

**“SMALL SCALE MINING
IS HERE TO STAY”**

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**INITIATIVES WITH A
COMMUNITIES BASED
APPROACH IN DEVELOPING
A SUSTAINABLE SMALL
SCALE MINING SECTOR-THE
ZIMBABWEAN
EXPERIENCE**

INTRODUCTION

- Small/medium scale mining on increase in Zimbabwe over the past 4years due to
 - a) economic hardships
 - b) recurrent droughts 2001-3
 - c) greenfield areas exposed by the government land reform program

INTRODUCTION

- An estimated 2 million people involved in small scale mining and panning.
- Small scale mining contribute about 1000kg of gold monthly.
- Estimated 85% manpower contribution to total mining labour.
- The gold rush saw an increase in custom milling plants mainly stamp mills.
- More gold claims being pegged.

THE “GOLD RUSH”

- Resulted in need for proper mining and environmental control.
- Financial and technical assistance to miners to improve productivity.
- Need for communities to benefit from mineral endowment.
- Increase in illegal gold trade suffocating national mineral economic gain.

GOLD MINING AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

- Formed by Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe with the following objectives:
 - Protect the mineral wealth of Zimbabwe.
 - Promote and develop environmentally friendly exploitation of mineral resources.
 - Advocate for balanced mining legislation.

GOLD MINING AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

- To mobilize financial resources for on lending for mineral development and production.
- To promote rehabilitation in areas where poor mining methods have damaged the environment.

GOLD MINING AND MINERALS DEVOPMENT TRUST

- Working with communities set strategies.
- To develop the sector & community.
- To reinforce the Trust's objectives.
- Dealing with hindrances to sector development.
- Ensuring stakeholder participation.
- Formalizing the sector through formation of structured associations.

SMALL SCALE MINING PROBLEMS

- Lack funding for drilling and blasting.
- Lack funding for mine services (sampling and ore transportation).
- No financial reserves for milling costs.
- Lacks training in proper mining practice and safety health and environment.
- Lacks business skills.
- Small workers threatened by “big fish” on their richer claims.

STRATEGY/INITIATIVES

- To create a sustainable sector
- Rode on a government initiative for gold collection, S.I 238.(Gold Trade, Concession Areas Regulations).
- Challenges faced on the gold buying program.

INITIATIVES

- To design a model of sustainability, economic growth and poverty alleviation.
- To reinforce technical/financial assistance.
- Establishing mechanisms for manpower training.
- Access to appropriate mining equipment and services for improved productivity.

GMMDT MODEL



DRILLING AND BLASTING

- Gold buying agents facilitated efficient technical service and proper mining.
- Agents hired drilling and blasting services for miners.
- Ensured standard mining practice
- Payment done in cash or gold equivalent after milling.
- Practice done in Filabusi and Esigodini.

DRILLING AND BLASTING

- DEVELOPMENTS
- Miner had increased production.
- Safe and properly mined operation.
- Gold sold to authorized dealers.
- Accountability of royalty to the RDCs.
- Subsequent development of the local area.

DRILLING AND BLASTING

- BENEFITS
- High productivity.
- Gold recovery and collection.
- Business unit generated.
- Proper mining practice.
- Eventually miner self sustaining.

APPROACH

- Through mining associations .
- New ones formed e.g. Mbalabala and Esigodini mining associations.
- Assistance cascades through a structure within the association for corporate accountability.
- Procedure developed to avoid losses
 - Previous milling recoveries
 - Sampling of mine area, then assistance.

MINING SERVICES

- Agents sponsor for transport and milling.
- Agents arrange for excavators, provide mining tools like picks and shovels.
- Intervened in claim disputes with greedy “big fish”.
- “He who pays the piper calls the tune.”



INSIZA RIVER PROJECT

- GMMDT in partnership with IRDC (Insiza Rural District Council).
- Revolving fund for fuel for pumping operations.
- Provided technical advise and monitoring rehabilitation progress.
- GMMDT accounted for all the gold produced.
- Royalty of 0.5% to council created fund for sector development.

GMMDT & LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Council advised to set up a MINING FUND .
- To support and monitor mining within area to ensure sustainability.
- Qualified mining team to be engaged by council viz mining engineer, geologist and metallurgical engineer for sector development and rehabilitation monitoring.
- GMMDT to facilitate workshops and training with mining institutions and consultants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Milling centres can offer service to miners.
- STRATEGY
- Identify reliable customers.
- Field visit to miner for sampling , geological and mining input.
- Hire compressor for the miner.
- Provide explosives and blasting services.
- Transport ore to the plant.
- Miner pays back services in gold equivalent at a determined price below the official price.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- RDCs to engage own mining experts from mineral royalties to develop industry.
- Mining associations to value training-most of the miners are not trained.
- SUSTAINABILITY DOES NOT COME BY CHANCE BUT YOU WORK FOR IT!!, OTHERWISE WE PASS ON THE VIRUS TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

THANK YOU