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Kamoa-Kakula Produces First Copper Anodes as Africa's Largest Smelter Enters Ramp-Up Phase

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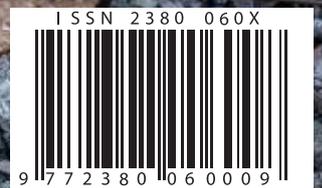
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Zimbabwe Raises Gold Royalties to Capitalize on Record High Bullion Prices

Zimbabwe is set to increase royalties on gold producers as part of its strategy to benefit from historically high global gold prices, according to the 2026 national budget presented on Thursday.

Under the revised revenue measures, gold miners will be required to pay a 10% royalty when bullion prices exceed USD 2,501 per ounce. The adjustment forms part of broader efforts to strengthen government revenues and provide greater support to local industry.

Although gold prices have eased by about 5% since reaching a record USD 4,381.21 per ounce on October 20, the precious metal has consistently traded above USD 4,000, prompting the government to revise its fiscal approach.

Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said the royalty review is intended to ensure that the mining sector delivers a fairer contribution to the national treasury during commodity price booms, while also eliminating discrepancies between different categories of gold producers.

Zimbabwe's economy relies heavily on gold and tobacco exports for foreign currency earnings. Major gold producers operating in the country include Kuvimba Mining House, Padenga, Caledonia Mining Corporation, and RioZim.



Shuka Minerals Receives \$300,000 Funding Tranche for Zambia Mine

Shuka Minerals, an AIM-listed mining company, has received an initial \$300,000 funding tranche from its financing partner Gathoni Muchai Investments (GMI) as part of an expanded loan facility to support its planned acquisition of Leopard Exploration and Mining and the Kabwe Zinc Mine in Zambia.

The payment marks a key step toward completing the acquisition, which had been delayed due to funding holdups from GMI.

Under the revised financing arrangement, GMI has confirmed that the remaining funds required to fulfill the \$1.35 million acquisition cost will be disbursed before the end of November.

Shuka Minerals stated that it will provide a further update once the transaction progresses.



Angola's First Gold Refinery Nears Completion, Testing Phase Set for December

Endiama has announced that Angola's first gold refinery—currently under construction in the Viana Industrial Park—is expected to begin its testing phase in the second half of December.

The projection was shared this Thursday during a site visit by the company's Chairman of the Board of Directors (PCA).

According to an official statement accessed by VerAngola, the visit confirmed that the project is in its final stage of construction.

The main building structure is already complete, and teams are now installing the technical equipment essential for the refinery's operations.

Endiama noted that local staff are undergoing specialized training to ensure proper handling and operation of the new systems.

This initiative aims to promote knowledge transfer and strengthen internal expertise ahead of the refinery's launch.

The company emphasized that this refinery represents a strategic milestone in its broader diversification efforts. By enabling a significant portion of Angola's gold production to be refined domestically, the facility is expected to enhance the country's mineral value chain and generate greater economic benefits.



Loreto Silva Named Lead Independent Director at Barrick Mining

Global mining, exploration and development company Barrick Mining Corporation has appointed Loreto Silva as its new lead independent director, succeeding Ben van Beurden, who has stepped down from the board.

Barrick chairperson John Thornton thanked van Beurden for his service and welcomed Silva to her new role.

"I would like to thank Ben for his contribution to Barrick and welcome Loreto to the role of lead independent director. The Barrick board remains focused on delivering long-term value for shareholders.

The company has industry-leading assets and a strengthened leadership team that is fully aligned on delivering our strategic priorities," Thornton said.



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Kibali Gold Mine Posted Strong Q3 2025 Production in DRC

The Kibali gold mine, the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) flagship gold asset, delivered a strong performance in the third quarter of 2025.

According to the quarterly report released by operator Barrick Mining on Monday, November 10, 2025, Kibali produced 191,000 ounces of gold between July and September, marking a 21% increase compared to 159,000 ounces in the same period in 2024.

The production growth was largely driven by a ramp-up in open-pit mining operations at the Kibali complex. Open-pit ore extraction surged by 133% during the quarter, effectively offsetting a decline in ore deliveries from underground operations.

Despite this robust quarterly performance, cumulative production for the first nine months of 2025 totaled 498,000 ounces, slightly below the 509,000 ounces recorded over the same period in 2024.

This variance highlights the operational challenges and natural fluctuations in large-scale mining, where quarterly output can be influenced by ore grade and extraction schedules.

Kibali remains a cornerstone of gold production in the DRC and a key asset in Barrick Mining's global portfolio, reinforcing the company's position as one of the world's leading gold producers.



DRC Mining Cadastre Temporarily Suspends New Mining Rights Applications

The Mining Cadastre (CAMI) has announced the temporary suspension of its window for receiving new applications for mining rights and quarry exploration permits, effective December 17, 2025.

The announcement was made through an official statement signed by CAMI's Director General, Popol Mabolia.

According to CAMI, the decision is driven by the launch of a comprehensive land registry clean-up project. This initiative aims to improve the accuracy, reliability, and overall management of data related to mining titles across the Democratic Republic of Congo. The suspension will remain in force until further notice, with no reopening date specified at this stage.

CAMI clarified that the measure does not affect existing mining or quarrying rights. Applications concerning the conversion or renewal of titles, as well as the registration of assignments, leases, options, and other related transactions, will continue to be accepted and processed under normal procedures.

Through this operation, the Mining Cadastre seeks to enhance transparency, efficiency, and governance within the cadastral system—an essential component of a sector that plays a strategic role in the national economy.



DRC Minister of Mines Survives Plane Crash During Emergency Mission to Mulondo

An emergency mining mission to Mulondo, Lualaba Province, led by DRC Minister of Mines Louis Watum, narrowly avoided disaster on Monday, November 17, 2025, when the plane carrying the delegation caught fire upon landing at Kolwezi Airport.

Initial reports from airport authorities indicate a technical malfunction in the aircraft's landing gear, which triggered the fire. Kolwezi airport emergency services responded immediately, containing the blaze and ensuring the safety of all passengers.

Miraculously, there were no injuries, despite the panic and thick smoke. The delegation was swiftly evacuated, though the plane suffered significant damage.

The mission to Mulondo was initiated to assess the recent mining tragedy, meet local authorities, inspect affected areas, and propose urgent safety measures to protect artisanal miners and prevent further incidents.

Kolwezi airport authorities have opened a technical investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire. The Ministry of Mines confirmed that, despite the incident, the mission will continue operations, reinforcing the government's commitment to miner safety and emergency response in the DRC.

Seven Miners Killed in Landslide at Lugushwa Artisanal Mining Site

A deadly landslide at the G20 mining site in Lugushwa has claimed the lives of seven miners, raising urgent concerns about the safety of artisanal mining operations in the region.

The incident occurred on Thursday, November 6, 2025, when a section of the mine collapsed, burying workers in a drainage area while they were extracting ore. Several others were injured and received immediate care from makeshift first responders at the scene.

Residents of the Wamuzimu chiefdom described the tragedy in vivid terms.

"We heard an immense crash and saw the earth fall on our brothers," said one distraught witness, reflecting the grief felt throughout the

community.

Safety Concerns and Call for Regulation

The disaster has drawn attention to the lack of safety measures at artisanal mining sites. A mining engineer based in Bukavu warned:

"These sites don't meet any standards for shoring or evacuation. It's a constant risk for the miners."

Local authorities have pledged a thorough investigation to prevent future accidents and protect mining communities. Experts stress the urgent need for government oversight and regulation of artisanal mining to improve safety standards and reduce the risk of further tragedies.



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Kamoa-Kakula Produces First Copper Anodes as Africa's Largest Smelter Enters Ramp-Up Phase

Ivanhoe Mines Executive Co-Chairman Robert Friedland and President and Chief Executive Officer Marna Cloete have announced the successful production of the first copper anodes at the Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The milestone was achieved on December 29, 2025, at the company's on-site, state-of-the-art direct-to-blister copper smelter, following the start of furnace heat-up and the initial feeding of copper concentrate.

Commenting on the achievement, Ivanhoe Mines Founder and Executive Co-Chairman Robert Friedland described the first production of copper anodes as a defining moment for the Kamoa-Kakula project.

He said the accomplishment reflects years of disciplined execution, significant capital investment, and an outstanding health and safety record, underscoring the professionalism and commitment of the project teams and partners involved.

According to Friedland, the smelter will deliver high-quality Congolese copper anodes to international markets while setting new benchmarks for scale, efficiency, and

sustainability in global copper production.

He expressed appreciation to the Kamoa Copper workforce, contractors, and international partners whose technical expertise and collaboration enabled the successful delivery of the facility.

The smelter has entered its ramp-up phase and is expected to reach steady-state operations during 2026, positioning it as the largest copper smelter on the African continent.

As production increases, Kamoa-Kakula plans to prioritize the on-site processing of concentrates produced by its Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 concentrators. Any surplus concentrate will continue to be toll-treated at the Lualaba Copper Smelter near Kolwezi.

Commissioning activities, including furnace heat-up, boiler systems, steam systems, the acid circuit, and the concentrate dryer, were completed in line with expectations. The furnace reached its operating temperature and maintained stable conditions ahead of the first concentrate feed.

As the smelter ramps up, the company expects a gradual reduction in unsold copper concentrate inventory held on site, supporting

higher copper sales volumes during the year. Management intends to take advantage of strong copper market conditions as inventory levels normalize.

To ensure operational stability, an uninterruptible power supply facility was completed ahead of first concentrate feed, providing immediate backup power to protect the smelter from grid instability.

In parallel, construction of the on-site solar power facilities continues to advance, with the project expected to significantly enhance energy security and reduce operating costs once operational. These initiatives are expected to improve operating margins by lowering logistics expenses and supporting by-product revenue streams.

The ramp-up of the smelter is also expected to materially enhance margins by allowing copper to be exported as refined anodes rather than unprocessed concentrate. Additional cost efficiencies are anticipated from reduced transport requirements and revenues generated from the sale of by-product sulphuric acid.

In parallel with copper anode production, the smelter has produced its first batches of sulphuric acid, which will be sold to regional

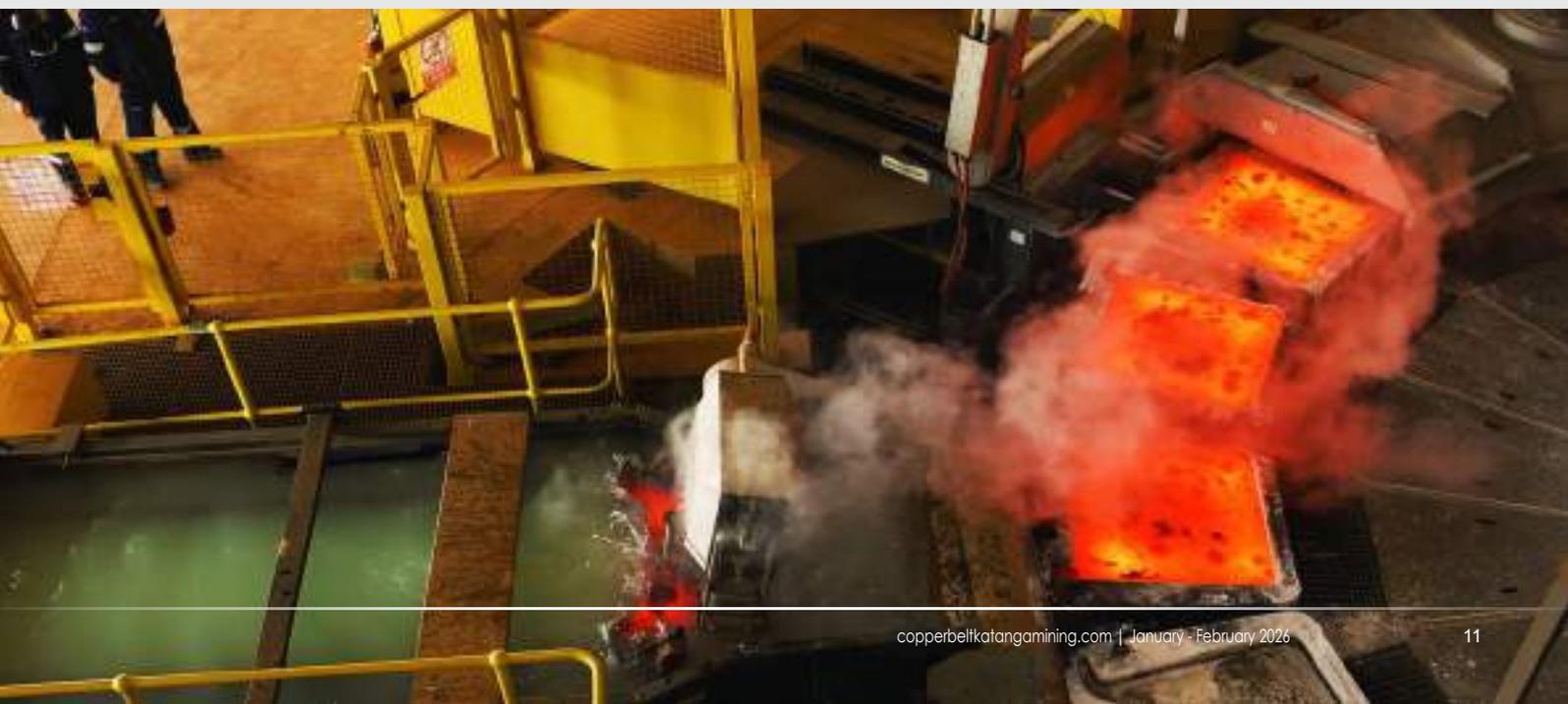
mining operations. Demand for sulphuric acid remains strong across the Central African Copperbelt, and initial deliveries have already been arranged.

