

# REPORT ON THE THEATRE FOR DEVELOPMENT (TFD) EXERCISE

FOR:  
**NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID (NCA)**  
Tonse Tipindule Project.



CONDUCTED BY  
**INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND  
EMPOWERMENT (ICOME).**

In  
Karonga, Ntcheu and Phalombe Districts.  
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## CONSULTANT INFORMATION



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INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Bringing change through community empowerment.

Institute for Community Mobilization and Empowerment (ICOME) is a consultant firm which focuses on advocacy and community mobilization, awareness and empowering the community to be pro-active on issues of development. The firm also ensures that the communities own the development available in their community but also demand services from duty bearers responsibly. The institute instills in peoples mind the will to discuss and dialogue with duty bearers and also holding accountable duty bearers and office bearers on some issues that affect them, at the same time, taking responsibility by realizing their role in development as the main stakeholder and beneficiary.

ICOME uses three thematic approaches in its operations, these are; social mobilization campaign through theatre for development (TFD) citizen voice and action (CVA) and community owning project Campaign. The institution further conducts documentation of case studies and success stories through filming, training of different people, organizations, companies or institutions in community mobilization approaches. ICOME is a Malawi government registered institution based in Lilongwe and as a consultant firm it works with different organizations, companies, societies, individuals and firms within and outside the country.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Norwegian Church Aid in collaboration with its partners which include Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) National office, Quadria Muslim Association of Malawi (QMAM), Malawi Council of Churches (MCC), Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) and Church and Society of Livingstonia Synod with support from Tilitonse Fund has been coordinating and implementing the *Tonse Tipindule* project. The project purpose is ensuring Increased Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness in Malawi's mining sector.

The project comes at a time the community lacks the significance of mining to their communities later alone how mining can change their social economic lives. Taking advantage of the countries legal inconsistency mining investors have proceeded in mining ventures without considering communities as their other important stakeholder. This has not only frustrate the communities built it has created a distance of hatred between the two .The project has however, narrowed this gap through capacity building and awareness on mining governance however, there is still mistrust especially on the part of the community.

The overall objective of the action research and performance was to capture people's views on mining governance, their suggested mitigations and their concerns on mining governance. Furthermore, it aimed at documenting the relevance of the mining interventions or efforts by the communities where mining is taking place through show casing some of the success done so far and also to establish the level of coordination and collaboration among communities CSOs, government and investors from community's perspective.

Theatre for development was used to find out root causes for the communities problems that are emanating from the mining taking place in their community. TFD was aimed at uncovering these problems and create a conducive environment for dialogue between the mining investors, communities and government official. The following report conveys information regarding the activities conducted under theatre for development which included research, data analysis; storyline creation (also scene development, casting, and rehearsal); and performance evaluation.

The report is covering what transpired in three sites from three mining districts. Mwabulambo Coal mine in Mesiya Village, T/A Kilipula, Karonga, Nyala Mine in Kandoma village, T/A Katsekera, Ntcheu and Mkango Mine in T/A Maoni.





**ELAND COAL MINE, MWABULAMBO VILLAGE, T/A KILIPULA KARONGA**

In Karonga a total of 93 people were interviewed which included 23 females and 24 males. The age group was between 20 years and 70 years. A total of one focus group with 37 people was conducted the groups contained both men and women. A total of 9 key informant interviews were conducted. The key informants included Chiefs, former mine employees and government officials.

**RESEARCH FINDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The action research team was residing in Mesiya village. From the tarmac / main road, we turned left to a dusty road. From Karonga boma to the turn we covered a distance of approximately 16km and from the turn to Mesiya village we covered a 7 km distance; making a total of 23km.

