Early Learning form an important part of the Company's broader approach to community engagement and responsible project development at Kangankunde.

"Strong alignment with government priorities and ongoing collaboration with local communities underpin Lindian's social licence to operate and support the timely and efficient delivery of the Kangankunde Rare Earths Project as it advances through construction and towards production," he said.

Project Scope and Delivery

Under the programme, Lindian is rebuilding the existing school infrastructure including new classroom blocks with improved ventilation and chalkboards. Additional works will include an administrative office, gender segregated toilet blocks with septic systems and hand-wash stations, water and sanitation improvements, and simple paved walkways to enhance safety

and accessibility, and sports fields for children. In parallel, every learner attending Kangankunde Primary School will be provided with uniforms, shoes, books, and stationery; supporting full participation in early learning with dignity and confidence.

Delivery will be coordinated in partnership with government and community representatives, with local contractors and suppliers engaged where ever possible. Lindian will underwrite the programme and work alongside its major service providers, who are contributing labour, construction services, materials, transport, furniture and equipment. The Company will also maintain the facilities and replenish essential learning materials on an ongoing basis to ensure long term benefits.

Kangankunde is a multi-generational rare earth development, and Lindian's commitment is to ensure that the benefits of the project extend well beyond the mine site and are shared with Malawi as a country. Therefore, the Company's objective is that the children learning at Kangankunde today will have greater opportunities in the future, including pathways into employment at the mine and within the local businesses and industries supported by the project.



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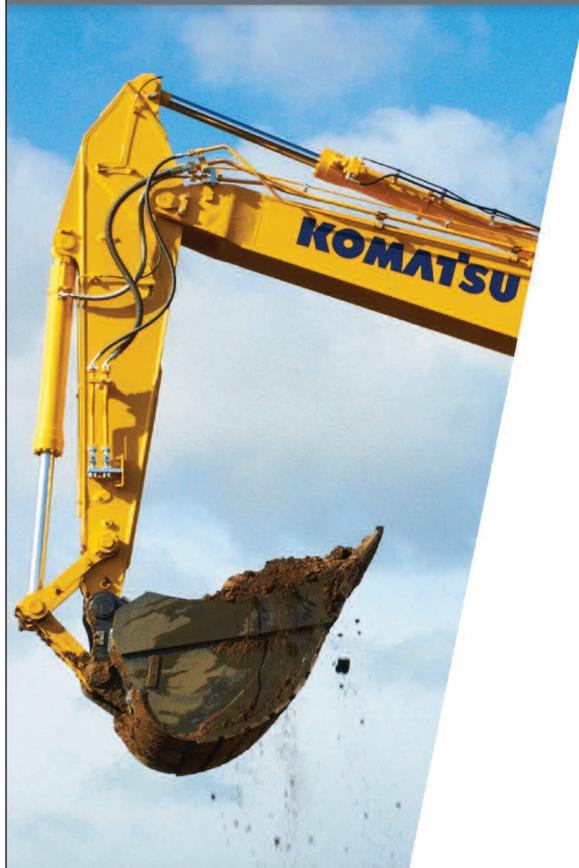





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EDITORIAL



BY MARCEL CHIMWALA PUBLISHING EDITOR

Mining investors need to emulate Lindian's Kangankunde early Learning project model

Kangankunde Primary School in rural Balaka District was like many other rural public primary schools that have existed for years with little or no maintenance.

But now the school is wearing a new face with the old blocks being replaced by well-designed modern ones with improved ventilation and chalkboards. The other work underway include construction of an administrative office, gender segregated toilet blocks with septic systems and hand-wash stations, water and sanitation improvements, and simple paved walkways to enhance safety and accessibility, and sports fields for children. This is all thanks to ASX-listed Lindian Resources, which is prospecting for rare earth minerals at Kangankunde Hill in the locality.

In parallel, Lindian announced at the official launch of the education project that it will provide every learner attending the School with uniforms, shoes, books, stationery, desks and chairs; supporting full participation in early learning with dignity and confidence.

We commend Lindian for implementing this project, and agree with what Honourable Minister of Education Bright Msaka SC said at the official opening of the project as quoted in our article on Page 1 that this is the kind of investment that a company which is serious minded and is thinking of corporate social responsibility should do.

As Lindian's Executive Chairman Robert Martin is quoted in the article, the aim of Lindian is to invest in community development projects that will make a difference.

This is indeed what Malawi requires in order for the country to realise adequate economic gains through mining.

Lindian's reports indicate that the mine has 45-years life span in its initial phases with the gigantic world class rare earth deposit hosting resources to be mined for over 100 years.

It will be sad not only for Kangankunde area and Balaka District for the foreign mining firm to exhaust the resource and leave the area with only gullies to show, having dispatched plenty of US Dollars as returns to investors in world's financial capitals.

It is, therefore, important for the government to ensure adherence to the country's legal framework to ensure Malawi adequately benefits from the mining project but it is equally important for the investor through such projects.

It is through such projects that the mining company will continue building trust from the local community hence enjoying necessary support in advancing the venture for the benefit of not only the investors but also the government and local community.

