

Geological Society of Zimbabwe



Newsletter

June 2021

No. 2 of 3 of 2021



The Wanderer Mine in its heyday *circa* 1934 - *G.B. Wilkins & Co., Selukwe*

www.geologicalsociety.org.zw

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

As this is the first newsletter within the tenure of Renias Tirivabaya, as Chairman, and his new Committee, we welcome and encourage them in their endeavours to champion the tasks they have set themselves for 2021. We look forward to our involvement in the events and challenges they will put to us in the coming year. Some of these aspects are outlined in Renny's message to the membership. This is followed by pen sketches for Renny and five of his Committee Members as a means for you to know who is representing us. Résumés for the other six members of the Committee will come with the next edition of this Newsletter.

Ellah Muchemwa's Chairperson's report to her AGM held on 26th February this year is reproduced as a record and for those who could not participate in the first virtual, online general meeting of the Society. Following on from that I take pleasure in recording the recipients of our Annual Awards:

The **Geoffrey Bond Award** for the best Geology Honours Degree Project at UZ for 2020. K. Moyo, "Footwall splay faults: Implications to gold mineralization at How Mine, Bulawayo Greenstone Belt, Zimbabwe".

The **Mike Vinyu Award** for the best geology student at the School of Mines, Bulawayo. 2020 - No award was made due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The **Keith Viewing Award** for the best presentation at the Annual Summer Symposium for 2020 - No award was made due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The **A.E. Phaup Award** for an author or authors who have made an important contribution, in any one year, to the geology of Zimbabwe by publication of a paper in a recognized scientific journal or as a book.

Sciscio, L., Viglietti, P.A., Barrett, P.M., Broderick, T.J., Munyikwa, D., Chapelle, K.E.J., Dollman, K.N., Edwards, S.F., Zondo, M. and Choiniere, J.N. 2020. Sedimentology and palaeontology of the Upper Karoo Group in the Mid-Zambezi Basin, Zimbabwe: new localities and their implications for interbasinal correlation. *Geological Magazine*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0016756820001089> Cambridge University Press, 24pp.

Sadly we report the passing of a long-standing and respected member of our Society – **Sydney Simango**, who died on 17th April 2021. He will be missed by his 'Geological Family' who, by this means, extend condolences to Sydney's family and friends in their time of sorrow.

As always, thanks are given for contributions made that relate to our institutions and to the mining industry in general. Of significance is the new title for the 'Geology Department', which now comes under the Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe. The impact of Covid-19 restrictions on all of our institutions is telling but most show their adaptation to the 'new normal', which is the way forward.

As editor, I would also like to thank and put on record the help afforded by **Shephard Mabhanga** as the Committee's Newsletter Co-ordinator between editor and contributors.

In welcoming our new members we record an update on membership from Julie Kuhn:

GSZ: MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS AT END-APRIL 2021

Number of Ordinary Members	172
Transferred from Associate to Ordinary Membership	1
Mutizwa, Marshal Tabani	
New Members elected October to April 2021	2
Welcome to Ngoroyemoto, Tapiwa	
Kasumba, Jacob	
Number of Associate Members	25
Number of Honorary Members	16
Number of Foreign Members (April 2020)	7
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	<u>223</u>

A reminder is given that member's subscriptions enable the Society to continue playing an active and meaningful role in the minerals industry of Zimbabwe. This includes promoting the advancement of the geological sciences in Zimbabwe as well as enhancing a better understanding of our geological environment. We strive to ensure that the country has the requisite geological expertise needed to service the industry.

A large number of members still need to pay their subscriptions, and there are a few that also need to deliver their arrear subscriptions.

Tim Broderick



Chairperson's Chat

Renias Tirivabaya

Esteemed Colleagues, Members of the GSZ it is with sadness that I address you on the backdrop of the passing away of one of our seasoned members Sydney "Mutape" Simango on Saturday 17th of April 2021 - MHDSRIP.

I, however, would like to take this opportunity to thank you for showing your confidence in me by entrusting me with the onerous but honourable task of championing the strengthening of our Society for the next 12 months beginning March 2021 together with our new Committee that you chose. The work for your executive committee is already cut out and I would like this team to build on the work already started in building the Geological Society of Zimbabwe into a professional entity. Your Committee has set up a professional registration portfolio ably led by Kennedy Mtetwa, your Vice Chairman. Believe you me, the journey that we have purposed ourselves to embark upon is not a stroll in the park! We will lose some of the things we so dearly love, but gain the professional recognition and respect that we so require. And we will also have to pay to create the value we seek. Let us be up to date in our membership fees, preferably in US Dollars. Let us take it upon ourselves to discharge our duties diligently, remembering that our work should stand the test of peer review. In creating the credibility we want, we should have strong public relations work, firstly through our work and practice and secondly through

mainstream media and social media. Colleagues, I cannot over emphasize the importance of Continuous Professional Development, let us continue to acquire new skills, develop our competencies and discharge our work with honesty and integrity.

To this end we continue to hold our online talks on various topics and encourage our membership to participate. We continue collaboration with sister societies in the region - we have added the Geological Society of Namibia to the collaboration network. To date we have held three talks on diamond exploration, mineral asset evaluation and 'Studio Mapper' software. I encourage you all to be part of these talks. May I make this clarion call to the seasoned members of our Society to extend a helping hand in the development of our young geologists as, with the absence of structured training programmes and the rise of geo-entrepreneurship, the practice of geology may die in your site - be a mentor to some young geologist. To young, would-be geologists, be teachable and trainable as it all counts in your future endeavour. In this regard your committee has created a dedicated portfolio for mentorship, spear-headed by Steve Duma.

We have become diverse in our education backgrounds, in terms of history, of experience, of the universities we attended and the faculty that taught us, but such differences must not divide us as it is our diversity they must be complimentary to the spirit of our learning endeavour. The days of the University of Zimbabwe being the epi-centre of geological study are over as we have emerging institutions such as the Faculty of Engineering and Geoscience at MSU being led by one of our own Dr Antony Mamuse. Let us embrace this change and participate in developing these diverse institutions of higher learning to our own advantage. One trait or skill that we will require as geologists is a value-chain approach in guiding our careers. Geology alone is not all. We should integrate into the mining industry as we want to see more GMs, MDs, CEOs and mine owners within our ranks.

We have also seen the granting of EPOs by the government, and hopefully this will translate into an upsurge in exploration work. The government has also set up the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX), for which the Society has contributed to its policy towards the mining investment through the Chamber of Mines. On occasions your input relating to policy development will be requested at very short notice through e-mail and you are encouraged to provide feedback in order to help express views put out by our Society. We continue to engage with the Chamber of Mines through Kennedy Mtetwa who is our representative at the Chamber.

I wish you all good health during these Covid times and look forward to meeting you all again through physical talks, field trips and networking events.

Profiles for the Chairman and Committee Members
Geological Society of Zimbabwe, 2021



Renias Tirivabaya, Chairman

Renias Graduated with a BSc General (Geology and Geography) double major degree in 2006 from the University of Zimbabwe. He immediately joined Rio Zim's exploration division based in Msasa Harare as a field officer in the Midlands then later, in March 2007, moved to join Zimasco's Graduate trainee programme based at Shurugwi. He was appointed project geologist in January 2008, a position held until May 2012. Moving into production as a Mine Geologist, he joined the ZMDC's Sabi Gold Mine in Zvishavane through to December 2014 when, in 2015, he moved to Bindura Nickel Corporation's Trojan Nickel Mine as their Structural and Rock Mechanics Geologist. In October 2018 Renias was appointed Geotechnical Engineer for Trojan, a position he still holds. In the meantime, Renias graduated with a MSc degree in Mineral Resource Management from the University of Free State in June 2016 and gained a certificate in strata control through the Chamber of Mines South Africa in December of that year. Additionally, he is an avid chicken farmer, producing table eggs on a small scale.



Kennedy C. Mtetwa, Vice Chairman

- Managing Geologist to Great Centre Geological Services (Pvt) Ltd.
- has 30-years post-graduate experience in Mineral Exploration and Development in South, Central and East Africa and received exploration technique training in Australia.
- With Proterozoic, Archaean gold belt and Central African Copperbelt experience.

- Leading to proficiency in copper, cobalt, gold, nickel, PGEs, vermiculite, fluorspar and diamond assessment.
- As a result of this experience and his qualifications, he is a Qualified Person as defined in National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects (NI43-101).
- He co-authored several technical reports for Toronto-listed First Quantum Minerals as a Qualified Person of the British Columbia Securities Commission NI43-101.
- And was part of the discovery team of First Quantum's Frontier 200Mt copper deposit in the Democratic Republic of Congo - "A virgin copper deposit discovery".
- Kennedy led the discovery team for the Chaka Gold Deposit near Kwekwe in Zimbabwe.
- He was an adviser on Mineral Resource Development to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat based in Lusaka, Zambia (2010-2011).
- Kennedy is a very enthusiastic Exploration Geologist, driven to find new world-class mineral deposits.



Shephard Mabhanga, Newsletter Co-ordinator

Shephard Mabhanga is a professional geologist who joined the University of Zimbabwe staff on 24th September 2018 as a temporary but full-time lecturer, a title he continues to hold. He acquired a BSc degree in Geology (Georesources and Sedimentary Environments) in 2016 from the University of Annaba, Algeria. In the same year, he moved to the University of Constantine, in the same country, where he furthered his studies. Here, he graduated with a MSc degree in Mineral Resources and Geomaterials. Shephard also holds a certificate in level 1 ArcGIS software proficiency, gained in June 2018. He was awarded a certificate in geological mapping and mineral exploration in July 2019 after participating in a training course at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources in South Korea.



