

## **WHY AFRICAN CSOS MUST SUPPORT AFRICA MINING VISION**

### **OUTLINE OF RESEARCH**

**Introduction –what the paper is all about and the introduction to the AMV and the sections**

**What is the AMV and its importance and significance in mineral resources governance in general**

A number of blueprints have been developed on how Africa can transform its economic and social development trajectory leveraging on the continent's abundant mineral wealth. Such blue prints include the Natural Resources Charter and Reversing the Curse... MGI among others. Importantly, the AMV comes as a home grown solution to the enormous challenge of missing the opportunity to propel Africa's broad based socio-economic development based on her significant mineral wealth.

The vision is coherent and incisive, “transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of (Africa)'s mineral resources to underpin sustainable growth and broad based socio-economic development.” Limited transparency, across the whole mining value chain, from exploration, contracting, production, to sharing of benefits and translating shared benefits into long term and sustainable economic development has been problematic. As such, citizens of many resource rich countries have no access to information which is critical to hold to account government and mining companies to account on how the benefits from mineral wealth are shared.

Remarkably, the AMV is not just about mining but broad based socio-economic development from tapping into the opportunities presented by the whole mining value chain. In this regard, the AMV has clear tenets and pillars that guides how Africa can diversify its economy through industrialisation and job creation to achieve sustainable and broad based socio-economic development.

AMV looks at mining from various developmental viewpoints such as commercial and artisanal and small scale mining interests, extraction of high valued and low valued minerals, development of upstream, side stream and downstream linkages, protection of the rights of local communities as well as promotion of local economic and social development hinged on extractives. Consequently, the multi-faceted development trajectory offered by the AMV makes paints a clearer road map to working on the enabling environment that helps to reverse the curse of mineral wealth in Africa.

**Its importance with regards to CSOs & CBOs in relation to mineral resources governance**

The fact that the AMV was fermented through the African Union galvanises advocacy work for CSOs against attacks for pushing western driven agenda which lacks the African context. As such, AMV is respected by many African governments which makes it easier for CSOs to benchmark the mineral resource governance policy and practice reforms against the AMV and push for their respective governments to honour their commitment.

Mineral resource governance and development work is fairly a new territory and CSOs need all the help they can to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the sector. To this end, the AMV is fairly comprehensive and concise of what Africa must do to promote sustainable development, fight poverty, industrialise and create jobs hinged on her vast mineral resources.

Thus CSOs have found in the AMV a useful resource to guide them on playing an effective oversight role the extractives. No wonder why the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Alternative Mining Indaba has been structured against the pillars of the AMV under the theme [\*\*“Making Natural Resources Work For The People: Domestication Of The African Mining Vision \(Amv\): From Vision To Reality”\*\*](#)

### **Provisions of the AMV that are progressive with regards to CSOs & CBOs on mineral resource governance**

Recognition of ASM by the AMV is very important in that most African government have not formalized the sector and it still operate as an underground economy without key enablers for growth. More importantly, AMV looks at the ASM sector’s potential to catalyse community enterprise development and this is germane to CSOs who are keen to see the seemingly elusive broad based socio-economic development from mineral wealth extraction.

Another progressive provision in the AMV is the focus on low valued minerals which offers higher linkage value within the local economy. Admittedly, most CSOs have focused on high valued mineral neglecting the socio-economic developmental opportunities offered by exploitation of low valued minerals.

Generally, limited transparency has robbed the opportunity for citizen to hold to account government and mining companies on how their mineral wealth is being managed and utilised. Notably, the AMV is clear that transparency is one of the key ingredients for unlocking socio-economic development from minerals.

The cost benefit analysis of mining for communities is not factored in most cases. Environmental, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (EESCRs) of communities are quite fundamental and the AMV recognises the important of protecting and promoting the fulfillment of community rights. CSOs, primarily, are driven to protect the interests of the poor and marginalised groups in society and AMV CSOs the leverage when pushing for pro-poor mineral governance policy and practice reforms.

## **What CSOs and CBOs should do with regards to the AMV ie research , advocacy , adoption, reforms , litigation etc . What opportunities does it present ie moving from Vision to Realisation , AMV country mining vision , AMV-Civil Society Forum**

CSOs can work with the new parliament especially the relevant portfolio committee to come up with strategic plans, key deliverables that they will be measured against after against after the expiration of their term. The AMV is a good starting point to help Parliament introspect and strategise on what elements within the vision can be achievable during its term. In turn, CSOs can work on capacity building of Parliamentarians who may lack the incisive knowledge on mineral resource governance and the AMV using the devised strategic plan as a guide.

In addition, the strategic plan can be reduced into a social contract between legislators from resource rich communities and their constituencies on the specific agenda that legislators must advance to enhance good mineral resource governance in line with the AMV.

The AMV is not in a format and language that is user friendly to the public especially mining impacted communities. Therefore, CSOs have their work cut out on data visualisations such as infographics to make the AMV a more user friendly, a form of citizen friendly AMV document just like a citizen friendly budget in Public Finance Management (PFM).

Since the AMV is a vision, and generic, there is need for CSOs to invest in thinking and working politically or doing development work different in a manner that respond to each home country context to successfully push for change required by the AMV. Further, research is need to give more flesh or guidance to the AMV. A case in point involve the ASM cluster. There is need for CSOs to work on model formalisation polices for the ASM sector to promote a responsible and sustainable growth of the sector. The ASM sector especially the gold mining sector is confronted with corruption, illicit financial flows, exploitation of labour and use of child labour, poor safety, health and environmental practices and violence among other host challenge. Research by CSOs in this area will nuance the AMV tenant on ASM into a clear practical guide on how ASM can contribute to community enterprise development and to reduce poverty.

### **Conclusion**

Certainly, the AMV is a game changer for CSOs working on mineral resource governance. A concise and comprehensive home grown strategy, notably, AMV is a

departure from western driven blue prints that often lacks the African context. AMV, therefore, gives CSOs some traction when engaging with their governments on the change that CSOs want to see on good management of their mineral wealth. Given that mining sector is a technical field, the AMV has key tenets and pillars that guide CSOs on the form and substance of what good mineral resource management should look like. On the debit side, CSOs have their work cut out in terms of TWP or DDD to advance the realisation of AMV in their home countries.