The construction of the smelter was completed with an industry-leading health and safety record, reinforcing Kamoakakula's commitment to operational excellence. The project team also previously delivered the Phase 3 concentrator without any lost-time injuries.

Underground operations at the Kakula Mine continue to progress, with dewatering activities advancing and enabling access to higher-grade mining areas.

Mining has resumed on both the western and eastern sections of the mine, with improving head grades expected as operations normalize and expand.

Overall, the successful commissioning of the Kamoakakula smelter represents a major milestone for Ivanhoe Mines and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, strengthening the country's position as a global copper producer and advancing local beneficiation in line with national development objectives.



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De Beers Appoints Kevin Smith as Interim COO Following Burger Greeff's Retirement

De Beers has appointed Kevin Smith, currently Executive VP of Corporate Affairs & Strategy, as interim Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective 1 December 2025. He succeeds Burger Greeff, who is retiring after 30 years with the group.

"As COO, Burger has brought integrity, strategic foresight, and unwavering commitment to our purpose. His contributions have helped shape our operations and inspired many across the business," said CEO Al Cook.

"With Burger's departure, I am delighted that Kevin Smith, a highly respected leader with nearly 30 years' experience, will take over operations leadership. He has worked closely with our government partners in Botswana and Namibia, driving success across joint ventures."

Simultaneously, Eirik Waerness, currently Chief Economist and Senior VP, has been appointed acting Executive VP of Corporate Affairs & Strategy.

"With more than 12 years in chief economist roles and board experience across major Norwegian government institutions, Eirik brings a unique perspective shaped by global markets and institutional governance," Cook added.

Leadership Legacies

Burger Greeff joined De Beers Group in August 1993 as a senior research officer. Over three decades, he held leadership roles including Senior Research Manager: Strategic, GM at De Beers Marine SA, and Executive Head of Technical & Sustainability, contributing to operational excellence, technical innovation, and sustainability initiatives.

Kevin Smith joined De Beers in 1996, holding numerous operational, technical, and commercial leadership roles across De Beers and Anglo American.

Most recently, as Executive VP of Corporate Affairs & Strategy, he played a pivotal role in delivering the Origins strategy and previously led the Upstream Origins strategy and a group-wide organizational redesign program.

Eirik Waerness joined De Beers on 1 September 2025 from Equinor in Norway, where he served as Chief Economist and Head of Strategy for 12 years.

In his new role, Waerness will oversee global communications, government affairs, strategy and business development, alongside market and price analysis, expanding his portfolio of responsibilities.

These leadership changes reflect De Beers' focus on continuity, strategic growth, and operational excellence, ensuring the group remains well-positioned in global diamond markets.



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FQM Expands Skills Development to Address Zambia's Artisan Shortage – By Constance Makungu

Zambia's mining industry is entering one of its most ambitious phases, with government targets set to reach three million tonnes of annual copper production by 2030.

Achieving this milestone will require not only investment in new mines but also a steady supply of skilled technicians and artisans capable of operating and maintaining the advanced machinery that defines modern mining.

Yet one of the most pressing challenges is the shortage of qualified and competent artisans.

At Kansanshi Mining PLC— 80% owned by FQM and 20% owned by ZCCM-IH —the shortage has become particularly visible.

Global mining companies are aggressively recruiting Zambian artisans trained in Kansanshi's world-class environment.

Rather than viewing this challenge as a threat, Kansanshi has chosen a proactive path: building Zambia's next generation of artisans through competence-based, hands-on training designed for modern mining operations.

Understanding the Global Pull

Mining companies across Africa, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and most recently the Democratic Republic of Congo are recruiting aggressively. They seek artisans who can handle modern mining systems, high-tech processing facilities, and advanced safety

procedures—all competencies Kansanshi artisans gain daily.

"We are a very high-tech mine, and as such our artisans become marketable globally because of the exposure they get from our advanced operations," explains Webby Makoloni, Training Superintendent at Kwambula College an FQM training facility for artisans and technicians "The more advanced the mine, the more desirable its workforce becomes internationally."

Makoloni adds: "Our technology, our systems, our work culture and ethics make our artisans marketable and often poached. It's an irony: success attracts competition."

Instead of resisting global demand, FQM has accepted a reality of modern mining—skilled workers are mobile. The solution is not holding onto workers, but developing more, faster, and better.

Expanding Capacity: Building More Space for More Artisans

One of the biggest solutions being implemented is the expansion of training facilities at Kwambula College. The company is investing heavily in infrastructure to recruit more students from surrounding communities, with the long-term goal of supplying both Kansanshi and Trident (Sentinel and Enterprise mines in Kalumbila) with homegrown technicians and artisans.

"We're expanding our facilities so that we can increase enrollment and develop more artisans," Makoloni said. This expansion is

not simply about numbers—it's about ensuring a sustainable talent pipeline for future mining operations.

FQM's approach rests on long-term investment, not temporary interventions. The company understands that global recruitment pressure will continue, so growth in training capacity must be continuous, strategic, and scalable.

Hands-On Training as the Standard

Unlike institutions that focus heavily on theory, Kwambula College has positioned competency-based training, hands-on training at the core of artisan development. The philosophy is simple but powerful: "Show me you can do it and not what you can remember or memorize."

There is no emphasis on merely memorizing procedures without the ability to apply them. Students are expected to demonstrate full practical competence in the workshop, field, and mine plant environment.

"It's 100% hands-on," Makoloni emphasizes. "There's nothing like getting something 90% correct. Either you know how to do it—or you don't."

This approach ensures that graduates arrive job-ready, capable, and competent—ideal for such high-performance environments like Kansanshi's mining operations.

Rigorous Selection: Investing in Quality from Day One



Kwambula has also implemented a carefully designed student enrolment process that prioritizes capability, potential, and employability. The process includes:

Minimum educational qualifications

- Aptitude tests
- Academic potential assessment
- Rigorous Interviews
- Medical checkups such as silicosis tests
- Psychometric evaluations etc.

This systematic approach ensures that students admitted into the program have strong foundational capabilities and are likely to succeed as full-time employees.

"Ultimately, the people that we absorb into the program end up as our employees, so we must get it right from the start," Makoloni explains.

Partnering With the Nation: Supporting TEVETA's Transformation

One of Kansanshi's most strategic initiatives is collaboration with the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA). Kansanshi is sharing its training model to help TEVETA reshape national standards.

"TEVETA is in the process of transitioning the country's trade schools to competency-based training," Makoloni notes. "For them to do that, they have to work closely with us to replicate what we are doing here."

This means Kwambula's training systems are not only benefiting FQM but they are also supporting the country's entire vocational

training landscape. The long term goal is national skills transformation, not just internal upskilling.

Aligning With Zambia's Copper Ambition

Zambia's target of three million tonnes of copper requires more than geological resources—it requires skilled manpower.

"We can only achieve that target if we develop the adequate skills we require as a country," Makoloni says.

With more young people trained to global standards, Zambia can operate, expand, and sustain modern mines long into the future.

Giving Opportunity to Local Youth

Expanding training intake also means that more young people from Solwezi and surrounding communities gain access to high-tech training that can transform their lives and careers. Many of these students may eventually work globally—but they start locally, gain experience at home, and carry skills that uplift Zambia's human capital profile.

Future-Focused, Not Defensive

Perhaps the most impressive element of Kansanshi's approach is its long-term outlook. Instead of reacting to departures, the mine anticipates them. Instead of fearing global competition, it competes through excellence. Instead of hiring skills externally, it builds them from within local community.

This mindset makes Kansanshi not only a major mining operation, but also one of the country's most impactful artisan development institutions.

The artisan shortage is real but so is the solution. Kansanshi Mining PLC has chosen a proactive, invested, and future-focused approach: expanding training facilities, raising competence levels, collaborating with national institutions, and preparing the country for long-term mining sustainability.

FQM isn't simply filling vacancies it is building a stronger workforce, a stronger mining industry, and ultimately, a stronger Zambia.

About Kwambula

Kwambula is a technical training facility established by First Quantum Minerals (FQM) through Kansanshi Mining PLC in Solwezi, Zambia. It provides industry-focused skills training in partnership with the Government of Zambia and TEVETA.

Kwambula offers fully sponsored, three-year craft certificate programs, including a monthly stipend, combining one year of classroom learning with two years of practical training at Kansanshi Mine. Graduates are highly employable, with many recruited by Kansanshi and other mining operations.

Courses include Heavy Equipment Repair, Mechanical Fitting, Power Electrical, Metal Fabrication, Instrumentation, Auto-Electrical, and a planned Rigging program.

"Kwambula," meaning igniting hope in Kikaonde, reflects the institute's mission to empower young Zambians with relevant technical skills and improve livelihoods through employment in the mining industry.



Gemfields Earns \$25.4m From Year-End Emerald Auction as Market Demand Rebounds

Gemfields Closes 2025 With Strong Emerald Auction Performance Despite Earlier Kagem Disruptions

Gemfields has announced \$25.4 million in revenue from its November–December auction of commercial-quality rough emeralds, ending the year with one of its strongest sales performances despite earlier operational challenges at the Kagem mine in Zambia.

The auction was conducted via private viewings in Jaipur, India, followed by an online sealed-bid process. Of the 46 lots offered, 45 lots—equal to 98%—were sold at an average price of \$7.46 per carat. Nearly 3.66 million carats were made available, with about 3.41 million carats successfully sold.

Gemfields product and sales managing director Adrian Banks said the result capped a difficult year marked by a temporary suspension of mining operations at Kagem during the first half of 2025.

"These auction results bring a positive close to a challenging year for Kagem.

Despite the early suspension of operations, the business has delivered a strong performance for 2025, helping the mine reach a total of \$79 million in auction revenues this year," he said.

Banks noted that firm pricing across all product categories suggested that pressures seen at the end of 2024 and early 2025 had eased. He added that strengthened market sentiment and steady demand since the third quarter continued to support sales.

Gemfields emphasised that auction results naturally vary, as the mix of emeralds offered changes depending on mined output and market requirements. For that reason, comparisons between auctions are not exact.

The company reported that Kagem's 53 auctions since July 2009 have generated a combined \$1.15 billion in revenue. Recent commercial-quality auction outcomes included \$25.5 million in August–September 2023 at \$7.51/ct, \$17.1 million in March 2024 at \$4.45/ct, \$10.8 million in August–September 2024 at \$4.47/ct, and \$16.4 million in April 2025 at \$6.87/ct.



Dangote Group Seeks Partnership with Zambia to Boost Energy Supply and Local Value Addition

The Dangote Group has expressed its readiness to partner with Zambia to harness the country's coal deposits as part of efforts to help address the national electricity deficit.

