

CHAIRPERSON'S 2022 REPORT

Kennedy Mtetwa

Greetings to you all

It was a great honor to have chaired the Geological Society of Zimbabwe Committee for the 2022 term. My heartfelt first task is that of thanking all the outgoing Committee Members for the very good job they undertook on your behalf.

I would like to congratulate the 2022 Committee Members and those of our Sub-Committee for organizing the very successful 12th A.M. Macgregor Memorial Lecture titled 'Geological Evolution and Metallogeny of the Palaeoproterozoic Magondi Belt, Zimbabwe and Botswana' was delivered by Dr. Sharad Master in the Innovation Hub Auditorium, University of Zimbabwe on Friday 21st October 2022 afternoon and attended by 120 members, guests and students.

On the same day in the morning the Society hosted the 2022 Summer Symposium. We were privileged to have eight presenters who presented on very diverse topics. And the summary of the presentations was ably captured by Brent Barber.

On the Saturday after the 2022 Summer Symposium, Dr Sharad Master led a trip to the Chinhoyi Area to see rocks of the Magondi Supergroup. The trip was well attended with about 40 members and a bus load of MSU students present.

The 12th A.M. Macgregor Memorial lecture was also presented in Bulawayo at the Zimbabwe School of Mines on Monday 24th October 2022.

During the year your committee we continued the efforts initiated by the previous Committee in keeping the geological community informed about points of geological interest in Zimbabwe.

During the year, the GSZ hosted two talks via the zoom platform from our members. The first talk titled "Quantification of the impacts of rock mass quality on stope width control and pillar stability in a hard rock narrow reef mine" was presented by Omberai Mandingaisa. The second talk titled "Geology of the Navachab gold deposit – Theory on ore genesis" was presented by Richard

Manyanga. Both talks were very well presented and the attendance was very good.

Zimbabwean geology was once again put on the world map spotlight with the announcement of the age of the dinosaur fossil that was found in the Zambezi valley in 2019. The announcement confirmed the discovery as Africa's oldest known dinosaur - 230-million-year-old. The relatively small sauropod ancestor is helping reveal how dinosaurs first spread across ancient Earth. The dinosaur's scientific name, *Mbiresaurus raathi*, honors Mbire, a historical empire of Zimbabwe's Shona people that once included the site where the fossil was unearthed. The dinosaur is also named for South African paleontologist Michael Raath, whose work in the area in the 1990s helped lead to its discovery.

Renias Tirivabaya continued working on progressing the geologists professional registration journey that your Committee has been working on. To this end on 3rd August 2022 Renias submitted a letter to the Permanent Secretary of in the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development spelling out the need by GSZ to become a professional registered body. It was communicated that the Geological Society of Zimbabwe (GSZ) seeks to be the benchmark of geological excellence, as such it seeks to be able to regulate the practice of geology or geosciences in the country to protect the interests of exploration and mining investors. Your GSZ seeks to be able to determine who can use the professional title Geologist and to regulate the conduct of geologists in the country. It will be necessary to consider the qualifications and experience required for registration as geoscientist in this country. Having the GSZ become a professional board governing the practice of the science, will help weed out unscrupulous geologists and non-geologists for the good of the mining industry.

Your Committee is now awaiting a response from our letter submitted to the Permanent Secretary of in the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development. I am presuming that the delay in response to our letter could be due to the change of the office bearer soon after our letter was submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

On Saturday 12 November 18 members of the Society visited Eureka Mine which has been reopened in the last few months and is producing 120kg from 100,000t of ore processed per month. Eureka Mine Geologist Benefit Muoneka gave our

Society members a detailed presentation of the Eureka Mine geology, before he and his team took us around the mine site. It is fascinating to see the results of serious gold exploration carried out in the 1990s led by then Delta Gold Zimbabwe Exploration Manager, Terry Lemmon and his exploration team then led by Paul Chimbodza at Eureka mine. This reopening of Eureka mine which had been mothballed in 2000, shows what an improvement in the gold price and business climate can do to previously delineated resources that were deemed subeconomic two decades ago. We would like to thank Dallaglio Management for allowing our Society members to visit Eureka Mine.

I would like to encourage our Members to be up to date with their annual subscriptions payments so that your Society's kitty can be replenished. On your side as Geological Society of Zimbabwe members, please encourage your colleagues to become Society Members. Recent geology graduates are encouraged to join the Society where they will be able to benefit from the soon to be launched mentorship program. Application forms are available on the webpage: www.geologicalsociety.org.zw

On Monday 20 February 2023, I attended the key stakeholder consultative meeting on the Mines and Minerals bill (H.B. 10 2022) and Rainbow Towers Harare. The GSZ highlighted the following concerns:

1. Lack of supporting documents to the Bill
2. Violation of the Constitution - Where the Bill provides undue discretion to the Minister and avoids Parliamentary oversight it
3. Clause 6 allows the Minister to designate any mineral a strategic mineral subject to approval by parliament and the Second Schedule lists nearly all mineral apart from gold as strategic
4. Investors require fairness, consistency and predictability. The lack of predictability, especially with respect to strategic minerals is a concern and Zimbabwe will reflect badly when international organisations like review the Bill
5. It is a concern that clause 1(2) defers the final implementation of this cadastre for an indefinite period

6. Transfer of a Mining Lease (Clause 136) will require Ministry approval and if approval is denied, the lease may be cancelled. Unhindered trade in mineral assets is key to vibrant mining industries across the world

The above listed 6 are part of 15 concerns on the GSZ list. Since the Monday meeting ran out of time before I could present all our concerns, I will therefore attend the public consultation meeting penciled for Monday 27 February 2023 to carry on from where I left off.

I urge our GSZ members to attend the ongoing Mines and Minerals bill (H.B. 10 2022) public consultations being held countrywide by the Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development.

All the best to the incoming Committee for 2023 under the stewardship of Tenyears Gumedede.