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US\$200M capital was invested into the Kayelekera plant and operations

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LOTUS ACCELERATES KAYELEKERA RESTART



Lotus signed MDA with Malawi Government to resume production

By Marcel CHIMWALA

A SX-listed Lotus Resources has started implementing an Accelerated Restart Plan for its Kayelekera Uranium Mining Project in Karonga following the completion of Front-end Engineering and Design (FEED).

Lotus CEO Greg Bittar says in a Press Statement the Company is now moving into detailed engineering and onsite works for Kayelekera's restart to ensure that it achieves its strategic objective of becoming the next significant global uranium producer in the third quarter of the year 2025.

Bittar states that with the FEED program completed, Lotus is now well positioned to conduct a low capital intensity, accelerated restart of Kayelekera.

The Accelerated Restart Plan has seen time to first uranium production reduced to 8-10 months from the previously estimated 15 months by phasing in the completion of non-essential site infrastructure including grid power and acid plant rebuild beyond first production.

The Plan also reduces initial restart capital through a phased approach by focusing on capital items essential to the restart, with the remaining capex continuing off the critical path to optimise operations and cost structure.

Initial restart capital expenditure to first uranium production has been reduced to US\$50M from the previous US\$88M with initial restart capital intensity pegged US\$21.0/lb².

The Accelerated Restart Plan has delivered outstanding operational and financial outcomes (assuming a long-term uranium price of US\$90/lb real) including:

- Life of Mine (LOM) production target of 19.3Mlb of U₃O₈ over a 10-year mine life³.
- Competitive cost estimates maintained; steady state C1 cash cost of US\$34.5/lb and all-in sustaining cost (AISC) of US\$44.8/lb^{3,4}.
- Pre-tax and post-tax NPV 8% Real of US\$439M and US\$301M³.
- Pre-tax and Post-tax internal rate of return (IRR) of 80% and 66%³.
- Initial capital payback within 2 years of production restart³.
- LOM pre-tax and post-tax free cash flow generation of US\$698M and US\$486M³.

Bittar explains that Kayelekera's production restart is de-risked by 11Mlb of historical uranium production, with US\$200M capital invested into the plant and operations and 4Mlb of existing stockpiles supporting the ramp-up of the operation.

He said: "Following the signing of the Mine Development Agreement and the completion of the FEED program, Lotus is well positioned to take advantage of the continuing strength in the term uranium price and the strong uranium demand outlook."

"Our thorough FEED process has provided the foundation for us to optimise and accelerate our restart plans for Kayelekera, taking advantage of the existing plant and infrastructure. By sequencing the capital spend and targeting the critical restart items we reduce the amount of initial restart capital, which allows us to turn the plant on much earlier than previously contemplated. This not only provides us with increased funding flexibility but critically allows us to be a producer next year and take advantage of the strong customer demand we are seeing by moving into production as soon as possible."

"By decoupling the restart timetable from the long lead items which are not on the operational critical path, principally the connection to the power grid and acid plant rebuild, we are able to start the plant well ahead of the original Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) schedule of 15 months."

"Those capital items remain in the plan and will be brought on as soon as possible in order to optimise the cost structure. However, we do not need to wait for those, or have the timetable to restart dependent on those items. The plan was always to have full back up diesel power generation, as the site was originally operated by, and we can use this power while the grid connection is completed. Trucked-in sulphuric acid can be used until the acid plant is commissioned.

Meanwhile, Lotus Board has approved long lead item orders, mobilisation of mobile equipment and construction crews and early works.

Site mobilization and early works

Meanwhile, personnel have arrived onsite and have commenced a program of refurbishment works at the camp and plant areas, including:

- Removal of material that has accumulated along the western boundary of the processing plant and encroached on plant infrastructure during the care and maintenance period;
- Refurbishment of the potable water system and sewer system in the camp;
- Phase 1 refurbishment of rooms in the camp; and
- Inspection of key plant equipment and initiation of refurbishment of plant equipment starting at the crushing and grinding areas.