Mathanga hails Shayona Cement for promoting local value addition

By Memory SIMWANGA

The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mining, Dr. Jean Mathanga, MP, has expressed appreciation over the work of Shayona Cement Corporation in promoting local value addition in line with government's industrialization agenda reflected in the national vision, Malawi 2063.

The Minister, who was speaking on her tour of Shayona's cement production factory in Kasungu, said that government's interest is to ensure that value addition is done within Malawi, reducing reliance on imported products.

She stressed that increased local cement production will create jobs, support economic growth, and position Malawi as a potential exporter once capacity is scaled up.

Shayona's Human Resources and Administration Manager Austin Mvula urged the government to address the challenges affecting the plant's operations including power shortages, poor condition of roads and market hiccups as a result of the influx of cement imports.

"We are forced to use diesel generators due to the regular power outages, which is a very expensive alternative," he said.

Mathanga acknowledged the challenges including intermittent power supply (SAPP) stating that govern-



Mathanga captured at the Shayona Cement Plant

ment is exploring regional solutions such as connecting to the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) through Mozambique - Malawi Power Interconnector..

She also commended Shayona for its ongoing expansion works at the factory and called on all local cement manufacturers to invest in similar projects to avoid shortages of the commodity on the local market, stressing that Malawi must move beyond being merely a source of raw materials to an exporter of end-products.

Malawi has three local manufacturers of cement namely Shayona, Cement Products which has a clinker plant in Mangochi and Portland Cement with a clinker plant in Balaka.

Shayona mainly distributes its cement in the central and northern regions of Malawi, with leading brands including Akshar, Thanthwe and buildplast.

The company sources limestone for clinker production from its mines close to the factory.

-Ministry of Energy and Mining

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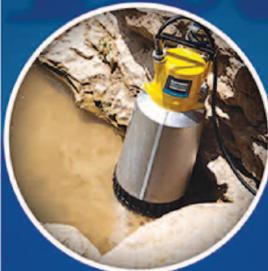
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Construction commences at Kanyika Niobium Project

By Marcel CHIMWALA

ASX-listed Globe Metals & Mining has announced that construction has officially begun at its Kanyika Niobium Project in Mzimba following the signing of a binding Pre-Development Collaboration Agreement with Sinomine International (Zambia) Engineering, a subsidiary of Sinomine Resource Group under the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) approach.

The development marks an important transition for Globe from feasibility and permitting into active project execution.

Mobilisation and early works are set to commence in alignment with the Company's updated Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) targeted for March 2026 and first oxide production is anticipated in the first quarter of 2028.

Charles Altshuler, Interim CEO & CFO of Globe Metals & Mining explains that the commencement of early works is consistent with Globe's obligations under its Mining Development Agreement and Large-Scale Mining Licence, which require the Company to demonstrate substantive on-ground development activity within defined timeframes.

Altshuler comments: "For Globe, this marks a clear transition from planning to execution. Kanyika is a fully permitted and engineered project now entering the construction phase."

"The commencement of early works represents the culmination of years of technical research, permitting and community engagement, transforming into physical progress on site, including access infrastructure, earthworks and site establishment."

"The Agreement with Sinomine allows us to proceed methodically on pre-development, validating construction and operational cost inputs for the Bankable Feasibility Study and advancing downstream oxide qualification work, while retaining full ownership, control over the Project."

"Importantly, the Agreement is structured on a cost-reimbursable basis with a fixed management fee. This ensures capital discipline as we leverage Sinomine's expertise and experience for the project's progression toward full construction and first oxide production."

He says Globe is pleased to be working with Sinomine on the Kanyika Niobium Project given their extensive experience delivering mining and processing projects across Africa, including complex construction environments requiring the mo-

bilisation of multidisciplinary on-site teams.

"Sinomine brings deep operational capability in the development and processing of critical minerals, including lithium, copper and caesium, and has a proven track record in executing technically demanding projects from early works through to production including power and road infrastructure. This experience provides Globe with confidence that the Project's early works and Early Contractor Involvement activities will be executed efficiently, safely and in a manner aligned with regional operating conditions and global best practice," says Altshuler.

Contract terms

The initial construction activities comprise access-road upgrades, bulk earthworks, drainage and stormwater controls, fencing and site security, water infrastructure, and establishment of the construction camp.

Sinomine will undertake defined pre-development and early works, provide costed inputs and execution data for the Bankable Feasibility Study, and produce refinery grade niobium and tantalum oxide samples from Kanyika material obtained during the early works, land clearing activities for qualification and downstream assessment by Globe.

The Agreement is structured as a cost-reimbursable development services arrangement, under which Globe reimburses Sinomine for verified and certified direct costs incurred in performing the agreed scope of work and pays a fixed monthly management fee of USD 20,000 for project management and operational services. No success fees, margins, equity interests, offtake rights, royalties or contingent consideration apply under the Agreement.

Globe retains 100% legal and beneficial ownership, control and decision-making authority in respect of the Project.

Early Contractor Involvement (ECI)

Under the Agreement, Sinomine is required to deploy experienced project, construction and processing personnel with relevant African operating experience to support refinement of the Project scope, plant layout, construction methodology and execution sequencing. This enables Globe to confirm that the BFS configuration is constructible, schedule-aligned and appropriate for regional logistical, labour and climatic conditions, while identifying and mitigating execution risks and potential bottlenecks prior to final investment decision.

