

Geological Society of Zimbabwe



Newsletter

October 2025

No. 3 of 3 of 2025

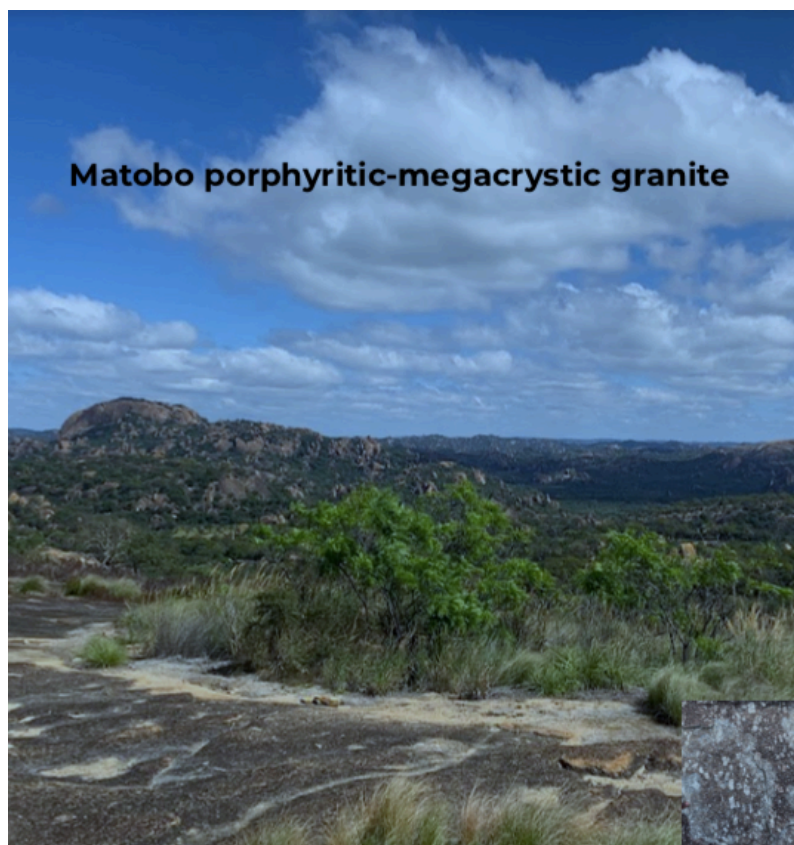


Photo submitted by Brian Mapingere

If you have a high resolution picture with geological features of interest to our members and you would like your image to feature as the frontispiece in future newsletter issues, please send your picture to geol.soc.zimbabwe@gmail.com

www.geologicalsociety.org.zw

The Geological Society of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box CY 1719, Causeway, Harare

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Editorial

It is Symposium time again, an event that has been running non-stop every year since 2002 and one which was born of the annual Summer Schools that were staged back in the 70's. That is when the results of regional mapping could be staged and in 1973/74 we had the whole of the Lomagundi Supergroup and adjoining areas hung as 1:50 000-scale field sheets in the Great Hall as UZ. Those were heady times in the history of our unfolding geological understanding of Zimbabwe. This year's line-up is top-notch as you will see from the programme later in this Newsletter. It should be a must for you to be there, not only to participate and learn, but also to interact with your peers. We look forward to seeing you there on Friday 24th October.

NB : The online registration is no longer available but you can all still register in person for the Friday Symposium presentations on the day.

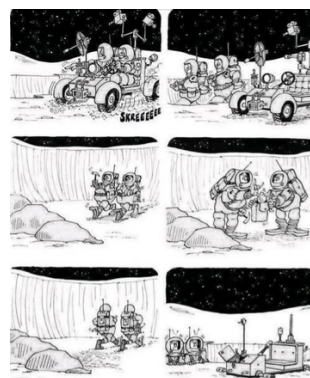
The articles this time are a bit sparse, but I reproduce an abstract on the Eureka Mine, which is relevant to the field trip on 25th October and I also air one that may enhance our understanding of mineralization in the Midlands Greenstone Belt. Due acknowledgement to Messers Hoppner and Buchholz with his team.

Many thanks, as always, to our institutional contributors. Without you, there would be no news and it is important to know what others are up to as we are far-flung and should not become isolated in our endeavours. We also need to encourage our students to interact and note should be taken of the definition for student membership and also the possibility of establishing student chapters within the realm of SEG. There are great opportunities out there. 'Seize the Day'.

Forbes is welcomed back with his insights on the mining climate in Zimbabwe as enhanced by Kennedy's gleanings from the press. It is important to be aware of the unfolding dynamics that affect our profession, some of which are being addressed by our Committee, as revealed in the Chairman's Chat. Thanks too, to Ernest and his news from the Geological Survey. How refreshing it is to learn that regional geological mapping has rebooted around Beatrice. That is 49 years since I briefly set foot on that same ground, and what a positive step it is to have John Stevenson and Benje Brauns with us from the BGS to help invigorate production of our 1:1 million-scale map, a compilation that has taken 48 years to get this far. These basic activities of the Geological Survey are so important to revitalize.



Charles Castelin
Tenyears Gumedede examining a chrome seam on the Dyke.



Mad Mag.
And exploration needs to be revitalized too!

Tim Broderick (Icositet)



Chairperson's Chat



Caston Musa, Chairman

Dear Members and Colleagues,

I am pleased to share the October 2025 update from the Geological Society of Zimbabwe (GSZ), reflecting a season of renewed engagement, strategic progress and exciting developments across our geoscientific community.

We are thrilled to report a significant increase in paid-up membership, which has grown from just 30 members last year to over 100 active members today. This resurgence includes the reactivation of several previously inactive members who renewed their commitment through the annual subscription of \$30. The growth in membership is a testament to the Society's relevance and the increasing recognition of geology's role in national development.

Our traditional corporate sponsors have continued to support the Society, enabling our day-to-day operations and sustaining our core activities. Their unwavering commitment remains vital to our mission, and we extend our sincere gratitude for their partnership.

We anticipate further growth in interest and participation, especially as the bill proposing professional registration of geoscientists and regulation of geological practice has been tabled and is expected to become law in the near future. This landmark legislation will elevate professional standards, enhance accountability and unlock new opportunities for capital mobilization—particularly through the Stock Exchange campy listings. It is also expected to drive demand for Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPOs), which are essential for structured and large-scale exploration.

In line with this, the Society continues to actively lobby government for the timely approval of EPOs. A dedicated committee remains in place to promote investment through the strategic granting of exploration ground, particularly to large corporates with the capacity

to undertake world-class orebody investigations. Encouragingly, there is broad consensus among stakeholders—including the Ministry of Mines, the Chamber of Mines, GSZ, and others—on the urgency of making exploration ground available without delay.

The mineral outlook remains highly favourable. Rising gold prices have sparked a surge in mining activity across the country, particularly among small-scale miners, large Chinese operations, and new international entrants. This momentum is revitalizing the sector and creating new opportunities for geoscientific engagement and innovation.

On a personal note, I was honoured to attend the launch of Kavango Resources on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange. The event was graced by the Minister of Mines, who emphasized the critical role of exploration in driving Zimbabwe's mining future. His remarks set a promising tone for renewed interest in large-scale exploration and reaffirmed the importance of our work as geoscientists.

Looking ahead, GSZ's major calendar event—the Summer Symposium—is set to take place on 24 October 2025, at the Innovation Hub, University of Zimbabwe. We are delighted to announce that the event will be officially opened by Mr Forbes Mugumbate, Director of the Geological Survey. The symposium promises a spectacular line-up of speakers covering a wide range of topics relevant to Zimbabwe's geoscientific and mining landscape.

While field trip participation has been modest this year, we are excited to confirm that our first field excursion will take place on 25th October with a visit to Eureka Mine. This trip is expected to attract MSc and undergraduate students from the country's major universities, offering them valuable exposure to real-world geological environments.

In our commitment to supporting young geoscientists, the Society offered to sponsor two students to present at the Society of Economic Geology conference in Brisbane, Australia. One student was successfully accepted but unfortunately declined the opportunity due to personal circumstances. Nonetheless, GSZ remains committed to facilitating international exposure and academic growth for emerging professionals.

We are also actively exploring future field visits to key sites of national interest, including the Zulu lithium prospect, the Manhize Iron and Steel operations by Dinson Steel, and the Marange diamond fields. These visits will provide members with first-hand insights into Zimbabwe's evolving mineral landscape and industrial potential.

As we move forward, I encourage all members to remain engaged, contribute actively, and take pride in the growing impact of our profession. The Geological Society of Zimbabwe stands ready to support your endeavours and to champion the advancement of geoscience for national development.

Caston Musa

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Gayle Hanssen, Membership Secretary gaylehanssen@gmail.com

Institutional Membership Contribution

The GSZ continues to recognise the important role played by our Institutional Members, who we consider the major mining houses and most important support organisations. We thank them for their contributions, and their belief in the betterment of geology in Zimbabwe. The membership contributions go towards funding presence at major conferences and events during the year, and we only believe that this benefits all geologists of Zimbabwe.

Institutional Members



Mimosa Mining Company



Performance Laboratories



Prospect Resources



GeoAssociates



Tandamanzi



Chamber of Mines

Honorary Members

Blenkinsop, Tom; Broderick, Tim; Colvine, Sandy; Eriksson, Ken; Jelsma, Hielke; Kramers, Jan; Mapani, Ben; Martin, Tony; Master, Sharad; Mugumbate, Forbes; Nisbet, Euan; Park, Graham; Podmore, Francis; Prendergast, Martin; Wilson, Allan.