The plant and equipment in care and maintenance for the restart of operations represents over US\$200 million in invested capital expenditure.

Mining contractor tender process

Following a mining contractor tender process including extensive due diligence and site visits, Lotus has received a number of competitive proposals and is in the final stages of selecting its preferred mining contractor.

Bittar explains that final negotiations are underway with the two preferred contractors and it is expected that the Kayelekera mining contract will be entered into in the coming months, with site personnel and equipment mobilisation early to mid 2025.

Electricity grid connection

Lotus has signed a grid connection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM). The MOU contains the agreed pricing structure and provides the framework for Lotus and ESCOM to enter into a Power Implementation Agreement (PIA) and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

The engineering work associated with the route for the transmission line and substation upgrades has been completed. The engineering work allows the finalisation of tender documents for the appointment of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor. The environmental and social impact work for the transmission line is well advanced with the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) finalised and expected to be submitted to the Malawi Environmental Protection Authority in October for approval.

In parallel, Lotus continues to assess the optimal funding mix including debt, prepayment sources, strategic and cornerstone funding sources, and expects restart capital, post-production capital and working capital to come from a mix of these sources.



Lotus assists the local community in sectors such as health and is poised to do more after signing a community development agreement



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EDITORIAL



Address information gap on mining issues in Malawi

Mining is one of the sectors that the Malawi Government is banking on to propel economic growth as reflected in Malawi 2063 and Government's Agriculture, Tourism and Mining (ATM) strategy.

The year 2024 has been a progressive year in the mining sector in Malawi as shown by Government which has been active in a number of areas including launching of a strategic plan for the Ministry of Mining, signing a number of mining development agreements with multinational resource firms, holding the Mining Investment Forum, and pursuing a formalisation drive for Artisanal and Small-scale Miners.

While we applaud government for these interventions, we agree with the findings of the Natural Resources Justice Network (NRJN) that there is a yawning information gap in the sector that needs to be dealt with.

We, therefore, commend NRJN and its partners the Norwegian Church Aid and Dan Church Aid Joint Country Programme (JCP) for organising a training session for members of youth organisations across the country on mining issues.

However, we urge these stakeholders and the Ministry of Mining, which has the responsibility to promote awareness on mining issues, to go further by scaling up sensitisation on mining.

Civil Society groups need to lead the way in sensitising the masses on mining projects taking place in their areas including the challenges and opportunities offered by the projects.

Mining companies as key stakeholders should also start organising regular sensitisation meetings at local, regional and national levels to ensure that Malawians understand their activities.

Government as a major stakeholder should ensure that just as is the case with agriculture, mining related subjects should be introduced in school curricula from primary level so that Malawians are familiar with the trade.

It is sad that due to lack of knowledge about gemstones, some Malawians are being duped by foreigners who are buying their gemstones for a song.

It is through empowering these gemstone miners with technical and business knowledge that they will be able to maximise their yields from the trade, which will not only benefit the miners but also the country's economy.

It is through provision of appropriate information that Government and mining companies can also address several misconceptions in the sector including the common one that resource firms steal minerals through export of samples.

An informed Malawi will also not give room to squabbles between mining companies and the community on on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects, which are executed on voluntary terms.

Sovereign Metals completes Kasiya infill drilling program



Air Core site at Kasiya, with sample collection and logging

By Wahard Betha

A SX-listed Sovereign Metals has announced the completion of an infill drilling program at its Kasiya Rutile-Graphite Project in Lilongwe to support ongoing technical studies.

In a press statement, the Company says aircore drilling which was supported by hand auger, push tube and diamond core drilling, has now been completed in the southern part of Kasiya focused on the designated pits proposed to provide ore feed in the first eight years of the Project's production schedule.

Sovereign's MD and CEO Frank Eagar comments: "Completing the infill drilling program on schedule will assist us in upgrading our Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) and will feed into our future technical studies as part of ongoing pre-development activities at the Kasiya Project being overseen by the Sovereign-Rio Tinto Technical Committee."