The Agreement further requires



Altshuler: This marks a clear transition from planning to execution

Sinomine to provide detailed cost validation, supplier pricing, equipment specifications and procurement inputs to support optimisation of capital and operating costs within the BFS. Early engagement with equipment vendors and service providers under the ECI framework improves supply-chain visibility, supports competitive tendering and allows bulk-procurement and logistics efficiencies to be incorporated into the Project design.

Globe has elected to commence defined early works in advance of the milestones of the Bankable Feasibility Study and formal Final Investment Decision under an Early Contractor Involvement framework. This approach is consistent with the Company's previously announced development strategy and is designed to validate construction methodologies, logistics, scheduling and cost inputs through on-site execution, rather than desktop analysis alone.

Sinomine International (Zambia) Engineering Company is currently constructing the Kitumba Copper Mine in Zambia and

therefore brings direct, recent construction and execution experience in Southern Africa, including familiarity with local contractors, logistics, regulatory frameworks and operating conditions.

The company is a subsidiary of Sinomine Resource Group, a publicly listed, global mining and resource development group specialising in copper, lithium, and rare and light minerals (including caesium and rubidium) for new energy and industrial sectors, with operating assets and project experience across Africa, Asia and North America.

Sinomine has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and supply-chain decarbonisation across its operations. This includes the implementation of the Bikita Mine Solar PV Project in Zimbabwe, which has reduced annual carbon emissions by more than 20,000 metric tonnes and established a benchmark for renewable energy integration in large-scale African mining operations.



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Key service providers to Malawi's Mineral Sector in 2026

Compiled by Marcel CHIMWALA



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The Ministry is responsible for the overall administration of the mining sector in Malawi. It has two departments; the Department of Mines and Geological Survey.



Mining and Minerals Regulatory Authority

The Mining and Mineral Resources Regulatory Authority (MMRA) is an independent regulatory authority established under the Mines and Minerals Act, No. 25 of 2023. Its primary role is to regulate the mining sector and ensure compliance with the Act and the terms and conditions of licenses.

Its functions include:

- Monitoring the activities of licensees to ensure compliance with the Act and the terms of their licenses.
- Facilitating dispute resolution or resolving disputes related to the mining sector.
- Performing any other functions necessary or incidental to the implementation of the Act.

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Email: information@mmra.mw
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Malawi Mining Investment Company



The Malawi Mining Investment Company (MAMICO) is a state-owned enterprise dedicated to catalyzing investments and value creation in Malawi's mineral sector for national economic prosperity. MAMICO aims to drive strategic investments in mineral exploration, extraction, and value addition, creating wealth for stakeholders while fostering sustainable development and global competitiveness. The company's core mandate is to explore, develop, and commercialize the nation's mineral resources.

MAMICO's strategic objectives include establishing joint ventures and partnerships to accelerate sector growth, establishing downstream processing facilities to increase local value addition, and ensuring environmental stewardship and social responsibility in all operations. The company was registered in 2024 under the Malawi Development Corporation Holdings Limited (MDCHL), a government enterprise aimed at spearheading investment in strategic sectors of Malawi's economy. The establishment of a mining investment fund is also a key focus for MAMICO, as it aims to strengthen investor confidence, support sustainable mineral development, and deliver long-term economic benefits for Malawi. The fund is expected to play a strategic role as a national development, financing, and capital mobilization vehicle, particularly as mining takes a long time to start harvesting the results.

Contact

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Mining Review Publications

Based in Lilongwe, Mining Review Publications is specialised in providing Media and Public Relations and Consulting Services to the mining industry in Malawi. It publishes a newspaper called Mining & Trade Review, appearing in print twice every month and has been circulating on the Malawi market since 2009. The publication also appears online on www.miningtradenews.net and social media platforms.

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Cement Products Limited

Cement Products produces a range of popular cement brands including Tarzan – 42.5 MPA, Njati – 32.5 MPA and Nkope – 24 MPA. These are specialty brands for different construction projects. The company has a modern cement plant at Njereza in Mangochi while its headquarters in Chirimba, Blantyre.

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Portland Cement Limited

Portland Cement manufactures Malawi's popular cement brands including Supaset, Duracrate and Khoma. The Company launched its factory in Balaka which comprises a clinker plant with a production capacity of 2,000 metric tonnes per day resulting in an annual cement output of 800,000 tonnes last year. Its headquarters is at Makata Industrial Area in Blantyre.

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Small-scale gold miners form association to promote welfare of ASMs

By Wahard BETHA

The newly formed Gold Mining Association (GOMA) is set to improve welfare and promote the livelihood of Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASMs) involved in gold mining across the country.

In an interview with *Mining and Trade Review*, Interim Chairperson Chikomeni Manda said the Association is rooted in community engagement, research, capacity building, advocacy, and campaigns for formalization.

Manda said the Association values promotion of equity in the mining sector and protection of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children affected by ASM operations.