Ordinary Members

We would like to welcome the following new Members to the Society:

Melody Kapesi
Evengy Nikolenko
Memory Sithole

- **Honorary:** This membership has been bestowed on all presenters of the A.M. Macgregor Memorial Lecture, and to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Society over the years. Currently we have 15 such members.
- **Ordinary:** Professional membership by application for geologists who have a registered degree. To apply for this category, we need a copy of your degree certificate, a form sponsored by 2 current Ordinary Members, and your CV. If you notice that you are on the “Associate” list on the GSZ website, and you have paid your membership for 2025, this is because we are missing documents to complete your registration. You will be moved from Associate to Ordinary on receipt and approval of these documents at a GSZ Board Meeting.
- **Associate:** For interested parties not holding a degree but who wish to participate.
- **Institutional:** Corporate membership and ardent supporters of the Zimbabwe Mining Industry.
- **Student:** Members of a recognized Student Body by the GSZ. The Student Body should submit members names and their number. For a Student Body to be recognized, the Constitution and current Committee is to be submitted to GSZ. Currently, the Mennell Society from the University of Zimbabwe is the only registered student organization. We certainly recommend that the Student Bodies at other Universities around Zimbabwe submit their lists and register their organizations as recognized student bodies. Not only will they have greater access to GSZ information, but as students, their names will appear on the GSZ website, and hence allow verification for any student projects.

SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS STUDENT CHAPTER

The Society of Economic Geologists have student chapters in many parts of the world, including neighbouring countries, Zambia and Namibia. This is of great advantage to the students, as not only does it give them membership access and allow collaboration and interaction with geologists throughout the world. Currently there are various financial benefits being offered by the SEG to student chapters. The SEG requires that the students are members of the SEG and that the chapter has an Industry Mentor, who is a SEG member and an Academic Mentor, again a SEG member. Zimbabwe Student Bodies are encouraged to research the membership application and engage in this worldwide forum.

<http://www.geologicalsociety.org.zw/membership>

The Membership Application Form can be down-loaded from the Membership Page of the website.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEES & RENEWAL REMINDER

(The first year's fee is the joining fee. If your application is rejected this joining fee will be forfeited)

Members (including Associate Members) US\$30 annually
(or ZWL equivalent at the bank rate on the day of payment if US\$ unobtainable)

Institutional Member US\$500 annually
(invoices have been sent to existing members, but if your organisation is interested – please get hold of Gayle Hanssen, Membership Secretary, for an invoice - gaylehanssen@gmail.com)

Note: Foreign Members are classified as such on the basis of postal address. There is a different NOSTRO account for external payments, details for which will be provided on request.

Banking Details

Geological Society of Zimbabwe
First Capital Bank (Barclays)
Kurima House Branch

OR

Ecocash

Merchant Number 82758

USD Nostro FCA Domestic: 21573779436

OR

RTGS Account Number: 21576533195

OR

FOR EXTERNAL FOREX TRANSACTIONS

Account Name: Geological Society of Zimbabwe

Branch Name: NGO Centre

Account Numbers: Nostro FCA: 21573779533

Swift Code BARCZWHX

THE OFFICE IS OPEN

*University of Zimbabwe – Geology Department – First Floor – Room 20
Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm*

Scan and Email your PoP to geol.soc.zimbabwe@gmail.com and kundaizvinorova@gmail.com

AMIRA PROJECT EAXI

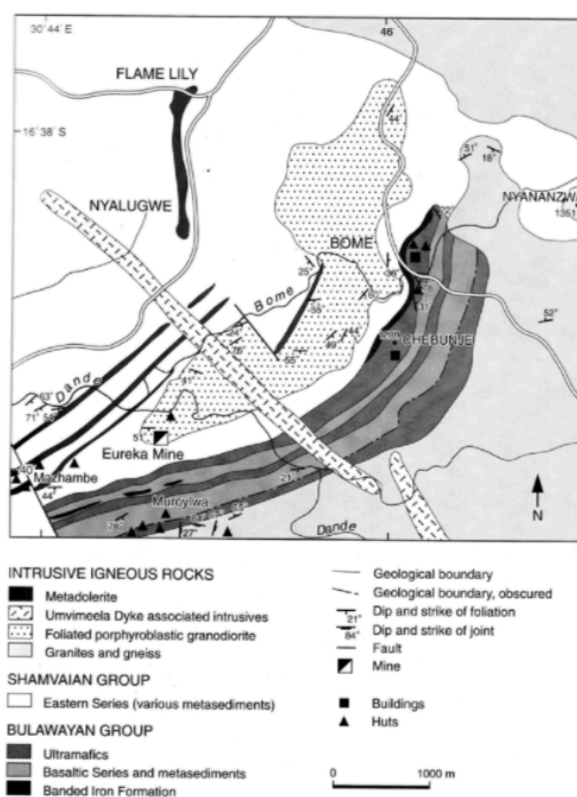
Further to recent communications, AMIRA has tabled a new project in East Africa known as EAXI on the back of the very successful and long running project in West Africa – WAXI. This project is led by Nicolas Thebaud, based in Perth, Western Australia and is a 4-year project with the objective to enhance the gold and base metal exploration of East Africa. The initial focus will be on the Archaean Tanzanian-Congo and Zimbabwe cratons, so there will be some inclusion of our country on this project. The countries targeted, as well as Zimbabwe, are Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi and Mocambique. Anthony Mamuse of Midlands State University is to be one of the collaborators on this project, in charge of a module of Crustal Structural Architecture of the Zimbabwe Craton, which will focus on the southern part of the Zimbabwe craton and the Limpopo Belt. The focus will be on the major shear zones, including the Popoteke and Mchingwe faults, with study of the deformation history and timing provided by modern dating techniques. This project will be done in collaboration with Cardiff University and Professor Tom Blenkinsop.

Articles and Reports

The Eureka Gold Deposit in Northern Zimbabwe: an Example of Archean Gold-Quartz Shear Zone Mineralization derived from Magmatic Fluids

Mathias Hoppner

Abstract: The Eureka Mine is on the eastern margin of the Guruve Greenstone Belt in northern Zimbabwe. Eureka is a shear-zone-hosted deposit containing gold-bearing quartz veins. The host rocks are mainly granodiorite gneisses, rarely Shamvaian schists. The structural and metamorphic evolution of the study area is dominated by the Archean orogeny (2.6 Ga). Structural analysis shows that the formation of the gold-quartz veins at Eureka was associated with this deformation period. The gold-bearing quartz veins are lodged in discrete shear zones parallel to the foliation of the host rocks. The paragenesis consists mainly of quartz, scheelite, molybdenite and native gold. The average fineness of the gold is 996. The emplacement of the gold-quartz veins is related to deformation in the brittle-ductile transition during simple shear, caused by the build-up of superhydrostatic fluid pressures and a thrust stress regime, leading to ‘fault-valve behaviour’. The layered structure of the gold-quartz veins is related to cyclic processes of veining following repetitive variation of shear stress and fluid pressures. Alteration of the wall rocks is minor to nearly absent. Slight potassic alteration of the wall rocks was identified on the basis of chemical analysis.



Geological map of the area around Eureka Mine, Guruve



Photograph underground showing typical laminated gold-quartz vein at Eureka. The thickness of the vein varies considerably in both strike and dip direction ie. 'pinch-and-swell structure'.

δD values of water extracted from fluid inclusions and $\delta^{18}O$ values of vein quartz were used to calculate the isotopic composition of the mineralizing fluids. The values are very uniform (δD : -87 to -58‰; $\delta^{18}O$: 6.40 to 7.05‰) and show significant overlap with the composition of primary magmatic waters. $d^{34}S$ values for molybdenite ($\delta^{34}S_{(H_2S)}$: 1.19 to 1.44‰) are also consistent with magmatic origin of the mineralizing fluids. As a consequence of alternating episodes of vein growth and syngenetic to postgenetic deformation, the fluid inclusions were highly deformed and re-equilibrated after trapping. Fluid inclusions are generally of high salinity (up to 31.5 wt% NaCl equiv.). CO_2 , CH_4 , H_2S or N_2 were not detected by laser Raman and heating-cooling stage techniques. Eutectic temperatures Down to -69.1°C) and melting temperatures of salt hydrates (down to 50.4°C) point to the presence of $CaCl_2$, $LiCl$ or other chlorides, in addition to NaCl. The composition of the inclusion brines appears to have been influenced by the type of wall rocks of the quartz veins.

A 'fluid fault-valve model' influenced by late magmatism and deformation and prograde regional metamorphism during the Archean consolidation of the Zimbabwe Craton is proposed as a genetic model for Eureka.

Geol. J., **D100**, pp. 391-421, Hannover 1994.

Multistage Au-As-Sb Mineralization and Crustal-Scale Fluid Evolution in the Kwekwe District, Midlands Greenstone Belt, Zimbabwe: A Combined Geochemical, Mineralogical, Stable Isotope, and Fluid Inclusion Study

Peter Buchholz, Thomas Oberthur, Volker Luders and Jamie Wilkinson

ABSTRACT

The Kwekwe District comprises the central part of the Archean Midlands Greenstone Belt of Zimbabwe and represents one of few Archean gold provinces in the world hosting gold deposits associated with massive antimony mineralization. The deposits typically occur along late Archean transcrustal deformation zones. Mineralization is characterized by an

early Au-As stage 1, followed by a pronounced Au-Sb stage 2, and a low-grade Sb-bearing stage 3.