"The ore reserves in these areas are expected to convert from the Probable to Proven category with an upgrade of the current MRE from Indicated to the Measured category under the JORC (2012) Code."

Eagar also explained that the Company has assigned off-site laboratories in South Africa and Australia to assay all samples for rutile and graphite whereby results and subse-

quent resource upgrade are expected in early 2025.

Eagar says an offset 200x200 metre program was designed resulting in an average drill spacing of 142 metres.

He explains: "The offset spacing had the advantage of allowing analysis of geology and grade continuity in both orthogonal and diagonal directions."

"The drilling program consisted of: 1. 281 aircore holes drilled over 5,607m, with an average depth of 20 metres, 2. 309 hand auger holes drilled over 1,280m with an average depth of 4 metres 3. 30 push tube and diamond core holes drilled over 663m, providing samples for verification twinning and geotechnical sampling with an average depth of 22 metres."

"The current MRE identifies broad and continuous high-grade rutile and graphite zones, extending over a vast area of more than 201 km²," he said.

Rutile mineralisation is concentrated in laterally extensive, near-surface, flat "blanket" deposits in areas where the weathering profile remains intact and largely uneroded.

Graphite is largely depleted near the surface, with grades generally improving at depths greater than 4 metres, down to the base of the saprolite zone, which averages around 22 metres.

Kasiya is the world's largest rutile deposit and second-largest flake graphite deposit, with over 66% of the current MRE in the Indicated category.

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DY6 METALS ANNOUNCES EXCITING RESULTS FOR TUNDULU RARE EARTH EXPLORATION PROJECT



Map of Tundulu license area (EL0731)

By Marcel CHIMWALA

A SX-listed DY6 Metals has announced exciting results for its exploration work for rare earths and phosphate at Tundulu in Malawi's southern district of Phalombe.

DY6 Chairman Daniel Smith says in a Press Statement that a total of 63 metallurgical samples were collected from 37 sample locations along high-grade historic trench (TUTR10) at Tundulu.

Smith explains that sampling results returned up to a high of 3.35% Total Rare Earth Ore (TREO) and 27.5% Phosphorus pentoxide (P₂O₅) over the sampled 83m length of trench TUTR10.

He says: "An exciting component of the sampling results is the average HREO, being 13% of the TREO basket."

"Undetectable to very low levels of deleterious elements including mercury, lead and cadmium in the phosphorus (P) rich rocks confirms the exceptional grade quality of the phosphate at Tundulu; and the sampling is representative of the mineralised Bastnaesite and Apatite carbonatite rock types exposed within the trench."

Smith reports that selected samples are being collected to form a 150kg composite to be sent for metallurgical analysis while five bioavailability composite samples were also taken across various historical trenches at Tundulu, targeting phosphate-rich rocks, to determine the solubility of phosphate in the samples and understand its potential for direct fertilization.

He says the majority of samples showed excellent P solubility (using 2% citric acid) of over 40%, with one returning solubility of 81%. This is above the industry threshold of 9.4% P₂O₅ solubility using Citric Acid as the reagent in the acid leach process.

DY6 also collected nine samples representing predominant lithologies at Tundulu which will also be sent to RSC Australia.

Tundulu is formed of several hills in a ring around a central vent called Nathace Hill where the majority of the historic surface sampling and drilling was undertaken.

The predominant geology at Nathace Hill is REE apatite hosting carbonatites and feldspathic breccia and comprises a large inner agglomerate vent.

Mineral rich carbonatite also occurs at Tundulu Hill east of Nathace and Makhanga Hill west of Nathace and is previously unexplored and prospective for REEs and niobium mineralisation.

REE mineralisation remains open towards southern and western directions of Nathace Hill and potentially extends beyond the boundaries of the previously established mineralised area over Tundulu Hill. Initial indications of mineralisation appear to be high in valuable MREEs and low measurable radioactive uranium (U) and thorium (Th). This compares favourably to Lynas Rare Earths' Mount Weld Central Lanthanide Deposit where Th and U concentrations in the ore are approximately 660 ppm and 25 ppm respectively.

