



SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE



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President Kagame and Guterres call for better and more efficient Extractive Industry



President Paul Kagame on Tuesday, May 25 has addressed the Global Roundtable on Extractive Industries, a conference convened online by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, to discuss how to transform the extractive industry into an engine for sustainable development.

In his remarks, President Paul Kagame said the extractive industry has had a bad reputation, where its dividends often don't reach the public, or its impacts on the environment are not accounted for.

He therefore called for "a new compact" between governments and the private sector to deal with such issues.

On his part, Guterres highlighted the importance of mineral resources, saying they are one of "earth's great endowments."

"Their extraction plays a dominant role in the economies of 81 countries," he said. "These countries account for a quarter of global Gross Domestic Product, half the world's population and nearly 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty," he added.

Noting that these industries generate large amounts of foreign exchange earnings, foreign direct investment and government revenues, and have the potential to drive economic growth and poverty reduction, he expressed dismay that they continue to be associated with a "litany of ills."

"We cannot escape the fact that extractive industries are also potentially associated with a litany of ills – corruption, exploitation, colonialism and racism; environmental

degradation, worsening climate change and biodiversity loss; armed conflict, gender-based violence, population displacement, cultural harm and human rights violations," he said.

The shared responsibility by leaders, he said, is to ensure that the benefits of mineral resources reach all people in society, not just elites and that it should be done while safeguarding the environment.

Gakenke:

Mining Employers commit to promote professionalism in their respective companies



Employers in the Mining companies whose operations are based in Gakenke District of the Northern Province of Rwanda have committed to promote professionalism in their companies in order to improve the productivity as well as the wellbeing of Miner workers.

The commitment was made during a meeting which took place at Gakenke District Headquarter on Friday June 4, 2021.

The Meeting brought together the District Administration, Officials from the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU),

representatives of the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) and Managers of the mine companies and cooperatives in Gakenke District.

The meeting aimed at looking how to promote decent work at working place as well as increasing the productivity and take joint action in the field for professional mining.

peaking at the official opening of the meeting, the Vice Mayor for Economic Development in Gakenke District, Mr. Aime Francois Niyonsenga called on

the Mines Managers to be active in promoting decent work and thanks them for the key role in promoting EJOHEZA saving scheme.

He reminds the companies managers to continue respect safety and health measures established by the Government.

The Vice Mayor also commended the partnership of REWU in organizing mining sector employees which is contributing to the community development.



Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre speaking at the meeting in Gakenke District. The meeting aimed to discuss decent work and professionalism in Mining sector

In his remarks, REWU Secretary General Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre told the managers of the mining companies that professional mining and efficient work are very important to improve the livelihoods of the miners.

He added that it would increase productivity and as results it will contribute more on the country economic growth.

On the side of Company Managers, they agreed and committed to strengthen the relationship with their employees by promoting social dialogue in their companies/cooperatives, and they commit to find job professional trainings for employees in order to improve the skills of their staff which will contribute to the increase of productivity as well as on what the employees earn monthly.

Earlier last month The team from the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers

Union (REWU) led by Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, Secretary General has held meeting with the Gakenke District Administration to discuss the promotion of decent work of the mining workers who are employed in mining companies and cooperatives operating in the district.

The talks took place on Tuesday, May 12, 2021 at the Gakenke District Headquarters with the participation of the Vice-Mayor for Economic Development, Mr. Aime Francois Niyonsenga, Representative of the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) in Gakenke District Mr. Mbarute Nestor, Secretary General of REWU Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, REWU Deputy Secretary General and Lawyer Mr. Jean Marie Bwanakweli and REWU Coordinator in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, Mr. Musabyimana Deogratias.

The meeting focused on the joint efforts of the concerned institutions in the implementation of programs aimed at improving the livelihoods of miners as well as promoting decent work for those employees.



REWU



RWANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION

PROMOTING DECENT WORK IN MINING SECTOR

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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1. REWU Profile
 2. Background
 3. Objectives
 4. Analysis
 5. Challenges hindering decent and productive employment in Mining Sector
 6. Proposed way Forward



REWU PROFILE

- REWU is a Rwandan Extractive industry Workers Union, which is organizing all workers in Mining and Quarry Companies and cooperatives in Rwanda from 2014. Up to now,
- REWU enrolled 15,600 members across the country,
- REWU is targeting around 120,000 who are involved in this sector. REWU was published in Rwanda Official Gazette No. 49 Bis of 08/12/2014

REWU PROFILE ,WHY ESTABLISHED

1. Advocating the Labour Rights, safety and health at working place
2. Promoting the Saving Culture
3. Promoting the Women's Rights in Mining and Quarrying Industry
4. Campaigning against Child labour and sexual abuse

Background

The Government of Rwanda through National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) recognizes the role played by mining sector in job creation. In its priority area number 1, value addition and processing of mining products is one of sub-sectors identified to have high potential for growth and employment.

This is will be done by up scaling mining by completing exploration of potential mineral areas to establish the extent of national resources and reserves, in terms of quantity and quality with the aim of generating USD 800 million by 2020 and USD 1.5 billion annually by 2024 from USD 373 million in 2017.

There are plans to transform the mining sector by adopting a new approach to deliver higher-level results of the mining industry including the increase of export revenues from the sector.

Under the same strategy to transform the mining sector, Rwanda has a vision to become a regional mineral processing hub, adding value to minerals mined in Rwanda and the region before exporting them.

Specific Objectives

- ✓ To understand the correlation between employment in Mining Sector and economic growth;
- ✓ To analyze the status of employment in Rwandan Mining Sector;
- ✓ To identify challenges hindering Job Creation in Mining Sector and Propose adaptive solutions.
- ✓ To promote decent work in mining sector



Overview of Mining Sector in Rwanda



Mining in Rwanda started in the early 1930s and since then the mining sector has undergone wide reforms and is now Rwanda's second-largest export revenue earner in the country.

In 2017, the sector generated \$373.4 Million of foreign exchange.

Rwanda's mineral resources include Cassiterite, Coltan, wolfram, peat (used for electricity generation or processed as an alternative for firewood), gold and Nickel, etc...

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

Mining Sector for Economic Growth and Employment

Years		Mining(in billion Rwf)	GNP(in billion Rwf)	Percentage (%)
2016	Quarter 1	22	1659	1.3
	Quarter2	26	1704	1.5
	Quarter 3	28	1718	1.6
	Quarter 4	34	1795	1.9
2017	Quarter 1	34	1854	1.8
	Quarter2	35	1925	1.8
	Quarter 3	44	1936	2.3
	Quarter 4	53	1979	2.6
2018	Quarter 1	32	2013	1.6
	Quarter2	46	2052	2.2
	Quarter 3	56	2097	2.7
	Quarter 4	51	2130	2.4
2019	Quarter 1	45	2126	2.1
	Quarter2	38	2342	1.6
	Quarter 3	29	2346	1.2
	Quarter 4	19	2290	0.8

Source: *National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda* March 23, 2020

