



TANZANIA WOMEN MINERS ASSOCIATION

Reforms Needed To Increase Greater Local Participation In Mining Investments

Facts

- › Tanzania has one of the highest levels of mineral deposits in Africa, and mineral exploitation is the fastest growing sector of Tanzania's economy.
- › Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world, but sits on gold deposits worth over an estimated USD 39 billion, and other lucrative minerals.
- › The structural reforms of mining laws in the past 10 years has pushed investment in large-scale operations at the expense of small-scale operators.
- › The current licensing system marginalizes small-scale miners, while the involvement of women in the mining sector is marginal, and at a very low level.
- › The 2010 Mining Act gives the Minister of Energy and Minerals extensive powers to make regulations for the industry.
- › Current regulations make it also difficult for small miners to get primary prospecting licenses under the new tendering system.

Small Miners and Big Miners

Two thirds of all mining operations in Tanzania are controlled by multi-nationals AngloGold, Ashanti and Barrick Gold.

Nearly 3 million jobs have been created by artisanal mining, while only 500,000 jobs were created by mainstream mining firms up to 2011. It is estimated that 300,000 women are employed in artisanal mining.

Artisanal miners' rights and large scale miners' rights

A small-scale farmer and miner discovered gold in her upcountry farm in 2010. In order to get a Primary Mining License she has to follow ten lengthy procedures, which can take up to one year. Until the Zonal Mining Officer approves her request for a primary mining license she cannot be considered a legal miner.

On the other hand the Minister can issue, within a very short time, a Prospective License (PL) to large-scale miners. This license can give rights over large tracts of land including villages and sometimes land already assigned to small miners.

While the small miner needs permission from the village authorities to get a primary mining license, big miners do not. According to the Mining Act the land belongs to the village government, but the minerals in the same land belong to central government.

For more info, send an email to tawoma@yahoo.com or call 0754 271649

The issue of new mining fees

Fees for prospecting licenses (PLS) for various minerals have more than tripled from between US\$50 and US\$100, to between US\$200 and US\$300. Preparation fees for PLS have also risen from US\$200 to US\$500.

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TAWOMA members feel this is forcing them out of the mining business and advise government that this should be reversed.

DEMANDS BY SMALL-SCALE MINERS

POLICY CHANGES:

- Simple and transparent licensing system.
- Affordable fees.
- Applications for licenses handled at District level.
- No approval needed for small-scale mining licenses from the Minister.
- Simple environmental management regulations specific to small-scale miners.
- Recognition of small-scale mining as a potential economic sector.
- A single authorization or permit for artisanal operations should be conceived.
- Establishment of a specialized small-scale mining unit/department.

MINING LEGISLATION CHANGES:

- Clear rules on mineral rights.
- Issuance of mineral rights based on a first-come - first served basis.
- Applications to be processed in 2-4 weeks.
- The Law should make clear provisions for small-scale and gemstone miners.
- The legal framework must offer a supportive environment for artisanal mining.
- There should be the same mineral rights categories for small miners as those issued for large-scale operators.
- The law should allow for large(r) concession sizes and long tenure periods.
- The law should allow transfer and mortgage of mineral rights.
- The law should designate areas for small-scale mining.

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