



Dialogue session at the Alternative Mining Indaba

Accountable Mining Combating corruption in mining licensing

Overview

Transparency International Zimbabwe under its Accountable Mining programme intends to host a side event at the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI). The AMI¹ is a global platform that brings all stakeholders together annually for a conference that debates, discusses various issues as well as serves as an empowerment tool through training of communities. The AMI convenes an annual conference in Cape Town every February, which is a culmination of decentralised national processes that take place in more than 12 African countries. The Alternative Mining Indaba presents a perfect opportunity for TI Z to easily mobilize, engage and target key stakeholders² who will be attending the AMI. TI Z will therefore take advantage of the AMI platform by convening a Multi-Stakeholder-Dialogue as a side event.

Background

Disclosure of information pertaining to any contract, license, concession, or other agreement governing the exploitation of natural resources has the potential of increasing transparency and accountability in the sector. Emphasis is on the quality and detail of information availed to stakeholders on the rights awarded to extractive companies by the government. In this regard, it is the responsibility of the government at both the national and local levels to provide quality, disaggregated, clear and understandable information to various stakeholders along the mineral value chain consistent with section 62 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act 2013. Section 62 provides that every person is entitled to access to information held by the state or by any of its institutions as long as the information required is in the interest of public accountability. It is therefore important to note that access to public information is an important requirement for enforcing accountability and good governance. Section 298(1)(c) of the constitution further imposes an obligation on the government to ensure that the burdens and benefits of the use of resources is shared equitable between present and future generations. This can only be achieved if the government minimises the corruption risks in the awarding of Mining licenses process. Faster licensing will inter-alia;

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- encourage small scale miners to register and remit the gold to the government.
- When licensing processes remain cumbersome and expensive, the small scale miners will resort to continue with illegal operations.
- Promote fair competition between firms and mitigate corruption risks during licensing, contract awarding, and auctions by reducing information asymmetry and by extension ensuring the credibility of government negotiations.
- Enable citizens to hold the government accountable for revenue collection (royalties, licences, and taxes) and expenditure. Without this information it is difficult for citizens to participate in and influence the mineral regimes.

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It is against this background that TI Z intends to conduct a Multi-Stakeholder discussion as a side event at the AMI to increase awareness and responsiveness of mining companies to respond to corruption at the mineral licensing stage and exposing the corruption. The Discussion will be open to 30 (men and women) participants drawn from the following sectors

- Transparency International Australia, Sierra Leone and Kenya.
- Government (Ministries of Mines and Mining Development, Environment and Women Affairs, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Office of the President and Cabinet
- Parliament (representatives from the Committees on Mines and Energy, Public Accounts Committee, Gender and Community Development and Environment
- Civil Society Organizations (members of the Publish What You Pay Coalition
- Mining Companies
- Mining host community representatives
- Community-Based Organizations
- Media

Strategic Objective: To contribute to increased awareness and responsiveness of mining associations and mining companies to respond to corruption at the mineral licensing stage and exposing that corruption.

Expected Outcomes

Beyond creating a platform that allows for effective engagement and information sharing we anticipate that this activity will lead to the following traceable results:

- Increased understanding of licensing processes in Africa
- Increased knowledge of combating the corruption risks in licensing processes.
- Increased participation of relevant stakeholders in contract transparency.

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Draft Programme

Facilitator: Tafadzwa Chikumbu

Time	Topic	Responsibility
10:50 -11:00	Logging in of participants	TI Z
11:00-11:15	Welcoming Remarks Introductions and Objectives of the meeting	Fadzai Jekemu (TI Z)
11:15 – 11:40	The global overview :Corruption in licensing ,risks and impacts.	Research and Policy Coordinator TI Australia
11:40-12:00	Overcoming challenges in the mining licensing processes: Key Lessons from Sierra Leone and Kenya	TI Sierra Leone TI Kenya
12:00-12:20	Panel Discussion Legal Frameworks for Contract licensing in Zimbabwe Mining Licensing : a small scale miner perspective	Chairperson of the Mines and Mining Development Committee Caroline
12:20-12:40		Ministry of Mines
12:40 -12:55	Plenary discussion and way forward	All
12:55 – 13:00	closing	Tafadzwa Chikumbu