The Tundulu metallurgical test work will aim to evaluate historical studies undertaken at Tundulu and assess the findings from a 2017 metallurgical report, completed by the previous operators of the licence. The test work will initially focus on validating the beneficiation results achieved by the previous laboratory.

"Conducting test work at this early stage enables the Company to ascertain the preliminary viability of producing two product streams: namely a REE commercially saleable concentrate and a mixed phosphate concentrate containing rare earths," says Smith.

Ngala Hill Platinum Group Elements, Nickel and Copper Project

Meanwhile, samples taken from the Company's recent reconnaissance soil and rock chip program at the Ngala Hill Platinum Group Elements, Copper and Nickel Project have been submitted to SGS South Africa for analysis, with results expected soon.



Weighing and collection of samples from Trench 10 (TUTR10)

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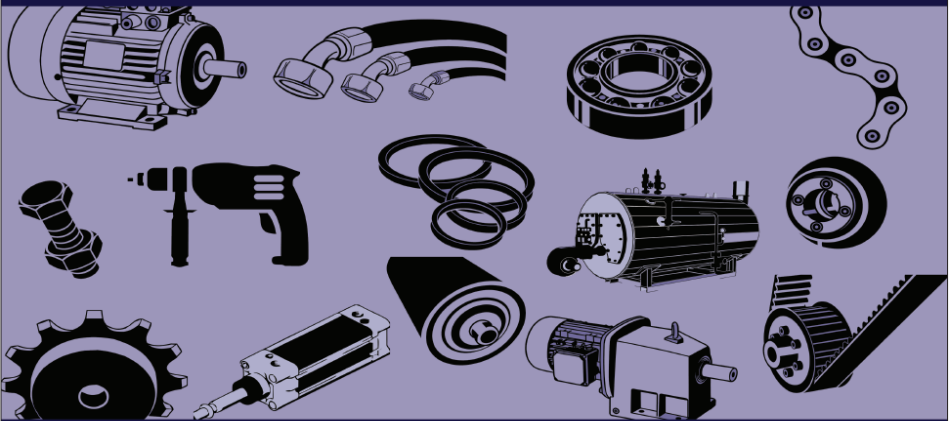
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New Mining Authority to drive sustainable development



Chang'anamuno opening the offices



Chang'anamuno and other government officials captured in the new offices

By Modester Mwalija

Minister of Mining Monica Chang'anamuno has urged the newly established Mines and Minerals Regulatory Authority (MMRA) to uphold high standards in ensuring responsible and transparent mining practices stressing the need for the Authority to serve as a "beacon of excellence" in managing the sector's growth while prioritizing the protection of Malawi's natural resources and communities.

The minister made these remarks during the official opening ceremony of the MMRA offices, which she hailed as a significant milestone in the collective journey towards a sustainable, responsible, and transparent mining sector.

She stressed that the Authority's establishment represents a step forward in aligning mining activities with ethical, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible principles that support the nation's economic and social goals.

"The mining sector is not merely an economic engine; it is a cornerstone of our national identity and progress with its potential to create jobs, fuel economic growth, and generate revenue. Mining offers much to our economy but this potential comes with a responsibility to conduct mining in a manner that respects both people and the environment," Chang'anamuno said.

She outlined that the Authority's regulatory framework would focus on balancing investor interests with the rights and needs of local communities, guided by principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

To achieve this, Chang'anamuno said the Authority would engage all stakeholders from government bodies to mining companies, community leaders, and civil society organizations encouraging collaborative oversight and proactive guidance on sustainable practices.

Acknowledging the critical support of President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, she attributed the progress to his vision under the Agriculture, Tourism, Mining, and Manufacturing (ATM) Strategy, which prioritizes responsible mining as a pillar for economic growth.

"Today, we witness the result of the President's unwavering support for the mining sector and we commit to advancing further reforms that will enhance sector growth and sustainability," she said.

In an interview, Director General of MMRA Samuel Sakhuta reflected on the Authority's mission to support the economic transformation that Malawi is striving for.