Andrew du Toit, Summer Symposium

BSc (Hons), Pr.Sci.Nat, MAusIMM, FSEG

Andrew is a professional geologist who has worked in the Zimbabwean mining industry for over 30 years in positions ranging from project geologist to general manager. He started his career with the Zimbabwe Geological Survey (ZGS) but has spent most of his time in the private sector either as a consultant or in the employ of companies such as Reunion Mining and Zimplats. He is currently Managing Director of Canister Resources.

Andrew has extensive operational experience in the gold, copper and platinum mining sectors.

He has been on the GSZ Committee since 2003 and has organised the Summer Symposium and many of the related trips since then.



Forbes Mugumbate, A.E. Phaup Award Convener

Forbes Mugumbate joined the Geological Survey in 1988, working in various sections, which gave him the experience that saw him rise quickly through the ranks to become Regional Geologist in 1995; Deputy Director in 2003; Provincial Mining Director in 2015; and Director of the Geological Survey in 2019. The nature of his job has enabled him to acquire in-depth knowledge of the country's economic geology and its mineral potential. Forbes has recently developed a new passion for geoheritage, which has seen him contributing articles in this field.

He holds BSc (General), BSc (Hons) Geology from the University of Zimbabwe, and an MSc degree with Diploma of the Imperial College (DIC) in Applied Structural Geology and Rock Mechanics from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London.



Antony Mamuse, Co-ordinator Regional Representatives

Antony Mamuse is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Geosciences, Midlands State University. Antony completed his BSc Honours (Geology) Degree at the University of Zimbabwe in 1999 with a project on tantalum pegmatites which earned him the Geoffrey Bond Award from the Geological Society of Zimbabwe. At this time, Antony was already working as a geologist at the Zimbabwe Geological Survey, which he had joined in 1997 upon completion of his BSc General Degree in 1996. In 2001 Antony was awarded the Australian Development Scholarship to study for his MSc (Geology) at Curtin University, Australia. Upon return to Zimbabwe in 2003, Antony resumed work at the Zimbabwe Geological Survey until 2004 when he joined the University of Zimbabwe as a Research Fellow. In 2006, Antony was awarded the Curtin University International Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake a PhD (Geology) degree with which he graduated in 2010. Thereafter, Antony worked as an Exploration Geologist for Fortescue Metals Group (Iron Ore Division) and as Project Geologist (non-Iron Ore Division) before returning to Zimbabwe where he joined the Midlands State University as an academic. Antony was appointed Executive Dean of the Midlands State University Faculty of Engineering & Geosciences (formerly Mining & Mineral Processing Engineering) in 2015. Antony's research interests span mineral exploration, industrial minerals, gemstones, pegmatites, engineering geology and environmental geochemistry.

Résumés for the remaining six Committee Members will be presented in the next Newsletter. Ed.

Articles and Reports

Invertebrate and Plant Trace Fossils from the Terrestrial Late Triassic of Zimbabwe

*Lara Sciscio, Timothy J. Broderick, Paul M. Barrett, Darlington Munyikwa, Michel Zondo,
and Jonah N. Choiniere*

ABSTRACT:

Late Triassic invertebrate and plant trace fossils are described from the Pebbly Arkose Formation of the Upper Karoo Group (Gwembe Sub-basin, Mid-Zambezi Basin), Zimbabwe. These ichnofossils appear in pedogenically modified siltstone and silty mudstone floodplain deposits and overbank fluvial channels. The ichnofossil-bearing sites show variability in their pedogenic features, maturity and preservation. Invertebrate

ichnofossils are primarily recorded as horizontal, vertical and inclined burrows, sometimes branched, lined or unlined and may have an active meniscate infill. The common forms documented are *Taenidium*, *Beaconites*, *Palaeophycus*, *Skolithos*, and *Planolites* spp. with some rare and more unusual morphologies (i.e., 'Y'-shaped burrow type). Ichnofossil-bearing sites show a low-diversity but high-density of traces commonly dominated by *Taenidium* and *Planolites* spp. The greatest diversity of invertebrate ichnofossils are within interbedded overbank sandstones in weakly pedogenically modified overbank sites. Rhizohalos and rhizoliths are common and often include carbonate infilled roots. Given the abundance and dimensions of fossilized wood and the rhizohalos and rhizoliths, the Pebbly Arkose Formation supported both large and small stature plants. Overall, the studied Pebbly Arkose Formation overbank areas are typically well-drained, calcic palaeosols subject to variable discharge, subaerial exposure, and supporting a diversity of plant and invertebrate tracemakers that lived in a semi-arid to sub-humid environment.

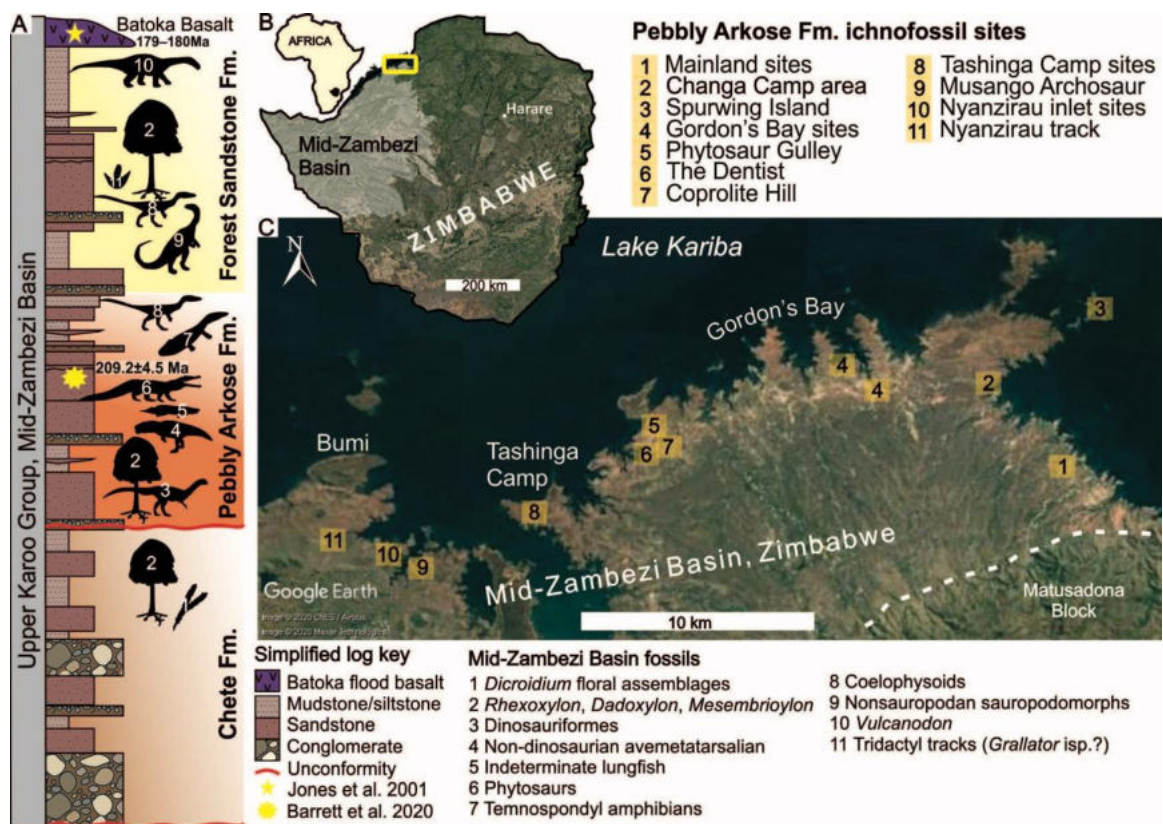


FIG. 1.—Schematic log and map of the study area in Zimbabwe. A) Lithostratigraphy and fossils of the Triassic–Jurassic Chete, Pebbly Arkose and Forest Sandstone formations (Upper Karoo Group) of the Mid-Zambezi Basin (Zimbabwe). Wavy red line 1/4 unconformity, Fm. 1/4 Formation. B) Google Earth image of Zimbabwe with the Mid-Zambezi Basin delineated and the yellow box illustrates the study area shown in (C). C) Trace fossil-bearing locations along the southern shoreline of Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe. Numbers in yellow boxes correspond to site names. Radioemetric ages are provided by yellow stars. Map data: Google, CNES/Airbus and Maxar Technologies 2020.

Palaos, 2021. **36**, pp. 129–140 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2110/palo.2020.071>

Geological Society of Zimbabwe Chairperson's Report – AGM, 26th February 2021

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2020 – 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of Zimbabwe, the first one we have held digitally.

The year under review was challenging due to all the constraints that came out of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. I am happy to announce that our Society was able to adapt to change and achieve some of the goals set out at the beginning of the year. One of the changes is this online AGM and I hope we can all work and cooperate well on this platform for us to have a great meeting. One silver lining to this change is that you are doing this from the comfort of your own homes and do not have to worry about driving after dark.

My report will cover the activities of the Society since the last AGM held on 28th February 2020.

1. Committee Members

The Society's Committee for 2020/2021, consisted of 12 members, who were announced at the last AGM. They were:

Ellah Muchemwa - Chairman

Renias Tirivabaya - Vice-Chairman

Collins Mwatahwa – Treasurer

Kudzai Musiiwa – Honorary Secretary

Kennedy Mtetwa - Newsletter

Andrew du Toit- Summer Symposium

Houda Bouammar - Field trips and talks

Fyrence Ndebele - Regional Representative - Bulawayo

Forbes Mugumbate – Geological Survey of Zimbabwe Representative

Steve Duma – Member

Nevison Chikandiwa – Member

Antony Mamuse – Midlands State University representative

Julie Kuhn - Administrator

Twelve committee meetings were held throughout the year, including a brief one just before this AGM.