This section provide the background information on the overview of the research in the area:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>SURROUNDING SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chipatulamaji Primary School</li> <li>• Mwanjasi Primary School which is about 6km from Mesiya village and a 30minute walk</li> <li>• Ngelenge Community Day Secondary School</li> </ul>
<b>SURROUNDING VILLAGES</b>	<p>Mwabulambo village is made up of a total of 18 sub villages namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ngiliya</li> <li>• Potiphali</li> <li>• Daniel</li> <li>• Mesiya</li> <li>• Mwanjasi</li> <li>• Kasiba</li> <li>• Mulinda</li> <li>• Mwagasa</li> <li>• Wakalawela</li> <li>• Mulinda</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mwagasa</li> <li>• Wakalawela</li> <li>• Chipatulamaji</li> </ul>		
<b>SURROUNDING HOSPITALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kapolo</li> <li>• Atupele Private Hospital</li> <li>• Kiwe, about 10 kms away, is the nearest hospital so far.</li> </ul>		
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	<p>The people of Mwabulambo village are mostly <i>chinkhonde</i> speaking natives. But a few other people have the least knowledge of the following two languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chitumbuka</li> <li>• Chichewa</li> </ul>		
<b>PROPERTY OWNED</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radios</li> <li>• Satelite dishes</li> <li>• Solar panels</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile phones</li> <li>• Bicycles</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radios</li> <li>• Satelite dishes</li> <li>• Solar panels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile phones</li> <li>• Bicycles</li> </ul>
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<b>CHURCHES:</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roman Catholic</li> <li>• Methodist</li> <li>• Christian love</li> <li>• Born Again church</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lust church</li> <li>• Missionary</li> <li>• Kasupe AIC</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roman Catholic</li> <li>• Methodist</li> <li>• Christian love</li> <li>• Born Again church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lust church</li> <li>• Missionary</li> <li>• Kasupe AIC</li> </ul>
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<b>CROPS GROWN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice, which is also the most popular as it is grown for both food and income generation</li> <li>• Maize, which is the least popular</li> <li>• Cassava</li> <li>• Groundnuts</li> </ul>		
<b>MODES OF TRANSPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal bicycles</li> <li>• Hired motor cycles (usually used when hurrying)</li> </ul>		

	to the hospital).
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pigs, used for <i>kanyenya</i> business (fried or roasted pork) during the harvest season as a symbol of celebration</li> <li>• Cattle: usually paid as <i>lobola</i> (bride price)</li> <li>• Goats: Used as a bride price sometimes.</li> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Rabbits: which the villagers bought from FINCA</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal employment including teaching</li> <li>• Farming i.e. selling farm produce</li> </ul>
<b>NEAREST MARKET</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nearest big market is Camp Trading, which is approximately a 5km distance from Mesiya village. It should be noted that there are specific market days set as it is the case in many local communities so as to allow distant travellers to plan ahead. The days are locally termed as <i>tsiku la nsika</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>TRADITIONAL DANCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mdolo: A dance unique to women and characterized by brief steps; slow and minimal body movements</li> <li>• Samba: a dance performed by men only and characterized by vigorous twerking and jerking</li> <li>• Viwenga</li> <li>• Mapenenga</li> <li>• Viwoda</li> </ul>

## **INITIATION CEREMONIES**

### **Girls**

When a girl has come of age, a group of elder women conduct counselling session to orient her into adulthood. The girl advised on sexual and reproductive growth including unprotected sex in fear of early and unwanted pregnancies. It should be noted that the women who initiate the young girls are church counselors or traditional experts.

### **Boys**

The process is no different from that of the girls only that boys are advised by fellow men. They are taught extensively about their responsibilities as men.

## **MARRIAGE CEREMONIES**

In Mwabulambo village, marriage is a process that runs in four formal stages described below:

### **Introduction stage**

The grooms' family pays the brides' family a visit to inform them about the existing relationship and intention to have the two families come together in the communion of marriage. Once the two families get to know each other, the relationship is declared official.

### **Chikole**

This time the groom selects a close friend to deliver small gifts to his wife to be and her family to emphasize his serious intent to marry her. These small gifts include plates and other small kitchen utensils.

### **Chimeta**

This is the grooms' third visit which happens three weeks after *chikole*. It serves as an official invitation for the girl to visit the grooms' family and get to know them i.e. their way of life. Additionally, it means that the groom is asking the girls' family on her behalf to be permitted to

visit the grooms' family since they are not married yet; it is only respectful that he recognizes the parents' authority. However, she is not allowed to sleep over at his place.

### **Lobola**

The official bride price is paid in the form of money, cattle, goats, or a combination of either. It is worth noting that the amount of money paid is dependent on the education level of the bride. The higher the level of education, the higher the bride price to be paid. It ranges from 50 to 150 thousand kwacha. It can be paid in installments. The wedding ceremony can be a Christian or traditional wedding.