"These offices represent the President's vision to drive our economy forward and creating a fully-fledged mining ministry and regulatory authority shows a focused commitment to realizing the sector's potential and creating real change," Sakhuta said.

Sakhuta noted that for many years, mining activities were overseen by various Ministries leading to challenges in building a consistent regulatory framework.

"Previously, mining was under multiple Ministries; energy, environment, climate change and was treated as an add-on.

His Excellency last year established a Ministry dedicated to mining, and now, with the Mining Authority, we have the structure needed to pursue growth goals with a clear direction," he said.

He also admitted concerns around mining's impact on the environment and communities, acknowledging that the sector's development often comes with significant challenges.

"People often worry about the impact on the environment and relocation issues. But the Authority's approach is to manage these resources in a responsible way, with attention to environmental and community considerations so that the sector's growth must be sustainable to deliver long-term benefits," he explained.

Sakhuta emphasized that with effective regulation and careful planning, mining could help drive Malawi's economic transformation.

He observed that numerous countries worldwide have harnessed mining to advance their economies, and Malawi should strive to replicate that success while addressing common challenges.

"If we do this right, there is no reason Malawi's mining sector cannot contribute positively to our economy. Responsible and efficient mining practices will not only generate revenue but also build community trust," he added.

The Mines and Minerals Regulatory Authority is set to play a central role in ensuring that mining in Malawi contributes positively to the country's development. By fostering responsible investments and balancing economic growth with social and environmental stewardship, the Authority aims to shape a mining industry that aligns with Malawi's vision of sustainable and inclusive growth.



The Minister in a group picture at the ceremony

Investor abandons coal mining venture due to Government bureaucracy

By Tawonga NYIRENDA MAYUNI

MD for Aanya Mining Company Frank Mwenifumbo has revealed that his Indian partner has pulled out of their coal mining venture in Rumphi out of frustration due to delays by the Ministry of Mining to grant a mining license for the project.

Aanya incorporated the investor in a joint venture partnership three years ago but despite the company being granted the license in August this year, the investor had already lost interest.

“Despite the license being approved by the licensing committee some time back, it has only been released at a time the investor had lost interest and shifted his interests to Zambia,” Mwenifumbo said.

He explained that it took five years of waiting to get the license, which was frustrating.

Mwenifumbo said: “After a gruesome process, we are happy that we finally have a mining license, hence we can now start our activities on the ground.”

“The Department of Mines (DOM) should change and operate with a kind of pragmatism especially to us Malawians. Further, the DOM should not rush to revoke a license because of lack of finances to kickstart operations. There is no bank in Malawi that finances mining ventures, hence we need strategic partners and the support of the government.”

Mwenifumbo, however, commended the current Minister of Mining Monica Chang'anamuno for her commitment to encourage indigenous Malawians to invest in mining ventures.

He was, nonetheless, quick to allege that the Minister's commitment to promote locals to invest in mining is contrary to the tendency of some DOM employees who are always on the neck of local mining companies that are not mining despite being given licenses.

He said: “The DOM keeps on asking mining companies why they are not mining despite having a license. Mining is not a simple thing as you have to look for investments and capitalize the activity which is not a small process.”

“It is sad to observe that there are bureaucratic hurdles being faced by most Malawians whose licenses are revoked in favor of foreigners.”

On Aanya Coal Mine, Mwenifumbo said that the company has already bought the necessary equipment and is preparing to start operations anytime from now after identifying project financing.

Commenting on the issue, the Director General for Mining and Minerals Regulatory

Authority Samuel Sakhuta said that each license issuance goes with an obligation to be met by the miner so the earlier the miner meets the obligations, the earlier the license is granted too.

Sakhuta trashed allegations that DOM favors foreigners when it comes to the granting and revoking of licenses saying the Department only revokes licenses on the grounds of non-compliance.

“We wait and wait for miners to comply with license obligations until a year elapses, another year, another year yet they still fail to comply, so should we grant them the license just because they are Malawians?” he questioned.