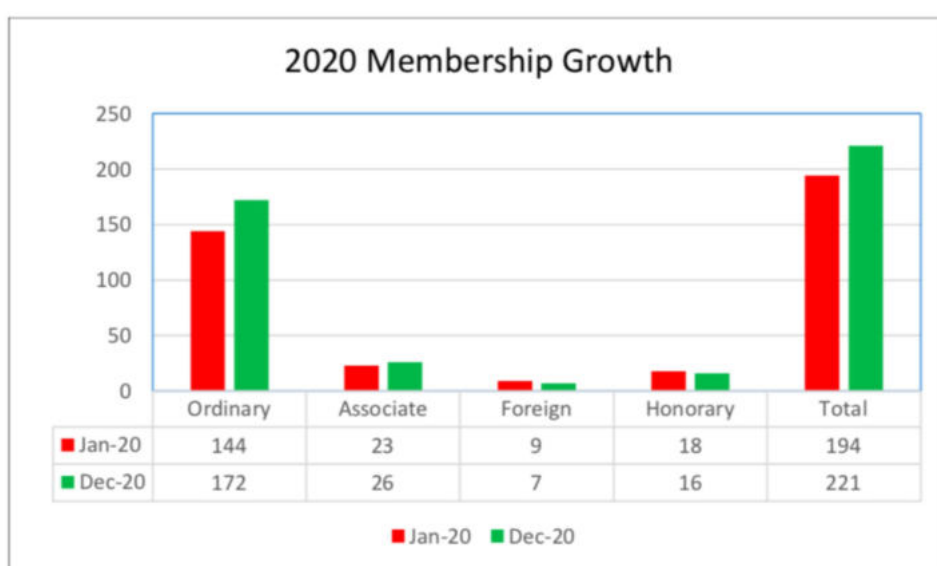
In light of the Covid-19 restrictions implemented by the government of Zimbabwe soon after the AGM last year, the Committee concentrated on online society talks, the newsletter and the issue of professional registration.

2. Membership

2.1 Ordinary Membership

There was growth in the membership of the Society despite the difficult operating conditions in the year under review. Thirty-two (32) new members from the different membership categories joined the Society and nine members were re-instated after paying arrear subscriptions. I would like to wish all the new members a long and productive association with the Society.

Please note that the reporting period has changed from January to December annually to align with the constitution of the Society.



The Committee also worked on getting all five institutions/universities that teach Earth Science subjects in the country to be involved in the GSZ as much as possible.

Professional registration requires that the Society is as representative as possible of the geologist population in the country, and the drive to encourage as many new members as possible needs to be strengthened.

2.2 Institutional Membership

One institutional member, MAXGEO – a South African data management company operating in the country joined the Society representing some growth in this category of membership.

I would like to thank Julie Kuhn for looking after the membership database.

2.3 Membership Fees

The membership fees for 2020 were kept at previous levels in US\$ terms as follows:

Ordinary membership:	US\$ 30.00 payable in Zimbabwe dollars at the prevailing auction rate
Institutional membership:	US\$500.00
Foreign membership:	US\$ 30.00

However, a high number of members have not paid their subscriptions, which includes arrears that amount to almost \$3000. Membership is cancelled if members have not paid their subscriptions for three years. A concerted effort will be required to collect all outstanding fees as membership subscriptions enable the Society to continue playing an active and meaningful role in the minerals industry of Zimbabwe.

3. Society Activities

3.1 Society Talks and Field Trips

A total of nine online talks were organised and hosted during the course of 2020 covering a wide range of very interesting topics. The total number of talks was higher than the average 4 to 5 talks normally hosted each year.

In general, the talks were very well attended and included participants from different parts of the world. The presentations were recorded and can be found on the Society's website under 'News'.

- a) **Mhaka Ushendibaba** – Consultant Geophysicist with Geospace : *Mineral Exploration using modern Airborne EM systems and ground follow-up with state of the art SQUID sensor Case Study: Jacomynspan Ni-Cu deposit, South Africa* (17 July 2020)
- b) **Mark Burnett** – AMC Consultants (UK) Limited : *The importance of Quality in Exploration* (24 July 2020)
- c) **Bornwell Mupaya** – Lecturer, University of Zimbabwe : *Alluvial Gold - Exploration and Investment Policies - an interplay, Zimbabwe* (14 August 2020)
- d) **Oliver Maponga**, Lecturer at University of Zimbabwe : *Coal and the Zimbabwean Economy* (25 September 2020)
- e) **Dr Hielke Jelsma**, Principal Geologist - Project Generation - Discovery Strategy, Anglo-American : *A Reassessment of the Geodynamic Evolution of the Zimbabwe Craton* (9 October 2020)
- f) **Jeff Chaumba** - Department of Geology and Geography, University of North Carolina, USA : *Origin of sulfide mineralization of the Main Sulfide Zone, Shurugwi Subchamber of the Great Dyke: summary of recent studies* (16 October 2020)
- g) **Dr Andy Moore** – Consultant : *Botswana Geomorphology & Kimberlites* (23 October 2020)
- h) **Godfrey Chagondah** : *Contrasting rare-element mineralization in the Bikita & Mweza pegmatite fields, Zimbabwe* (11 December 2020)
- i) **Brian Mapingere**, University of Johannesburg : *Insights into the deformation and gold mineralisation of the Mwanesi Greenstone Belt, central Zimbabwe Craton* (15 January 2021)

Only one field trip was organised in place of the Summer Symposium. I would like to thank Houde Bouammar and Julie Kuhn for organising and co-ordinating the talks.

3.2 Zimbabwe Mineral Resources Conference

Sadly, the Society's long awaited Zimbabwe Mineral Resources Conference 2020, scheduled for 25-26 June 2020 was cancelled due to the many constraints and uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

However, all was not lost as some of the excellent papers submitted for the conference were used for Society talks hosted via the online Zoom platform.

3.3 Professional Registration

Over the years there has been ongoing discussions on five separate but linked issues of whether to register the Society as a professional organisation or not. Your Committee resolved to pursue the issue of registering the Society as a professional organisation, as discussed at the AGM last year.

Registering the Society is a legal process and some requirements need to be met:

- Registration – verification and validation of professional qualifications and experience;
- Guidelines for professional behaviour/norms -
 - Developing and adopting a Code of Ethics for the Society,
 - Disciplinary procedures;
- Continued Professional Development;
- Competence.

A professional registration sub-committee led by the society Vice Chairman, Renias Tirivabaya has been formed to focus on this important issue and more information will be provided later on in the meeting when you will be asked to review, discuss and vote on progress made to date.

3.4 Collaboration with the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)

The GSZ committee agreed with the Geological Society of South Africa to collaborate (particularly during the pandemic) in delivering talks to both Societies by enabling GSZ members to join and participate in online talks organised by the GSSA and vice versa. This allowed access to a wider range of talks for our respective members during a time of limited or no social contact.

3.5 The Summer Symposium

The Summer Symposium, which is normally a face to face whole day event, was replaced with a field trip to the Mistress Mine just outside Harare. The field trip was the one and only trip of the year and was attended by 27 people, a great networking opportunity. The trip took in a visit to some exciting cave paintings and ended with a braai at the Thetford Estate dam.

4. The Zimbabwe School of Mines

The GSZ will be represented by Ellah Muchemwa on the Board of Management of the Zimbabwe School of Mines and by Renias Tirivabaya in the sub-committee on academic affairs. Many thanks to Dr Maideyi Meck for representing the GSZ for the last six years.

5. Newsletter

During the year under review, the GSZ published 3 newsletters in May 2020, October 2020 and February 2021 as per our annual plan. I would like to thank Tim Broderick who continued to collate and edit our newsletter with assistance from committee member Kennedy Mtetwa.

I would like to thank our regular contributors during this period namely Forbes Mugumbate (ZGS and mining review), Dr Maideyi Meck (UZ), Robin Mashingaidze (NUST), Dr Anthony Mamuse (MSU), Tinashe Mudzingwa (Mennell Society), Tapiwa Ngoroyemoto (MSUOAS) and Fyrence Ndebele (ZSM).

The Newsletter remains one of the most important links between our Society and its Membership.

6. Thanks

I would like to thank all the outgoing committee members for their contributions and efforts and for donating many hours of their time, knowledge and expertise. I would also like to acknowledge the great team co-operation between the committee and various sub-committees appointed to handle various responsibilities, which helped us to achieve our targets. I would also like to thank Julie Kuhn for all her efforts in organising the AGM.

Thank you all for listening and for your co-operation and support over the years.

Ellah Muchemwa

Obituary – Sydney Simango



Sydney Simango was a well-known and active member in our geological community.

Sydney joined the Geological Survey in 1981 as a graduate from Aston University in Birmingham, UK with a BSc (Honours) Degree in Geology. Sydney was assigned as counterpart to the British Geological Survey team and sent to participate in the mapping of the country between Rushinga and Nyamapanda (Bulletin 92, 1991) where he was responsible for covering that section of the area north of Sutswe and Chikwizo in Mudzi District. Here he supervised field teams in the stream-bed geochemical sampling of his area, which included copper and zinc mineralization.

Sydney was sponsored by the BGS to complete his Masters Degree at the University of Leicester, the results of the geochemical campaign forming the basis of his thesis. He returned to the Survey and was promoted to the post of Economic Geologist, where he served between 1987 and 1988 before leaving to work in the Zimbabwe mining industry.

After spending 7 years at Zimasco in the chrome industry he moved on to become Technical Services Manager at Ashanti Goldfields Zimbabwe's Freda Rebecca Mine for 3 years. He then joined Zimplats and worked at the Ngezi operations from its start in 2001 where he was in charge of the geology and grade control functions at the trial mine and then in the highly successful open pit mine. Sydney was instrumental in the development and mining of underground mining operations as Technical Services Manager to this rapidly expanding, world-class mine at Ngezi. He held this post until 2014 when he decided to face new challenges as General Manager of the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation, following which he founded SBS Consulting as an adviser to the broader mining industry across Zimbabwe. In 2018 Sydney joined TriMinZim (Pvt) Ltd as Country Manager, which was the post he held at the time of his death.