Group President Aliko Dangote met with President Hakainde Hichilema at State House to discuss potential collaborations focused on adding value to Zambia's raw materials and expanding energy production.

Mr. Dangote emphasized the Group's interest in working with the Zambian government to promote local processing before export, noting that value addition keeps jobs and wealth within the country.

He stressed that sustained economic growth is

difficult without a reliable electricity supply, adding that adequate power would boost Zambia's GDP and support year-round production of key crops such as maize.

He also highlighted Zambia's strategic, land-linked location, which positions the country well to supply goods to neighboring markets.

President Hichilema welcomed the Dangote Group's interest, saying Africa must take charge of its own development agenda through industrialization and regional collaboration.

He noted that Zambia's electricity demand has risen sharply and the current power shortage is constraining economic growth—an issue worsened by last season's drought. The

President encouraged the Dangote Group to invest in the energy sector as part of a long-term solution.

Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development Minister Charles Milupi added that the government has already partnered with the Dangote Group on the construction of a concrete road in the Copperbelt. He said the project will serve as a model for future concrete road developments, particularly in high-traffic areas.

Meanwhile, Monica Musonda, a Director of Dangote Cement Zambia, urged the government to continue collaborating with the Group, noting that Dangote's diversified portfolio positions it well to support Zambia across multiple sectors.

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Zimec 2026 To Spotlight Zambia's Exploration Renaissance: Unpacking How Innovation, Policy, And Technology Are Shaping The Next Mineral Boom

The 13th Zambia International Mining & Energy Conference & Exhibition (ZIMEC 2026), to be held on 25-26 March 2026 in Kitwe, Zambia, will zero in on one of the most vital conversations for Zambia's mineral future: how to accelerate exploration and de-risk the hunt for new deposits through technology, partnerships, and smart policy. ZIMEC 2026 is fully supported by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development and the Ministry of Energy.

Under the theme "Promoting Responsible Investment & Partnerships to Sustainably Grow Zambia's Mining and Energy Sectors", ZIMEC 2026 provides a strategic platform for government leaders, mining companies, investors, geoscientists, and development partners to explore how discovery – not just production – will sustain Zambia's role as a critical minerals hub in the decades ahead.

Exploration: The Lifeblood of Zambia's Mineral Future

A highlight of this year's conference will be the Exploration Panel, titled: "Accelerating mineral discovery: De-risking exploration and leveraging technology to advance the search for minerals." This session recognises that exploration is far more than just drilling but it's the foundation of future investment, value creation, and long-term growth for Zambia's mining sector.

Key topics to be addressed include:

- Geoscientific data and mineral-potential mapping: How comprehensive, modern data is uncovering previously hidden opportunities
- Incentives and policy frameworks for exploration: The role of government, regulation, and public-private partnerships in lowering risk for explorers
- De-risking investment for juniors and mid-tiers — How smaller companies can be supported to take on bold, early-stage exploration
- The role of AI and geospatial technologies — Using artificial intelligence,

digitised maps, and advanced remote-sensing to guide discovery

- Platforms such as the Zambia Integrated Mining Information System (ZIMIS): Leveraging national systems for data sharing, transparency, and better decision-making

Real-World Examples: Zambia's Exploration Momentum

Zambia is no stranger to exploration innovation. For example:

- Ivanhoe Mines has launched its largest-ever copper exploration program in the country, committing US\$ 50 million to drilling across its Western Forelands license. The company is using airborne geophysical data collected in a nationwide survey to fast-track its program.

- Giant Mineral Fields has partnered with African Holdings Limited and Curprite Geo-Services to explore three licence areas in the Central African Copperbelt, leveraging Zambia's strong mineral potential and policy incentives.

- Koryx Copper is actively exploring two large-scale licences: Luanshya West and Mpongwe (totalling over 700 km²), using historical geological data, geophysics, and planned drilling to test high-potential targets.

- On the policy and national data side, Zambia is bolstering its geoscience foundation through a high-resolution aerial geophysical survey, run in partnership with international partners, to map previously under-explored basins.

- In the realm of critical minerals, recent reports highlight major new prospects in cobalt, manganese, lithium, graphite, and nickel – including high-grade graphite in Lundazi and Kapiri Mposhi, and a planned cobalt refinery backed by US\$ 100 million.

These examples illustrate that Zambia is not just talking about exploration, it is actively building the infrastructure, data systems, and investment incentives that can make discovery more efficient, more transparent, and more attractive.

What to Expect at the Session

- Panellists will include geoscientists, investors, government officials, and technology leaders
- Interactive discussion on policy design, data platforms, and the funding gap for junior explorers
- Q&A sessions to foster engagement with participants
- Networking opportunities for deal-making, joint ventures, and data-sharing partnerships

Join Us at ZIMEC 2026

ZIMEC 2026 is not just a conference, it's a catalyst for exploration-led growth. The exploration panel will be a strategic moment for all stakeholders to come together, share lessons, and commit to the future of Zambia's mineral discovery journey.

Registration is now open for delegates, exhibitors, and sponsors. For more information, including programming and exhibition opportunities, please visit <https://zimeczambia.com/> or contact Conference Producer, Babongile Zulu at babongile@ametrade.org. Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #ZIMEC.

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TATA International Zambia Launches John Deere 460 P-TIER Dump Truck to Boost Mining and Construction Efficiency – By Constance Makungu

Kitwe, Zambia – TATA International Limited Zambia, in partnership with John Deere, has officially launched the John Deere 460 P-TIER Articulated Dump Truck in the Zambian market.

The launch represents a significant development for the country's mining and construction industries—sectors that rely heavily on durable, high-capacity machinery to sustain productivity in demanding environments.

The 460 P-TIER is designed for heavy-duty operations, combining robust engineering with advanced operational systems. Its arrival reflects growing demand for equipment that can withstand Zambia's rugged terrain while reducing downtime and operating costs. For contractors, the machine offers a practical solution to challenges that have long affected efficiency and profitability.

Addressing Zambia's Operational Challenges

Mining and construction projects in Zambia often unfold under difficult conditions. Rough terrain, unpredictable weather, and intensive workloads place considerable strain on equipment. Contractors frequently face issues such as mechanical breakdowns, high maintenance costs, and limitations in machine efficiency.

The 460 P-TIER has been engineered to address these realities. Its design emphasises durability, with reinforced components that can withstand sustained heavy loads. Intelligent operational systems further support consistent performance, helping operators manage variable conditions without compromising safety or productivity.

Griffiths Makgate, Director for Sales & Marketing (Construction & Forestry, AME), highlighted the machine's adaptability:

"The John Deere 460 P-TIER is built to handle demanding conditions, from muddy terrain to heavy loads. Its technology enables operators to optimise performance while safeguarding the equipment's longevity."

Technical Specifications and Capabilities

The 460 P-TIER delivers measurable improvements in capacity and efficiency. Key

specifications include:

- Engine Power: 359 kW (481 hp)
- Heaped Capacity: 25.2 m³
- Rated Payload: 41,820 kg

These figures place the truck among the higher-capacity articulated dump trucks available in the market. The combination of engine power and payload capacity allows contractors to move larger volumes of material in fewer cycles, reducing overall project timelines.

Beyond raw output, the truck incorporates drive modes and operational systems that adjust transmission response, braking, and traction to suit varying conditions. These features help operators maintain productivity while reducing mechanical stress and fuel consumption.

Makgate noted that customers often seek ways to balance productivity with machine preservation:

"The 460 P-TIER's systems are designed to protect critical components while enabling operators to meet ambitious targets safely."

Safety and Operator Support

Safety remains a central concern in mining and construction operations. While the 460 P-TIER does not include autonomous collision avoidance or fatigue detection systems, it integrates practical technologies such as rear-view cameras, vision systems, and object detection. These features improve operator awareness, reducing the risk of accidents in complex environments.

The emphasis on operator protection aligns with industry priorities, where safety and uptime are critical to project success. By combining visibility enhancements with durable engineering, the truck supports safer and more efficient operations across varied sites.

After-Sales and Customer Support

TATA International Limited Zambia positions after-sales service as a cornerstone of its offering. The company provides spare parts, sensor management, technical guidance, and maintenance support to ensure machines remain operational over the long term.

Makgate explained:

"Our differentiator is not only the equipment but the support ecosystem. We provide parts, technical expertise, and ongoing service to help customers maximise their investment."

This approach is particularly relevant for contractors managing multiple machines, where downtime directly affects profitability. By combining advanced machinery with comprehensive support, TATA International Zambia aims to reduce operational risks and strengthen customer confidence.

Financing and Market Access

Recognising the financial constraints faced by contractors, TATA International Zambia offers tailored financing packages. These solutions are designed to ease acquisition without disrupting cash flow, enabling both small-scale and large-scale operators to access advanced machinery.

Makgate added that live demonstrations will be held at project sites, enabling contractors to evaluate the truck's performance under real working conditions. This initiative reflects a practical approach to market engagement, giving operators firsthand experience of the machine's capabilities.

Applications Across Industries

The 460 P-TIER is suited for mining, construction, and forestry operations. Its payload capacity and durability make it effective for transporting heavy materials across difficult terrain, reducing cycle times and improving site efficiency. Contractors can plan projects with confidence, knowing the machine is engineered for sustained heavy loads and variable conditions.

In mining, the truck's capacity supports efficient movement of ore and overburden, critical for maintaining production schedules. In construction, it facilitates large-scale earthmoving and infrastructure projects. In forestry, its durability allows for reliable transport of timber and other materials across uneven ground.

By applying intelligent technology and robust design, the 460 P-TIER enables operators to

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achieve higher productivity targets without compromising safety or machine longevity.

Sustainability and Lifecycle Efficiency

The truck's design emphasises long-term value through fuel efficiency, reduced maintenance downtime, and lifecycle monitoring systems. These features extend operational life and support resource-efficient practices, aligning with industry goals for sustainability.

Fuel-efficient performance reduces operating costs while minimising environmental impact. Lifecycle monitoring systems provide operators with data to manage maintenance proactively, reducing unexpected breakdowns and extending machine longevity.

Makgate concluded:

"Safety, efficiency, and reliability are central to the 460 P-TIER. It is a machine built not only for

immediate productivity but for long-term operational resilience."

Industry Context and Comparative Perspective

The introduction of the 460 P-TIER comes at a time when Zambia's mining and construction sectors are seeking equipment that balances capacity with efficiency. Global competitors such as Caterpillar and Volvo also offer articulated dump trucks in similar payload ranges, but John Deere's focus on operator support and lifecycle efficiency provides a distinctive value proposition.

For contractors, the choice of equipment often hinges on reliability, service support, and financing options. By combining advanced machinery with tailored financial solutions and comprehensive after-sales service, TATA International Zambia positions itself as a competitive player in the market.

This strategy reflects broader industry trends,

where equipment providers are expected to deliver not only machines but integrated solutions that address operational challenges and financial realities.

Driving Zambia's Growth

The launch of the John Deere 460 P-TIER underscores TATA International Zambia's commitment to strengthening the country's mining and construction sectors. By combining advanced machinery with comprehensive support and financing, the company aims to empower contractors to achieve higher productivity, reduce risks, and contribute to sustainable industry growth.

With the 460 P-TIER, Zambian operators gain access to equipment that combines performance, safety, and support—reinforcing the foundations of mining, construction, and forestry development across the country.

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DRDGOLD Names Henriette Hooijer as New CFO for 2026

JSE- and NYSE-listed gold producer DRDGOLD Limited (JSE: DRD) has announced a key leadership transition, confirming that Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Executive Director Riaan Davel will step down from his roles with effect from 31 January 2026.

The company further confirmed that Henriette Hooijer will officially assume the position of CFO from 1 February 2026, marking the next phase in DRDGOLD's ongoing succession and transformation strategy.

Smooth Succession Following Early Planning

This announcement follows DRDGOLD's earlier June 2025 SENS release, in which the company disclosed that Davel had indicated his intention to step down following the conclusion of the financial reporting season for the year ended 30 June 2025.

At the time, DRDGOLD named Hooijer — then serving as General Manager: Group Finance — as CFO Designate and the company's first female executive director, effective 1 July 2025.

By formally setting the effective dates for the transition, the company has reaffirmed its commitment to good corporate governance and leadership continuity.

