



Raising the community voice in the extractive sector

Civil Society in Manicaland responds to the latest developments in the mining sector: Joint Press Statement by CRD and ZNRDF

Appointments to Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC) and Mining Affairs Board (MAB).

Civil society in Manicaland note with concern that the government has once again made new appointments to ZMDC and MAB in the absence of a new legal mining piece of legislation and an administrative framework that is embedded in transparency and accountability.

The admission by government that the country has been prejudiced billions of dollars in potential revenue due to unregulated mining practices compels civil society to demand that the minister of mines urgently come out with a comprehensive mining development framework that is transparent and uphold the fundamental rights of communities made vulnerable by mining activities.

Civil society is aware that the appointment of new mining boards alone will not bring about the desired outcome if it is not underpinned by stringent accountability measures. It is therefore imperative for the ministry of mines to expeditiously take the lead in realigning mineral policies and close existing gaps that have foreclosed acceptable remittances of the mining proceeds to treasury.

Mining Promotion Corporation and the Geological Survey Unit

Civil Society is concerned that President Mugabe has granted 12 mining exploring licenses including 4 exclusive prospecting orders to private companies in spite of poor monitoring mechanisms on the part of government that has seen such companies repeatedly plundering mineral resources and destroying the environment for years under the disguise of carrying out mining explorations.

Civil Society in Manicaland demands that government immediately capacitate and operationalise the mining promotion corporation and the geological survey unit to effectively execute their mandate and ascertain on the diversity and value of our mineral resource.

Civil Society also encourages strategic public/private partnerships in mining explorations where government lacks expertise. Comprehensive mineral exploration by government will guarantee better mining deals that will secure intergenerational needs for the people of Zimbabwe.

Of “gentleman’s agreement” and flawed indeginisation laws

The failure by government to disclose beneficial ownership in the mining sector whilst conspiring with mining companies to either deny or divert proceeds for community ownership schemes is proof that indeginisation laws were crafted to benefit political elites at the expense of the economy. Government

received pittance in the last three Marange diamond sales because politically connected elites grabbed controlling stakes in the country's mineral wealth under the banner of indigenisation.

Civil society is then not surprised that gentleman's agreements over proceeds to Zimunya Marange Community Ownership Scheme were made by Kasukuwere and diamond mining companies in Marange. The nation seethes with anger to watch communities that have been impoverished by diamond mining activities in Marange including desperate families at Arda Transau whose rights have been violated due to forced dislocations without alternative source of livelihoods.

Civil Society in Manicaland makes a passionate plea to the ministry of mines to incorporate community rights in the new mineral policy and ensure that communities are represented on the mining affairs board. Civil society also implores the ministry of mines to formulate policies that compel mining companies to undertake sustainable social accountability projects in promoting environmental, economic social and cultural rights of communities living in resource rich areas.