Sydney will be remembered and missed by those he worked with for his wisdom and systematic approach and for the energy he put into mentoring many young geologists over the years.

Compiled by Andrew du Toit, Steve Duma and Tim Broderick

News



Geology Division: **Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences,** **University of Zimbabwe**

Maideyi Meck and Bornwell Mupaya

Under the restructuring exercise at the University of Zimbabwe, the Geology and Chemistry departments were merged into a new department, called the Chemistry and Earth Science Department, chaired by Dr Paul Mushonga from the previously autonomous Chemistry Department. The new Department is adjusting to a 'new normal' under the influence of the Covid pandemic, much like all other organizations in the country. There is now a revised programme whereby each course will run for 180 hours, up from the previous 60 hours. This means the Department is running two programmes - the new programme with the current part-one students whilst the remainder will complete their studies under the old programme.

Teaching has progressed well, mostly through e-learning, and students have finally started to write their examinations, which were postponed at the close of 2020 due to Covid restrictions. With an increase in student numbers over our previous enrollments coupled with the poor performance of our mining industry, there were challenges in placing some students on industrial attachment. However, some 30 students managed to secure attachments at various mines. The mining industry is applauded in having facilitated those

industrial attachments, given the prevailing difficult working conditions compounded by disruptions brought about due to the lockdown impositions.

Our lecturers are commended for their resilience, as they have to work without vacation. The new semester was scheduled to commence on 12th April 2021, whilst processing of examinations for the previous semester is on-going. Field trips are still to be arranged and once again we appeal to the industry for assistance with access to your mines for these trips. With the recent granting of more than 20 Exclusive Prospecting Orders by the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, we anticipate more new projects that can absorb our students for industrial attachment and which will provide work opportunities for our new graduates.

About 30 thin sections were prepared for Alrosa P/L from their exploration projects and we expect more work of this nature as exploration progresses in the country.

Members of staff participated in various workshops, virtual talks and conferences online.

Co-operation with ETH-Zurich has seen one honours-degree student, Owen Chituri, receiving free assistance for the analysis of samples from Hwange. The visiting PhD student from Switzerland is now finalizing his PhD thesis.

Cooperation with University of Tsukuba in Japan continued and, as soon as the borders of Japan open, one of our Lecturers will be leaving for Japan for PhD studies.

UNESCO has approved funding for the Chimanimani landslide project, focusing on societal issues such as detailed mapping of the landslide-susceptible areas. We are quite grateful for this move as it will help fund some student research and we will be working with the University of Leuven in Belgium. Those interested in being part of this research can contact Dr Meck.

Staff Contact details as of May 2021:

Name	Position	Email	Cell Phone	Office Number	Office Phone 024-2303211 (Extension)
Dr P. Mushonga	Chairperson	mushonga777@gmail.com	0774063113	Chemistry	15046
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Mr. P. Mangingaisa	Lecturer	mandingaisap@gmail.com	0783042494		
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The Mennell Geological Society

2021 President and Committee to be announced

Patron: Fadzanayi Bornwell Mupaya

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MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & GEOSCIENCES
ZVISHAVANE CAMPUS

Updates from the Faculty of Engineering & Geosciences

Introduction

Following a relaxation of Covid-19 national lockdown measures in March 2021, students have been on campus in batches for face-to-face learning under stringent health guidelines. All teaching and learning components, including lectures, laboratory practicals, fieldwork and examinations are being accommodated during the face-to-face stints. The ongoing staff development programme and student activities are summarised below.

Staff Development

The mentorship programme for our recently recruited junior staff announced in the February 2021 edition of the GSZ Newsletter, received an overwhelming response from industry personnel. The following industry mentors were nominated to proffer personalised mentorships to the junior lecturers: Eng. Renias Tirivabaya (Bindura Nickel Corporation, and Chair of GSZ), Eng. Norman Mukwakwami (World Bank Consultant), Eng. Nevaïd Dzimumya (University of Zimbabwe), and Eng. Omberai Mandingaisa (Anglo American, Unki Mines Pvt Ltd). The three-month personalised mentorship which includes curriculum enhancement, virtual industry exposure, team teaching and coaching, virtual lecture delivery, discussion of joint research projects, postgraduate studies and personal

development initiatives, is progressing very well. MSU and the Faculty are profoundly grateful to the mentors for giving their all in contributing to this staff development effort. We thank the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK) for funding this staff secondment/mentorship programme through the Higher Education Partnership for Sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) grant awarded to MSU. Experienced industry personnel who would want to partake in similar schemes in future can contact me using the email address at the bottom of this article.

Student Activities

Faculty students led the launch of the Mine Safety Campaign on 28th January 2021 to embark on an awareness and educational process to curb mining accidents, particularly among the artisanal and small-scale mining community. The launch was attended by various stakeholders, with scintillating presentations from the Chief Government Mining Engineer, Young Miner's Federation, MSU and Amosa Safety Pvt Ltd. The Royal Academy of Engineering sponsored this event as part of a series of industry lectures under the HEP SSA grant. Mine Safety awareness and education programmes will be rolled out soon by the MSU students in conjunction with mine safety practitioners in government and the private sector. Industry support to the initiative is most welcome and individuals and entities interested in partnering MSU students in this noble initiative can email me for more details.

MSU geoscience students are organising themselves into geoscience associations with the guidance of the Department of Geosciences and GSZ Committee Member, Ms Miriam Matsanga. It is expected that the process will be completed in the next few weeks.

Submitted by Dr Antony Mamuse, Executive Dean

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NUST – DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICS **EARTH SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

Contact person: Robin T. Mashingaidze

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We are very pleased to announce that two new staff members joined the Applied Physics Department at the beginning of the First Semester of the 2020-21 Academic year. The new staff members are **Dr Tendai Njila** and **Mr Thabisani Ndlovu**, bringing with them to the Earth Sciences Programme much needed expertise in the fields of Geology and Geophysics, respectively. This brings the total number of staff in the Applied Physics

Department attached to the Earth Sciences Programme to seven (7). In addition to this, the department is seeking to appoint two more Earth Science lecturers at the beginning of the Second Semester. These appointments are expected to strengthen and expand teaching and research expertise in the Earth Sciences Programme.

Regarding the academic programme delivery, all teaching and learning activities remained online at the beginning of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, after a break lasting more than two months, students were able to return to campus from the 22nd March 2021 for face-to-face learning. With First Semester examinations commencing from the 14th April and ending on 27th April 2021. Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we were able to successfully conclude the First Semester of the 2020-21 Academic Year at the end of April 2021. The Second Semester of the 2020-21 Academic Year is scheduled to commence on Monday 31st May 2021.

Our third-year Part III Earth Sciences students are due for attachment starting May 2021 so as to gain first hand practical experience in industry. We are therefore appealing to our industry partners to avail internship opportunities for these students. The success of our Industrial Attachment Programme depends on the willingness of industries to embrace our students. Consequently the Applied Physics Department is embarking on a drive to expand and strengthen the existing linkages with industry in order for us to produce graduates who are going to be relevant to the needs of the nation.

ZIMBABWE SCHOOL OF MINES

Serving the SADC mining industry



The students are returning for face-to-face learning at the Zimbabwe School of Mines. Currently only the first-years are on campus while third-year students continue with online learning. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic several aspects of the training model have had to be adjusted. Study trips and camps are now difficult to arrange. As such we are now working on carrying out more practical sessions at the school than physically at mines. In this regard the Geology Department is working on the construction of a core shed. We are looking towards the industry for donations of core that they no longer need, but which can be used for our practicals. Attachment remains an essential part of training for our geological technicians. We are therefore still appealing for attachment places for sixty-seven (67) students.

The school will be running a short course in Exploration Techniques from the 12th to the 30th of July. The course is designed for those interested in gaining a basic understanding in mineral exploration. This programme provides the learners with the entry-level knowledge and skills to work as a valuable member of a mineral exploration team both in greenfields and brownfields exploration.

Submitted by Fyrence Ndebele



**ZIMBABWE
SCHOOL OF MINES**
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**Online
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**MINERAL
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Cost is
US\$100
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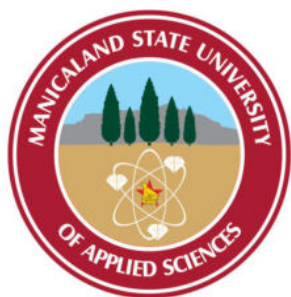
The course is designed for those interested in gaining entrance to and/or a competitive advantage in the mineral exploration. This program provides learners with the entry-level knowledge and skills to function as a valuable member of a mineral exploration team on projects in grassroots exploration to mine-site exploration.

This innovative training course uses applied learning techniques and real-world mineral exploration scenarios to train participants in the key mineral exploration principles.

Enrolment
Send your name, email address and the course you are interested in to dlc@zsm.co.zw or Whatsapp +263772528314.
For one to be enrolled, you need to send proof of payment and then you will receive a link to enrol into the course via your email. Bank details: Stanbic Bank, USD 9140000938202, Main Street, Sort code 03302, Swift code SBICZWHX.

Content
Prospecting and exploration process
Exploration models
Geological mapping in mineral exploration
Sampling methods in mineral exploration
Surface guides in mineral exploration
Geochemical methods
Geophysical methods
Application of remote sensing in mineral exploration
Drilling methods for mineral exploration
Resources and reserves





MANICALAND STATE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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Department of Mining and Processing Engineering

Lectures have progressed smoothly despite the disruptions due to the pandemic. The first-year and final-year students resumed physical contact early in March and exams were held from mid-March to early April. Other groups had their lectures from early April to mid-April with their exams beginning programmed towards end of April through to early May. Mr. Desire Runganga has joined the department as an assistant lecturer.