About Riaan Davel

Riaan Davel joined DRDGOLD in January 2015 after 17 years in professional services,

bringing strong financial and governance expertise to the gold producer.

During his decade-long tenure, Davel helped to strengthen DRDGOLD's financial position, enhance transparency, and support its strategic growth projects such as Far West Gold Recoveries (FWGR).

Under his financial leadership, the company's Annual Integrated Report consistently earned "Excellent" recognition at the EY Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards.

Although he will step down as CFO and Executive Director at the end of January 2026, Davel will continue to serve DRDGOLD in an advisory capacity until January 2027 to ensure a smooth handover and transition.

About Henriette Hooijer

Henriette Hooijer, a Chartered Accountant (CA (SA)), joined DRDGOLD in May 2016 as Group Financial SOX & Compliance Manager after over a decade at KPMG South Africa. She was promoted to Financial Director of Far West Gold Recoveries in 2018 and later advanced to General Manager: Group Finance in March 2024.

Over nearly a decade at the company, Hooijer has played a critical role in financial management, compliance, and strategic execution, particularly in driving DRDGOLD's Vision 2028 framework — a roadmap focused on sustainable growth and operational excellence.

Her appointment marks a historic milestone for the company, as she becomes DRDGOLD's first female executive director, reflecting its continued progress on diversity and inclusion within its leadership ranks.

A Testament to Strong Governance

Industry analysts note that the extended transition period demonstrates careful succession planning and reinforces investor confidence. The company's decision to announce Hooijer's designation months in advance, coupled with Davel's continued advisory role, minimizes operational disruption and signals strategic continuity.

The leadership change also aligns with DRDGOLD's reputation for transparency, responsible governance, and sustainability, key pillars underpinning its market success.

Looking Ahead

As DRDGOLD advances toward its Vision 2028 goals, the incoming CFO will play a pivotal role in maintaining financial discipline, driving capital efficiency, and supporting the company's ESG and B-BBEE compliance objectives.

With Davel's mentorship during the transition and Hooijer's deep institutional knowledge, DRDGOLD's finance function appears well positioned to sustain stability while continuing its evolution toward a more diversified, future-focused leadership model.



Barrick Mining Weighs Major Breakup as Board Considers Splitting Global Operations

Barrick Gold Considers Breaking Up Company: Possible Split of North American and African-Asian Assets

The board of Barrick Mining, one of the world's largest gold producers, is exploring a plan to split the company into two separate entities—one focused on North America and the other on Africa and Asia—according to four sources familiar with internal discussions.

The potential restructuring could also involve the sale of Barrick's African portfolio and the Reko Diq copper-gold project in Pakistan, once financing arrangements for the latter are secured, the sources told Reuters.

In Mali, Barrick is reportedly seeking to resolve its dispute with the country's military-led government before moving forward with any sale. The company has faced heightened challenges in the region following a standoff over Mali's new mining code.

A Barrick spokesperson did not immediately comment on the reports. Asked on Monday about a possible breakup, interim CEO Mark Hill said the company does not respond to market speculation.

Potential Reversal of the 2019 Randgold Merger

If executed, the move would effectively reverse Barrick's 2019 merger with Randgold Resources, undoing a major

strategic shift initiated by former CEO Mark Bristow, who brought in the company's extensive African portfolio.

Sources caution that discussions are still ongoing and no final decisions have been made.

Strategic Shift Toward North America

One source told Reuters that refocusing on North American assets—particularly the Fourmile project in Nevada, one of the continent's largest undeveloped gold deposits—could help Barrick avoid being undervalued in any future takeover attempt.

Although test production at Fourmile is not expected until 2029, comments from Hill earlier this week emphasizing a shift toward North America contributed to a ratings upgrade from analysts at Jefferies and other firms.

Following the Reuters report, Barrick shares rose 3% on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Friday.

Investor Pressure Amid Gold Price Rally

Despite a 130% surge in Barrick's share price this year, investors argue that the company remains undervalued. Over the last five years, Barrick has gained 52%, significantly trailing competitors such as Agnico Eagle, which rose 142% over the same period.

Some investors have previously urged Barrick to create two divisions:

One holding stable assets such as Nevada and Fourmile

Another comprising higher-risk operations in Africa, Papua New Guinea, and Pakistan's Reko Diq

Geopolitical Risk Shapes the Debate

As one of the few global gold miners operating across multiple continents, Barrick continues to face substantial political and regulatory risks.

Earlier this year, the company lost control of its Loulo-Goukoto complex in Mali, its most profitable mine, after a dispute over mining taxes. The situation prompted a \$1 billion write-off, the seizure of 3 metric tons of gold, and the appointment of a government administrator. Four Barrick employees remain imprisoned.

"There's widespread belief that Nevada alone contains enormous value," one investor said. If publicly listed independently, Nevada Gold Mines—Barrick's joint venture with Newmont Corp.—would rank among the world's highest-valued gold mining companies.

Barrick's Global Footprint

Beyond Nevada and Mali, Barrick operates major mines including:

Copper: Democratic Republic of Congo

Gold: Tanzania, the Dominican Republic, Papua New Guinea

As strategic discussions continue, investors and industry analysts will be watching closely to see whether Barrick moves ahead with one of the most significant restructurings in its history.

Glencore Targets Major Copper Production Expansion as Operational Reset Gains Momentum

Glencore has outlined an ambitious plan to lift its annual copper production to approximately 1.6 million tonnes by 2035, signaling a strategic shift aimed at reversing several years of declining output.

Chief executive Gary Nagle told investors in London that the company expects its base copper business to surpass 1 million tonnes per year by the end of 2028, placing Glencore among the world's top five copper producers.

The production push comes as global miners accelerate supply expansion to meet growing demand linked to electrification and the energy transition. Glencore, however, is emerging from a difficult period: its copper output is projected to fall for the fourth consecutive year, now sitting roughly 40 percent below its 2018 peak. The company has also faced investor pressure as its share price dropped to its lowest level since 2020, prompting concerns about repeated production cuts and operational challenges.

In response, Glencore has launched a comprehensive operational review involving approximately 1,000 job cuts and a targeted 1 billion dollars in recurring cost savings by the end of 2025.

The announcement coincides with copper prices reaching a new record above 11,400 dollars per tonne, extending a 30 percent year-to-date rally driven by supply disruptions and strong investor interest.

Looking ahead to South America, Glencore reduced its 2026 copper production guidance to between 810,000 and 870,000 tonnes, down from a previous target of 930,000 tonnes, largely due to setbacks at the Collahuasi mine in Chile, which it co-owns with Anglo American. The company also revised down its zinc and cobalt production forecasts.

Despite the near-term downgrade, Glencore reaffirmed its expectation of achieving 1 million tonnes of copper annually by 2028, supported in part

by the planned restart of the Alubrera mine in Argentina's Catamarca Province.

Operations are slated to resume in the fourth quarter of 2026, with first production expected in the first half of 2028. Once fully operational, Alubrera is projected to deliver roughly 75,000 tonnes of copper, 317,000 ounces of gold, and 1,000 tonnes of molybdenum over four years.

Nagle emphasized that most of Glencore's upcoming projects are brownfield expansions designed to be capital-efficient, noting that the company will seek partnerships to manage financial and operational risks.

The Alubrera restart is expected to deliver strong economics on a standalone basis and serve as a strategic enabler for the Minera Agua Rica–Alubrera (MARA) project by maintaining critical infrastructure, retaining technical capabilities, and reducing ramp-up risk.

In Chile, Glencore intends to retain an equal stake in its copper joint venture with Anglo American should Collahuasi be merged with Teck Resources' nearby Quebrada Blanca operation after Anglo's acquisition of Teck.

Nagle stated that Glencore is prepared to inject capital to maintain parity in any future combination. The proposed Teck–Anglo transaction, scheduled for a shareholder vote next week, would create a copper-dominant mining group, with the potential integration of Collahuasi and Quebrada Blanca long viewed as a source of significant cost synergies.

Nagle added that any future combination must reflect Collahuasi's improved relative value following operational setbacks at Quebrada Blanca, noting that the balance of value has "materially moved towards Collahuasi" while acknowledging the broader strategic synergies of a combined operation.



Mukoleku Security Services

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FQM's Local Investment Fuels Mukoleku Security's Rapid Growth

Mukoleku Security Services Grows from Small Startup to Major Employer Through Local Partnerships and Mining Contracts

What began as a modest security operation in 2014 with a single bicycle and three guards has grown into a thriving enterprise employing over 500 staff.

Mukoleku Security Services, led by founder and Managing Director Howard Mutambakyalo, now holds significant contracts with major mining companies and operates a fleet of vehicles equipped with advanced security technology.

Reflecting on the company's journey, Mr. Mutambakyalo said, "We started with just three guards. Today, we have more than 500 employees and contracts covering over 345 officers." The company's rapid expansion was largely supported by local procurement policies from mining firms, which prioritize awarding contracts to businesses within host communities, as well as training and financial assistance provided through corporate social initiatives.

"The challenge at the start was skepticism. Even delivering food to our team was difficult when we relied on a bicycle," Mr. Mutambakyalo recalled. "Support in the form of loans and training was crucial to our success."

Mukoleku's growth has had a broader community impact. The company hires locally, supports subcontractors, and engages in philanthropic initiatives,

including donating a bus to Kisasa Rural Health Centre.

Employees, such as trained teacher Rose Lemba and long-serving guard Kabwi Kushemi, 65, emphasize how employment has improved livelihoods and created opportunities for individuals with modest qualifications.

Corporate representatives note the broader benefits of partnerships with local enterprises. Mirriam Harmon, Senior Public Relations Specialist at a mining partner, stated, "Investing in local businesses like Mukoleku builds capacity, fosters entrepreneurship, and ensures wealth generated has a multiplier effect in our communities. Their success is our success."

Today, Mukoleku Security Services is equipped with body cameras, solar technology, and a reputation that rivals international firms.

The company is planning expansion into the Democratic Republic of Congo, highlighting the potential for local businesses to scale with the right support.

Mr. Mutambakyalo urged continued investment in local enterprise: "As we received training and guidance to grow, other local businesses deserve the same opportunity to follow our example."

This story demonstrates how targeted partnerships between multinational companies and local enterprises can empower communities, strengthen local economies, and create sustainable impact.



Molefe Copper Mine in Zambia Set for Expansion Through Jubilee-Galileo Partnership

Johannesburg- and London-listed Jubilee Metals Group has signed a cooperation and project development agreement with Galileo Resources to fast-track exploration and development at the Molefe copper mine in Zambia. Under the deal, Galileo can earn up to a 23.75% interest in the project by investing \$700,000 in resource development work.

The agreement leverages Jubilee's operational and processing expertise in Zambia alongside Galileo's exploration and geological capabilities, allowing each company to focus on core workstreams, including:

- Day-to-day operational management
- Design and construction of an on-site processing plant
- Expanded drilling and exploration at Molefe and surrounding areas

Earn-In Terms and Ownership Structure

Galileo will earn its 23.75% shareholding in the Molefe mine's holding company by completing the agreed exploration and resource definition program within eight months. Upon completion:

- Jubilee will retain a 71.25% interest
- A local Zambian company will hold 5%

Jubilee's existing investment in the mine will be structured as a combination of an interest-bearing capital loan and a non-interest-bearing shareholder loan, with preferential earnings applied to the capital loan until fully repaid.

Current Operations and Expansion Plans

Molefe is currently operational and supplying high-grade ore to Jubilee's Sable refinery, with production increasing to 4,500 tonnes per month of run-of-mine ore at over 2% copper. Approximately 2.2 million tonnes of lower-grade ore (0.7% copper) have been stockpiled on site since October.

The planned on-site processing facility will treat both new ore and stockpiled material. The expanded exploration and drilling program aims to grow the resource base for mine planning and confirm the potential identified by Jubilee.

Governance and Joint Committees

The agreement establishes executive committees to oversee the project:

Jubilee will nominate two members, including the chairperson

Galileo will nominate one member

After the earn-in, board representation will follow the shareholding structure, with Jubilee appointing two directors and Galileo one director.

Potential for Expansion

The partnership may extend to additional contiguous exploration areas secured by Jubilee around Molefe. These areas are considered highly prospective and could allow the companies to replicate the development model used at Molefe.