Four gold deposits within the Kwekwe District have been studied. The Primrose and Globe and Phoenix gold deposits display typical features of Archean orogenic lode gold systems such as fluid inclusions with low salinity, mixed aqueous-carbonic fluids, formation temperatures between 300° and 400°C, and a common stable isotope composition of fluid and mineral precipitates. Deposits of this type formed in the brittle-ductile crustal transition zone at 1.5 to 3.0 kbars. In contrast, gold mineralization at Jojo and especially the Indarama gold deposits probably formed at lower temperatures ($<300^{\circ}\text{C}$) and from dominantly aqueous, early moderate- to late high-salinity fluids. At Indarama, microthermometric studies indicate stibnite-gold mineralization at temperatures between 120° and 230°C at about 0.8 to 1.8 kbars. Low formation temperatures and extremely low $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of pyrite (–52‰) and stibnite (–36‰) of the latest mineralization stage at Indarama reveal reactivation of the hydrothermal system within a near subsurface, organic-rich epithermal or hot spring-type environment during the late Archean or even early Proterozoic. Such low $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values have not been reported previously from gold deposits in Archean greenstone belts. We propose that hydrothermal activity and gold mineralization has not only taken place at different crustal levels but also at different times.

Economic Geology, **102**, pp. 347-378. 2007.

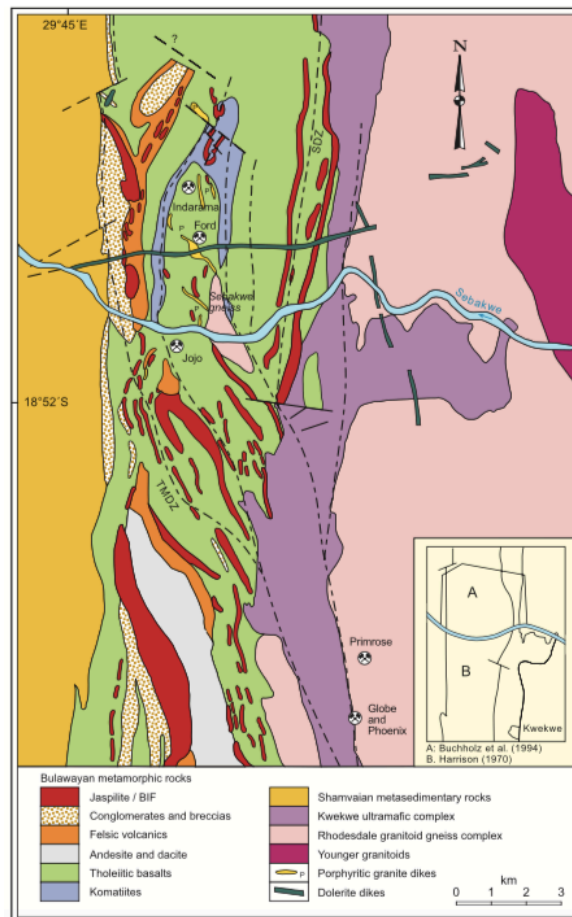


Figure 1: Geological map of the Kwekwe district with location of the studied gold mines (after Harrison, 1970, and modified by Buchholz *et al.*, 1994). SDZ – Sherwood Deformation Zone; TMDZ – Taba Mali Deformation Zone.

News



Geology Section: **Department of Chemistry and Earth Science,** **University of Zimbabwe**

Submitted by Bornwell Mupaya

The August to December semester commenced on a promising note. Thanks to the mining sector, all nine former Part 2 students secured placements for their industrial attachment as they transition into Part 3. The 26 students currently in Part 4 are diligently preparing their final year project proposals, predominantly drawing from the insights gained during their industrial experiences. Meanwhile, our 25 graduates who completed their studies in September are actively seeking employment. Despite the challenging economic climate, some companies, such as Kavango, appear to have identified promising exploration targets, resulting in several of our alumni being employed.

The 26 MSc students enrolled in the UZ – PAMUST program last August have now finalized their project proposals. We have encouraged them to engage with industry geologists in their specific areas of interest for co-supervision and potential co-authorship of research endeavours. We are in the process of organizing their field trip module to various mineral deposits scheduled for early November this year. In this context, the Geological Society Summer Symposium trip to Eureka Mine marks the commencement of these field trips.

Although our geology staff is somewhat limited in number, they are strongly committed to advancing research initiatives. Mr Mupaya and his colleagues are finalizing some articles concerning diamonds in the Umkondo Basin. Professor Maideyi Meck is spearheading a team of researchers on a Research Council of Zimbabwe-funded project focused on polymetallic deposits in Zimbabwe, with particular emphasis on mineralogy and mineral processing. Additionally, she conducted a two-week winter school groundwater training workshop, which was well-attended by young geoscientists from SADCC countries, notably Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

Staff Contact details as of October 2025:

Name	Position	Email	Cell Phone	Office Number	Office Phone 024-2303211 (Extension)
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Mr F.B. Mupaya	Lecturer	fbmupaya@gmail.com	0773599433	26	15027
Dr O. Maponga	Lecturer	mapongaoliver1954@gmail.com	0772410609		
Mr G. Kwenda	Lecturer	gkwenda@gmail.com	0772935936		
Mr P. Maketa	Lecturer	geologistmaketa@gmail.com	0777386284		
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Mennell Geological Society

Report as of September 2025

COMPILED BY P. MUSASA & R. MUPANDA
EDITED BY F.B. MUPAYA (MENNELL PATRON)

NEW EXECUTIVE

This semester marks a new chapter for the Mennell Geological Society with election of a new executive committee. The executive positions have been filled as follows:



PATRON
MR FB MUPAYA



COORDINATOR
MR S. MABHANGA



COORDINATOR
MR P MAKETA



CHAIRMAN
PRIDE MUSASA



VICE CHAIRMAN
CALVIN GIVEN



SECRETARY
RUTENDO MUPANDA



VICE SECRETARY
KIMBERLY MAPIYE



TREASURER
TENDAI MUREKWA



VICE SECRETARY
PROMINENCE TAKAWIRA



COMMITTEE MEMBER
KUNDAI NDENGA



COMMITTEE MEMBER
RUDO MATENGA

MEMBERSHIP

The society continues to maintain a committed group of members who are actively available and eager to participate in scheduled activities. The current membership stands at 15. Encouragingly, more students are showing interest in the society and have started joining.

Graduation

In the year 2025, the university proudly conferred Bachelor's degrees in Geological Sciences to a cohort of 25 students.

Conferences

We encourage our colleagues to up-scale their projects and present at conferences. It is unfortunate that one of the previous students, whose poster had been accepted for presentation at the SEG conference in Brisbane, could not make it due to logistical problems.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**Networking Braai**

The Mennell Geological Society will be hosting a Networking Braai on the **24th of October**, immediately after the Summer Symposium at the University of Zimbabwe. This event will serve as both a fundraising initiative and a social platform for members and guests to interact in a relaxed environment.

Field trips

The society is in the process of organizing a field trip to be held before the end of semester. The exact date and destination will be announced soon once logistical arrangements have been finalized. The Geological Society of Zimbabwe is always thanked for its usual assistance on these field trips.

CONTACTS

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+263 78 5147804 - P MUSASA (CHAIRMAN)

+263 77 8348320 - R. MUPANDA (SECRETARY)



Join the Geological Society of Zimbabwe Facebook Group



MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & GEOSCIENCES
ZVISHAVANE CAMPUS

Updates from the Department of Geosciences

1. Introduction

The MSU Geosciences Department currently offers the following undergraduate programs:

- BSc Honours in Applied Geology
- BSc Special Honours in Applied Geology
- BSc Honours in Geophysics

Each program accommodates a maximum of 30 students per intake, with one intake per year for all undergraduate programs.

At postgraduate level, the department has five MPhil candidates, one working on gold geo-statistics, two on different aspects of nickel mineralization and two on different aspects on lithium mineralization.

2. Staffing

The department currently has 18 teaching staff and 4 non-teaching staff as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. List of teaching and non-teaching staff at the Geosciences Department, Midlands State University - June, 2025

<u>Names</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
TEACHING STAFF		
Mr P Chifoto	Lecturer	chifotop@staff.msu.ac.zw
Ms P Chima	Chairperson/ Lecturer	chimap@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr E Chinwada	Lecturer	chinwadae@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr O Chingobo	Lecturer	chingoboo@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr Dewah	Lecturer	dewahh@staff.msu.ac.zw
Dr T Dzvinamurungu	Lecturer	dzvinamurungut@staff.msu.ac.zw
Miss A Gumbo	Teaching Assistant	gumboa@staff.msu.ac.zw
Miss T Gwavuya	Teaching Assistant	gwavuyat@staff.msu.ac.zw
Dr A Mamuse	Senior Lecturer	mamusea@staff.msu.ac.zw
Dr P Mandingaisa	Lecturer	mandingaisap@staff.msu.ac.zw
Miss K Moyo	Teaching Assistant	kmoyo@staff.msu.ac.zw

Mr D Munyikwa	Lecturer	munyikwad@staff.msu.ac.zw
Ms R Musinga	Lecturer	musingar@staff.msu.ac.zw
Dr M Mutakaya	Lecturer	mutakayam@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr SM Ncube	Lecturer	ncubesm@staff.msu.ac.zw
Miss T Paraziva	Teaching Assistant	parazivat@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr LT Senderai	Lecturer	senderayilt@staff.msu.ac.zw
Ms A Wazulu	Teaching Assistant	wazulua@staff.msu.ac.zw

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Miss A Musoro	Technician	musoroa@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr T Mwaramba	Technician	mwarambat@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr L Ndhlovu	Technician	lndlovu@staff.msu.ac.zw
Mr F Zihanzu	Chief Technician	zihanzuf@staff.msu.ac.zw

3. Research

Battery metals are a key research focus within the department, with four out of five MPhil candidates specialising in lithium or nickel studies, supported by both local and international funding. Additionally, hydrogeology and environmental research are gaining momentum as emerging priorities, engaging multiple faculty members and students in impactful projects. Small-scale mining-related research has attracted local and international funding, with two projects aimed at enhancing efficiency and sustainability in the sector being rolled out.

