



Raising the Community Voice in the Extractive Sector

CRD Press Statement on ZCDC Ban in Marange

CRD APPLAUD HIGH COURT RULING TO HALT ZCDC MINING OPERATIONS IN MARANGE

The Centre for Research and Development welcome the high court decision to halt Zimbabwe Consolidation Diamond Mining Company(ZCDC) mining operations awaiting approval of an Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) certificate by the Environmental Management Agency(EMA).The ZCDC mining operations in Chiadzwa villages has been a sight of massive water and air pollution since March 2016.Exposed to dust pollution by ZCDC,23 families from Tinoengana village in Chiadzwa were forced to abandon their traditional homes in December 2016 and settle at an already overcrowded government farm at Arda Transau without secured sources of livelihoods and compensation for loss of property. The CRD is on record for raising concern over the failure by government to protect the constitutional rights of Chiadzwa communities to live in an environment that is not harmful to their health and well being. By allowing ZCDC to undertake mining operations without an EIA the government has for the second time violated this right. In 2008 government allowed former diamond mining companies to commence mining operations in Marange without EIAs.The government also shielded former mining companies from public accountability in the mining of Marange diamonds with dire consequences on the Marange communities and the national economy.

Government's justification for capturing diamond mining operations in Marange in 2016 was premised on effecting accountability and transparency measures to enable the country to benefit from the exploitation of its diamonds.

Against this background the CRD calls upon ZCDC to comply with the high court order and immediately halt mining operations in Marange until a comprehensive EIA document has been secured. The CRD also calls upon the EMA to ensure that the people of Marange fully participate in the EIA making process before issuing an EIA certificate to ZCDC.

The CRD rally behind community actors of Marange as they continue to fight for economic justice out of the exploitation of their diamond resource.