CEO Commentary

"We are delighted to have a partner with such an established record in Zambia for the co-development of Molefe. The combined skill set of both teams is seldom available for a single mining project of this size," said Jubilee CEO Leon Coetzer.

Coetzer emphasized that the agreement allows Jubilee to focus on operations and processing development, while Galileo manages mine planning and resource measurement, leveraging its decades of experience in Zambia and across Africa.

"The joint shareholding ensures a common purpose to develop this opportunity and deliver shareholder returns – potentially one of the most significant copper deposits in Zambia's Central Province," he added.

This collaboration positions the Molefe mine as a rapidly advancing project with strong potential to contribute significantly to Zambia's copper production and mining sector growth.

Chile Accelerates 13 Copper Projects Ahead of Bullish 2026 Market

Chile is set to advance 13 copper projects valued at \$14.8 billion in 2026, as global prices rise amid fears of a looming supply shortage.

Seven domestic projects aim to begin operations next year, adding nearly 500,000 tonnes of annual capacity supported by \$7.1 billion in investment, according to official figures.

Key projects include Anglo American/Glencore's Collahuasi upgrades (C20+), Codelco's Rajo Inca structural project, Capstone Copper's Mantos Blancos, and Andes Iron's Dominga. Another six developments plan to start construction, representing \$7.7 billion in spending, including BHP's Spence and Capstone's Santo Domingo projects.

Juan Ignacio Guzmán, CEO of Chilean mining consultancy GEM, cautioned that while several projects are scheduled to begin production in 2026, full ramp-up will take time. Based on Cochilco estimates, Chile's output could rise to

5.6 million tonnes, an increase of roughly 100,000 tonnes of fine copper within a year. The International Copper Study Group projects a 2026 deficit of 150,000 tonnes, potentially widening if projects are delayed.

Benchmark Minerals analyst Albert Mackenzie highlighted the long-term demand for copper driven by the energy transition and technology sectors, including AI, noting the challenges of developing new mines.

Community relations remain the primary risk for Chile's 2026 slate, Guzmán said. Projects already starting operations have cleared major hurdles, but those entering construction still face approval processes that could lead to court delays.

Significant investment will be crucial for these projections. Cochilco expects Chile to attract \$105 billion between 2025 and 2034, including expansions at established operations like BHP's Escondida, the world's largest copper mine.

The election of ultra-conservative José Antonio Kast

as Chile's next president in March 2026 is seen as favorable for mining investors. Kast's administration is expected to streamline permitting, reduce regulatory uncertainty, and enhance fiscal stability, potentially easing operational disruptions and accelerating project execution.

Copper prices have surged nearly 40% this year, reaching over \$12,000 per tonne on December 23 amid global supply concerns. US stockpiling and Chinese smelter output cuts have tightened markets, with JP Morgan projecting a 330,000-tonne refined copper deficit in 2026. Analysts note that even as new mines come online, it takes time for metal to reach the market.

While structural deficits are debated, experts agree that rising demand and extraction challenges make the timely execution of Chile's copper projects critical to meeting global supply needs and capturing opportunities in a bullish 2026 market.



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Luanshya Copper Mine Poised for Revival After CNMC Completes Dewatering of 28 Shaft

CNMC Luanshya Copper Mine has successfully completed the dewatering of the flooded 28 Shaft, removing approximately 170 million cubic metres of water and marking a major milestone toward the resumption of mining activities.

Following the completion of the dewatering process, the mine is expected to restart operations on a gradual basis, with full-scale production targeted for August 2026.

Luanshya District Commissioner Paul Malele confirmed the development, noting that only minor works remain before underground mining can resume.

These include cleaning, rehabilitation, and final preparation of the underground tunnels to ensure safe and efficient operations.

He described the progress as highly encouraging, stating that it restores hope for the people of Luanshya and signals a revival of economic activity in the town.

The resumption of mining operations is expected to stimulate employment, business growth, and broader economic recovery in a community that has previously experienced economic decline.



Rome Resources Explores Copper Potential at Bisie North While Tin Remains Primary Target

UK-based Rome Resources is evaluating the economic viability of copper mining at its Bisie North project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while maintaining tin as the main exploration focus. The company provided an update on December 23, 2025, confirming that ongoing studies are progressing on schedule.

Throughout 2025, Rome Resources commissioned metallurgical tests to determine processing methods capable of recovering copper resources located above the tin zones at Mount Agoma. The first phase of this work is nearing completion, with

results expected shortly.

Rome Resources' maiden resource estimate, published in October 2025, highlighted the polymetallic nature of Bisie North, identifying 10,600 tons of tin and 46,900 tons of copper.

The current metallurgical studies aim to assess the conditions under which the copper could be economically extracted, including optimal processing methods and the quality of the final product.

Copper remains a strategic metal with growing demand in electronics, renewable energy, and

electric mobility. The International Energy Agency has flagged a potential supply shortfall by 2035, driven by expected increases in global demand.

By targeting copper resources at Bisie North, Rome Resources seeks to position itself in this critical market.

The outcome of the ongoing metallurgical work will determine the project's copper potential, with no certainty yet regarding economic viability. In parallel, Rome Resources plans to continue exploration, including a new drilling campaign set to begin in the first quarter of 2026.

Atomic Eagle Targets 100 Million Pounds of Uranium at Muntanga Project in Zambia

A SX-listed Atomic Eagle has announced a new JORC-compliant exploration target of 40 million to 100.5 million pounds of triuranium octoxide (U_3O_8), at a grade range of 150 to 350 parts per million (ppm), for its Muntanga project in Zambia.

This target is in addition to the company's existing JORC-compliant mineral resource, which includes 40 million pounds in the measured and indicated categories and 7.4 million pounds inferred.

Atomic Eagle says the new exploration target underscores the scale of the Muntanga project area and highlights significant potential for further discoveries. The company notes that despite progress, the project remains vastly underexplored, with modern exploration techniques already

identifying promising new targets.

The company emphasizes that the potential quantities and grades of the exploration target are conceptual, and insufficient exploration has been conducted to define a formal mineral resource.

Maiden drilling programs at the Muntanga East and Chisebuka targets are nearing completion, with assay results expected in early 2026. Atomic Eagle also plans a comprehensive 2026 drill program, aiming to substantially expand the project's mineral resource.

The upcoming campaign is expected to be the largest undertaken at Muntanga in 17 years.

Atomic Eagle reports that its aggressive exploration initiatives are fully funded, with approximately \$20 million in cash remaining

after ASX listing costs.

"The company's strategy is firmly focused on rapidly expanding the existing mineral resource across the Muntanga uranium project area," said Chairperson Govind Friedland.

By releasing the new exploration target, Friedland says Atomic Eagle can now articulate the potential "size of the prize" across its extensive land package within the Karoo Basin sediments. He added that resource definition is underway, with results from the maiden drilling program expected in early 2026.

"We are also finalizing the details of our 2026 exploration program, which will be the largest single program completed at the project since its discovery," Friedland said.

Kitumba Mine on Track to Commence Copper Production in 2026

Sino-Mine Kitumba Minerals, located in Mumbwa District, Central Province, is scheduled to commence copper production by June 2026.

The government has expressed strong support for the project, highlighting the adoption of state-of-the-art technology and the introduction of new skills to Zambians.

Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Siazongo

Siakalenge, stated that once operations begin next year, the mine's projected annual output of 50,000 metric tonnes of copper will make a significant contribution toward Zambia's goal of producing 3 million metric tonnes of copper annually by 2031. Dr. Siakalenge made these remarks during a site visit to assess ongoing developments.

Meanwhile, Sino-Mine Kitumba Minerals Chief Executive Officer, Frank Wang, revealed

that half of the planned investment of 690 million U.S. dollars has already been deployed at the site, with the remainder scheduled for next year. He added that the project has already generated over 3,000 jobs for the local community.

The Kitumba project is expected to play a key role in strengthening Zambia's copper sector while providing employment and skill development opportunities.



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Botswana and Angola Explore Joint Bid for De Beers Amid Diamond Industry Shake-Up

Botswana and Angola held high-level talks in Gaborone, Botswana, as both countries position themselves to gain control of De Beers, the diamond unit that Anglo American is selling as part of a corporate restructuring.

Botswana's Mines Minister Bogolo Joy Kenewendo and Angola's Mineral Resources Minister Diamantino Pedro Azevedo met privately for approximately 40 minutes before making brief comments to the press.

They confirmed discussions focused on diamond sector cooperation, energy, and logistics, though specific details were not disclosed.

The meeting fueled market speculation about a possible alliance between Africa's top diamond producers, potentially dividing ownership of De Beers between Botswana and Angola.

"At the top of everyone's minds this year is the performance of the diamond industry and our collaborative efforts in bringing back the spark and shine to the industry," said

Kenewendo.

"As some of the largest producers of diamonds by quantity and value in the world, it is only right that we meet and join hands in discussing how to get the most out of this natural resource."

Botswana's Strategic Position

Botswana currently owns 15% of De Beers through its Debswana joint venture and supplies roughly 70% of the company's rough diamonds, making it a critical national asset.

The country's economy has been impacted by a global slump in diamond prices, heightening its interest in securing greater control over the company.

Angola's Ambitions and Regional Shift

Angola initially proposed forming a pan-African consortium of diamond-producing nations to co-own De Beers but later submitted a solo bid for a majority stake, setting the stage for a potential bidding contest between the neighboring nations.

Recent data shows that Angola overtook

Botswana as Africa's top diamond producer by value for the first time in two decades. Angola's 2024 output slightly surpassed Botswana's, signaling a shift in the continent's diamond hierarchy.

The De Beers Sale

Anglo American, which holds an 85% stake in De Beers, values the company at approximately \$5 billion. Analysts estimate the final sale price could range between \$3 billion and \$4 billion, reflecting current market conditions.

The sale has attracted interest from at least six potential buyers, including investor groups led by former De Beers executives, Indian firms, Qatari investment funds, and billionaire Anil Agarwal.

The outcome of these discussions and the eventual sale could reshape Africa's diamond industry and determine how the continent's most valuable natural resource is managed in the coming years.

SOURCE: angolanminingoilandgas.com

Mining Indaba 2026 Stronger Together: Progress Through Partnerships

Mining Indaba 2026 returns to Cape Town from 9–12 February, uniting governments, investors, mining companies, communities, and downstream buyers at a pivotal moment for Africa's mining sector.

Building on the transformative 2025 edition—which convened 58 ministers, 1,400 officials, 625 speakers, and over 10,500 delegates from 122 countries—the event continues to reinforce its reputation as the world's leading mining investment conference.

Last year's theme, "Future-Proofing African Mining, Today", struck a balance between policy, innovation, investment, and community impact, with delegates praising its actionable insights and inclusive dialogue.

Investor engagement was particularly strong, with oversubscribed matchmaking sessions and new partnerships forged in the

Investment Village. Diversity and inclusion were central, with women making up 40% of speakers, indigenous voices integrated, and youth participation elevated through the Young Leaders Programme and university partnerships. Downstream buyer involvement more than doubled, linking African mining directly to global energy, automotive, and manufacturing value chains.

Momentum for 2026 is already unprecedented, with more than 70% of exhibition space sold within weeks of the 2025 event closing. Under the theme Stronger Together: Progress Through Partnerships, the programme will highlight Africa's strategic role in the global energy transition through a Critical Minerals Programme, expanded Partnership Spotlights, and a Downstream Buyers Programme connecting mining with automotive, aerospace, chemical, and renewable sectors.

New platforms such as the Pitstop Networking

Space, Industry Intel roundtables, Junior Mining Showcase, and Technology Showcase will foster collaboration and innovation. CEO participation will expand further, with confirmed leaders from Harmony, Exxaro, Valterra, and Thungela, while community engagement will be deepened through cultural heritage initiatives and legacy development.

Sustainability will be embedded across all sessions, reflecting Africa's shift from raw material supplier to strategic partner in global decarbonisation, industrialization, and energy security.

As resource nationalism, trade blocs, and geopolitical tensions reshape supply chains, Mining Indaba 2026 aims to be remembered as the year African mining set a new course—where collaboration replaced silos, youth voices reshaped the conversation, and technology and sustainability became headline priorities.