4. Learning, teaching and research resources

The department has basic equipment for geological research and training, including petrological microscopes, some of which were acquired through industry support. However, the department does not have thin section preparation equipment and has to rely on out-sourced services, despite having one of the best thin section preparation technicians in southern Africa on the staff. Another clear gap is access to advanced analytical equipment such as SEM, XRD, EPMA, ICP-MS required for precise mineral characterization, trace element detection, and isotopic analysis that enable high-resolution insights into geological processes.

In terms of geophysics, the department relies mostly on outsourced equipment for research and training. The most pressing requirements presently are magnetometers, IP equipment and DGPS. Industry support in bridging equipment gaps is both valued and vital to advancing the department's academic and research endeavours.

5. Student Activities

5.1. Overview of the Midlands State University Students' Geological Society (MSU-SGS)

The Midlands State University Students' Geological Society (MSU-SGS), affiliated with the Geological Society of Zimbabwe, is a dynamic student organization dedicated to advancing knowledge, research, and professional development in geosciences. The society serves as a bridge between academic study and field practice, providing members with opportunities for learning, networking, and career preparation.

Membership: Approximately 100 active members (as of October 2025)

Executive Committee: A 15-member team responsible for planning and implementing society programs and activities.

Core Objectives:

- To promote academic and professional excellence through field-based and research-oriented programs.
- To strengthen collaboration between students, professionals, and academic institutions.
- To encourage innovation, leadership, and environmental awareness among geology students.

5.2 Students activities and field excursions

Student Meetings and Handover Ceremony (29 May 2025)

A formal handover-takeover meeting was held to transition leadership to the new executive team. The society commended the outgoing leadership, led by Chairperson Mackan Rugara, for their dedicated service and impactful initiatives.

5.3 Students' Report: Hwange–Kamativi Region, Northwestern Zimbabwe

In August 2025, level 4.1 Geology students from Midlands State University undertook a field excursion to the Hwange and Kamativi regions in northwestern Zimbabwe. The excursion was led by Dr. Mandingaisa, Ms Chima, and Mr. Ncube, whose expertise and guidance were central to the success of the exercise. The purpose of the trip was to provide practical exposure to real-world geological environments and to reinforce classroom learning through direct field observation, mapping, and interpretation.

The study area, the Dete-Kamativi Inlier, lies within the Zimbabwe Craton and is underlain by Archaean basement rocks comprising metasedimentary and metavolcanic sequences intruded by granitoids and pegmatites. These are locally overlain by Karoo and Kalahari sediments. The region records a complex geological history involving multiple tectonic, magmatic, metamorphic, and hydrothermal events, making it an ideal setting for advanced geological training.

Fieldwork focused on three main localities: Dete Crossroads, Chief Homestead Road, and the Gwayi River section. Each site offered valuable insight into different aspects of the region's geological evolution. At Dete Crossroads, students observed a variety of metamorphic and igneous rocks, including metadiorite, granitic gneiss, amphibolite and quartzite, all exhibiting strong foliation, gneissic banding, and evidence of medium- to high-grade metamorphism. Minor sulphide mineralization, such as pyrite, was also present, indicating past hydrothermal activity.

Chief Homestead Road featured garnet-bearing muscovite schists intruded by tourmaline-rich pegmatites and quartz veins. The cross-cutting relationships between the schists and intrusive bodies provided clear evidence of a multi-phase geological history involving regional metamorphism, magmatic intrusion, and subsequent hydrothermal veining. Alteration features, including sericitization and tourmalinization, pointed to fluid movement and the potential for mineralization.

At the Gwayi River section, students examined high-grade metamorphic units such as biotite gneiss, garnet-bearing schist, and orthogneiss, which were intersected by pegmatites and quartz veins. Structural measurements revealed dominant east-west foliations with

steep southward dips, alongside shear zones and faulting. These structural patterns were interpreted as the result of craton-scale tectonic processes, providing a valuable context for understanding the broader evolution of the Zimbabwe Craton.

02. Central Gwayi River Gorge, view looking downstream.



50. Veined migmatitic gneiss, Gwayi River south of Kamativi road bridge.



Photos: Nick Lockett, abt 1973

Across all sites, the widespread occurrence of pegmatites and quartz veins often associated with tourmaline, garnet, and sulphides highlighted the economic potential of the region. These features, along with alteration zones, suggest late-stage magmatic and hydrothermal activity capable of concentrating valuable minerals such as lithium, tin and tantalum. This underlines the importance of the region not only for academic study but also for mineral exploration.

The field excursion was a highly effective learning experience, allowing students to apply core geological skills including lithological mapping, structural analysis, and interpretation of complex geological histories. It also emphasized the value of detailed observation, critical thinking, and teamwork in geological fieldwork. Under the leadership of the supervising staff, students were able to engage meaningfully with the geological record and gain confidence in their field abilities.

In conclusion, the Hwange-Kamativi field excursion successfully met its academic and scientific objectives. It provided students with essential practical training in a geologically rich and dynamic setting while contributing valuable observations to the understanding of the Dete–Kamativi Inlier. The region's complex geology and evident mineral potential warrant further study and exploration, and this fieldwork has laid a strong foundation for students to pursue advanced research and professional work in geoscience.

5.4 Upcoming Student Activities and Roadmap (August 2025 – Early 2026)

The MSU-SGS has organized an exciting and impactful lineup of events designed to strengthen both academic and practical competencies while fostering unity among geology students.

Planned Events Include:

- Welcome Back Meet-and-Greet Session — Opening event to reintroduce members, outline goals, and share the semester plan.
- Geological Mapping Excursion (Zvishavane Area) — A hands-on mapping experience focusing on lithological identification and structural interpretation.
- Summer Symposium (University of Zimbabwe) — A regional academic symposium bringing together geology students and professionals to discuss current research, innovations, and industry challenges.

- Mine Trip to Eureka Gold Mine, Guruve (25 October 2025) — A one-day industrial visit to expose students to real-world mining operations, ore processing, and environmental management.
- Community Outreach Programs — Environmental awareness and geology education initiatives in nearby schools and communities.
- Fundraising and Social Activities — Events designed to enhance financial sustainability, teamwork and member engagement.
- Professional Talks and Career Workshops — Sessions with industry experts and alumni focusing on employability, research, and geoscientific professionalism.
- Pending Activity (Early 2026) — Field-based project incorporating geophysical methods and geological mapping activities on either the Zeederberg or Manjeri Formations, aimed at integrating geophysics with geological fieldwork and data interpretation.

5.5 Summary and Way Forward

The society remains committed to its vision of cultivating professional, field-ready geologists who contribute meaningfully to the geosciences community and national development.

The new executive aims to:

- Strengthen collaboration with professional bodies and mining companies.
- Increase participation in national geological conferences and industrial visits.
- Foster an inclusive, active, and skill-oriented student community through continued innovation and engagement.

6. Conclusions

Anchored in a dynamic fusion of experience and expertise, the MSU Geosciences Department is strategically positioned for sustainable growth. By championing student engagement, immersive fieldwork, cutting-edge research, and robust collaborative partnerships, the department is steadily advancing toward recognition as a world-class centre of excellence in geosciences.

Compiled By:

Antony Mamuse, Trisha Paraziva and Tinotenda Gwavuya



ZIMBABWE SCHOOL OF MINES

Serving the SADC mining industry

Participation in Geo Challenge 2025 – Russia

The Zimbabwe School of Mines Geology Department in partnership with Gwanda State University proudly represented Zimbabwe at the 15th Russian Field Olympiad of Young Geologists held in the Perm Region from 27th July to 7th August 2025. This prestigious international event brought together some 300 geology students from across the globe to compete in a range of technical and field-based geological disciplines, which included:

Category	Position
Field Camp Organization	4th place (Top 5 finish!)
Hydrogeology	14th place
Crystallography	38th place
Geological Cross-section	24th place
Schlich Sampling	15th place
Mineralogy & Petrography	10th place (Top 10 finish!)

ZSM Graduation – October 2025

The Zimbabwe School of Mines held its 31st Graduation Ceremony on 10th October 2025, celebrating the academic success and perseverance of its students. A total of 70 students graduated, comprising 61 Full-time and 9 Blended-learning students, all of whom were awarded with a National Diploma in Geology. The graduation marks another proud achievement for the department, as it continues to produce skilled, industry-ready technicians who contribute to both Zimbabwe and the region's mining and exploration sectors.