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Contributed By: Tapiwa Frank Kwachara Ngoroyemoto

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Sustainable Development.



Geological Survey Department

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Government Incentives for Exports and Investment Growth

10 May 2021

1. Introduction

Government, through a Press Statement released on 10 May 2021 introduced an incentive framework earmarked for promoting increased exports and investment flows into the country. These incentives come at time the Chamber had been engaging Government and RBZ for an upward review in foreign exchange retention from the current 60%, to a minimum of 70% to match foreign exchange demands in the mining industry as well as appealing to Ministry of Finance to allow mining companies to pay royalty, electricity and taxes in line with obtaining retention framework.

Key highlights of the incentive framework are outlined below.

Incremental Export Incentive Scheme

Foreign exchange retention increased on incremental exports as follows.

- All exporters: 60% to 80%
- Exporters licenced under the Special Economic Zones: 60% to 100%
- Exporters listed on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange: 60% to 100%

Gold producers

Gold producers who deliver quantities above their average monthly deliveries entitled to a retention of 80% on the incremental portion delivered to Fidelity Printers and Refiners. For the portion qualifying for the 80% retention, gold producers are entitled to direct exportation of the gold through the assistance of Fidelity Printers and Refiners.

Fiscal Incentives

Fiscal incentives announced in the Press Statement include:

- Tax Holiday for priority investments
- Duty free importation of raw materials for inward processing for exportation
- Export drawback refund for import duties paid claimed on goods exported
- Inward processing rebate for processing or repair of imported goods for export
- Corporate tax of 15% for manufacturing companies exporting 15% of its output

2. Analytical Comment

The intent of introducing export incentives is generally progressive and positive especially for new projects and those expanding their operations. Mature mines with little space to increase output may not significantly benefit from the incentive.

As it relates to gold producers, the prospect of exporting the incremental output directly is positive (though disadvantaging those without capacity to increase output). Gold producers with capacity to increase output can now use the incremental gold as collateral, a key requirement by financiers, in raising capital to fund their projects.

In addition, the fiscal incentives are also expected to promote capacity utilisation in existing operations as well as new investments in the export sector which will boost export and foreign exchange earnings in the economy.

Without taking away the positives of the announcement, the incentive framework did not comprehensively address key foreign exchange and fiscal matters that continue to weigh down the performance of the mining industry were not sufficiently addressed.

Foreign exchange retentions

Baseline foreign exchange retentions have been retained at 60%, amidst emerging foreign currency demands. Meanwhile, most mines have not been able to expand their operations due to several challenges that continue to plague the mining sector. Against this background, most mining companies will not benefit much from the incremental export retention incentive as they will struggle to increase output from the baseline.

The gold producers' incentive may have minimal impact both in terms of incremental retention and capital raising as most gold producers have limited capacity to increase gold output which can meaningfully be used as collateral for capital raising. The majority of gold producers have struggled to access replacement capital in the last 10 years.

It is against this background that the Chamber will continue to engage Authorities appealing for an upward review in the baseline foreign exchange retention to a minimum of 70% to meet operational requirements for mining companies as well as matching emerging demands for forex in the mining industry. The increase will accommodate all mining companies including mature operations with limited space to increase output.

Fiscal Incentives

While the fiscal incentives are positive, other outstanding strategic fiscal matters affecting the mining sector including royalty, statutory payments and emerging requirements to pay electricity bills and some statutory payments in forex did not receive attention. *The Chamber will continue to engage Ministry of Finance on the matters and allow mining companies to, at worst, pay for electricity and statutory payments in line with the obtaining foreign exchange retention framework.*

3. Summing Up and Way forward

The announced incentive framework is generally a move in the positive direction. However key outstanding forex management matters were not addressed. The Chamber must take advantage of the precedence in the announced incentives to appeal for refining of the incentives to accommodate all mining operations while pursuing all outstanding matters that continue to weigh down the performance of the mining industry.

End

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS

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

Zimbabwe miners say foreign-exchange rule could trigger crisis [Bloomberg News](#) , January 28, 2021

Mining companies in Zimbabwe said a central-bank requirement compelling them to surrender more foreign exchange earned from mineral exports will push their operations to the brink. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe on Jan. 8 announced that exporters must now hand over 40% of their foreign currency earnings, up from 30%, which is then paid out in the local currency. The country's mining body said the move would create "a viability crisis" for the industry as members already face increased demand for payment in hard currency from various government agencies, suppliers and service providers.

"On average, 60% of gross export proceeds are now taken by government departments and agencies, leaving inadequate forex resources for the mining firms to sustain operations,"

the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe said in a letter to the central bank dated Jan. 19 and seen by Bloomberg. The move could lead to lower output, and the suspension of exploration, maintenance and expansion activities including investment in power projects, it said.

The Southern African nation generates more than half of its foreign exchange via mineral exports from companies including the local units of Johannesburg-based Impala Platinum Ltd. and Anglo American Platinum Ltd.

Central bank governor John Mangudya would not comment on the contents of the letter.

“The retention rules are made always in mind with the foreign currency situation and needs of the country to source fuel, wheat and to pay for other goods and services,” he said by phone from the capital, Harare. “Foreign currency retention is not a right, but a privilege.”

(By Godfrey Marawanyika and Ray Ndlovu)

Tsingshan Holding Group is set to start developing an iron ore mine and a carbon steel plant in Zimbabwe from May, the African country’s Information Minister said late on Tuesday 9 March 2021, three years after the firm first announced the investment deal.

Tsingshan signed a \$1 billion outline agreement with Zimbabwe in June 2018 to build a 2 million tonne-per-annum steel plant and has been carrying out exploration and seeking more mineral concessions. The Chinese company, through its Zimbabwean subsidiary Afrochine, already produces ferrochrome, which will also be used in the production of steel.

“The ground breaking ceremony for the iron ore mine and carbon steel plant is scheduled for May 2021 in Manhize, Mvuma (south of Harare)” Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said in a statement.

The government previously said Tsingshan would also build a power station and had been given a lithium concession.

China has over the past few years emerged as a major foreign investor in Zimbabwe, with its firms mostly involved in mining of gold, chrome and diamonds and building power stations. Zimbabwe has set out an ambitious drive to increase revenue from mining to \$12 billion by 2023 by increasing output of gold, platinum and diamonds, among other minerals. Last year, minerals earned the country \$2.4 billion in exports.

(By MacDonald Dzirutwe; Editing by Subhranshu Sahu)

Mystery of sanctioned tycoon’s assets in Zimbabwe revival plan

[Bloomberg News](#), May 11, 2021, [Intelligence Africa Gold Nickel Platinum](#)

In December, the government of Zimbabwe announced a multibillion-dollar project called Kuvimba Mining House Ltd. that would hold some of the nation’s most valuable gold, platinum, chrome and nickel mines and whose revenue would be used to revive the country’s moribund economy. The venture would be 65% owned by the government and 35% by private investors, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said in a January interview, predicting it would be “highly profitable” within two years. President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in December [that] the venture will help “in unlocking the inherent richness and value of our country’s mineral deposits,” according to the state-controlled Herald newspaper.

The announcement was met with scepticism among local journalists and some industry analysts. Decades of graft and economic turmoil have left once-prosperous Zimbabwe a ruined state. The country has little formal employment, and inflation last measured 194%. Past state works projects failed to turn things around, not least because public money had a way of disappearing into private hands. Mnangagwa's declaration that "Zimbabwe is open for business" and promises of a fresh start after he came to power in late 2017 have come to nothing.

The government won't say where it got the funds to cover its purchase of the mines, smelters and platinum concessions the Kuvimba venture says it now owns. Officials have provided no evidence of transactions confirming Kuvimba does in fact own the mines it says it acquired. Ncube, in interviews with Bloomberg, has declined on two separate occasions to identify the private partners, who stand to make billions of dollars from the project. Kuvimba is held by government pension funds and Zimbabwe's sovereign wealth fund, Ncube said in a separate interview. The pension funds have not disclosed what assets they're managing and the sovereign wealth fund is not operational.

Previously unreported documents, emails and *WhatsApp* messages seen by Bloomberg help fill in some of the blanks. They show how, through a complex series of transactions, the mining assets that form the core of Kuvimba's holdings were until recently owned by or tied to Kudakwashe Tagwirei, a politically connected businessman and presidential adviser who was sanctioned for corruption by the US last year.

Calls and emails to Ncube over the past month seeking responses to questions about Kuvimba and Tagwirei's involvement weren't answered; nor were messages that Zimbabwe's Permanent Secretary of Finance George Guvamatanga, his assistant, and an outside communications adviser said they would deliver to him.

The documents, which cover a period from mid-2019 to late 2020, show that, at least until late last year, key Kuvimba entities — including Freda Rebecca Gold Mine, Bindura Nickel Corp. and a 50% stake in platinum company Great Dyke Investments — were held by Sotic International Ltd., a Mauritius-based holding company that was part-owned by Tagwirei during that time frame through a complicated financial arrangement that makes his involvement difficult to see.

"The lack of transparency is stock-in-trade for the government, the party's acolytes and its business and professional services' enablers," said Tara O'Connor, executive director of London-based Africa Risk Consulting, which in March produced a 46-page report on the links between Zimbabwe's most powerful politicians and businessmen. "All the companies associated with this new company, Kuvimba, carry Tagwirei's DNA." The Africa Risk report said that Tagwirei had been an owner of Sotic.