Chinese-Backed R2.5 Billion Steel Plant Set to Boost South Africa's Long-Steel Production

New R2.5 Billion Chinese-Funded Steel Mill Near Nigel Targets 600,000 Tonnes Annual Production Amid South Africa Market Challenges.

A new steel plant being developed by Chung Fung Metal near Nigel, Gauteng, has received backing from Chinese investors and is valued at approximately R2.5 billion. The facility is designed to produce around 600,000 tonnes of long-steel products annually, using modern electric-arc-furnace (EAF) technology.

The project comes at a challenging time for South Africa's steel industry, which has faced multiple plant closures, high production costs, import

competition, and weak domestic demand. Despite these pressures, the new facility signals a foreign-led vote of confidence in the country's steel sector.

Funding for the plant is reportedly structured as a foreign investment vehicle, channeling industrial capital from China. Strategically located in the Kaydale Industrial Zone in Dunnottar, Nigel, the site benefits from rail and port linkages, enhancing its potential for both domestic distribution and export-oriented production.

South Africa currently has installed steel capacity that exceeds domestic demand, while cheaper imports continue to pressure local producers. In this context, the Chung Fung Metal plant could either serve as a

catalyst for industry revival or remain an isolated expansion in an otherwise volatile market.

Industry observers suggest that the investment may indicate foreign interest in niche, export-focused opportunities, even as the domestic market remains fragile. Whether the plant will stimulate broader growth or face headwinds from competition and low demand remains to be seen.

The development highlights the growing role of Chinese industrial capital in South Africa's manufacturing sector and underscores the potential for strategically located, modern steel facilities to carve out opportunities in both local and international markets.



The Human Capital Challenge in Chilean Mining: Greater Female Participation in the Industry

Chilean mining, a fundamental pillar of the country's economy, currently faces a crucial challenge: the development and effective management of human capital. The industry's competitiveness, productivity, and sustainability depend largely on the talent and diversity of its workforce. In this context, the incorporation and expansion of female participation emerges as a strategic priority that requires concrete and sustained actions.

Historically, mining in Chile has been a predominantly male industry, marked by a work culture that, while it has progressed, still presents cultural, social, and structural barriers to the full integration of women.

One of the greatest challenges lies in transforming the organizational culture, promoting more inclusive and respectful work environments that value gender diversity. To this end, mining companies must implement equal opportunity policies, conduct awareness and training programs on gender and diversity issues, and develop campaigns that dismantle entrenched

stereotypes. Training and specialized technical education must be adapted to facilitate women's entry and retention in traditionally male roles, guaranteeing safe working conditions and conditions that promote work-life balance.

In Antofagasta, Chile, various initiatives are underway to promote STEM education and prepare more young women to study mining-related careers, especially those related to Mining or Industry 4.0, which increasingly demands greater specialization and technological advancement of knowledge.

Infrastructure also represents a physical and logistical barrier for many women, particularly in remote and difficult-to-access areas. Adapting facilities, providing adequate services, and offering support for social integration are essential steps to attract and retain female talent in the mining sector.

Promoting female participation not only responds to principles of equality but also brings economic and competitive benefits. Several studies indicate that companies with greater gender diversity show better results in innovation, decision-making, and job satisfaction. The inclusion of more women in Chilean

mining can mean greater creativity, new perspectives, and better adaptation to changes in the global market.

The government, trade associations, and mining companies themselves must work together to create incentive programs, scholarships, mentorships, and support networks that facilitate women's training and professional development. Furthermore, it is essential to promote attractive technical and vocational education for young women, highlighting the opportunities and careers in mining.

In conclusion, the human capital challenge in Chilean mining is a task that requires commitment, innovation, and an inclusive vision. Increasing female participation in the industry will not only facilitate a fairer and healthier economy but will also boost the international competitiveness of Chile's mining sector. Innovation, sustainability, and social equity must go hand in hand to build a more diverse, resilient, and prosperous mining future for all.

By Agencia Redes
Antofagasta, Chile

Glencore Expands Peru Copper Portfolio With Quechua Project Acquisition

Glencore Plc has acquired a Peruvian copper mining project in what marks the country's third major copper transaction in less than two weeks, as mining companies move aggressively to increase exposure to a metal widely expected to face long-term supply constraints.

The Swiss-based commodities group announced on Tuesday that it is purchasing the Quechua copper project in Peru's Cusco region from Japan's Pan Pacific Copper Co. for an undisclosed amount.

According to the Peruvian government, the development of the project is expected to require an investment of approximately US\$1.3 billion.

The transaction follows two other notable copper deals in Peru earlier this month. Canada's Rio2 Ltd. agreed to acquire the Condestable mine from Southern Peaks Mining in a deal valued at US\$241 million, while Australia's Fortescue Ltd. reached an agreement to purchase the remaining

64% stake it did not already own in Alta Copper Corp., marking its first significant expansion beyond iron ore.

This surge in deal-making comes amid near-record copper prices, driven by the metal's critical role in electrification and the global energy transition. Copper prices have risen by more than 30% this year, supported by production disruptions, limited new supply, and the growing difficulty of permitting and developing new mines or expanding existing ones.

Glencore's latest acquisition aligns with its broader strategy to nearly double its global copper production. The company is strengthening its footprint in Peru despite ongoing challenges, including sporadic protests against mine expansions, heightened tensions between local communities and mining operators, and a rise in informal mining activity in certain regions.

The recent transactions also underscore mining companies' willingness to navigate Peru's

complex regulatory environment, where it can take decades to advance a project from exploration to full-scale production.

The Quechua project, which was previously undeveloped by Pan Pacific Copper, complements Glencore's existing assets in the region, including the Antapaccay mine and the planned Corocochuayco project.

"The asset should carry greater value for Glencore, which can leverage existing infrastructure in the district, similar to its strategy for Corocochuayco," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Alon Olsha and Grant Sporre said in a research note.

Glencore's Antapaccay mine began production in 2012 and produced approximately 146,000 metric tons of copper last year. The company also holds a 34% stake in Peru's Antamina mine, one of the world's largest copper operations, alongside partners BHP Group, Teck Resources Ltd., and Mitsubishi Corp.



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AfDB Approves \$14.5 Million to Power Zambia's Clean Energy Transition with New Solar Project

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved a \$14.54 million financing package to support the Garneton North 20-megawatt solar power project in Zambia's Copperbelt Province — a key milestone in the country's shift toward renewable energy and energy security.

The financing includes \$7.27 million from the Bank's own resources and an equal amount in concessional funding from a Development Finance Institution. The project underscores the AfDB's commitment to closing Zambia's energy deficit and aligns with Mission 300, which aims to provide 300 million Africans with electricity access by 2030. Zambia joined the initiative's first cohort in January 2025.

Once completed, the \$24.5 million project will provide clean, reliable electricity to over 82,000 people, cutting annual carbon emissions by about 58,740 tonnes. It will be connected to the national grid through a 10-kilometre, 33 kV

power line, with ZESCO purchasing all generated electricity under a 25-year take-or-pay Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Wale Shonibare, AfDB's Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy, and Regulation, described the project as "a key milestone in Zambia's efforts to restore investor confidence in its power sector, attract private capital, and close the energy gap while advancing Mission 300."

The Garneton North solar plant is part of six renewable energy projects selected under Zambia's Global Energy Transfer Feed-in Tariff (GETFIT) programme, designed to attract private investment into small- and medium-scale renewable projects. In total, the programme is expected to deliver 120 MW of new renewable capacity, helping diversify Zambia's energy mix and strengthen grid stability.

During construction, the project will create 90 jobs, including positions for women and youth, and employ 10 staff during operations. It is also

expected to ease pressure on Zambia's strained grid, reducing blackouts and supporting a more reliable power supply across the country.

Jing Li, Division Manager for Energy Financial Solutions at the AfDB, said the project marks Zambia's continued effort to reduce its dependence on hydropower. "By expanding renewable generation, the project will lower the frequency of power outages, enhance supply reliability, and support cost-reflective tariffs," she explained.

The initiative aligns with the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2024–2033) and the New Deal on Energy for Africa, supporting broader goals such as climate action, youth employment, gender inclusion, and private-sector participation.

Once operational, the Garneton North solar project will stand as a cornerstone of Zambia's renewable energy ambitions—building investor confidence, cutting emissions, and strengthening the nation's long-term energy resilience.

Mercuria and Gécamines Launch Copper and Cobalt Trading Venture in the DRC

Mercuria Energy Trading has launched a metals-trading joint venture with Gécamines, the Democratic Republic of Congo's state-owned mining company, to market copper and cobalt acquired through Gécamines' equity stakes in local mining projects.

According to Kostas Bintas, head of metals at Mercuria Energy Group, the venture could eventually market more than 500,000 tons of copper cathodes per year, in addition to substantial volumes of cobalt.

The agreement coincides with recent cooperation between the United States and the DRC. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation has signed a letter of intent to explore a possible financial stake in the venture, which would grant U.S. end-users a right of first refusal on part of the

output.

The initiative also comes at a time of increased global competition for copper supplies, amid market shortages and strong demand linked to industrial and energy-transition needs.

Prices on the London Metal Exchange have reached record levels, and traders have secured significant premiums by shipping copper to the United States.

Since hiring Bintas from Trafigura last year, Mercuria has rapidly expanded its metals division. The company has already traded 1.2 million tons of copper cathodes globally in 2025.

The new venture is expected to make Mercuria the largest exporter of copper cathodes from Africa's Copperbelt region in 2026.

Mercuria has also signed a similar arrangement in Zambia, the continent's other major copper

producer.

The growth of several major mining projects has positioned the DRC as the world's second-largest copper producer after Chile.

Through its stakes in mines operated by international companies including Glencore and China's CMOC Group, Gécamines holds offtake rights to significant volumes of copper and cobalt.

Mercuria will provide operational support, hedging services, and up to \$1 billion in various forms of financing. According to both companies, the joint venture will allow Gécamines to play a more active commercial role—particularly in price negotiations and destination of exports—strengthening national control over strategic mineral flows.

DRC and Zambia Sign Pact to Accelerate One-Stop Border Posts

DRC–Zambia Agreement to Build One-Stop Border Posts Aims to Cut Costs and Boost Regional Trade

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional trade cooperation with the signing of a bilateral agreement on the construction and operation of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs).

The agreement was signed in Lusaka on Thursday, December 4, 2025, by the Congolese Minister of Foreign Trade, Julien Paluku Kahongya, and the Zambian Minister of Trade and Industry, Chipoka Mulenga, on the sidelines of the 46th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern

Africa (COMESA).

The document covers the border crossings of Kasumbalesa, Kambimba, Sakanya, Kipushi and Mokambo—strategic points for trade between the two countries and the wider region.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the introduction of these one-stop facilities will simplify border procedures by enabling customs, immigration and health checks to be carried out jointly by both countries at a single location.

This reform is expected to lower logistics costs, reduce transit times and improve the flow of goods. It is also aligned with COMESA's objectives to facilitate trade and promote regional economic integration.

For the DRC, making these border posts fully operational is seen as a key step toward improving the competitiveness of "Made in DRC" products in regional markets. Congolese authorities believe that streamlined border procedures will help boost exports, particularly for businesses that have long faced administrative delays and high transaction costs.

The agreement fits within broader efforts to modernize trade corridors linking the DRC with its neighbors and to implement regional commitments under COMESA.

The next stage will involve defining the technical, financial and operational arrangements required to bring the one-stop border posts into service as quickly as possible.

Zambia Formalises Gold Mining in Kikonge Through Strategic Public–Private Partnership

The Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ZCCM Investment Holdings PLC and Mining Mineral Resources-SAS to formalise and regulate mining activities in Kikonge, located in Zambia's North-Western Province.

Mines and Minerals Development Minister Paul Kabuswe said the agreement is a critical step toward ensuring that Zambia derives maximum value from its mineral resources. He noted that improved governance and formalisation of gold mining will enhance national revenue generation and strengthen the country's capacity to service and reduce its public debt.

Mr. Kabuswe called on the Bank of Zambia to

provide accurate records on gold production volumes, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability in the sector. He also urged stakeholders to support artisanal miners by helping them transition into sustainable and compliant small-scale mining operations.

The Minister further assured trained small-scale miners holding artisanal licences that the Government will soon allocate them mining tenements, enabling them to operate legally and productively.