## **FUNERAL CEREMONIES**

### **Chief's funeral**

When a chief dies, the body is taken care of by fellow chiefs to indicate that he was not an ordinary member of the community. Chiefs are expected to work in unison to clean the body; be the only ones inside the house of the deceased. Normally, chiefs are buried as the sun sets to show respect. The burial is accompanied by chanting and drum beating.

### **Ordinary persons' funeral**

The ceremony is driven by fellow community and family members. Burial is done in the afternoon, usually by the community's youth under the leadership of the chief.

## MINING COMPANY BACKGROUND



The company that was found to be operating in the area of Mwabulambo is called Eland Coal Mining with its headquarters based in Lilongwe, Kanengo. The company began active mining coal in the area of traditional authority Kilipula in 2007.

However, according to community members in the area before 2007, the company had already come to the area for surveillance. The community was not informed about the company and Eland Coalmine did not brief the community either. Due to the fact that there was no free and informed consent on the part of the community, the community had concluded that the Eland coal mine was just like any other CSO's on water related projects because that was the pressing issue that was affecting the community.

Finally the company was awarded a mining license which meant mining will start to take place soon. The actual mining started in 2008, contrary to the expectations of the community, on the prospect of employment by the locals the company employed Zimbabweans and other people from Lilongwe and Blantyre. According to the community these were the people that received good package and good working conditions. The native community members were offered casual labor which includes stone breaking; employed as security guards; and clearing lands for the miners to settle. The jobs were less paying and most of them resigned.

Through communities initiative a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the mining company and the Mwabulambo community in 2009. The understanding was a commitment in which the Eland coal mine committed to build a standard hospital with solar electricity, a borehole and a school blocks. The community demonstration of appreciation and spirit of working together with the company was manifested through community's effort in gathering bricks for the projects.

According to the community members Government mandated the investors to relocate the families living close to the mining station. However, the investor failed to fully compensate the people and families it had relocated. According to community members some people got less money while the majority got nothing at all. The community members especially those that were not compensated and had lost land including homes; grazing land; and farming land still awaited for the company feedback until today. The area most affected is Mesiya village which is close the core mining station.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY INTERVENTIONS**

### **Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace [CCJP]**

CCJP intervened on the following issues relocation and compensation. CCJP conducted sensitization and awareness meetings on how they can engage the Eland Company on their demands i.e. the awareness centered on calculation of how much worth of property they would be losing when moving from their old settlements. The awareness empowered the community to dialogue with the investors on compensations. Following this the miners started giving the victims a total of two million kwacha (MWK2, 000, 000.00) to aid their new lives.

## **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

Church and society unlike CCJP conducted a number of activities that were aimed at empowering the community to take charge in engaging with duty bearers including government and mining officials. It was through church and society that the Mwabulambo community got the comprehensive knowledge in drafting community agreements and also negotiate with mining investors. Church and society has also assisted the community to conduct a peaceful demonstration and deliver a petition to the district council to demanding them to intervene in the issue of the community and Eland coal mining company.

## **CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION [CHRR]**

According to the community members CHRR conducted a sensitization campaign on collective human rights in relation to mining.

## ***RESEARCH FINDINGS ON PROBLEMS ARISING FROM MINING.***

### ***Accidents caused by the deep gullies dug by the miners in their endeavor***

All community members including chiefs and government officials confessed that they live in fear of losing their lives and their livestock due to the water filled gullies. The Eland company occupied community's main grazing area. The community feared that their children who usually accompany their livestock might be victim of death if they get drowned in the water filled gullies. The community reported that two children have died by falling into the gullies and there have been numerous reports of goats falling into the gullies as they graze.

### ***Water pollution caused by the dumping of coal residues and coal processing chemicals into Ruviliya River***

Ruviliya river is the community's main water and fish supply as it is situated very far from Lake Malawi. The community members reported that people drink contaminated water and fall ill; and are being deprived of the pleasure of consuming the once readily available fresh fish. Furthermore, the contaminated water flowing from the gullies run to the rice fields which cases the rice to dry up in cases where the .water has large volumes of coal dust. The rice eventually turns black and it affects the quality of rice.



***Air pollution caused by sand and coal dust produced as the miners dig the gullies***

The community admitted that dust coming from the coal mines has polluted the air causing a bad strong smell. The community members reported that most of them suffered from coughs; it was also reported that rice was dyed black due to the dust.

***Stagnant water in the gullies created by the miners***



*(One of the gullies with stagnant water)*

The community reported that most gullies contained stagnant water which is a breeding area for mosquitoes. Cases of malaria were reported by community members who attributed the problem to outbreak of mosquitoes.

