



Raising the Community Voice in the Extractive Sector

23 June 2016

CRD Press Statement on ZCDC mining operations.

The government's turn around strategy in the diamond sector was marked by arbitrary seizures of diamond mining companies in Marange and immediate operationalisation of Zimbabwe Consolidation Diamond Company (ZCDC) in February 2016. Despite endless calls for government to engage other stakeholders such as mining communities, business and civil society and under take due diligence processes before consolidating mining companies, government instead chose to do it alone with mines minister Chidhakwa reassuring the nation that he had done his homework and that diamond mergers were going to be successful. The 90 days ultimatum given to mining companies by government to remove their mining equipment have since passed whilst government is embroiled in battles with Mbada, Anjin and Jinan over control of Marange diamonds. The failure by permanent secretary of mines Professor Gudyanga and ZCDC chief executive officer Dr Ridge Nyashanu to furnish the nation with production statistics of ZCDC when they recently appeared before the parliamentary portfolio committee on mines and energy hold proof that ZCDC operations are full of opacity. The revelation made by Professor Gudyanga that cabinet had approved ZCDC to operate without an act of parliament is a violation of the constitution. Judging from the information presented by Professor Gudyanga and his accomplice in parliament, it is evidently clear that ZCDC operations will not turn around the diamond industry because its operations have already been personalised. The CRD calls on government to immediately halt ZCDC diamond mining operations and engage all relevant stakeholders including civil society in addressing corporate governance issues bedevilling ZCDC operations