Sakhuta challenged local miners to come in the open and mention a foreign company that was favored while not complying with the obligations of the Mines and Minerals Act.

“Miners should not rush to complain to the media when they fail to meet their obligations, they should be open enough to say where they are failing,” he said.

Malawi has many idle licenses with many local miners failing to roll out operations as a result of failure to source project financing.

Government has time and again warned miners that it will not hesitate to revoke all idle licenses.

The demand for locally mined coal in Malawi is very high due to failure by the local consumers to import the energy mineral as a result of foreign exchange shortages.

However, coal miners are failing to acquire project financing as the financiers prefer financing clean and renewable energy projects.



Mwenifumbo: We are happy to finally have the license

ENERGY

Malawi Govt. scouts for strategic investor for US\$76.2-M Chiweta Geothermal Power Project



A geothermal power plant

By Modester MWALIJA

The Malawi government is seeking a strategic partner to invest US\$76.2 million to develop the Chiweta Geothermal Power Generation Project in Rumphi, which will be developed in a public and private sector partnership arrangement.

This is highlighted in Malawi Investment Projects Compendium Volume 4 published by the Malawi Investment and Trade Center.

The project will generate up to 10 MW of electricity, contributing significantly to the national grid and supporting the country's industrialization goals.

The report says that the government's preference is to develop the project through an Independent Power Producer (IPP) following a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model with a 30-year concession period.

“A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be established to oversee the project's implementation, ensuring efficient management of the development phase and future operations,” reads the report.

It says pre-feasibility studies conducted reveal that the project is technically, economically, financially and environmentally viable.

“This project is aligned with the government's energy sector and economic development goals as outlined in the National Energy Policy and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy,” the report reads.

The project's key benefits include provision of additional power to the national electricity grid, thereby improving access to electricity for both households and industries. Employment opportunities will also be created during and after the construction phase of the project.

In addition to boosting local electricity supply, there is potential for Malawi to export surplus power generated from the project to generate foreign exchange revenue as government plans to connect to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

The project will involve drilling to install a fluids conveyance system, power plant construction and construction of transmission line.

“Geoscientific investigations, including geological, geochemical, and geoelectrical surveys, have confirmed the feasibility of the project. These studies have enabled experts to develop a conceptual model of the geothermal field and outline its main characteristics, suggesting the project's technical and financial viability,” reads the report.

The project site is underlain by biotitic gneisses of the Basement Complex, covered by clastic sediments of the Karoo System and by a thin level of Quaternary deposits.

In a related development, the Malawi Government is seeking a strategic investor to develop the Fufu Hydropower Project on South Rukuru River in Rumphi district.

The Malawi Investment and Trade Centre explains in the compendium that Fufu is designed as a storage power plant through the reservoir formed by a 114m high Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) dam.

It, therefore, offers the possibility to be operated in base mode, following the load and responding to the instant changes in power demand. The guaranteed generating capacity of the station is 146.3 MW and the total installed capacity is 261 MW. The objective of

the project is to increase the supply and reliability of power in the country.

“The geographical location of the power plant is very ideal for system voltage stabilization as it is situated in the northern region of Malawi which has no generating station rendering it prone to power quality issues due to long transmission distances. A feasibility study on the Fufu Hydropower Project is available,” reads the Compendium.

A Bankable feasibility study conducted for the project reveals that the investment cost for the project is US\$702.5 million and the specific investment cost is US\$2,700 per kW. The project Internal Return of Return (IRR) is approximated to be 12.1% and the levelized electricity cost is 3.5 US cents/kWh. Additionally, the project's Net present Value is US\$123 million.

The report says the project which proposes a 350MW hydro-power plant is technically, economically and environmentally feasible.

The Compendium reads: “The project is financially feasible and sustainable. The financial internal rate of return (FIRR) for the project ranges from 12% to 17.5% and a Net Present Value of between US\$110.5 million and US\$ 356 million respectively depending on the scenarios.”