The government has publicly and repeatedly denied Tagwirei has any involvement in the Kuvimba venture and Tagwirei did not respond to questions about whether he still has a stake in or control over any of the assets that now fall under Kuvimba. Connections to a person under US sanctions might deter investors and complicate the government's hopes to sell a stake in Kuvimba on a foreign stock exchange. The US sanctioned Tagwirei for using his political influence to "gain state contracts and receive favoured access to hard currency" and linked him to the disappearance of \$3 billion from a farm-subsidy programme, calling him "notoriously corrupt."

The Kuvimba project's success is critical for President Mnangagwa, who has yet to deliver on the turnaround he promised after long-time ruler Robert Mugabe was deposed in a power tussle. He needs the revenue to pay for public services, including civil servants'

pensions and compensation for White farmers driven off their land two decades ago. The country has more than \$8 billion in external debt and is effectively cut off from multilateral lenders such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Tagwirei is known in local media as “Queen Bee” for his commanding position in business and politics. Since Mugabe stepped down, “Tagwirei used a combination of opaque business dealings and his ongoing relationship with President Mnangagwa to grow his business empire dramatically and rake in millions of US dollars,” the US claimed in its statement imposing sanctions on him. Tagwirei did not answer four calls to his mobile phone or reply to emails seeking comment. He has not spoken publicly about the sanctions.

The documents viewed by Bloomberg show that at least until late last year, Tagwirei effectively had control over Sotic, the company that owned some of the largest assets now claimed by Kuvimba, including major platinum and gold mines. Sotic is backed in part by Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, an investment firm registered in the Cayman Islands. It is owned by Almas Capital Ltd, a company that is in turn owned by a businessman called Amardeep Sharma, Almas said in a response to queries. “Almas became a shareholder of Sotic in quarter 1 of 2020,” the company said, without giving any details of what it paid. Corporate documents show an agreement among Almas, Sotic and Tagwirei in which Sotic issued 9000 debentures to Almas at a face value of \$1000 each, or \$9 million in total. Almas then handed control of the securities to Tagwirei, effectively boosting his control over Sotic. The repayment terms weren’t disclosed in the document.

In the response to Bloomberg, Almas declined to comment on its relationship with Tagwirei. “As per the legal obligations which the fund has to abide, it cannot comment on any of its relationships in any manner whatsoever,” Almas said. “We can confirm that the fund is committed to being responsible in all its legal and compliance obligations as a financial entity and adheres to all local and international laws.”

In communications about Sotic last year between executives of the company, Tagwirei was referred to as “the boss” or by the initials K.T. He authorized decisions and was copied in on much of the email traffic seen by Bloomberg. Pfimbi Ltd., a holding company, owns the rest of Sotic, according to documents seen by Bloomberg and confirmed by Almas. “Pfimbi Ltd. owns the remaining 35% of Sotic,” Almas said. “Sotic owns a number of mining assets in Zimbabwe, some partially owned such as Great Dyke Investments and others totally such as the Freda Rebecca Gold Mine.”

Pfimbi is also based in Mauritius and is controlled by Tagwirei through nominee agreements with six shareholders, the documents show. Those six nominee shareholders signed documents saying they’d hold their shares “for the sole benefit and on behalf of the owner” — Tagwirei — a clause in the agreement reads. The shareholders included former traders at Puma Energy Ltd., a unit of commodities giant Trafigura Holdings Pte that ended a fuel partnership with Sakunda Holdings. Sakunda is an investment company headed and owned by Tagwirei that was involved in a fuel import and distribution venture with Trafigura until February last year. None of the shareholders responded to emails or answered their mobile phones. Pfimbi could not be reached for comment.

Kuvimba says it now owns the assets, but the government has produced no evidence of those transactions or transfer of ownership and did not respond to multiple requests for comment on how or when they were acquired. Further complicating matters: David Brown, the veteran mining executive [that] Zimbabwe’s government chose as Kuvimba’s chief executive officer, is also CEO of Sotic. In an emailed response to questions, Brown said he wasn’t aware that Tagwirei had an interest in Sotic and said he hadn’t been hired

by Tagwirei to run Sotic and now Kuvimba. Brown declined to name Kuvimba's private shareholders — but denied that Tagwirei owns any of it.

"To the best of my knowledge," he said in the email, "there was a restructure which resulted in Kuvimba being the holding company of the mining assets." Brown declined to provide details or evidence of the restructuring, or say what remuneration Sotic may have received for its mines.

Christopher Fourie, a former Sotic executive, said in a response to questions that he was hired by Tagwirei to establish Sotic and lead the acquisition of mines including those Kuvimba now claims. A copy of his contract, dated 2018 and submitted in a July 2020 South African court case, describes Fourie as group executive for investment and business development of the company that preceded Sotic, Tagwirei's Sakunda Holdings, and now is listed as one of Sotic's subsidiaries. The contract is signed by Tagwirei in his role as CEO of Sakunda. Sakunda was also hit with sanctions by the US.

Fourie says he has been pushed out of Sotic by the shareholders of Pfimbi and is in a dispute with the company. According to an email seen by Bloomberg dated May 22, 2020, Brown asked Fourie to resign, as they had not been able to agree on a role for him in the company. In July of that year, Brown filed suit in the High Court of South Africa seeking to stop Fourie from continuing with "a campaign of disparagement and criticism" of an affiliate of the Sakunda Group on social media, according to the court documents.

"He is not an ex-employee, so he has not been pushed as he claims but due to various actions/behaviours he is an employee suspended on full pay pending the conclusion of an internal inquiry into his conduct," Brown said in a response to queries.

In the same month that he filed the court case, Brown was cited by Bloomberg as saying that a unit of Sotic had bought two Zimbabwean gold mines and wanted to buy more. In October 2019, the chairman of Bindura Nickel told Bloomberg that Sotic had bought a 74% stake in the company.

Almas said in its response to emailed questions that its opportunity fund has investors from the Persian Gulf, Latin America and India. It declined to say who they were, citing legal obligations. Almas said it's now in negotiations to "disinvest from Zimbabwe" because of the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and greater-than-foreseen investment needed in some of the assets. It said it could not disclose its interlocutor.

"After a review of our operations, the investment committee of Almas Fund has expressed its intention to disinvest from Zimbabwe," it said in the March 30 response, citing negative financial impacts from its investment in the country, the pandemic's effect on mining and a need for more debt and investment to realize the projects than previously foreseen.

"With this new company, they are just shifting deck chairs around on the Titanic," said Jee-A van der Linde, an analyst at NKC African Economics in Paarl, South Africa. "I don't see something like this is going to lift up the economy."

(By Felix Njini and Antony Sguazzin)

Alrosa to donate vaccines to Angola [and] Zimbabwe

[Bloomberg News](#), February 10, 2021 [News](#) [Top Companies](#) [Africa](#) [Europe](#) [Diamond](#)

Russian diamond producer Alrosa PJSC will buy and donate the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccines to Angola and Zimbabwe to help those nations' inoculation programmes, Chief Executive Officer Sergey Ivanov said.

“We intend to provide dozens of thousands of vaccines to each of these countries upon their availability for exports,” Ivanov said Wednesday in an emailed response to questions. He did not specify the amount of vaccines that will be given to the two African nations.

Alrosa, which has operations in both southern African countries, will supply the vaccines once emergency-use authorization for the Sputnik V vaccine is granted. “Allowing for time needed to produce the vaccine, we expect first shipments to start from the second half of March,” Ivanov said.

The Sputnik V vaccine, once scorned by the West, has now been approved for use in at least 20 countries and shown to rival US and European Union-produced shots with an efficacy of 92%. Zimbabwean Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa on Tuesday told a press briefing that in addition to the donation from Russia, talks for purchasing more doses have begun.

The coronavirus pandemic hasn’t altered Alrosa’s perspective on Zimbabwe’s diamond-mining prospects and the company intends to “accelerate its activities” there, Ivanov said. Alrosa Zimbabwe, which holds 25 prospecting concessions, expects to receive another “15 by late February to early March,” he said.

(By Ray Ndlovu)

Zimbabwe has banned the use of mercury in mining and placed controls on its release from industrial operations, joining several countries that have phased out the toxic metal, state media reported on Tuesday 29 December 2020.

The ban will affect small-scale gold miners who use it to extract gold. Small-scale miners now produce more than half of the country’s bullion output. The state-owned Herald newspaper reported that Zimbabwe had ratified the Minamata Convention banning the use of mercury in mining and put in place regulatory measures to stop its release from industrial equipment like boilers, incinerators and power stations. Mercury, which is easily accessible to miners in Zimbabwe, is highly toxic and poses severe public health risks when it contaminates food and groundwater.

(By MacDonald Dzirutwe; Editing by Jason Neely)

Caledonia said to eye one of Zimbabwe’s largest mines

[Bloomberg News](#), October 21, 2020 [News Africa Gold](#)

Caledonia Mining Corp. is interested in buying one of Zimbabwe’s largest gold operations as it embarks on an aggressive plan to acquire more assets in the country, according to a person familiar with the details. The Jersey-based gold producer is weighing an acquisition of Bilboes Gold Ltd.’s Isabella-McCays-Bubi mines, in northwest Zimbabwe, said the person, who asked not to be identified as the details aren’t public. A Caledonia spokeswoman declined to comment. The gold miner is ramping up production at its Blanket Mine in the southwest of the country, and needs larger assets to expand.

Bilboes Chief Executive Officer Victor Gapare said the company is looking for investors but is not holding talks with Caledonia. “Every gold mine in Zimbabwe, without exception, is looking for money and it’s not a secret,” Gapare said. “Yes, we were on the market, but there is absolutely nothing in us talking to Caledonia.”