He said: "We believe in stakeholder engagement, promoting collaboration and relationship-building for sustainable development of the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)."

"The association's influence is nationwide reflecting our dedication to achieving a truly national impact."

"At GOMA, we see the empowerment of miners especially the women and youth in gold mining subsector not just as a goal but as a transformative force, enriching indi-

vidual lives and contributing substantively to the holistic development and prosperity of our communities."

A survey by Malawi Mining Investment Company (MAMICO) indicates that around 70% of ASMs across the country is made up of the youth and women.

Manda said GOMA is dedicated to creating a vibrant and inclusive gold mining sector by championing the advancement, empowerment, and professional development of Artisanal and Small-Scale gold miners through collaboration, capacity building, and advocacy.

He said: "We strive to break barriers, promote diversity, and ensure equal opportunities for miners especially women and youths."

"We strive to foster a supportive community that inspires innovation, sustainability, and excellence while driving positive change in ASM gold mining sector as a whole."

"Together, we aim to shape a future where gold miners play pivotal roles in shaping the mining landscape, contributing to its growth, and fostering a culture of equality, respect, and shared success."

The Association will be supporting gold ASMs through provision of training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to empower the miners and enhance their

skills and knowledge, as well as advocating for policies and practices that ensure equal opportunities, fair representation, and non-discrimination of all gold miners especially women and youths.

Manda said GOMA will also be involved in community engagement to raise awareness on the contributions of gold miners and address social challenges to foster positive relationships between miners and local communities.

The Association will also focus on promoting a safe and inclusive working environment for gold miners by addressing health and safety concerns, and advocating for gender-sensitive policies.

Manda said: "We will be supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship in gold mining by providing training, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities to help them establish and grow their businesses."

"We will be conducting research and gathering data to inform evidence-based policies and initiatives and also foster a supportive network for gold miners to facilitate collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and mentorship within the industry."

"GOMA was also formed to promote sustainable and responsible mining practices, by emphasizing the role of miners in driving environmental stewardship and community development and; encourage and



Manda: We strive to foster a supportive community

support the development of leadership skills among the members especially women and youth aiming for increased representation and decision-making roles within the sector," said Manda.

ASMs continue to face numerous challenges including lack of financing to conduct operations, ban on export of unprocessed minerals, formal market scarcity, and lack of training opportunities.

Mining sector lags behind in human, environmental protection rights

By Wahard BETHA

A civil society group, the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), says the mining sector in Malawi is performing badly on issues of human and environmental protection rights, which are fundamental aspects on international market standards.

Speaking at the national dialogue workshop on Mandatory Environmental and Human Rights Due Diligence in Lilongwe, ISD Executive Director Godfrey Mfiti said minerals that are irresponsibly extracted cannot attract international investment as they lose the trust of foreign businesses.

Mfiti said there is a need for the country to have a regulatory framework on human and environmental protection case like other African countries because it attracts foreign investment as the investors easily trust businesses that cause no harm to both humans and the environment.

He said: "We are doing badly and this is a threat to the mining industry because if we have irresponsible production it means our minerals would not attract the market."

"The market in western countries willing to buy our minerals want products which are ethically produced, with its value chain respecting human rights and environmental protection."

"We are in a crisis whereby we need to balance business and development against environmental pollution and we need to make sure that in each and every stage we comply with basic human rights standards and basic environmental protection regulations."

Mfiti stressed the need to have a set of regulations such as mandatory human rights and due diligence in place in order to



A cross-section of participants at the workshop

attract the right investors.

He said there are increased cases of rights violation through poor waste management, poor land negotiation deals and pollution. Mfiti, therefore, said having a regulatory structure and legal framework would be a preventative measure of the harmful practices.

"Having mandatory environmental and human rights due diligence in place is a way to go rather than having reactive regulations where they wait for a crisis to happen to react," Mfiti said.

In her keynote address on behalf of the Solicitor General, Senior Deputy Director for Human Rights in the Solicitor General's office Angela Tamanda Kaunda asked for mutual support in championing

the development of a Made-in-Malawi Mandatory Environmental and Human Rights Due Diligence legal framework-one that is constitutionally sound, pragmatically enforceable, and forged through the widest possible national consultation.

Kaunda said: "The time for incremental, voluntary steps has passed. The scale of our challenges and the clarity of our constitutional vision demand bold, coherent action."

"I am therefore, issuing a call for a collective action around five key imperatives including: initiate an inclusive legislative process; prioritize high-impact sectors; anchor access to effective remedy; invest in enforcement capacity; fully integrate with Malawi 2063."

"It is a pro-good-investment, pro-justice, and pro-Malawi policy. It is the legal instrument that will separate true partners in development from mere extractors of wealth."

"It is how we ensure that the factories we build do not poison the water our children drink, that the plantations we cultivate do not dispossess the families that have lived

In his presentation, Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) Principal Officer Jim Kaunda said core findings from both National Baseline Assessments on Business and Human Rights include challenges in environmental rights.

Kaunda said though Malawi has sufficient legal and policy frameworks to protect human rights including environmental rights, there exist gaps and challenges with regard to the effective enforcement of the existing legal-policy frameworks

He said the majority of businesses operating in Malawi do not have human rights policies in place nor implement human rights due diligence.