“Additionally, the Cost-Benefit results of the project are very promising ranging from 1.03 (where construction is delayed by one year and the construction cost increased by 10%) to 1.35 where the construction cost is decreased by 10%.”

“These results show that the project is financially viable as the revenues from the project are sufficient to cover its capital costs and operating costs and to provide the investor with adequate profit.”



MINING & SOCIAL ISSUES

with Ignatius Kamwanje

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An Overview of Mining Governance and Growth Support Project(MGGSP) Achievements in Malawi

Mining Governance and Growth Support Project(MGGSP) was a five-year Project co-financed by the World Bank and the European Union which became effective in 2021. The Project was developed by the Malawi Government, pursuant to its desire to diversify the current agro-based economy with mining industry which has a huge potential for expansion. The project aimed at improving the governance system of the Malawi Mining sector whose project development objective was to improve the efficiency, transparency and sustainability of mining sector management. To achieve this, the project was designed to work with main stakeholders for the industry in Malawi which included the Department of Mines, Geological Survey Department (GSD), Malawi Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education (MoEST), UNIMA/Chancellor College, and MUBAS/Polytechnic. All these institutions have been implementing activities ranging from human and capital resource building which are envisaged to spur good governance and economic development in Malawi. Lack of capacity and appropriate skills in the mining sector have been identified as a drawback to the growth of the sector and these institutions were tasked to implement various activities to increase the supply of Malawians trained at tertiary level in mining related courses and improve the policy environment through mining related infrastructure development. It is against such a background that this project embarked on some developmental activities within the sector that were to spur infrastructure, academic, geo-scientific economic and human capital development in the sector.

1. Some developments that were earmarked for Implementation

- ✓ Introduction of mining related programs at The Polytechnic, now MUBAS and Chancellor College, now the University of Malawi and training of officers within institutions which manage the sector.
- ✓ Face-lifting and modernization of buildings and other infrastructure relevant to the sector including; refurbishment of GSD main office building and top lab in Zomba, and Regional Geologist Office in Mzuzu.
- ✓ Major upgrading works to modernize the Department of Mines offices in Lilongwe, which would see the establishment of an all-in-one two storey facility with a basement that will house the cadastre mining sector management system, a laboratory and other relevant offices, creating a one-stop mining sector service centre
- ✓ Addressing the issue of lack of human capacity at tertiary education level by improving learning environment in two constituents' colleges of the University of Malawi, the Malawi Polytechnic and Chancellor College, through refurbishments of infrastructure and procurement of furniture and learning equipment.

These activities were to be carried out as part of an Improvement Plan in high-learning institutions to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. The plan also aimed at developing the curriculum for mining related programmes; expand infrastructure capac-

ity, provide appropriate equipment and increase human resource capacity as well as promote equitable access to higher education.

2. Notable Milestones achieved

- ✓ The Polytechnic/MUBAS managed to introduce three mining engineering degree programmes namely; Mining Engineering, Metallurgy and Mineral Processing and Geological Engineering. This led to Mining Equipment procurement and installations at the Polytechnic/MUBAS
- ✓ For Chancellor College, now UNIMA which was formally incorporated in the project later in 2013, benefited from the project to support strengthening of a geology programme, which led to the review of Geography and Earth Sciences programmes.
- ✓ The Project financed academic tours for staff to appreciate and learn how other institutions structured geoscience programmes and the knowledge has been applied in the course of reviewing of the geology curriculum. There were also funded trips to advanced mining companies in countries like South Africa and Australia for training programs in Electronic Scanning Microscopy.
- ✓ Office and classroom furniture were procured at UNIMA/Chancellor College, ICT and Lab equipment and refurbishment of the geology and geography laboratories and lecture rooms were also done. Procurement of modern teaching and learning equipment to assist the students gain hands-on experience using field gadgets was also put in place.
- ✓ The project also sponsored various study tours across the globe and short-term trainings, international workshops, and attachments, in various mining related disciplines such as Environmental and Mine Hazardous Waste Management, Geo-data Management, Mineral Economics and Taxation of Mining Sector, Mining Cadastral Systems, Mining and Mineral Processing Technology, Monitoring and Evaluation, Negotiating International Mining and Oil Agreements, Mining Engineering, Mineral Processing, Environmental Science and Explosives, Mining and Mineral Processing Technology, Public Relations, Communication and Information Management in the Extractive Industries, Project Management, Geophysics, Geology & Geo Geo-Chemistry, Fiscal Decentralization and Local Government Fiscal Management, Fiscal Regime for Mining and Petroleum and Gemstone Cutting and Polishing etc.
- ✓ Finalizing and review of the Mines and Minerals Act.
- ✓ Installation of the Geo-Data Management Information System at the Geological Survey Department
- ✓ Refurbishment and rehabilitation of Cadastre Offices, DoM laboratory and Commissioners Office.
- ✓ Refurbishment works of Chemical Laboratory, Lapidary Section at Geological Survey Department in Zomba.