***Poor drainage system resulting from the destruction of the community's' piping system***

The community members reported that the drainage caravans across the roads were destroyed by heavy machinery and vehicles passing to and from the mining site. The company however replaced the initial bigger caravans with small caravans that are persistently blocked denying the other fields' access to water.

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>EFFECT</b>
<b>GULLIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death of children</li> <li>• Loss of livestock</li> </ul>
<b>WATER AND AIR POLLUTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sickness i.e. coughs caused by inhaling bad air and drinking contaminated water; and malaria</li> <li>• Lack of clean and portable water</li> <li>• Low yields</li> </ul>

## **COMMUNITIES EXPECTATIONS FROM MINING AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ELAND COMPANY**

The research also looked at the community's expectation on mining and engagement with the mining company that led to an MOU as stated below

### **School blocks**

According to the community members including the chiefs, the community was instructed to gather bricks which they did, only to be told later on that another mining company would come to continue the project the bricks remained idle at the construction site. The nearest school is Mwanjasi primary, 8 km from Mesiya village.

### **Boreholes**

The entire Mwabulambo area is serviced by three boreholes. This causes congestion at water points. Those avoiding congestion end up drawing water from Luviliya River which is also contaminated.

### **Hospital with solar electricity**

The hospital was not constructed and the borehole was not dug. The mining company promised to construct a hospital in the area. The nearest hospital which is at Kiwe is 10km from the community and another hospital is at Karonga Boma, very far away from this community. Deaths have occurred and pregnant women have given birth on the way to hospital.

### **Road**

According to the community members the road was a compensation for the damage caused by the miners due to their heavily loaded vehicles. But instead of constructing a tarmac road or at least just leveling it, the miners opted to just cover the roads with coal, which ended up causing more damage i.e. contaminated the rice nearest to the main road.



*One of the parts of the road covered by the coal residues.*

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

According to the community members, the community members took the following initiatives,

1. With the aid from church and society the community conducted a peaceful demonstration and delivered their concerns. However, the mining investors chose to speak with the chiefs than the entire community. The proceedings of this meeting were never mentioned to the community afterwards
2. The community further blocked the road to stop the miners from passing through with their vehicles and consequently stopping the miners from escaping without fulfilling their problems.

## DATA ANALYSIS

This section of the report offers a detailed examination of the research findings from the perspective of the researcher's analysis of the research outcomes using problem and solution tree:

<b><u>PROBLEM</u></b>	<b><u>CAUSE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTS</u></b>
<b>Air pollution</b>	<p>During excavation at the mine, a combination of coal and sand dust with a bad smell is produced.</p> <p>The mine is too close to the community's settlement and farming land</p> <p>Government does not regulate mining activities for the sake of protecting its citizens in the mining process</p>	<p>The community will suffer respiratory track complications and any other diseases originating from the lack of good air circulation</p> <p>Low yields as both the quality and quantity of the rice harvested is compromised, Consequently the rice will either fetch cheap prices or will not be sold at all. This will in the long run lead to perpetual poverty for a community mainly dependent on rice</p>

		farming for income generation and sustaining their lives
<b>water pollution</b>	<p>Water and chemicals used to process coal and other coal residues are dumped into Ruviliya River which is the areas' main water source. This is water used for watering rice fields; drinking; and all other domestic purposes. The water in Ruviliya River also sustained the life of fish and water plants.</p> <p>The gullies are not managed and they occasionally flood out the water then spill into Ruviliya</p>	<p>Loss of aquatic life i.e. fish and water plants. This deprives the community of its good protein from fish as fishermen no longer have fish stock for sale</p> <p>Fish that was first found cheaply and readily available becomes expensive because people will then have to travel long distances to buy from the boma and in return sell at hiked prices to cover for travelling costs.</p> <p>The chemicals and residues in the water cause rice to dry up prematurely; as such, farmers whose field are affected cannot yield much from this leading to food insecurity.</p>
<b>Accidents</b>	<p><b><u>Gullies</u></b></p> <p>The mining site is not guarded by a durable protective fence.</p> <p>The gullies are not managed properly after exhausting their use by the miners.</p> <p>The mining site is in the community's</p>	<p>Villagers will have feelings of bitterness which could lead to unending conflicts and violence towards the miners.</p> <p>Deaths of children.</p> <p>Loss of valuable assets (livestock)</p>