Submitted by Fyrence Ndebele

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Innovation.

Sustainable Development.

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Submitted by Dr. Brassnavy Manzunzu



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UPDATE ON KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Zimbabwe Geological Survey (ZGS) continues with the ambitious project of regional geological mapping around the Beatrice area following years of inactivity due to the non-availability of resources and manpower.
- The Zimbabwe Low Density Geochemical Survey Project kicked off at the end of July 2025 following the arrival of a team of geochemists from the China Geological Survey (CGS). The commencement of this project followed successful discussions regarding co-operation between the Zimbabwe Geological Survey and the UNESCO International Centre on Global Scale Geochemistry. The Centre, which was established in May 2016, aims to establish a global co-operation network for their “Chemical Earth” Project by fostering knowledge and technology in geochemistry on a global-scale in order to sustain natural resources and the environments of the World. The first phase of the project will cover the northeast and southeast quadrants of the country and will be continued in 2026.
- A team from the British Geological Survey (BGS), led by John Stevenson, is currently in the country on a two week-long visit to pursue collaboration on the updating and production of the 8th edition of the 1:1 000 000 Geological Map of Zimbabwe. The visit signifies a very positive engagement between the two institutions that has developed in recent years. Successful and important projects were previously conducted through the close collaboration of the BGS, .
- The Maufe Building, housing the Zimbabwe Geological Survey, is yet to undergo its major facelift, but preparations are now at an advanced stage. The work is likely to begin before the end of October 2025. To date tendering and adjudication has been completed with the award of tender to the winning contractor being the only process remaining before works start.

STAFFING

- **Ms Kundai Vanyoro**, a geologist who had served the Zimbabwe Geological Survey for only about 6-months, resigned on the 25th September 2025. We wish her well in her new endeavours.
- **Mangwiro Sibanda** participated in the 2025 Mine Entra event that was held in Bulawayo from 6 to 10th October 2025. The exhibition was held under the theme “Beyond Extraction: Sustaining the Future of Mining.” Prior to this, **Mangwiro** and **Roseweter Mubaiwa** had also participated in the JOGMEC – SADC Remote Sensing competition that was held online from 10 to 12th September 2025.

PROVINCIAL STAFFING

The staffing situation at the Provincial Offices in the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has been improved and stabilized over the past two years. The updated staffing situation for Geologists and Geological Technicians at the Provincial Offices is as in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Provincial Offices - Staff as @ 30 September 2025

Provincial Office	Geologists	Geological Technicians	Sex
Manicaland	Mpindiwa Sibongubuhle (PMD)		F
	Savieri, Edeleen (DPMD)		F
	Tendai Mataruse		M
	Welton Chinhamhora		M
	Temba Tavonga		M
		James Pumhu	M
		Wendy Munyuki	F
		Kudakwashe Njerere	M
Mashonaland East	Tendai Kashiri (PMD)		M
	Godfrey Dadirai (DPMD)		M
	Esnath Mupomhori		F
	Sasha C. Washaya		F

	Silibaziso Sibanda		F
		Kudzai Gwazayi	F
		Archibald Sibanda	M
		Tatenda Tavarera	F
Mashonaland Central	John Makandwa (<i>PMD</i>)		M
	Mitshel Ngadya Maisera (<i>DPMD</i>)		F
	Panashe Murenga		M
	Clive Manyara		M
		Brenda Ruze	F
		Precious N. Mushangwe	F
Mashonaland West	Junior Mudyawabikwa (<i>DPMD</i>)		F
	Tafara Zungunde		M
	Innocencia Mutengwa		F
	Farirai Gonese		F
		Trust Beji Ndebele	M
		Helen Kufazvineyi	F
		Tatenda Waza	F
		Clarice Marange	F
Midlands	Emmanuel Rugare Kunyadini		M
	Alfred Tafirenyika		M
	Takudzwa Muzopa		M
		Chelsea Sibanda	F
		Stanley Barretto	M
		Steve Mutyambizi	M

Matabeleland North	Lockard Sanderson		M
	Charllotte Ndondo		F
		Nhlanhla Ngwenya	F
		Hazel Tatenda Makurira	F
		Petronella Naledi Mhlana	F
		Yemurai Pelgia Mubharwa	F
Matabeleland South	Thembinkosi L. Mutseka		M
	Fine Mafirakureva		F
	Gift Donga		M
	Emmanuel Mungofa		M
		Mkhululi Moyo	M
		Belinda Nobanda	F
		Linex Dube	M
Masvingo	Admire Charumbira (DPMD)		M
	Gladys Tendai Chavunduka		F
	Clifford Mlilo		M
	Joseph Chimhini		M
	Joseph Zvavamwe (Cadastre Officer)		M
		Vanessa Abraham	F
		Maverick Tinashe Ndlovu	M

Mining News and Commentary

Forbes Mugumbate, Geological Survey
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The Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill

Although public consultations to be led by Parliamentarians have not officially started since the gazetting of the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, various organizations have been busy conducting workshops to discuss some contents of the Bill. Among these are the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Organization (ZELO)-sponsored Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) held in Bulawayo, and the ZANU (PF) Youths League and Planet Gold workshops. These workshops were attended by mostly small-scale miners and various human rights pressure groups, although the Chamber of Mines was also represented.

The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has been holding meetings to discuss some of the issues raised at these workshops. It would appear there are strong narratives questioning whether the Bill is truly fit for purpose ahead of its public hearings. Artisanal and small-scale miners believe they are the providers of more than half of the country's gold deliveries, and therefore deserve a stake in the bill, both in terms of being regulated properly and in having their interests protected. Small-scale miners criticize the Bill for only recognizing their constituency in terms of the size of areas they can acquire. The Bill stipulates that small-scale miners, which represent a preserve for locals, will be allowed to acquire mining titles to the tune of less than 40ha whereas large miners will be able to access mining rights through mining leases up to 100ha in area.

The small-scale miners argue that the Bill should define various categories of mine size, and the conditions that take care of the different needs of these mine size categories. A quiet storm is already brewing among artisanal miners who argue that the Bill should have come up with strategies for formalization of their activities. This of course is not easy given that artisanal miners operate in prohibited areas such as in other miners' claims, rivers and cultivated areas.

Again, like in the previous drafts of the Bill, the issue of the power placed in the hands of the minister of the day, remains contentious. Stakeholders argue that the Minister is given too many powers.

Other issues raised at the meetings include such things as tax and royalties, environmental insurance and protection, gender equity, and the lack of clarity on the role of various organizations that interface with miners. Human rights organizations were particularly worried about the apparent disregard of mining, labour and other laws by mainly Chinese companies.

For the geological community in Zimbabwe, the Bill introduces provisions for professional registration of geoscientists. Tim Broderick, editor of the GSZ Newsletter, included the Chapter dealing with this matter in the previous issue of the Newsletter. Have we all gone through the Chapter and understood the provisions? Let us please do that and forward the comments and recommendations to the Ministry through the GSZ leadership.

The current state of Mineral Exploration

The presence of thousands of unexplored mineral prospects scattered in various geological environments tend to support the notion that Zimbabwe is under-explored. Mineral exploration has become the catch phrase in government circles to promote the search for minerals in Zimbabwe. Mineral exploration has been identified as critical in the country's economic developmental strategies such as NDS 1 and NDS 2.

The Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Winston Chitando, addressed delegates at the Africa Down Under Conference in Perth Australia, where, using the country's motto that Zimbabwe is open for business, invited mining companies to come to Zimbabwe to fill up this gap in exploration. He and several others in Government have also been to several investment conferences and meetings singing the same song of inviting companies to come and search for minerals in Zimbabwe.

However, despite all these efforts, and the attraction of possible finds of gold, whose price is hovering around USD4000 per ounce, nothing much has changed within the Greenfields exploration arena. Hundreds of EPOs are pending issuance, while the few that were active have not been renewed a year after the companies submitted applications for the renewals. The consequence of this for a country like Zimbabwe with vast untapped geological potential, are disastrous;

- Mineral exploration brings foreign capital, as companies fund research and exploration activities, and pay for local services.
- Systematic mineral exploration creates jobs for geologists, drillers, engineers, and support services. Currently, seven institutes of higher learning in Zimbabwe produce geologists and technicians that need employment. An active mineral exploration industry is therefore advantageous.
- Effective mineral exploration reveals the extent of the country's mineral resources and reserves, and may lead to new mineral discoveries. Exploration also generates valuable geological data for the country.
- Without international capital, unlocking the value of Zimbabwe's vast mineral resources will remain an elusive goal.

The question now is what is going on?

One would be tempted to interpret that the current state of inactivity in the granting of exploration licences is somewhat linked to the current debate whereby government is proposing a policy framework for them to take a minimum of 26% free shareholding in Public-Private Partnerships in mining projects. The policy is probably awaiting ratification through the Mines Bill.

The appetite for Zimbabwe's mineral potential remains high

While there seems to be some bickering regarding opening up Zimbabwe for exploration, news agencies report that major Western countries are making moves for mining deals with Zimbabwe. In early June, Britain's minister for Africa met with President Emmerson Mnangagwa in Harare to discuss various subjects including mining. The British government is considering almost \$1bn in deals with Zimbabwe, focused mainly on

renewable energy and the critical minerals needed to power clean-energy technology. The British government would want to secure commodities that will help them to end dependency on Chinese supplies.