ZCCM Investment Holdings PLC Board Chairperson Phesto Musonda announced plans to develop a modern gold mine in Kikonge. He emphasised the need for a robust governance framework to support the implementation of an effective national gold strategy.

Mr. Musonda added that, until Zambia establishes its own gold refinery, all gold produced through formal channels must be properly accounted for and reflected on the national balance sheet.

Mining Mineral Resources-SAS Deputy General Manager Elisee Tshibangu described the MoU as a clear demonstration of the partners' commitment to unlocking Zambia's gold potential.

He said the agreement marks the beginning of a structured journey from exploration to full-scale mining, while ensuring continued support for artisanal and small-scale miners.

Mr. Tshibangu reaffirmed the company's commitment to operating transparently and in full compliance with Zambian laws, regulations, and international best practices.

Caterpillar to Spotlight AI, Autonomy and Future Collaborations at CES 2026

Caterpillar will launch its next 100 years at CES 2026, the most powerful tech event in the world. The company will be announcing new innovations, partnerships, and investments during the show January 6-9, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Caterpillar CEO Joe Creed will be a keynote speaker, unveiling the company's latest developments in AI, machine

learning and autonomous functionality. Joe will deliver his keynote at 9:00AM (PT) on Wednesday, January 7, in the Palazzo Ballroom at the Venetian Hotel, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd South.

Details on the keynote are available here. For those not attending CES in person, a link to the live broadcast will be provided in the near future.

Later on Wednesday, January 7,

Caterpillar Group President, Bob De Lange, will host "Caterpillar and WM Tech Talk" at the Caterpillar exhibit at 2:00PM (PT) located in the West Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center, booth 5019. Bob and WM President and Chief Operating Officer John Morris will discuss how the two companies are working together to bring autonomy to landfills with technology designed to enhance safety and performance.



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Integrated Fire Technology offers an Innovative and Holistic Approach to Fire Protection



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Fire protection within a mining operation plays a crucial role in protecting miner's lives, mining assets and the environment, while also ensuring compliance with mining regulations. Integrated Fire Technology's (IFT) approach to fire protection is a holistic one using innovative cutting-edge technologies.

Having just celebrated their 10-year anniversary, Integrated Fire Technology (IFT) has developed into a leader in the field of fire protection and fire safety within Africa, with a registered company in Zambia which offers a collection of innovative solutions aimed at fire detection, prevention, and suppression. What distinguishes this company from others is sole focus on fire safety, a premium product offering backed by global certifications, and finally a service team which places their customer needs and operations at the centre of their activities.

Innovative solutions for fire protection

IFT has a range of both mobile and fixed solutions, designed to tackle fire emergencies effectively, while supporting the seamless continuation of operations in challenging and dynamic mining environment.

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At the forefront of IFT's product lineup is Fogmaker, a leading fire suppression system designed specifically for mobile machinery. This cutting-edge technology relies on a high-pressure water mist to rapidly suppress and control fires in various mobile applications,

including vehicles and transportation equipment. What makes Fogmaker particularly noteworthy is how the water mist's efficiency in swiftly knocking down fires tackling fires while ensuring cooling of the fire zone to prevent reignition. The compact design of the Fogmaker system makes this system particularly suited to low profile and low-profile mining machines, however, is easily scaled to protect large mobile equipment from large excavators to mobile ship to shore cranes.

AF-X FIREBLOCKER

IFT AF-X FIREBLOCKER solution, an aerosol-based fire extinguishing system that represents a paradigm shift in fire safety. This innovative system deploys an aerosol agent to suppress fires, offering a clean and effective alternative to traditional methods. What makes AF-X FIREBLOCKER particularly noteworthy is its certification to suppress lithium-ion batteries, making this an ideal solution for battery storage applications. IFT has successfully installed AF-X in the electric compartments (E-room) and battery compartments of mobile equipment, in fixed fire applications within the mining context, AF-X can be installed to protect motor control centres (MCC's), electrical panels, lamp rooms and containerised battery storage units.

Fire safety as a holistic and integrated approach:

IFT integrated approach starts with the Fire Risk Assessment and system design to meet regulatory and OEM compliance. This ensures that the correct solution is selected and is designed to meet all the necessary regulatory

and OEM compliance. The use of premium brands and products, which boast global certifications and global support, ensures the efficacy of the solution when called on to perform in the case of a fire.

Engr. Pandwe Lubamba, IFT's Country Manager, emphasises that "A key element to our holistic approach is the service offering to ensure that the fire system is maintained throughout its life cycle. In the case of mobile equipment, where in most cases machine uptime and availability are high priority, our service team understands the impact of downtime and potential cost savings associated with quick service turnaround and the importance of minimal downtime due to breakdowns."

Integrated Fire Technology will be exhibiting their fire protection solutions at the Africa Mining Indaba in Cape Town in February 2026, the Electra Mining Africa in Johannesburg in September 2026 and at the Mining and Technical Exhibitions in Solwezi and Kitwe in October 2026.

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Mining Progress with Precision: VEGA Powering Africa's Sustainable Mining Future

At the 2026 Mining Indaba in Cape Town, one theme rises above all others — progress through precision. As Africa positions itself at the heart of the global transition to cleaner energy and advanced manufacturing, reliable measurement technology has become essential. From copper and cobalt to lithium and gold, every ton of ore extracted depends on accurate, real-time data to drive efficiency, reduce waste, and protect the environment.

For VEGA, a global leader in process instrumentation, this mission aligns perfectly with its core purpose: turning measurement into meaningful progress.

Built for Africa's Realities

Mining across Africa is defined by extremes: scorching heat, dense humidity, corrosive dust, and remote locations where technical assistance can be days away. In these conditions, unreliable instruments can bring entire operations to a standstill, costing millions in lost productivity.

VEGA's range of level, pressure, and density measurement solutions is designed with these challenges in mind. With engineering rooted in durability and precision, they combine rugged construction with intuitive operation and long service life. Whether it's controlling slurry flow, managing tailings dams, or ensuring process consistency in flotation, VEGA sensors deliver the reliability that modern mining demands.

The One Radar for Every Measurement

Accurate level measurement is the foundation of every successful mining process. Stockpiles, silos, tanks, and sumps all depend on dependable monitoring, and the VEGAPULS 6X brings that capability in a single, adaptable package. Representing the next generation of non-contact radar technology, the VEGAPULS 6X combines all radar frequencies into one intelligent sensor. It automatically adjusts to its environment, ensuring consistent readings in the presence of dust, steam, foam, or condensation, conditions that would defeat conventional instruments.

Its focused radar beam provides excellent signal separation from structural elements, preventing false echoes and allowing operators to detect material build-up before it becomes a problem. The result? Greater uptime, fewer maintenance interventions, and more predictable production cycles. With its maintenance-free design and universal compatibility, the VEGAPULS 6X reduces

the need for multiple sensor types across an operation: simplifying procurement, installation, and long-term support. It's radar, redefined for the realities of African mining.

Pressure Measurement That Puts Safety First

Mining environments rely on accurate pressure control to keep processes safe and efficient. From monitoring slurry pipelines and filtration systems to managing high-pressure vessels, VEGA's VEGABAR 80 and VEGADIF 85 pressure transmitters provide dependable solutions for these demanding applications.

The VEGABAR 80 series uses VEGA's proprietary CERTEC® ceramic and metallic measuring cells to deliver unmatched stability and resistance to chemical and mechanical stress. Capable of operating from -1 to 1,000 bar and at temperatures ranging from -90 to +400°C, these transmitters perform flawlessly in the toughest mining environments. More than just robust, they're smart. Built-in self-diagnostics continuously assess sensor health, supporting predictive maintenance and preventing unexpected downtime.

The VEGADIF 85, designed for differential pressure applications, brings exceptional control to critical flotation and separation processes. Its compact design, rugged construction, and reliable performance under fluctuating conditions make it ideal for managing process differentials that directly impact recovery rates and throughput.

Together, these instruments ensure that pressure — one of mining's most volatile variables — remains predictable, measurable, and safe.

Precision Without Contact: Density Measurement Reinvented

In the heart of every mineral processing plant lies one of the most difficult challenges: controlling slurry density. If density drops too low, valuable minerals are lost; too high, and pumps strain, pipelines clog, and costs skyrocket.

VEGA's SOLITRAC 31 (i.e. Protrac series) solves this problem elegantly through radiometric, non-contact density measurement. Using gamma radiation, it delivers real-time data on slurry composition without touching the medium. This eliminates abrasion, reduces wear, and ensures continuous operation. No maintenance shutdowns, no recalibration interruptions. By providing precise density values, the Protrac series helps operators fine-tune separation

processes, reduce reagent consumption, and maximise yield. It's a technology that not only improves productivity but also supports sustainability by cutting waste and energy use.

From Measurement to Intelligence: The Digital Mine in Motion

As digitalisation reshapes the global mining landscape, VEGA is helping African operators harness the power of data to make faster, smarter decisions. The VEGA Inventory System turns raw measurement data into actionable insight, enabling remote monitoring, predictive control, and automated reporting.

Accessible via secure cloud platforms, the system allows mine managers to oversee multiple sites in real time — tracking inventory levels, process trends, and equipment performance from any location. This remote visibility enhances supply-chain coordination, reduces manual checks, and supports proactive maintenance planning.

Supporting Sustainable Progress Across the Continent

From the platinum belt of South Africa to Zambia's copper mines, Ghana's goldfields, and the DRC's cobalt corridors, VEGA's instrumentation supports Africa's mining ambitions. By delivering precision where it matters most, VEGA helps operators reduce water and energy consumption, prevent spills, and extend equipment life — all vital to meeting sustainability targets and ESG standards.

VEGA's solutions are increasingly used in the circular economy side of mining, from tailings reprocessing, water treatment, through to resource recovery, reinforcing its role as both a technology leader and a sustainability enabler.

A Trusted Partner for Africa's Next Chapter

Africa's mining sector stands at the intersection of opportunity and responsibility. As global demand for critical minerals grows, the challenge will be to scale production without compromising environmental integrity or worker safety.

VEGA's approach — precision, reliability, and intelligent integration — offers a path forward. With instruments built for endurance and systems designed for insight, VEGA empowers African mines to operate not only more productively but more sustainably. In a continent defined by potential, VEGA continues to prove that progress isn't just about what we extract — it's about how precisely, safely, and responsibly we do it.

China Launches First High-Capacity All-Solid-State Battery Production Line

China has completed construction of its first high-capacity all-solid-state battery production line, marking a significant milestone toward the commercialization of next-generation battery technology widely regarded as critical to the future of electric vehicles.

The production line was developed by state-owned automaker GAC Group and is currently undergoing small-scale trial production. It is the first facility in China capable of manufacturing automotive-grade all-solid-state batteries with

capacities exceeding 60 amp-hours.

All-solid-state batteries differ from conventional lithium-ion batteries by replacing liquid electrolytes with solid materials. This design significantly reduces fire risks while enabling higher energy density, addressing two of the most pressing challenges in electric vehicle development: safety and driving range.

According to Qi Hongzhong, head of research and development for new energy propulsion at GAC's Advanced Platform Technology Institute, the energy density of the company's all-solid-state

batteries under development is nearly double that of current lithium-ion cells.

He explained that vehicles with a current driving range of just over 500 kilometres could potentially exceed 1,000 kilometres once equipped with the new battery technology.

GAC Group plans to begin limited vehicle installation trials using the batteries as early as next year, followed by a gradual transition to mass production between 2027 and 2030, as the technology matures and manufacturing processes are scaled up.



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BHP and Rio Tinto Begin Trials of Australia's First Battery-Electric Haul Trucks

Diversified mining giants BHP and Rio Tinto have received Australia's first Cat 793 XE Early Learner battery-electric haul trucks at BHP's Jimblebar mine, marking the start of on-site trials for Caterpillar's zero-exhaust heavy haulage technology in the Pilbara region.

The two trucks, supplied under a pioneering collaboration between BHP, Rio Tinto, and Caterpillar, will undergo commissioning before formal trials begin. The tests aim to evaluate whether battery-electric haulage can replace diesel in large-scale iron ore operations, and to determine the infrastructure and operational adjustments required for a transition to low-emissions mining fleets.