	<p>main grazing land.</p> <p>Often times children herd the livestock and the children and the livestock are at risk of falling in the gullies,</p>	<p>leading to economic hardships.</p>
<b>stagnant water</b>	<p>The miners do not fill the pits that are out of use. Open gullies hold stagnant water.</p>	<p>People will be constantly sick of malaria</p>
<b>poor drainage system</b>	<p>Replacing of old bigger pipes with small incompatible ones.</p> <p>Heavily loaded trucks with coal constantly using the road and breaking the old pipes</p> <p>Eland miners did not first examine and fix the road before starting their operations yet they knew that they would constantly have to use it during their entire mining activity.</p>	<p>Depriving rice fields of water that would otherwise aid its growth and rice production</p> <p>Low yields as some fields will not produce the needed and expected amount of rice.</p> <p>Poverty as farmers will make less out of the little harvested rice.</p>

## **MITIGATION STRATEGIES (SOLUTIONS)**

This section discusses the solutions to the problems already explored at the beginning of this as reported by community members:

### **ACCIDENTS**

- Government should trace the miners to fill the gullies as soon as possible before more accidents occur
- Government should visit the sites where mining is taking place every now and again so as to assess damages and remind the miners of their responsibility to both the community members and the community's environment.
- At the meantime while waiting for the gullies to be filled, the area should be abandoned and guards to be deployed for the purpose of making sure that children adhere to the restriction and are protected from any more accidents at the site.

### **WATER CONTAMINATION**

- Provision of alternative potable water to the community as the Ruviliya
- Filling the gullies as they are the ones holding this contaminated water and diffusing it into Ruviliya River

### **POOR DRAINAGE**

- Government should assist with the reconstruction of the community's main road network that will not hinder rain water from being contained in the rice fields closest to the road.

## **PREDOMINANT PROBLEM**

The following tables determine the predominant problem and effect by looking at the number of respondents for each problem and effect as discussed in the last two sections. The figures are as follows:

### ***1.0 PROBLEM TABLE***

	<b>PROBLEMS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>
<b>1</b>	Accidents	<b>33</b>
<b>2</b>	Water pollution	25
<b>3</b>	Air pollution	22
<b>4</b>	Stagnant water	16
<b>5</b>	Poor drainage	15

✚ Predominant problem is therefore accidents caused by the deep gullies.

### ***1.1 EFFECT TABLE***

	<b>EFFECTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>
<b>1</b>	Death and loss of livestock	<b>29</b>
<b>2</b>	Sickness	27
<b>3</b>	Low rice yields	20

✚ Predominant effect is therefore loss of life and livestock.

### ***1.2 MITIGATION STRATEGIES.***

	<b>SUGGESTED MITIGATIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>
<b>1</b>	Filling up the gullies	<b>37</b>
<b>2</b>	Construction of additional boreholes	18
<b>3</b>	Fulfillment of promised CSR	1
<b>4</b>	Elect new committee to follow up on the miners	5

✚ Predominant mitigation is therefore that the mining company should take responsibility and fill the danger gullies it created



## **STORYLINE CREATION; SCENE DEVELOPMENT; CASTING; AND REHEARSAL**

In Mwabulambo village there lived a poor family of Mr. and Mrs. Mwakila with their 13 year old son Dumisani.

Mr. Mwakila was an employee at the mine that was currently operating in the village; he was always early and on time at work. However on this particular day, Mwakila was late for the first but he was still hopeful about securing his job because of his good reputation with the company. To his amazement bwana Leon the mines' boss fired him on arriving at work 30minutes late, stripped him of his work suit leaving him only with his boxer shorts on, and sent him away without paying him for the time that he had worked. Despite the embarrassment, Mwakila kept pleading with his boss for some time but to no avail. He went back home in dismay; he had lost his only source of income even though he was being paid peanuts for it.

As time passed, his households' poverty escalated. Mwakila had no choice but to fall into debt with Mr. Mundaki, the villages' only shop owner that was a personal friend of his. From Mundaki's shop Mwakila borrowed foodstuffs (sugar, soya pieces, bread, tea leaves) amounting to seven thousand kwacha (MWK7, 000.00). This was all in the hope of selling his he goat at MWK17, 000.00 to cover for both the loan and other needs at his house.