Kaunda said: "This has resulted in a number of human rights abuses especially in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, commercial and hospitality/tourism sectors."

"Access to remedy is a challenge for Malawians, especially at the judicial level with the courts being inaccessible, non-affordable, and having complicated procedures resulting in cases taking long to be finalized."

In Africa only five countries have operating National Action Plans on business and human rights.

The workshop was organized under the theme; 'Advancing Corporate Accountability for Environmental and Human Rights Protection in Malawi.'

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TECHNICAL FILE

Geoffrey Chimzimu Banda is a Malawian geologist, specialized in mineral exploration across Africa. He is, currently, working as a Project Exploration Geologist at Tusker Minerals Limited.

GOLD OCCURRENCES AND THE RISE OF ARTISANAL MINING IN MALAWI

Gold has been identified in various parts of Malawi, including but not limited to Mangochi, Kasungu, Nsanje, Lilongwe, Balaka, Ntcheu, and Zomba. These occurrences are largely alluvial or near-surface deposits, making them accessible with basic tools and minimal capital investment. As a result, gold extraction in many of these areas is dominated by artisanal and small-scale miners (ASMs).

Artisanal mining has grown rapidly in

recent years, driven by rural poverty, unemployment, declining agricultural productivity, and limited livelihood alternatives. For many people involved, gold mining represents a survival strategy rather than a business venture. It provides immediate cash income in areas where formal employment opportunities are scarce.

At present, ASMs play a critical role in gold production in Malawi. In fact, they

are responsible for the majority of gold extracted in the country today. However, most operate without licenses, using basic tools such as shovels, picks, and simple washing methods. Processing is often inefficient, leading to low recovery rates and unnecessary gold losses across many mining hotspots.

Furthermore, at a time when Malawi continues to struggle with foreign currency shortages, gold holds strategic importance beyond its export value. Many

countries use gold to bolster national reserves, strengthen investor confidence, and stabilize their currencies. While Malawi is far from building significant gold reserves at present, formalizing gold production and trade is a critical first step toward this long-term objective. Artisanal and small-scale miners will continue to operate, and if their activities are not formalized, their contribution will remain invisible to the nation, and their livelihoods will remain unsafe.

Malawi attends 2026 Mining Indaba



The Hon Minister at the ministerial symposium



Dr Mathanga was part of the Global Critical Minerals panel

Minister of Energy and Mining Honourable Dr. Jean Mathanga, MP attended the African Mining Indaba 2026 in Cape Town, South Africa. She led Malawi's delegation at the Indaba which took place from February 9-12 2026.

The African Mining Indaba is one of Africa's leading platforms for mining investment dialogue, bringing together governments, investors, financiers and mining companies from across the continent and beyond.

Malawi's participation provided a strategic opportunity to position the country as an emerging destination for responsible and sustainable mining investment.

During the Indaba, the Minister engaged with potential investors, mining companies and development partners to showcase Malawi's mineral potential, ongoing sector

reforms and available investment opportunities across the mining value chain, including exploration, project development, financing and value addition.

The Honourable Minister participated in the Ministerial Symposium which brought together African Ministers, global investors and industry leaders to deliberate on key issues shaping the future of Africa's mining sector, including critical minerals, investment promotion, sustainable mining practices and policy reforms.

Honourable Mathanga highlighted Malawi's growing role in the global critical minerals supply chain during a high-level investment panel discussion hosted by the United States Embassy at the Indaba.

She noted that Malawi's deposits of graphite, rare earth elements, rutile and uranium position the country to support the

global energy transition and diversified supply chains.

The Minister cited major projects including Kasiya, Kangankunde, Songwe Hill, Kanyika and the reopening of Kayelekera Uranium Mine as key investment opportunities expected to boost jobs, exports and industrial growth.

She further highlighted reforms under the 2023 Mines and Minerals Act, including the establishment of an independent regulator, promotion of value addition, transparency and community participation.

Dr. Mathanga also pointed to Government investments in energy and transport infrastructure, with the Nacala Development Corridor serving as a key export route.

She added that support from international partners, including development finance institutions and the United States Govern-

ment, is helping de-risk mining investments through technical assistance, infrastructure development and strong Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) standards, positioning Malawi as an emerging hub for critical minerals.

The Ministry views the Indaba as a key platform to strengthen Malawi's visibility on the continental and global mining investment stage, while advancing Government's agenda of attracting responsible investment to drive economic growth and economic diversification.

Malawi's participation at the African Mining Indaba 2026 underscores Government's commitment to promoting sustainable development, strengthening partnerships and unlocking long term investment in the mining sector.

-Ministry of Energy and Mining

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MRA Round About

Large scale rutile mineralisation emerging in Mchinji

By Marcel CHIMWALA

A SX-listed Fortuna Metals, which is exploring for rutile at its Mkanda prospect in Mchinji, says latest exploration results have indicated multiple large coherent high-grade rutile mineralisation at the site.

Fortuna CEO Tom Langley explains that the latest shallow 0-3 metre results have helped outline several large coherent anomalies of high-grade, over 10% rutile mineralisation.