The mines can potentially produce more than 200,000 ounces of gold, making the project the largest by output in the country, said the person. Most of the Isabella-McCays-Bubi operations are currently mothballed as the owners search for investors, the person said. Caledonia, which has Cape Town-based fund manager Allan Gray as its biggest

shareholder, would be able to return the mines to full production within a short period, said the person. They could be operated for more than a decade and would align with the company's plans to grow its Zimbabwean presence. Raising financing for the deal depends on the nature of the final agreement, the person said. The company sees potential in some mines which were shut down in the 1980s due to a lack of capital, Maurice Mason, the company's vice president for corporate development, said earlier this month.

Caledonia could increase its output more than eightfold through deals, to half a million ounces a year as the company considers investing \$400 million in Zimbabwe over the next decade, the person said. This month, Caledonia CEO Steve Curtis signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to evaluate some of the gold assets of state-owned Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp., pending possible purchases. The gold assets Caledonia has been assessing would require investment of between \$200 million to \$300 million to develop, Curtis said in an interview on Oct. 13, without specifying any names. "We have been looking aggressively at assets in the private sector," Curtis said. "Hopefully we can get our hands on something that enables Caledonia to grow from a single asset business. Zimbabwe is as good as any other prospect in Africa, Mali, Australia or elsewhere."

(By Felix Njini and Godfrey Marawanyika)

Caledonia mulls listing on new Zimbabwe stock exchange

[Bloomberg News](#), October 14, 2020 [Markets](#) [Africa](#) [Gold](#)

Caledonia Mining Corp. is considering listing on Zimbabwe's new stock exchange, 10 days before trading on the bourse is scheduled to start. The exchange, known as VFEX, will be based in the resort town of Victoria Falls and will trade in dollars exclusively as the government seeks to lure much-needed foreign currency. It remains in talks to secure more listings.

"We understand that the proposal is for the exchange to trade solely in US dollars and would expect this continued assurance," Caledonia spokeswoman Camilla Horsfall said in an emailed response to questions.

The Jersey-based mineral exploration and development company, which owns the Blanket gold mine in the southwest of the country, is in talks to acquire further mining assets.

VFEX is offering incentives, including a waiver on capital gains tax. It also plans to provide political-risk cover. While the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe will initially provide settlement for trades, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube wants this task handed to a global lender, and talks are underway with firms in Africa, Asia and Europe. VFEX in August called for securities dealers, sponsors, custodians, transfer firms and investment-management companies to participate, but only local companies have so far expressed an interest, according to Chief Executive Officer Justin Bgoni.

(By Ray Ndlovu)

Impala approached over stake in giant Zimbabwe platinum project

[Bloomberg News](#), October 7, 2020 [Intelligence](#) [Top Companies](#) [Africa](#) [Platinum](#)

At a production rate of 3.5 million tonnes a year, the Darwendale project will produce an average of 280,000 oz/y of PGM and gold at Phase 1. The owners of a Russian-backed project to build [Zimbabwe's biggest platinum mine](#) have held talks to sell a stake of at least 20% to Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd., according to people familiar with the matter.

Great Dyke Investments views Impala as an attractive partner partly because the Johannesburg-based company also has the capacity to process ore from the mine, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the details aren't public. That would give Great Dyke an offtake agreement to help it to raise financing to complete the mine, they said.

Great Dyke — owned jointly by tycoon Vitaliy Machitski's Vi Holding and undisclosed Zimbabwean investors — is in talks with a number of potential equity partners, Chairman David Brown said in an interview, without being more specific. Great Dyke's Darwendale project has the potential to become one of the world's biggest platinum mines and its development is central to the Zimbabwean government's plans to reboot its collapsing economy.

"The size of the stake we plan to sell is subject to negotiations," said Brown, a former chief executive officer of Impala. He declined to comment further.

Impala said it isn't in formal negotiations with Great Dyke.

Impala already operates mines in Zimbabwe. One stumbling block to a deal is Great Dyke's valuation of the project, the people familiar said. Great Dyke would consider selling a bigger stake, but for the moment the existing shareholders want to retain a majority holding, they said.

Zimbabwe has the world's third-largest platinum group metal reserves after South Africa and Russia. Former president Robert Mugabe handed the Darwendale concession to Russian investors in 2006 after the government repossessed land from a local unit of Impala. Great Dyke hopes to secure about \$500 million in initial capital by the end of the year and the mine could be commissioned in 2023, CEO Aleksandr Ivanov said last month. It could produce more than 860,000 oz of PGMs a year at full production. Ivanov declined comment when spoken to by Bloomberg on Tuesday.

Vi Holding didn't immediately respond to emailed questions.

(By Felix Njini, Loni Prinsloo and Godfrey Marawanyika)

Shift towards accountability could unlock mining potential

[MAMAILI MAMAILA](#)

Journalist

4th September 2020

Zimbabwe is known to hold much promise in terms of mining development, however, Workforce Holdings, a "progressive" holdings company investing in diversified human capital businesses, notes that, given the country's current political climate, operating in Zimbabwe can be profitable but very challenging too.

Workforce Africa – a cluster of Workforce Holdings – MD Darren Hollander tells *Mining Weekly* that Zimbabwe's seeming reluctance to register its mining industry with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for example, is not conducive for business at the moment.

Guided by the belief that a country's natural resources belong to its citizens, the EITI has established a global standard to promote the open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resource revenues. The organisation also seeks to strengthen government and company systems, inform public debate and promote understanding. In each of the implementing countries, the EITI is supported by a coalition of government, companies and civil society.

Although the country stated its intention to subscribe to this standard after President Emmerson Mnangagwa's inauguration, there has not been much traction in this regard, to the detriment of its mining sector. As such, Hollander believes it is essential that Zimbabwe's mining industry becomes a part of the EITI as it could boost investor confidence.

"If Zimbabwe subscribes to this standard, it will give investors a lot more confidence in investing in the country, particularly its mining sector. It would also give the purchasers of its raw materials an increased sense of comfort, as aspects such as corruption are a lot harder to get away with for countries that are registered with the EITI," he adds.

Additionally, while there is still a lot of opportunity in Zimbabwe's mining industry – with sectors such as gold and diamonds gaining traction – Hollander stresses that it tends to be a difficult jurisdiction to conduct business for companies and investors who have limited capital available.

"In terms of the Covid-19 pandemic, Zimbabwe is definitely playing a delicate balancing act at this stage. The mining sector is getting used to a new normal and although mining operations in Zimbabwe have been allowed to continue, there has been a global slowdown in economic activity, which has obviously affected the demand across several resources.

"There are expansion projects that are being put on hold owing to the uncertainty, but I do think that it is temporary, and they should resume at a later stage."

From a Workforce Africa perspective, Hollander explains that the company sees opportunities in Zimbabwe – and other developing markets – particularly in its mining sector, through its range of business divisions.

"We manage investments in human capital businesses that provide innovative, integrated and diversified solutions ranging from staffing and outsourcing, recruitment, healthcare, training as well as financial services throughout South Africa and beyond."

Describing the company as a "one-stop human resources shop" he enthuses that Workforce is able to take a person off the streets, train them and find them employment. This, in turn, affords people the opportunity to access healthcare, financial assistance and other benefits where needed.

"We want to be able to go into countries and build sustainable businesses which uplift people as we really want to make a difference. Our services are all a need in the mining sector and through the right partners in Zimbabwe, we could unlock these opportunities to the benefit of the communities which host many of the country's mining operations," he affirms.

With Zimbabwe's ongoing socio-economic challenges, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, Workforce Africa advances that there are three critical aspects that will need to be addressed by the mining sector, going forward.

These include the up-skilling of local Zimbabweans in the mining industry, creating mining-related employment for Zimbabwean youth and providing adequate healthcare to miners in the Zimbabwean mining industry.

The latter is important because, while there seem to be fewer cases of Covid-19 in Zimbabwe and the rest of Africa than in South Africa, this could be the result of less testing in comparison to South Africa. Hollander underlines that there is a need for acceleration of healthcare provision for Zimbabwean miners and their families. This is one of the company's focuses through its on-site mobile clinics on mines and occupational healthcare services. An increased focus on healthcare could be of great benefit, as "a healthy miner is a productive miner" he explains, adding that, "it should go beyond the physical wellness of the miner to their emotional wellbeing as the end-result ultimately benefits the industry at large".

Meanwhile, as Zimbabwe and many other African countries do not possess high levels of skilled miners, it is “extremely crucial” to up-skill Zimbabweans who, according to Hollander, have the will and potential.

“The country possesses so much in terms of natural resources and in order to extract those resources, they need skilled workers. While the citizens are up to the task, the lack of government intervention and funding has proved to be very challenging, especially for Zimbabwe’s youth.”

Hollander adds that government incentives to companies that can train the youth, similar to those that exist in South Africa, could mitigate this challenge.

“The youth are the future of Zimbabwe and they need to be trained in preparation for that future. There are a lot of youngsters in Zimbabwe who are seeking greener pastures and there is no reason why they should not be incentivised to stay and contribute to the country and its mining industry,” he tells *Mining Weekly*.

He concludes that the successful up-skilling of Zimbabweans – which Workforce Africa is able to provide – would not only enable them to contribute to the mining industry and the economy, but to their own families and communities, which is a key focus for the company.

Mining Industry News courtesy of *The Herald*

US\$783k gold smuggling ensnares intelligence officer

Nyore Madzianike-Senior Court Reporter

Central Intelligence Organisation officer Chamakandiona Nyahunda has been arrested on suspicion of carrying more than 13kg of gold in 23 pieces worth US\$783,000 through Robert Mugabe International Airport terminal on a route that avoided all security checks, thus abusing his position, and then handing the gold in the final waiting area to the person taking it South Africa. That Zimbabwean, Tashinga Nyasha Masinire (33), was arrested on arrival in South Africa, after being caught carrying the gold at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, and has already appeared in court in Gauteng and been remanded out of custody on R100,000 bail on charges of smuggling and possessing gold without a licence.