One afternoon, Dumisani was sent by his parents to herd goats at the bush close to the mine as it was the areas' main grazing land. As he was there, one goat cut its rope and ran towards the gullies that the miners had dug. Unfortunately, it was the goat his father had arranged to sell to a butcher that evening so as to settle the debt with Mundaki. Dumisani did not have enough man power to rescue the goat and instead he just mourned his way home to report to his parents, leaving the other goats behind.

When Dumisani reported the incident, his mother was left agape and his father agitated more because Dumisani still left the other goats at the site. It was not long enough before Mundaki already set for the boma, made a stop at Mwakila's house to collect his money and supplement the little that he had to get more grocery items at the boma. Mwakira begged for more time to

realize another deal with the butcher or for Mundaki to just too just get two of the small goats Mwakila owned; but Mundaki was in no mood to hear excuses. The two got into a nasty fight that villagers had to intervene and take their matter to the chiefs' court for council.

The chief ordered Mr. Mundaki to give Mwakira some time to source money to settle the debt. He also took the initiative as a chief to select people who will represent the whole village to go to the miners and government officials to help them fill the gullies.

Since the old miners had escaped, there came a new mining company that employed many from the community, including Mwakila. He was also an active member of the newly elected committee that called for frequent meetings with fellow villagers to update them on things that the miners were taking care of; that they were building a hospital in the community and Mwakila's son, Dumisani would be one of the doctors there.

The Mwakila's poverty was a story of the past; now they were able to make savings from different income generating activities.

### **SCENE DEVELOPMENT**

<b>SCENE 1</b>	Place: Mr. Mwakila's residence Objective: Introducing a poor family Activities: Mother doing household chores; father leaving for work; child coming from Mundaki's grocery. Time: Morning.
<b>SCENE 2</b>	Place: Mwabulambo mine Objective: Showing Mr. Mwakira being fired Activities: Women and men breaking stones Time: Morning.
<b>SCENE 3</b>	<b>Place:</b> Mwakila's home Objectives: Showing prolonged poverty (because of being fired).

	<p><b>Activity:</b> Mwakila leaving to borrow foodstuffs from Mundaki's shop</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Afternoon.</p>
<b>SCENE 4</b>	<p>Place: Mwakila's shop</p> <p>Objectives: Showing Mwakila get foodstuffs from Mundaki on credit.</p> <p>Time: Afternoon.</p>
<b>SCENE 5</b>	<p>Place: Mwakila's home</p> <p>Objective: Show Mwakila's heavy reliance on goats.</p> <p>Activities: Parents sending Dumisani to graze the goats.</p> <p>Time: Afternoon.</p>
<b>SCENE 6</b>	<p>Place: Grazing area close to mine</p> <p>Objective: Showing one of Mwakila's goats fall into the gully.</p> <p>Activities: Dumisani tying the goats.</p> <p>Time: Afternoon.</p>
<p><b>Song:</b> <i>Imbene iwirire kuwina ku mgodi</i> (boyi puna tune)</p>	
<b>SCENE 7</b>	<p>Place: Mwakila's residence</p> <p>Objective: Conflict with Mundaki</p> <p>Activities: Dumisani reports about the accident; Mundaki arrives to collect the money</p> <p>Time: Afternoon.</p>
<b>SCENE 8</b>	<p>Place: Chief's court</p> <p>Objectives: Conflict resolution</p> <p>Activity: People gathering at chiefs' court</p> <p>Time: Afternoon.</p> <p><b>Issues discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deep gullies causing accidents.</li> <li>- No timeframe indicated in MOU: therefore</li> </ul>

	failing promised CSR. - Unemployment.
<b>Song:</b> <i>Takolelana</i> [celebrating the resolution]	
<b>SCENE 9</b>	Place: Chief's court Objective: Showing changed situation. Activities: Interface meeting. Time: Afternoon.
<b>Song:</b> <i>Zayidandaula</i>	
<b>SCENE 10</b>	Place: Mwakila's home Objective: Ideal situation Activities: Time: Afternoon.
<b>Song:</b> <i>Zikamatereteretere</i>	

### CASTING

<b>CHARACTERS</b>	<b>ACTORS</b>
<b>Mother</b>	Jane Njoka
<b>Father</b>	Lucky Khulani
<b>Son</b>	Godfrey Kambewa
<b>Creditor</b>	Lonjezo Katunga
<b>Chief</b>	Leleni Nyasulu
<b>Mining boss</b>	Felix Linje
<b>Villager</b>	Chifundo Chisala
<b>Stone breaker</b>	Naomi Mwale