Langley says the footprint of the anomalous areas now extends over 25km² and remain open in many areas with assays for 564 drill holes not received.

The Mkanda prospect is adjacent to the Kasiya Rutile-Graphite Project, being pursued by ASX-listed Sovereign Metals, and hosts the World's largest rutile deposit.

Sovereign Metals initial 644 metric tonnes inferred resource covered more than 49 km².

Langley says: "We look forward to receiving the remaining 534 shallow 0-2m assays to further delineate and expand the rutile mineralisation at surface ahead of further drilling in the second quarter of this year. The shallow assays provide a very cost-effective strategy as a first pass to identify the highest priority areas that fall within the high grade, over 10% rutile mineralisation."

"We are grateful to Malawi's Ministry of Energy and Mining for their support of our projects in Malawi by providing a letter clarifying that the Company is unaffected by the raw material export ban announced last October. Fortuna welcomes the government's initiative to further support the local mining industry by value

adding and beneficiating minerals in Malawi before being exported."

He says the results continue to confirm the similarity across broader areas of the Mkanda Project to the geological setting seen at Kasiya, just 20km to the North.

Langley states that the 675 drill-holes completed in just three months last year is testament to the favourable project access and great commitment of in-country Malawi team.

He says: "Our focus is to undertake exploration with intent and speed to market as we aim to delineate a material rutile resource estimate next to Sovereign Metals' world class Kasiya deposit. The 675 drill-holes are a first pass to identify the highest-grade areas of rutile that will then shape further resource drilling programmes in 2026. We are extremely catalyst rich as these results define the magnitude of rutile discovery made to date."

"The Company has embarked on a busy first quarter, and look forward to updating the market with a consistent flow of rutile, graphite and rare earths drilling results."

Natural rutile is a critical mineral used to make titanium metal needed for the forecast surging demand for humanoids and robotics in the coming decade with Tesla recently announcing they would cease making two car models to instead focus on making the Optimus humanoid this year. Tesla are expecting over 1-million humanoids sold in 2027 and billions of humanoids by 2040.

"With over 10.4kg rutile projected to be used in each humanoid unit, there is potential for a severe supply shortfall. We aim to be able to fill that gap with supply of our own high-grade rutile to manufacture titanium metal in the coming years," says Langley.

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MINING & SOCIAL ISSUES

By Marcel Chimwala

The Author is Journalist and media and public relations consultant with over 20 years experience serving the minerals sector in Malawi. He has written this opinion article in his personal capacity.

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Minerals sector requires dramatic reforms to adequately benefit Malawi

Though Malawi's mining sector contributes a staggering one percent to Gross Domestic Product, the country continues to make exciting mineral discoveries.

These discoveries mostly by foreign listed firms include those of the much sought-after critical minerals by the World's leading economic superpowers such as the United States of America and the European Union crucial for the new energy revolution.

The most exciting prospects include Kasiya Rutile-Graphite Project in Lilongwe where an Australian listed firm Sovereign Metals is conducting feasibility studies after discovering the world's largest rutile deposit and the second largest flake graphite deposit, with mining expected in a few years' time.

Exciting enough, the company has just discovered rare earth minerals as part of the resource envelope at Kasiya.

The other major prospects include the Songwe Hill Rare Earths Project which UK Firm Mkango Resources is pursuing in Phalombe and the Kangankunde Rare Earths Project in Balaka.

Australian-listed Lindian Resources is preparing to start mining works at Kangankunde, which is one of the largest rare earth prospects in the world, within the year.

Besides, there is the Kayelekera Uranium Mine in Karonga. Another Australian-listed firm Lotus Resources has just resumed uranium mining at Kayelekera after its predecessor Paladin Africa suspended production in the aftermath of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster in Japan, which resulted in the closure of several nuclear plants in Asia hence a global price slump of the yellow cake.

Another advanced project that is moving into mining stage is the Kanyika Niobium Project in Southern Mzimba District bordering Kasungu where the resource firm Globe Metals & Mining is mobilising to launch mine construction.

Globe Metals already finalised feasibility studies and just like Mkango and Lotus, signed a Mining Development Agreement (MDA) with Malawi Government.

Besides these projects, resource firms are pursuing several smaller ventures and potential large-scale mining projects at preliminary exploration level.

Benefits to Malawi Nation

The questions that click in the minds of many Malawians when there is talk about these projects are; how is Malawi benefitting or poised to benefit?

The Mines and Minerals Act (2023) has a number of clauses to ensure that Malawi benefits from mining projects. To begin with, the law includes a stipulation that the Malawi Government has the mandate to acquire shareholding in these projects as a minority shareholder. The Act gives the Minister responsible for Mining the authority to decide on the shareholding

arrangement in coordination with the Minister of Finance.

Before the project reaches production stage, the Malawi Government negotiates and signs a Mining Development Agreement (MDA) with the resource firm which stipulates the shareholding percentage for the Malawi Government. Being a shareholder, the government is, therefore, entitled to get dividends from the mining company when the mine starts generating profits.

For example, in Kayelekera Uranium Mine which is in production stage, the Government has 15% shareholding while the MDAs for Kanyika and Songwe Hill give 10 percent free equity to Malawi Government.