Following that arrest, and the realisation that there must have been a major breach of security at RGM International in Harare for someone to board a plane with more than 13kg of gold in their bag, a full investigation was launched. That resulted in Nyahunda’s arrest. It is now alleged that Masinire walked through all required security checks at the RGM International without gold in his bags, and only loaded the gold in the smoking room in the final boarding area after meeting Nyahunda.

Nyahunda, also known as Vincent Moyo, appeared at the Harare Magistrates Court yesterday charged with smuggling and criminal abuse of office. He was not asked to plead to the charges when he appeared before Regional Magistrate Mr Stanford Mambanje. The State led by Mrs Netsai Mushayabasa opposed bail at Nyahunda’s hearing saying the police were still to account for other members of the suspected syndicate, which was described as complex and sophisticated and running a major smuggling operation. The police investigating officer (IO), Bruno Chiketo summoned to give evidence, testified against Nyahunda during his bail application and said releasing him would jeopardise their investigations.

“The investigations are still at infancy and we are yet to visit several places and people. If granted bail he may interfere with the process. We still want to establish the source of the

gold and visit South Africa where an accomplice of the accused (Nyahunda) was arrested. We have a CCTV (closed circuit television) recording showing how accused (Nyahunda) aided his accomplices by circumventing security procedures at his workplace. Besides the recording, police have taken oral evidence from people who allegedly witnessed Nyahunda by-passing the security points.” IO Chiketo added: “We are dealing with a complicated syndicate involving a huge amount of gold and given that we have not fully accounted for the members of the syndicate, the country will continue losing millions of dollars through smuggling.”

Nyahunda is expected back in court on Monday for continuation of his bail application. It is the State’s case that on Saturday last week, Nyahunda, who is attached to Aviation Ground Services at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport, was on duty and was expected to inspect and clear goods for export. That day, at around 9.46am, Nyahunda was spotted entering the Departure Terminal wearing a jacket and a pair of trousers whose pockets were laden with heavy objects. The allegations are that Nyahunda avoided the authorised entry route where there are scanners and metal detectors fixed at the strategic points and proceeded to the Arrivals Terminal. The route he used is not allowed when getting into the terminal.

The court heard that on the same day just over an hour later at around 11am, Masinire arrived at the airport driving a Ford Ranger (AEK3911) vehicle. He got out and the car was driven off by someone else who remained in the car. Masinire then went through the clearing procedures with a light bag and later went to the duty free shops waiting to board a South Africa-bound flight, which was due to depart at 1pm. Masinire allegedly went to the smoking room at the waiting area holding a light bag where he was joined by Nyahunda, who was holding a black satchel which, according to the State, looked heavy on the CCTV footage. After about two minutes, Nyahunda left the smoking room with his bag now looking lighter while Masinire’s appeared heavier.

Gold smuggling: Heads to roll at airport

Fungi Kwaramba - Political Editor

POLICE will leave no stone unturned in establishing how a gold smuggler sneaked out of the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport undetected, only to be arrested in South African. Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage Minister Kazembe Kazembe said heads will certainly roll at the RGM International Airport where it’s suspected a syndicate could have aided the smuggler’s exit.

“We are going to leave no stone unturned in finding out what happened. We want to know how this man left the country with all that gold. So far we have established that when he walked in at the RGM International Airport (on Sunday) he didn’t have a bag, now we want to establish who gave him that bag, where, and how. Investigations are ongoing, as I said. I am confident we will unearth what transpired on the day as soon as possible, working with our Interpol colleagues,” he said.

Since the smuggler was nailed in South Africa, Minister Kazembe said Zimbabwe is closely working with Interpol to get to the bottom of the matter.

“Investigations are ongoing; our police are in contact with Interpol because the person in question was caught in South Africa. However, here investigations are also being done thoroughly. We will get to the bottom of all this,” he said.

The Civil Aviation is in charge of security at the RGM International Airport, with the police at standby at a police post in the precincts of the airport for back-up. The suspect Tashinga Nyasha Masinire (33), was found in possession of 23 pieces of gold that might have been

smuggled through the country's biggest airport to yet an unknown destination. There are also concerns that gold smugglers might have upped their game following the arrest, seven months ago, of Zimbabwe Miner's Federation president Henrietta Rushwaya who was nabbed at the same port with 6kgs of gold worth US\$366 destined for Dubai, after scanners blipped. Her case is still pending at the courts. In the latest case, insiders at the airport said someone could have aided Masinire by helping him by-pass the scanners. His luck later ran out at the Oliver Tambo International Airport where the customs section of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) busted him leading to his arrest. He had not declared the goods and did not have a permit to transport the gold. South Africa's anti-organised crime unit, the Hawks was alerted and he was arrested. He is facing charges of contravening the Customs Act 91 of 1964 and Precious Metals Act 37 of 2005. Masinire has since appeared in the Kempton Park regional court in Gauteng Province where he was granted R100,000 bail and ordered not to leave the country until the matter has been finalised. Masinire was also ordered to report at any nearest police station three times per week.

Mining Industry News courtesy of REUTERS

Zimbabwe gold output down 30% in first quarter

23rd April 2021

Zimbabwe's gold production fell 30% to 3.98 tonnes in the first quarter of this year, while export earnings from the yellow metal also declined, central bank data showed on Friday. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) did not give a reason for the decline. This has led the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to announce new foreign currency retention levels for miners and other exporters.

Caledonia's first-quarter output lower than planned but full-year target unchanged

BY: [TASNEEM BULBULIA](#)

19th April 2021

Dual-listed Caledonia Mining produced 13,197oz of gold at the Blanket Mine, in Zimbabwe, in the quarter ended March 31. "Production in the first quarter was slightly below our target and below the comparable quarter in 2020 albeit at a level which allows us to maintain our 2021 production".

On-Line Talks and Upcoming Events

As reported by *Nevison Chikandiwa*

The Society continues with our online talks programme, with a few lined up into June.

To kick off the year, we had a talk from Dr Tania Marshall on 15th April entitled "*A travelogue through the alluvial diamond deposits of Africa*".

On 30th April we hosted William Gambiza on his subject, "*Mineral asset valuation and its uses*".

Solomon Gumbie discussed the ins and outs of "*Studio Mapper - underground face mapping and channel sampling software*" on 6th May.

To be advised for a date in May, Tariro Ndhlovu will present on the subject of "*Predictive modelling of orogenic gold deposits within the Harare-Shamva Greenstone Belt*".

Then on 4th June Peter Bucholz will join us from Germany and share "*Long-term low-price benchmarks for metals and their effects on exploration, mining and investments*".

Do diarise these Zoom events, although reminders will be circulated by our Administrator, Julie Kuhn closer to the date.

And we continue with our collaborative link with the Geological Society of South Africa to participate in their series of online talks and other events, notification for which is circulated through our Secretariat. A link has now been established with the Geological Society of Namibia in order to share online events.



Join the Geological Society of Zimbabwe Facebook Group



GSZ Research and Development Fund

Enquiries relating to the distribution of funds through this facility should be made through the standing Chairperson.



SEG Timothy Nutt Memorial Fund

This fund will be available to provide financial support for geology students and young economic geologists located in Zimbabwe or in southern Africa with ties to Zimbabwe. The fund may be used to support SEG student chapter activities, travel to meetings, field trips, for research or study grants, technical lectures or any other activities approved by the SEG Regional Vice President for Africa.

Strong preference will be given to those applicants who are SEG Student Members.

To become an SEG Student member visit www.segweb.org/join

Applicants must describe what the project is, why the research is important and how it is to be done.

An estimate of expenses for the project must be included with the application.

Grants are expected to be fully utilized by April 30 following the calendar year in which they are awarded / dispersed. .

Grant recipients are required to provide a year-end accounting of how the money was spent together with a suitable progress report or final abstract.

**A 2018 Research Grant application form may be downloaded from
www.segweb.org/StudentResearchGrants**

Student Research Grants Committee c/o Assistant for Student Affairs, Society of Economic Geologists Foundation 7811 Shaffer Parkway, Littleton, CO 80127-3732 USA

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Conferences

GSSA Geocongress 2020

Stellenbosch, Western Cape
The next 125 years of Earth Sciences
Postponed to 2021

WorldGold Hybrid Conference 2021

South African Institute for Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM)
16-17 August 2021
Misty Hills Conference Centre
Muldersdrift, Johannesburg, South Africa

The event is planned as a hybrid conference with international participation, which will allow for contact and online attendance and presentation.

[World Gold Hybrid Conference Registration Form 2021-27012021.pdf](#)

<https://www.saimm.co.za/saimm-events/upcoming-events/world-gold-hybrid-conference-2021>

Geological Society of Zimbabwe

Summer Symposium 2021

Friday 10th September 2021

Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences, UZ
The Jan Kramers Laboratory

We are hoping to hold the Summer Symposium as normal this year. It will be staged at the University of Zimbabwe, with some participants being able to fly in to present and to join us on a field trip.

We are therefore starting to allocate speaking slots. If you would like to present, please let us know (andrewdutoitzim@gmail.com). We welcome presentations on a broad range of subjects of general interest to Geologists.

We look forward to seeing you in person!

12th International Kimberlite Conference

30 years of diamonds in Canada

Postponed - 15 to 19 August 2022

Yellowknife, Canada

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Visit <http://www.geologicalsociety.org.zw/> to see where the adverts can be placed, and choose your spot.

Please contact Andrew du Toit at andrewdutoitzim@gmail.com, or the Administrator at geol.soc.zimbabwe@gmail.com, for more information.

Don't forget - you can also advertise in this Newsletter through these contacts.

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