"Powering up our first battery-electric haul trucks

in the Pilbara is an important step on the mining industry's road to decarbonisation," said Tim Day, BHP Western Australia Iron Ore asset president.

"Replacing diesel is not just about switching energy sources—it requires reimagining operations and creating the technologies, infrastructure, and supply chains to transform mining.

These trials will help us understand how battery technology, generation and charging infrastructure, power management, and supply chains can work together at scale," he added.

Day emphasized that the transition will require sustained research and collaboration. "This is going to take time to get right, which is why trials like this one with Rio Tinto and Caterpillar are so

critical. We are excited about the insights we will gain to accelerate this transition."

Andrew Wilson, Rio Tinto Iron Ore Pilbara Mines MD, noted that decarbonizing the company's truck fleet across 18 mines is a major challenge. "Exploring solutions like this helps reduce emissions and move away from diesel over time.

No single company can achieve zero-emissions haulage alone. It takes the entire industry working together, which is why we are collaborating with BHP and Caterpillar to develop solutions that support our net-zero commitments."

After the joint trial period, BHP and Rio Tinto will independently determine the next phase, including potential fleet integration and scaled trials. The collaboration is a key part of both

Vedanta Launches CopperTech Metals to Strengthen U.S. Copper Supply from Zambia

Vedanta Resources announced the launch of CopperTech Metals Inc., a U.S.-domiciled company dedicated to enhancing America's copper supply security. The move comes as global demand for copper surges, driven by data center expansion, grid modernization, defense technologies, and industrial onshoring requirements.

CopperTech Metals will own and operate the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) in Zambia, one of the world's highest-grade copper-producing assets, which also contains significant proven cobalt reserves.

The company plans to build on the \$3 billion investment already made by Vedanta in KCM, which included construction of a deep mine shaft, a smelter, a concentrator, and general mine development, while committing an additional \$1.5 billion to further expand operations.

Konkola Plc's Board includes representation from ZCCM-IH, Zambia's diversified state-owned mining investment organization, which holds a 20.6% stake in the company.

Expanding Production with Advanced Technology

CopperTech intends to leverage advanced mining techniques and AI-driven resource identification and extraction technologies to boost production efficiency. The company aims to increase integrated copper production from 140,000 tonnes in FY26 to 300,000 tonnes by 2031, with a long-term target of 500,000 tonnes per year, supported by proven and probable reserves.

Anil Agarwal, founder and chairman of Vedanta Group, described the launch as a historic moment:

"CopperTech will play a significant role in connecting America's critical mineral needs with Zambia's historic copper legacy. This partnership will unlock innovation and advancement in clean energy, technology, and industrial progress on both sides of the Atlantic."

Meeting America's Growing Copper Demand

CopperTech arrives at a crucial time for U.S. supply chain security. The United Nations forecasts global copper demand will grow by over 40% by 2040. According to the 2024 U.S. Geological Survey, the United States currently imports approximately 45% of its refined copper,

while China produces more than 45% of global copper.

Cobalt is also critical for clean energy and technology sectors, with the Democratic Republic of Congo supplying over 80% of global production and China handling over 70% of cobalt refinement.

CopperTech's operations in Zambia, a country with strong U.S. diplomatic relations, provide valuable geographic diversification for American supply chains.

Tom Albanese, Director of CopperTech Metals, emphasized the strategic importance of the initiative:

"The next 25 years will require more copper than has been produced throughout all of human history. CopperTech is well positioned to serve as a strategic partner for America's infrastructure needs."

With its combination of high-grade assets, technological innovation, and strategic location, CopperTech Metals is set to become a key supplier for U.S. infrastructure, clean energy, and industrial development, while strengthening transatlantic trade ties.

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CAMINEX : A STORY OF HERITAGE, TRANSITION AND GROWTH

The Copperbelt Agricultural and Commercial Show Society (CACSS), established in the 1950s with its first show held in 1957, has long been a pillar of agricultural and commercial development in the Copperbelt. What began as a celebration & showcase of farming, community and trade gradually grew into a wider platform reflecting the Copperbelt's evolution. As mining, energy and industry expanded, the Show grew with it - adapting to a changing economy while holding firm to its agricultural roots.

After more than 60 years of tradition, the world had shifted, and so did the needs of exhibitors, investors and industry players. The turning point came in 2017 when the Show was no longer defined by agriculture & entertainment alone - mining, energy, industry, finance and commerce had become just as essential. The Show needed to evolve, to carry a broader purpose.

From this moment of reinvention, CAMINEX was born - the Copperbelt Agricultural, Mining, Industrial, Networking & Enterprise Expo. More than a name change, it was a transformation into a modern business platform where tractors stand beside drill rigs, where farmers meet manufacturers, where financiers court innovators, where technologists, miners, engineers and traders all network, share knowledge, solutions and possibilities for growth. A 'true business expo' that was desperately needed as a reboot. A reboot to the thinking, the culture and the way we declared that the Copperbelt is open for business.

Today, CAMINEX hosts product launches, business networking, technology showcases, investment meetings, knowledge & industry specific seminars, major announcements and international trade engagement, all under one banner.

The change has been met with strong enthusiasm. Exhibitor numbers have grown, international attention has increased, and CAMINEX is now recognised as a more relevant and strategic platform for multi-sector exchange. In the 2025 edition, Meta Plant & Equipment Zambia successfully launched new machinery during the expo - proof that CAMINEX is not just an exhibition, but an active marketplace. Copperbelt Energy

Corporation (CEC) plc celebrated its milestone of surpassing a US\$1 billion market capitalisation on the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE), the 'ringing of the bell' ceremony was chosen to be held at CAMINEX and officiated by Hon. Paul Kabuswe, the Minister of Mines and Mineral Development who represented the President at the event, a clear indication of the magnitude & pull of the expo.

This progress is possible because of the giants who stand alongside us: the Government of the Republic of Zambia (through the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development; the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; the Ministry of Infrastructure; the

Ministry of SMEs; the Ministry of Technology & Science; the Ministry of Green Economy &

Environment), the Zambia Chamber of Mines, the Kitwe & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the people of the Copperbelt Province & beyond representing various sectors that visit the expo. Beside them, our invaluable corporate partners - Barrick Lumwana, Copperbelt Energy Corporation plc, Mopani Copper Mines plc, First Quantum Minerals Ltd,

ZANACO, Meta Plant & Equipment Zambia, Sulzer, FNB, Knight Piesold Consulting, Zambia Revenue Authority, Madison Life Insurance Company Zambia Ltd, Shawonga Enterprises Ltd, Northwold

Investments Ltd, Nkana Water Supply & Sanitation Co., ZESCO and Kitwe City Council amongst many others that continue to strengthen our mission.

Today, CAMINEX is more than just an annual event - it is a platform for long-term partnerships, idea exchange and sector expansion. It is a meeting place for agriculture, mining, commercial trade, energy, finance and innovation. As we look forward, our commitment remains clear: to build a stronger, inclusive and future-focused economy.

The story continues - and every visitor, exhibitor, investor and innovator has a role in writing the next chapter. CAMINEX is where Opportunity meets Innovation, and where the Copperbelt's future unfolds. This is where business starts on the Copperbelt!

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Kodal Minerals Confirms Bougouni Lithium Mine Operations Stable Amid Mali Security Concerns

Kodal Minerals, a West Africa-focused mining company, has confirmed that operations at its Bougouni lithium mine in southern Mali remain unaffected despite escalating security tensions near the capital, Bamako.

The London-listed company stated that mining activities at Bougouni, approximately 180 km from Bamako, continue as normal.

Over the weekend, al Qaeda-linked militants advanced toward the capital, cutting off roads, ambushing military patrols, and attacking tanker trucks.

The Malian military junta, backed by Russian partners, is struggling to contain insurgents controlling large parts of the Sahel region.

As the situation worsens, countries including the UK, the US, and Germany have advised their citizens to leave Bamako.

Kodal reported that a security guard was killed in an August attack at the Bougouni mine but confirmed no further incidents have occurred.

The company is working closely with Malian authorities to strengthen site security for workers and contractors.

Production and Logistics Remain Uninterrupted

Production at Bougouni began in February, with the first truckloads of spodumene concentrate dispatched last month. To date, over 10,000 tonnes have been transported to the port of San Pedro in Ivory Coast, handled by a Malian contractor, and trucking operations continue without disruption.

Management remains on site ahead of the scheduled presidential inauguration of the Bougouni Project. The mine, located 170 km south of Bamako, aims for a monthly output of 11,000 tonnes of spodumene concentrate.

Bougouni is Mali's second active lithium mine, following Ganfeng Lithium's Goulamina, which began production in late 2024.

Security Context in Mali

Since seizing power in 2021, Mali's military junta has asserted control over the country's valuable mining resources, particularly gold, taking over mines amid tax disputes and using revenues to consolidate authority.

The junta faces growing pressure from insurgent groups such as JNIM, which are seizing territory and disrupting economic activities through attacks and blockades.

Mali has also shifted its international alliances, expelling French forces and deepening security cooperation with Russia.

Despite these challenges, Kodal Minerals remains confident in the safety and continuity of operations at Bougouni, ensuring the supply of lithium to global markets continues uninterrupted.



Building Sustainable Real Estate and Green Infrastructure Development in Southern Africa

The Southern Africa Eco-Infrastructure Summit (SAEIS) 2026 is a premier, high-level platform dedicated to accelerating investment, innovation, and partnerships in sustainable real estate and climate-resilient infrastructure development across the Southern Africa region.

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DRC Urged to Tie Cobalt Export Quotas to Local Processing to Boost Battery Value Chain

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) should use its emerging cobalt export quota system to accelerate local mineral processing and capture more value from the electric vehicle battery supply chain, according to a new white paper published in December 2025 by the NGO Resource Matters.

The report, which focuses on the local processing potential of strategic minerals such as cobalt, copper, and lithium, urges the Congolese government to integrate value addition as a core criterion for access to cobalt export quotas.

Resource Matters argues that this approach would enable the local production of battery precursors and reduce the country's dependence on foreign industrial infrastructure.

"As Congo studies the quota system to put in place, it could adopt criteria that directly support its policy objectives, particularly value addition," the document states. "Minimum entry conditions could be defined for participation in the quota system."

The NGO further recommends prioritizing exports with the highest metal content. Under a proposed cascading system, higher-grade cobalt products would be exported first, while lower-quality ores would only be authorized for export once higher-value products had been exhausted.

According to Resource Matters, this would create competitive pressure among investors to develop local processing facilities.

These proposals form part of a broader policy objective aimed at regulating cobalt prices and managing export flows. Currently, Congolese cobalt is mainly exported as hydroxides containing around 28% to 38% cobalt.

These products represent only an intermediate stage in the value chain, while downstream activities—refining, sulfate production, precursor manufacturing, and battery cell production—are overwhelmingly dominated by China. Refining alone accounted for about 84% of global refined cobalt supply in 2024.

Resource Matters argues that even limited local integration—such as producing battery precursors domestically—would significantly enhance the DRC's economic and technological gains from cobalt mining.

Given cobalt's status as a strategic mineral for electric vehicles, the country holds strong leverage to retain a portion of production for domestic industrial use.

The organization points to existing legal tools within the Congolese mining framework to support this strategy. While the mining code enshrines the principle of free commercialization of mineral production, it also provides for exceptions.

In particular, Article 266 of the Mining Code authorizes the state to determine the share of

production that must be reserved for local industry.

This provision is reinforced by Article 559 bis of the Mining Regulation, which states that the proportion of production allocated to national industry is to be set by an interministerial decree from the ministers of mines and industry, based on the needs identified in the country's Strategic Industrialization Plan.

Resource Matters acknowledges that implementation remains challenging due to limited downstream industrial demand within the DRC. However, it notes that the situation is evolving.

The government is currently examining options to supply two downstream companies in the copper value chain, and regulatory developments are creating new openings.

In a recent press release outlining the conditions for obtaining and executing cobalt export quotas, the Congolese regulator ARECOMS introduced a category known as the "strategic quota for ARECOMS." This quota, reserved for projects of national importance, is set to take effect on January 1, 2026.

According to Resource Matters, this mechanism could provide a practical entry point for aligning export controls with industrial policy objectives, allowing the DRC to move beyond raw material exports and position itself more strategically in the global battery minerals value chain.

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