Besides government shareholding, the other benefits for Malawi from a large scale mine as stipulated in the Laws and the signed MDAs include royalties charged at 5% of sales revenue from the mined product for industrial minerals such as these critical minerals.

The Government also rakes in revenue through the 30 percent corporate tax and other taxes including Pay as You Earn and withholding tax.

In addition, the large-scale mining company is mandated to sign a Community Development Agreement (CDA) which commits the company to commit at least 0.45 percent revenue from the mine to development projects in the locality recommended by the local community.

On top of all these benefits, the large-scale mining project creates numerous jobs and business opportunities for skilled and unskilled Malawians mostly members of the local community since the Act mandates a large-scale mining company to prioritise Malawians in its recruitment. This is also reflected in the signed MDAs.

Current challenges in mining sector

With the current administration in power for over 100 days now, a number of challenges have continued to dog the minerals sector dashing hopes that the sector will play a key role in the nation's industrialisation drive underlined in the national vision, Malawi 2063.

It appears despite continued political rhetoric on overwhelming potential of mining to transform Malawi's economy, the action from the government in reforming the sector is not enough with the "as usual scenario" syndrome vivid.

There was indeed excitement from the Malawi public when State President Arthur Peter Mutharika announced a ban on export of raw minerals in order to maximise gains for the nation through export of finished products.

But the results of the directive has clearly shown that though the ban was made with a good intention to ensure local value addition in order to stimulate economic growth and increase job creation for the locals, it has largely worked as a polit-

ical gimmick. Arguably, the situation on the ground has shown that the timing was wrong as the ban was made without any prior stakeholder consultation.

In addition, there are no guidelines for the implementation of the ban as the Government has just drafted the regulations for the implementation of the Executive Order this time after the ban had already negatively impacted local mining businesses.

Besides the ban, the other action by the new administration over the first 100 days is the appointment of the new Board of the Mining and Minerals Regulatory Authority (MMRA) and new Director General replacing those appointed by the previous administration.

Muthurika seemed to have scored highly in efforts to win investor confidence when he included former Minister responsible for Mining and current Coordinator of Chamber of Mines and Energy Grain Malunga in the board, which is responsible for overall governance of the minerals sector in Malawi, as Vice Chairperson.

But this action also seems to have diluted the role of the Authority in policing the private mining companies with Malunga also a Director for Lotus, running Kayelekera. Basically, how can a mine owner police the mine he owns? How can a Coordinator of the Chamber of Mines and Energy that represents the plight of the mining companies police the same companies? Such questions bring to light the Mines and Minerals Act 2023 which emphasizes on independence of MMRA.

The MMRA was created in the new Act, which was formulated by the previous Malawi Congress Party (MCP) leadership with little or no stakeholder consultations. They said the reason for amending the Mines and Minerals Act 2019, which was in force that time, was to remove hurdles in the process of granting mineral licences in so doing making it easy for mining investors.

Before MMRA took over this task, the Mineral Resources Committee which was headed by an official from the Ministry responsible for Mining and included officials from other Departments such as Environmental Affairs, Finance and the Police was responsible for granting of licences in accordance with the 2019 Act.

However, it appears other than meeting the objective for its formation which was to create sanity in the minerals sector, the formation of the MMRA has just created loopholes for political manipulation of the sector with any political administration appointing its royalists to head the Authority.

What Malawi needs to do

The "doing things as usual attitude" will not help the sector to grow. Malawi Government needs to react to current global mineral market trends and implement measures to ensure that the nation adequately captures the benefits of the sector.

With the world's superpowers jostling for critical minerals that Malawi is endowed with, it is important for Malawi to formulate a Critical Minerals Policy now that will help the country adequately benefit from these mineral resources.

The global scramble for these minerals including those important for the green energy revolution must not just be left with the foreign listed firms.

With other governments including economic superpowers such as the United States and Australia partnering private companies to pursue mining projects for critical minerals, Malawi Government also needs to invest in this direction.

State-owned Malawi Mining Investment Company (MAMICO) needs to be given sufficient funds to pursue mineral prospecting ventures for the critical minerals and also partner private companies involved in prospecting projects.

In order to create sanity in the sector, it is also important to revert to the previous Mines and Minerals Act 2019. The current 2023 Act, developed without adequate stakeholder consultation, has created chaos in the sector, which is an impediment to growth and by giving much powers to the Minister carries similar traits to the abolished 1981 Act which gave absolute powers to the Life President.

The MMRA, which was created by the new Act, seems to be handling the duties which were under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mines and Geological Survey Department (GSD) which is creating chaos in the sector.

In the 2023 Act, there is also this issue of giving a line Minister powers to decide on whether Malawi Government should acquire a percentage of free equity or not and the amount in a specific large scale mine. This is a glaring loophole for corruption created by politicians to make quick gains from mining projects. It is dangerous for the country and stakeholders including some mining companies raised concern over it. We must remove this and revert to a law that specifies a percentage of free equity for government in a large scale mine as is the case with the abolished 2019 Act which gives the right to government to acquire at least 10 percent free equity in a large scale mine. Such a provision in the 2019 Act was investor friendly as it assured security of investment with the investor knowing beforehand the amount of equity to be offered to government.