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YOUTHS DRILLED IN NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE



Rashid: There is a knowledge gap



A group photo of the participants

By Wahard Betha

Forty members of youth organizations operating across the country had an opportunity to acquire knowledge in natural resource governance thanks to the training workshop that was organized by the Norwegian Church Aid and Dan Church Aid (NCA/DCA) Joint Country Programme (JCP) in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in Malawi's extractives sector.

The two-day boot camp which took place in Balaka district as one of the major mining hotspot districts was part of the Fighting Inequalities Strengthen Civil Society Program being championed by the NCA/DCA JCP.

Coordinator for Natural Resources Justice Network (NRJN) Kennedy Rashid told *Mining & Trade Review* that the training was organized upon realizing the gaps in youth involvement in mining.

Rashid said the training was to ensure youth from different mining hotspots districts were fed with information that will help them govern their respective organizations in their communities for better future of the sector.

He said: "This training was developed out of an assessment that was made in the mining sector where we identified a gap in youth participation in mining activities."

"We felt like it is good to train some youth from those districts considered mining hotspots so that they are imparted with basic knowledge of mining to bridge that gap."

"We trained them today to empower them so that they are able to engage authorities to ensure that decisions they make now do not negatively affect them in future. We want to mitigate negative impacts of mining activities taking place now in the future."

The two-day boot camp introduced the youths to some of the policies, rules, and regulations currently being implemented in the mining sector.

NCA/DCA Country Coordinator for the joint Fighting Inequality Program Mwai Sandram expressed excitement saying with the training, they have accomplished the first objective of their program.

Sandram said they engaged the youth understanding that they are the majority of the population hence the future of the mining sector lies in their hands.

He said: "We are very impressed as joint country program because we have met the first part of the objective which is sharing knowledge with the youth."

"Within the 2-days we have gone through the Mines and Minerals Act, Mines and Minerals Regulations, mining value chain and corruption in mining sector. These topics are very important in the participation of the youth in mining."

"It is very significant to consider the youth because the youth constitutes the major-

ity in the population of the country, they are the most active people and the future belongs to them."

"We need to involve them because what happens now will affect them in future."

Sandram said most of the participants were invited from active groups which is an advantage for them to utilize the opportunity in resource mobilization.

He explained that what is needed is for the youth to come up with a plan on how they contribute positively to their communities and fellow youth.

Sandram said: Our program is still continuing and we will support them. What we can encourage them is to generate their own initiatives where we can be coming in here and there to help them in resource mobilization drive."

"They need to have plans on how they are going to engage their communities and fellow youth."

The boot camp also included a site visit to a mining site at Nfulanjovu area in the district where the participants appreciated the challenges in mining and what can happen if laws are not followed.

On the third day of the training, the delegates were given a chance to engage with the Ministry of Mining, mining companies and the Balaka District Council.

Other CSOs who partnered the JCA in the program included: The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP); and the Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN).

There are many mining activities taking place in Balaka with artisanal and small scale miners involved in the extraction of gemstones, gold and limestone while mining companies are pursuing deposits of rare earths and other minerals.



Group discussions were part of the ceremony



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