## **REHEARSAL**

Rehearsals were supposed to start at 8am sharp but due to rains that failed. Rehearsals were sketched at home, songs and dances were practiced inside the house until the rains stopped. At around 10 am we started off to the ground where we rehearsed until 12 o'clock. During the morning rehearsal, the play was repeated 3 times. The issues tackled were intense hence court scene was repeated 3 times in order for the whole cast to internalize the issues. The rehearsals resumed at 2 pm. We did the run through and all the songs and finished at 4:30 pm. On the performance day, we rehearsed from 8 am to 11:45 am.

### **1. EVALUATION**

One of the activities that ICOME did in Mesiya village where Mwabulambo coal mine is based is TFD performance. It is therefore the interest of this section to show the results of the performance. It will mainly focus on audience estimation, areas that worked well, areas that need improvement, facts verified, audience reaction, community action plans, sensitization, recommendations and challenges.

#### **AUDIENCE ESTIMATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>MALES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Chiefs	24	-	24
DC representatives	1	-	1
Church and Society	1	-	1
Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)	3	2	5
Church and Society Committee	9	2	11
School Authorities	1	-	1
Action Aid Committee	25	11	36
Care Malawi Committee	-	1	1
Adult villagers	170	110	280
Young villagers	61	32	93

## AREAS THAT WENT WELL

- i. **Stage variation and utilization:** Actors were able to cover all stage spaces and make practical and effective use of the stage by miming a good number of activities. This helped the audience identify with the story.
- ii. **Exit and entry points:** the actors were using various points of the arena as exits and entrance. This helped capture the attention of the entire audience as all points could be used at any time.
- iii. **Open ups:** actors were able to frequently ask the audience for clarification of some of the issues found during research. As such the audience fully participated and paid attention throughout the performance.
- iv. **Verification of issues:** through open ups actors were able to get verification from the audience on the research findings. This helped the actors to be sure of the issues portrayed in the play.



*One of the chiefs responding to a question from a community member during the plays' court scene.*

- v. **Miming:** During the play, actors especially the mother, father and mine workers were able to express their action, character, and emotion without having to say everything out loud for people to understand. This was exciting because the audience could easily mirror their daily lives and household chores in the play.

- vi. **Costume:** The costumes the actors wore were good in the sense that they portrayed real life of the people. For example, the mother wore an attire that really portrayed a respectful married woman. And again during the ideal situation, father and son were well dressed and evidently inspiring the affected people (Mesiya village).
- vii. **Rapport:** The action research team made a harmonious relationship with the community. They got to the common understanding that they were both working towards regulating issues to do with mining.



*Action researchers taking part in the community's traditional dances as part of rapport before the play starts*

- viii. **Characterization:** the father and child managed to display characteristics typical of the particular people they were imitating.
- ix. **Voice projection:** actors were audible enough thus made everyone in the audience follow the story; show emotions; and respond to questions asked in the course of the play.
- x. **Improvisation:** actors were able to work with whatever responses as they came even without being prepared for them i.e. new issues emerged

## **AREAS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT**

- i. ***Songs and dances:*** Actors were not singing and dancing with energy. This made the songs and dances not exciting to the audience.
- ii. ***Gaps between scenes:*** There were gaps between some scenes i.e. actors delaying entry into next scene. This mistakenly gave the audience a feeling that the play has come to an end.
- iii. ***Communication cues:*** actors did not pick up on cues from each other i.e. talking at the same time; exiting arena at the wrong time.

## **FACTS VERIFIED**

- i. Loss of livestock by falling into the gullies dug by the miners. This was verified by the audience during the performance.
- ii. During the research we found that there were deep and deadly gullies at the mining site. This was verified by the chiefs, DC representative and the entire community.
- iii. People were not consulted by the government about the coming of the mining investors in the area. This was verified during the performance by chiefs and various committees.
- iv. Coughs and malaria caused by coal fumes produced at the mine and stagnant water in the pits at the mining site respectively. All verified by the community members during the performance.
- v. Rice is drying or having stunted growth because of coal residues and coal processing chemicals eroding into the rice fields.
- vi. The mine owners are not exercising any Corporate Social responsibilities that they promised.
- vii. No timeframe was indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding.