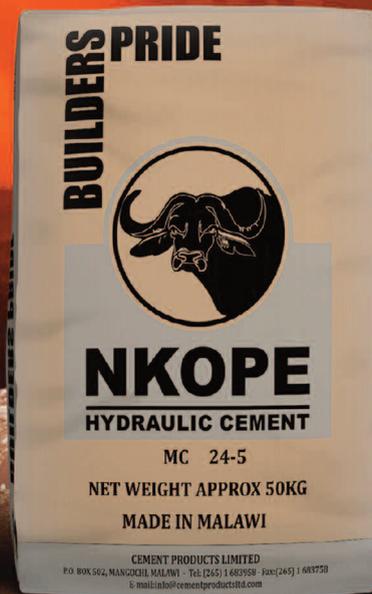
On the ban, it is important for Government to expedite the process of developing regulations and gazette them as soon as possible to do away with the madness the ban has created so that the sector, including Artisanal and Small-Scale miners who are heavily impacted, continues to move ahead.

Mining can indeed significantly contribute to economic growth if drastic reforms are implemented.



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GOVERNMENT DRAFTS RAW MINERALS EXPORT REGULATIONS



Kamwanje: Malawi has no experienced gem dealers in terms of value addition



Rashid: New regulations are marred with some gaps

By Wahard Betha

The Ministry of Energy and Mining has drafted the Export (Prohibition of Raw and Unprocessed Minerals) Regulations, 2025, aimed at prohibiting the exportation of minerals that have not undergone beneficiation or value addition within Malawi, unless accompanied by a written permit issued by the Mines and Mineral Resources Regulatory Authority.

The release of the draft regulations follows the Executive Order made by State President Arthur Pater Mutharika banning exportation of raw minerals

Under the regulations, mineral samples are allowed to be exported by a holder of a mineral right for laboratory analysis, metallurgical testing, geochemical or mineralogical studies, or other analytical work required for exploration, evaluation or feasibility assessment.

Reads the Draft Regulations: "The Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, designate additional minerals, revise the minimum processing requirements or impose higher beneficiation or value-addition standards."

"The prohibition applies to all minerals extracted within Malawi, including but not limited to uranium, rare earth elements, niobium, graphite, tantalum, bauxite, coal,

limestone, gemstones, heavy mineral sands, vermiculite, phosphate, pyrite, rutile, gold, diamonds, copper, and associated ores."

In support of the regulations, the regulations read that the Ministry responsible for Mining, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, shall design incentives to promote the local industry by: establishment of local mineral processing and refining plants; importation of processing equipment; research and innovation in beneficiation technologies; and public-private partnerships in value addition.

Mining Expert and Geoscientist Consultant Ignatius Kamwanje in an interview welcomed the regulations but blamed the timing of the ban.

Kamwanje said: "I also see that those that were drafting have left crucial aspects as well. The conditions that are there means our government has a huge task ahead to make things happen."

"Right now in Malawi there are no experienced gem dealers in terms of value addition. The Government needs to help in human capital, training as well as attracting skilled investors and so forth."

"As for other minerals, this again calls on government to boost industrialization for example, invest in processing facilities since raw materials shall be processed first to ensure that the industry should not lag

behind because buyers need quality products."

In a separate interview, National Coordinator for Natural Resources Justice Network (NRJN) Kennedy Rashid said the new regulations demonstrate several promising dimensions including: promotion of local beneficiation and industrialization; enhancing enforcement and accountability mechanisms; phased implementation recognizing local constraints; and alignment with continental initiatives.

Rashid said: "The explicit requirements for minerals align with Malawi's broader development goals and the African Mining Vision, which prioritizes local value retention and economic transformation."

"The draft regulations provide for clear penalties, including fines, imprisonment, and forfeiture, which indicate a serious effort to deter illegal or premature export of unprocessed minerals."

"By allowing phased compliance plans for exporters, the regulations balance ambition with practicality, acknowledging Malawi's infrastructural, technical, and financial limitations, and this ensures that the regulatory framework is enforceable without stifling industry growth," he said.

Rashid also said the new regulations resonate with the African Green Minerals Strategy by prioritizing the beneficiation of minerals critical for the energy transi-

tion and green technologies, such as lithium, cobalt, and graphite.

He said this supports the AMV's goal of inclusive resource governance, industrial development, and regional value chain integration.

However, Rashid said the new regulations are marred with some gaps especially in the ministerial discretion whereby he said the ability for the Minister to grant exemptions in the "national interest" is broad and undefined.

He said: "Transparency mechanisms such as mandatory publication of exemptions and Parliamentary oversight, are essential to mitigate this."

"The new regulations also have been marred with the gap of limited community and ASM inclusion whereby they are not explicitly provided mechanisms to benefit from beneficiation or participate in value chains."

"While beneficiation enhances economic value, it may increase environmental pressures and there is a need for mandatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, climate-smart processing requirements, and renewable energy integration in beneficiation processes."

Meanwhile, the Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mining has opened doors for input on draft regulations from all stakeholders.



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