At the London Investment Conference, senior Zimbabwe government officials and British investors converged to discuss the opportunities Zimbabwe creates for global capital. The Zimbabwean delegation pledged to modernise the Mines and Minerals Act, align regulations with global environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, and create a more predictable fiscal regime. This was well-received by business people attending the conference.

A significant number of US investors have also indicated readiness to partner Government in the tourism, mining and energy sectors, among others. This emerged from a US delegation that participated at a business round table in New York, which was organised by Zimbabwe's Embassy.

Apart from peace and stability, Zimbabwe's centrality makes it a good destination for those who want to invest in southern Africa. It is therefore paradoxical that while investors have shown great interest to participate in the development of the mining industry, there are virtually no significant Greenfield mineral exploration projects active in the country.

Critical Minerals

The case of critical minerals has become topical globally. While all economic minerals could be considered critical for various reasons, particular minerals can be more valuable to individual countries for various reasons such as the use of the minerals in modern technologies, industrialization and national security. Consequently, different countries define their own criteria for designating certain minerals as critical. Globally, critical minerals include lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earths, copper and chromium. Zimbabwe is endowed with several of these.

China dominates the critical minerals supply chain. This is causing a lot of discomfort in the Western World, which is determined to break this dominance. For instance, President **Donald Trump** issued an executive order expediting US licensing of seabed mining, departing from international law to unleash what the administration called a "gold rush" to "counter China's growing influence". Various countries are coming up with policies to define critical minerals according to their national interests, and put up strategies for securing them.

In Zimbabwe, the proposed Mines and Minerals Bill has incorporated the issue of critical minerals. The minister, after consultations, will be empowered to declare any particular mineral critical. The declaration would have the effect of compelling any company interested in exploiting a critical mineral to enter into negotiations with government for certain conditions for exploitation of the mineral. A multi-disciplinary team has been assembled to come up with a critical minerals policy for Zimbabwe.

The 8th Edition of the 1:1 million-scale Geological Map of Zimbabwe

The main geological map of Zimbabwe published at the scale of 1:1 million, was last updated in 1977. This is an important map that gives a bird's eye view of the geology and mineral potential of Zimbabwe. Traditionally, this would be updated every 10 years as new information was generated through various activities. The map is now almost 5

decades old. The situation does not present a good image of a country that is striving to anchor economic development on natural resources. A number of attempts to up-date the map have been made but with limited success.

This time we are hopeful that the project will be successfully completed with the help of the British Geological Survey (BGS). The relationships between the BGS and the Zimbabwe Geological Survey date back to the early days of Independence when several successful regional geological mapping projects were undertaken by the BGS. These projects culminated in production of several geological and mineral resources bulletins and maps. The Embassy of the UK in Zimbabwe has secured some money to assist Zimbabwe with up-dating the main geological map. A team of experts are in the country to work on the map, and to train local geologists and technicians in Geographic Information Systems.

The diminishing sparkle in diamonds

There is panic among producers of diamonds, as the global diamond industry appears to be undergoing a major transformation, driven by shifting consumer preferences, technological innovation, and geopolitical dynamics. Natural diamond prices are softening, while lab-grown diamonds are gaining traction. There is a sharp rise in the penetration of synthetic diamonds into the market, which threatens the value and future of the natural diamond. Reports indicate that in less than a decade the sale of lab-grown diamonds has grown to comprise 20% of global jewellery input. In the US, the world's most important jewellery market, most new engagement rings now include synthetic diamonds, owing to their falling prices and the difficulty to distinguish them from natural diamonds.

These trends are having negative effects on countries that depend on natural diamonds. For instance, sales of rough diamonds at the Debswana Diamond Company fell by about 52 percent in the first nine months of 2024. Botswana gets 30-40 percent of its revenue, 75 percent of its foreign exchange earnings, and a third of its national output from diamonds. The country suffered when buyers refused to pay high enough prices for rough diamonds. The failed sale is evidence of weakness across the diamond world. The industry is grappling with the worst downturn in decades following a collapse in Chinese demand and fierce competition from lab-grown stones, while US tariffs have sown further uncertainty.

In South Africa, mines minister, Gwede Mantashe lamented that, "Lab-grown diamonds are eating into our dinner". South Africa is the world's 6th-biggest diamond producer by volume. Its diamond production dipped 0.9 percent to about 5.8 million carats in 2024, with total sales of 13 billion Rand (\$731.45 million), down 21 percent from 2023.

In Zimbabwe, the diamond sector is facing a sharp downturn in 2025, with exports plunging 60% from 6.85 million carats in H1 2024 to just 2.72 million carats in H1 2025 due to falling global prices, rising competition from lab-grown diamonds, and domestic operational challenges. This has resulted in significant losses. The State-owned Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) has had to retrench over 400 workers to avoid shutting down operations.

Key players in the industry are now making concerted efforts on a global scale to restore the sparkle to natural diamonds. Major diamond producing countries signed the Luanda Accord 2025 to fight for the survival of the industry.

Controversies of Chinese investments in mining in Zimbabwe

Chinese investments in Zimbabwe's mining sector have surged since 2016, with a focus on lithium, iron, gold, and chrome. China is the dominant player in Zimbabwe's lithium boom, with major stakes in Bikita Minerals, Arcadia Mine, Kamativi Mine, Sabi Star, Zulu Mine, and Gwanda Minerals. With regards to Iron and Steel, Dinson Iron and Steel Company has developed a \$1 billion steel plant at Manhize.

Chinese mining investment is without doubt, now accounting for a significant share of Zimbabwe's foreign direct investment (FDI). These are some of the benefits of the "Look East" policy adopted by Zimbabwe at the height of differences with Western Countries. Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently announced in Beijing the upgrading of the two countries' relations to 'an all-weather community with a shared future'. This is expected to translate into more investments from China.

However, an area of much discussion is the Chinese companies' involvement in gold and chrome mining. This is because they are mining at various scales, from artisanal to medium-scale mines, which directly compete with locals. There have been disputes, some of which have resulted in fatal conflicts. There are many reports of violations of various laws including labour, environmental, social, and mining law infringement by Chinese companies. Their approach to mining is very different from the traditional approach dictated by the laws of Zimbabwe. This has triggered some resentment to Chinese investments by local communities. The Chinese ambassador to Zimbabwe has attempted to intervene by warning that no one should be above the prevailing laws. He explained that since it is natural that every business person wants to take short-cuts to maximize profits, it should be the role of government to enforce compliance with the laws and regulations without fear or favour. It is therefore a mystery to confound why Chinese companies continue to violate the laws.

Positive trends in the midst of gloom

Some highlights of positive news in Zimbabwe's mining industry include the following:

- Zimbabwe's mining industry is projected to grow by 7% in 2025, supported by rising mineral exports, and the robust output in the gold, coal, lithium and PGM sectors. Gold production rose by 35% in the 1st quarter of 2025 while coal output surged by 61%, boosting its share in national mining output.
- The country exported 586,197 metric tonnes of spodumene concentrate in the first half of 2025 compared to 451,824 metric tonnes in the same period of 2024, which makes Zimbabwe a critical supplier to global EV and battery markets. Lithium is attracting significant investment.
- Ariana Resources (Pvt) Ltd, registered on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) has raised A\$11 million, a move the company says will help to elevate the profile of its Dokwe project in Tsholotsho. The Dokwe deposits, comprising Dokwe North and Central, were discovered below Kalahari and Karoo sediments by utilizing innovative soil geochemical exploration methods capable of detecting mineralization beneath cover. The deposit represents the largest undeveloped gold project in Zimbabwe.

- Namib Minerals (Namib) is pressing ahead with ground work for a US\$300 million investment to restore and expand operations at the Mazowe and Redwing gold mines after successfully listing on the American stock exchange, Nasdaq. Namib has already injected US\$2.5 million at each of these mines for scoping and prefeasibility studies.
- Kavango Resources is applauded for successfully listing on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX). This followed the reporting of promising results from the company's latest drilling campaign at its Hillside project in Filabusi. The listing on the VFEX is particularly important in that it will afford locals, who do not want to do the dirty job of finding and developing mines, to invest and benefit directly from the country's minerals. Hillary Gumbo, a fellow Zimbabwean geologist, is a founding member of Kavango Resources.

MINING NEWS

gleaned from <https://www.mining.com/>
by Kennedy Mtetwa

Gold price hits another record with Powell speech in focus

Jackson Chen | September 23, 2025 Markets USA Gold

Gold climbed to yet another record on Tuesday, bolstered by increased expectations of further US rate cuts, with investors awaiting Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech later in the day for further policy cues. Spot gold shot up nearly 1% to set a new all-time high of \$3790.64 per ounce, before pulling back below the \$3770 level. Meanwhile, US gold futures broke past the \$3800 barrier, trading 0.9% higher at \$3809.1 an ounce. Over the past week, bullion has gained more than 2% while setting a new high almost every trading session, riding the momentum of the Federal Reserve's first rate cut this year and expectations of further cuts down the line.

According to the CME FedWatch tool, investors are predicting two more 25-basis point cuts, one each in October and December, with a 90% and 73% probability, respectively. Earlier this week, new Fed Governor Stephen Miran called for aggressive rate cuts, stating that the central bank was misreading how tight it has set monetary policy and will put the job market at risk.

"Miran's dovish posture certainly heightens the expectation of greater rate cuts as it seems the US administration is keen to push this, and this is a gold-positive outcome," Ross Norman, an independent analyst, told Reuters.

In 2025, the yellow metal has risen nearly 44%, with about a third of those gains coming over the past month in the lead-up to last week's 25-basis-point rate cut. Also supporting this run was intense buying from institutional investors amid heightened demand for safe havens. SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, said its holdings rose 0.6% to 1000.57 tons, a more than three-year high.

Gold's record-setting rally, according to many analysts, has yet to reach its conclusion. Those at UBS recently lifted their year-end price target to \$3800 an ounce, while Goldman

Sachs is predicting gold will hit the \$4000-an-ounce milestone by the middle of 2026. Christopher Wood, global head of equity strategy at Jefferies, this week said that gold still has a 75% growth upside, taking it to as high as \$6600 in the coming months.
(With files from Reuters)

Botswana seeks to secure control of De Beers by October

Cecilia Jamasmie | September 23, 2025 Markets News Top Companies Africa Diamond

De Beers sources about 70% of its diamonds from Botswana. Botswana is accelerating efforts to secure control of De Beers as parent company Anglo American moves forward with plans to divest its 85% stake in the diamond giant.

President Duma Boko said his government intends to finalize a deal by the end of October, despite ongoing negotiations between Anglo and other potential buyers. He confirmed Botswana is in talks with partners, including Oman's sovereign wealth fund, to help finance the deal.

"We are more than ready for the transaction and we've said the transaction must be concluded by the end of October," Boko told Bloomberg News. "It's a matter of economic sovereignty for Botswana."

De Beers, the world's leading diamond producer by value, has been on the chopping block since May 2024, when Anglo announced it would sell the unit or consider an initial public offering (IPO). This decision came after the miner fended off a £39 billion (\$49 billion) takeover bid by Australian rival BHP and launched a broad restructuring. Anglo has since delayed the sale amid a prolonged slump in the natural diamonds market, pressured by rising demand for cheaper lab-grown alternatives. The miner has twice cut De Beers' valuation, most recently to \$4.1 billion in February. In the first half, De Beers swung to a \$189 million loss from a \$300 million profit a year earlier as revenues fell 10% to \$2 billion from \$2.2 billion.

Tsingshan to invest \$800M in Zimbabwe steel plant

Reuters | August 15, 2025 Top Companies Africa China Iron Ore

Chinese nickel producer Tsingshan Holding Group plans to invest \$800 million in its steel plant in central Zimbabwe through its unit Dinson Iron and Steel Company, a top company official said at a media tour on Friday. Tsingshan, one of the world's leading nickel producers, has already made significant investments in Zimbabwe. Apart from the steel plant, Tsingshan also has ferrochrome, coking coal and lithium mining businesses in the southern African country.

Project director Wilfred Motsi said on Friday the funds would be allocated towards a blast furnace and supporting infrastructure to lift capacity from the current 600,000 metric tons of carbon steel annually to 1.2 million metric tons. But Motsi said the company would first assess whether market demand for carbon steel can absorb a sharp increase in output, adding that the funds would be used to build sintering, rolling and steel plants and a blast furnace.

“We are ready for the next stage, but we will look closely at market conditions before committing. We need to be sure the market can take that much product,” said Motsi.

The first phase included a 50-megawatt thermal power plant to reduce reliance on Zimbabwe’s strained electricity grid. The plant will also generate additional power from furnace gas to cover about 20% of its needs, management said. Zimbabwe’s Information Minister, Jenfan Muswere, said the plant would help reduce the country’s steel import bill, which he estimated at \$1 billion annually.

(By Chris Takudzwa Muronzi; Editing by Sfundo Parakozov and Chizu Nomiya)

Zimbabwe platinum miners owed millions in unpaid export earnings

Reuters | August 5, 2025 Top Companies Africa Platinum

Anglo American’s platinum spinoff debuts as Valterra

Zimbabwe’s platinum miners are owed millions of dollars in unpaid exports income under the government’s foreign currency retention rules, the mining chamber has said, hurting operations in a sector battling to recover from a price collapse. The southern African country requires all exporters to retain only 70% of their proceeds in foreign currency, with the balance being converted to local currency. The world’s third largest producer of platinum group metals after neighbour South Africa and Russia, says it needs the foreign currency to fund vital imports and repay foreign loans.

Platinum producers in Zimbabwe, who include Valterra Platinum, Impala Platinum’s Zimplats, and Mimosa, a joint venture between Impala and Sibanye Stillwater, exported PGM mattes and concentrates worth \$690 million in the first half of this year, government data shows. However, the government has not been paying the miners the local currency equivalent of their export earnings since January, an official at the mining chamber told Reuters. Deputy finance minister Kuda Mnangagwa confirmed that the government had fallen behind on paying the miners.

“There were issues of cash flow constraints, particularly in the first quarter of the year when our revenue collections are at their lowest,” Mnangagwa told Reuters on Tuesday. He added that the government was talking to platinum miners to ensure “that these delays don’t burden their operations”.

Platinum group metals, used to make catalytic converters that curb vehicle emissions, are Zimbabwe’s second most valuable mineral export, behind gold. Zimbabwe exported gold worth \$1.8 billion during the first half of 2025, up from \$870 million during the same period last year, thanks to record high bullion prices. Gold producers have also complained about Zimbabwe’s foreign currency retention rule, which they say eats into their income when part of their export proceeds are converted into an overvalued local currency.

(By Chris Takudzwa Muronzi; Editing by Emelia Sithole-Matarise)

Zimbabwe’s spodumene exports surge 30% despite weak lithium prices

Reuters | July 21, 2025 Battery Metals Markets Africa Lithium

Zimbabwe’s exports of spodumene concentrate, a lithium-bearing mineral essential for battery production, surged 30% in the first half of 2025 despite weak global lithium prices,

official statistics show. Africa's top lithium producer exported 586,197 metric tons of spodumene concentrate between January and June, compared to 451,824 metric tons during the same period last year, according to statistics from the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) obtained by Reuters on Monday.

Prices of lithium – used in batteries to power renewable energy technologies – have tumbled nearly 90% over the past two years, mainly due to oversupply, but producers remain positive about the metal's long-term prospects amid a global push towards cleaner energy sources and electric vehicles.

“A notable market contradiction was observed in the lithium sector, where prices declined despite a continuous rise in demand for lithium metal,” Zimbabwe's state minerals marketer MMCZ said in a statement.

“Lithium prices are, however, expected to improve in the medium-term,” it added.

China's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt, Sinomine, Chengxin Lithium Group, Yahua Group and Tsingshan dominate Zimbabwe's lithium mining, producing concentrates and shipping them to their home country. These companies have invested in excess of \$1.4 billion since 2021 to acquire and develop the lithium assets, according to the MMCZ. The southern African country says it will ban the export of lithium concentrates from 2027 to promote more local processing. Huayou, which exported 400,000 tons of lithium concentrate from Zimbabwe in 2024, says it has started building a 50,000-ton per year lithium sulphate plant in the country. Sinomine has also announced plans to build a \$500 million lithium sulphate plant at its Bikita mine in Zimbabwe. Lithium sulphate is an intermediate product which can be refined into a battery-grade material such as lithium hydroxide or lithium carbonate used in battery manufacturing.

(By Chris Takudzwa Muronzi; Editing by Nelson Banya and Emelia Sithole-Matarise)

Zimbabwe aims to break ground for \$270 million new lithium plant this year

Reuters | July 16, 2025 Battery Metals Markets Africa Lithium

Zimbabwe's Kuvimba Mining House will begin construction of a \$270 million lithium concentration plant at its Sandawana mine in the third quarter of this year, with commissioning expected in early 2027, CEO Trevor Barnard said. The state-owned miner is partnering with two Chinese metals giants to build the 600,000 metric ton per year lithium concentrator. The two firms will build and operate the plant for a minimum of five years, before transferring it back to Kuvimba. Barnard declined to name the companies, citing ongoing talks.

“We are still finalizing the last few agreements that we need to put in place and making sure we have all the necessary and compatible industry conditions for our partner to start construction,” Barnard told reporters.

“We are looking at breaking ground in the third quarter,” he added.

Kuvimba, which has been stockpiling lithium ore at Sandawana, has been hauling some of it to a processing plant in Gwanda, owned by Chinese nickel and steel giant Tsingshan Holding Group. Barnard said the targeted completion of the Sandawana lithium concentrator could coincide with a recovery in the price of the battery metal. A supply glut, mainly driven by Chinese output, has caused lithium prices to plunge nearly 90% over the past two years, forcing miners to halt projects and cut jobs. However, analysts say

those production cuts and robust electric vehicle sales in China could propel lithium demand above supply this year.

“Our forecast is that lithium prices will recover sometime in the year 2027, right at a point in time when we expect the concentration plant to be in production,” Barnard said.

Zimbabwe, Africa’s top lithium producer, has said it will ban the export of lithium concentrates from 2027 to push for more local processing. By then, the government expects Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt and Sinomine to have completed facilities for further processing in the country.

(By Chris Takudzwa Muronzi; Editing by Nelson Banya and Mark Potter)

US court rules in Zimbabwe’s favour over \$93 million mining dispute

Bloomberg News | July 17, 2025 Africa Nickel Platinum

A US court has dismissed a case brought by two Mauritian companies seeking to enforce a decade-old arbitration award against a Zimbabwean state-owned miner. The US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, ordered the case brought by Amaplat Mauritius Ltd and Amari Nickel against the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp. be dismissed, citing a lack of jurisdiction. The Mauritian firms approached the US court after the Zimbabwean company ignored an arbitration order and a court ruling.

The International Court of Arbitration in Zambia in 2014 ordered ZMDC to pay \$42.9 million to Amaplat and \$3.9 million to Amari, with 5% annual interest, for cancelling a nickel and platinum joint venture in the southern African nation. The amount has since risen to \$93 million. In 2019, the Zambian High Court granted the companies permission to enforce the arbitration award, which would have allowed them to seize the state miner’s assets.

Amaplat and Amari said it will pursue the matter in other jurisdictions. The court’s decision only applies to actions in the US, a spokesperson for the companies said. “It has no application or precedential value to actions brought against Zimbabwe in other countries.”

Zimbabwe’s Secretary for Mines and Mining Development Pfungwa Kunaka welcomed the court’s decision. Zimbabwe’s Mines Minister Winston Chitando did not immediately respond to a text message seeking comment. Lawyers for the Zimbabwe government and ZMDC, also did not immediately respond to emailed queries.

The court case is Amaplat Mauritius Ltd v Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp., case number is 24-7030 in the US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit.

(By Ray Ndlovu and Godfrey Marawanyika)

Namib to spend up to \$400m to restart Zimbabwe gold mines

Staff Writer | July 15, 2025 Markets Africa USA Gold

Namib Minerals is looking to invest between \$300-\$400 million in order to bring two of its mothballed gold mines in southern Zimbabwe back to production, according to media reports. In a statement to Reuters, chief executive Ibrahima Tall said the group plans to restart the Mazowe and Redwing mines, which were previously halted in 2018 and 2019,

respectively, due to adverse economic conditions. Production could resume within 18 to 24 months of securing financing, Tall added, noting that the company has already been exploring various options for raising capital. The plan is to spend \$300 million on the two operations.

A separate statement to Bloomberg confirmed the plan, but with a higher spend of \$400 million over the next five years. First production is expected to occur at Mazowe, which, as the higher-grade deposit, has relatively lower capital requirements, while the larger Redwing mine would need more time and investment.

Shares of Namib Minerals dropped 7% to \$7.91 each on Tuesday morning, coinciding with the decline in gold prices. The stock had traded as high as \$55 apiece since making its NASDAQ debut last month, but has since fallen by nearly 86%, taking its market capitalization down to \$427.8 million.

Namib was created through the merger of assets previously owned by Metallion Corp. and US firm Red Rock Acquisition Corp. With a pro forma combined enterprise value of \$609 million, it was the largest African de-SPAC deal to date. The company currently holds one producing asset: the How mine located near Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city. The high-grade mine has been in operation since 1940, producing nearly 2 million oz. of gold up until 2024. The Mazowe and Redwing mines are located on similar greenstone belts to How, and hold a combined gold resource of 3.7 million oz.

Zimbabwe's gold production has struggled for years due to currency and policy volatility, but is starting to see signs of recovery amid record-high gold prices. Jersey-based Caledonia Mining last year secured backing from African development banks for its \$250 million Bilboes mine north of Bulawayo. With an average annual production of 170,000 oz., it would become the biggest gold mine in the country.

Land Rovers, houses and whisky: Gold rally brings riches to rural Zimbabwe

Bloomberg News | June 11, 2025 Markets Africa Gold

In Filabusi, in south-eastern Zimbabwe, the streets are packed with BMW X5s and Land Rover Defenders, modern houses paid for in cash are springing up and whisky is only sold by the bottle in the small town's bars. The three-year surge in gold prices, driven to a record this year as US President Donald Trump's trade war bolstered its allure as a safe-haven, is enriching the country's more than 700,000 informal, or artisanal, miners. They are flocking to gold mining belts and throwing a lifeline to an economy that's been in turmoil since the turn of the century. In the first five months of this year, those miners almost doubled the metal they delivered to a state refinery from a year earlier to more than 11 tons, swelling export income. At the current pace of production the country could earn a billion dollars more from gold shipments this year than in 2024.

"The prices have been very favourable to the miners, which is something we are so happy about," said Wellington Takavarasha, the president of Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small Scale for Sustainable Mining Council. "This year is looking very good. We must capitalize on this rally."

It's a scene that's playing out across Africa for good and bad. Ghana, the continent's biggest producer, expects to double the amount of gold it gets from small-scale miners to \$12 billion by the end of next year and Ethiopia's central bank said record deliveries of the metal are boosting its reserves. In the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo rebel groups are pressing ordinary citizens into mining the metal to capitalize on the price surge.

For the about 4% of people living in Zimbabwe, and their dependents, who are involved in gold mining it has been a vital source of income in a country where a botched and violent land reform program in 2000 saw exports slump, setting off a spiral of famine, hyper-inflation and currency collapses that persists to this day. Formal employment has withered and millions of citizens have emigrated to South Africa, the UK and other countries in search of economic opportunities. For now it's their only hope and one that depends on the high prices holding. So far there's no sign that the rally will come to end. The price of the metal has surged 22% since Trump's inauguration and is up by three-fifths since the beginning of last year. It hit a record of \$3432 an ounce on May 6 and Goldman Sachs forecast it will reach \$3700 by year end.

That's pushed Zimbabwe's central bank to paying cash for gold deliveries, targeting a record 40 tons of purchases this year after it earned \$2.5 billion in 2024, a 37% jump from the year earlier. Artisanal producers supplied three-quarters of the metal delivered in April, whereas a few years ago the majority of their output would have been smuggled out of the country.

For artisanal workers like Mxolisi Dube, clad in navy blue work overalls with a miner's torch strapped to his head as he walks through Filabusi, the gold price rally has been a boon. The 33-year-old began mining for gold illegally in 2008, becoming a "makorokoza," a reference in the Ndebele language to the action of sifting gold-bearing river silt in a pan. But now with higher prices and the cooperation of mine owners, who have begun to invite artisanal workers onto their properties to boost production, his earnings have surged.

"You are assured of getting something at the end of the month," said Dube, who has a copper dental filling and a brass chain around his neck. "You are protected. If you are not under a company you always have to run away."

Mine owners, struggling with dilapidated equipment and a lack of finance, are increasingly urging those operators to swap the pans they used to sift through river sand for gold flecks for picks and shovels to help them extract as much gold ore to process as quickly as possible.

"This means we always have ore available and are milling more," said Meli Nkulumo, plant manager at Macoomber 7 mine, which lies 12 miles west of Filabusi down winding dirt roads. Artisanal miners were invited onto the property two years ago. At the mine, workers use Elon Musk's Starlink internet service to compare the prices offered by the central bank to global benchmarks. Goldprice.org is their favoured website.

"Higher gold prices are better for everyone," said Thulani Ndlovu, the acting mine manager. "We can also look forward to a raise in salaries."

Still, it's backbreaking work that's carried out around the clock. The miners break up rocks underground with picks, shovel it into a loader which is then winched to the surface. During their eight-hour shifts their only sustenance is maheu, a drink made from fermented corn meal. But for artisanal miners the price surge has been life-changing and nowhere is that more evident than in Bekezela, a suburb of Filabusi, where property owners are busy putting up brick houses ringed by electric fences and equipped with water storage tanks and solar panels. The town council is having to rezone more land for residential and commercial use and at car washes 4x4s queue to have the dust of the surrounding savannah rinsed off. Drinking holes are busy with "all sorts of people" spending big, Thabo Mpofo, the manager of Next Generation bar, said, adding that he has seen clients buy bottles of Hennessy Cognac and pour them out on the ground as a show of wealth. It has also curbed crime including invasions of local mines by illegal operators.

"There's nothing bad here that happens," said Melusi Nyoni, the manager of Fred and Fernando mines, which are on the outskirts of Filabusi town. He now allows artisanal miners to work in shafts as deep as a kilometre (0.6 miles). "There is gold just all over," he said.

Still, with rudimentary equipment and limited safety protocols, digging up the ore is dangerous work. Informal miners accounted for 87% of the 186 deaths in Zimbabwean mining accidents, the Chamber of Mines said in its last annual report. As recently as late May four died at a mine near Chegutu in northern Zimbabwe when a wall of earth collapsed onto them, according to local media reports. But as long as the rally lasts, that is little deterrence for artisanal miners who until recently were eking out a living by camping out and panning for gold in remote wild areas for several months.

"The high prices mean in the near future I will also be seen in a car," says Dube, a father of four. "I want a Toyota Hilux 4x4, with a 2.7 litre engine."

(By Ray Ndlovu)



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Kimberlite origin and emplacement - kimberlitic & alluvial diamond exploration in Southern Africa	Tapiwa Mtetwa
Diamond potential of the lithospheric mantle beneath the Limpopo mobile belt (southern Zimbabwe) based on geochemistry of mantle garnets.	Evgeny Nikolenko
An Overview Of Resource Drilling And Mine Development At Mogalakwena	James Winch
African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification and Management System, Pan African Reporting Code (AMREC PARC) and its relevance to the African mining industry	Fred Ndoro
British Geological Survey collaborations in Zimbabwe 2025/26: National geological map GIS and Harare groundwater database	John Stevenson & Bentje Brauns
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