## **AUDIENCE REACTION**

- i. During and after the performance the audience could express various comments over the issues discussed in the play as well as relate the sequence of events in the play to their own lives in the village. For example the character of Mundaki who was a shop owner in the play depicted the life of the real Mundaki in the village.
- ii. The audience glued it's to the performance as seen by how close they moved to the arena from the beginning to the end without unnecessary movements. This proves that the performance was worth watching.
- iii. They expressed interest in solving the problems depicted in the play by contact dialogue among themselves; with chiefs; and government officials, to the extent that some chiefs got emotional.
- iv. Some of the audience verbally applauded the performance saying it created a platform for a direct dialogue between the community and the government officials; thus it has paved a way for the community to start strategizing practical ways of handling mining related complications.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS**

1. On 28<sup>TH</sup> March at 6 am, Chief Principal Mwabulambo will chair a meeting at his court with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and community members for the purpose of electing a team of representatives who will go to meet the DC, DPD and DC representatives. The team will write and deliver a petition of their requests on which among others to fill the gullies; a call to the DC to prioritize the problems at Mesiya village in the Karonga district development plans.
2. On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm the elected team will meet the DC, DPD at the DC's office to present the petition.
3. Members of the various Community Action Groups: Church and Society, CCJP; Action Aid who have been trained on mining issues will host a meeting with the chief and community members on 31<sup>st</sup> March at 8am at Mesiya's court. The aim is to impart the mining knowledge to the community members.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

- i. Some of the community members have mining knowledge, especially those belonging to CAGS (Community Action Groups). However, this knowledge is hardly shared
- ii. There is a social gap between the Chiefs and people in the village leading to fear of the expression. People do not feel comfortable to express their views before their chiefs.
- iii. There are growing suspicions that the committees involved in mining issues have been bribed thus do not present real concerns of the people in the village to the miners
- iv. Over 80% of the chiefs at the performance were representatives. It could be because the majority of chiefs really took part in collecting money secretly from the mine investors.
- v. It was the first time a government official (in this case the DCs representative) came and had direct dialogue with the community on mining issues.
- vi. There is no communication between Capitol Hill and district level government offices.

## **SENSITIZATION**

- i. During the performance people were sensitized by the DC representative about Local Development Fund (LDF) and the procedure to be followed for the community to get the developments they want in their area.



*The government official sensitizing the community members during the play.*

- ii. People were also sensitized on the government structure and how it operates with regards to mining.
- iii. How people can get through to government so it can deliver and help with their concerns using the VDC.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. Government should have frequent interface meetings with the community so that they update people on mining information and policies.
- ii. Community Action Groups (CAG) that have been trained on mining issues should share the knowledge with fellow community members.

- iii. Government should make available mining offices at district level so as to decentralize the Ministry's power.
- iv. Government should set measure that will ensure that the miners are fulfilling their responsibilities as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### **CHALLENGES**

- i. On the performance day we had no official or representative from Eland Mining Company. As such, most information that was supposed to be addressed by the Miner was not fully handled.

## **NYALA MINE, CHIMWADZULU HILL, GVH DZONZI, NTCHEU.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The research was conducted in the area of Group Village Head (GVH) Dzonzi, Traditional authority Mpando, Ntcheu. It was an exercise of three days, starting from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. The following report conveys information regarding the activities of each of the three days as follows: research findings; data analysis; storyline creation (also scene development, casting, and rehearsal); and performance evaluation.

In Ntcheu a total of 118 people were interviewed which included 36 females and 28 males. The age group was between 20 years and 70 years. A total of two focus groups with 48 people was conducted, the groups contained both men and women. A total of 6 key informant interviews were conducted. The key informants included Chiefs, mine employees and the Human Resource Manager for Nyala Mine.

### **2. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **I. ACCESSIBILITY:**

The research area is located 6 kilometers east of the Mozambique border about 50Km from Tsangano turnoff along a gravel road. The deposit is about 145 kilometers from Lilongwe. The main feature in the area is Katsekera ARV and Health Centre.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>SURROUNDING SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Katsekera CDSS</li><li>• Kandoma primary school</li><li>• Kakhobwe primary school</li><li>• Satemwa primary school</li></ul>

<b>SURROUNDING VILLAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lipenga</li> <li>• Chagoma</li> <li>• Chisema</li> <li>• Kandoma 1</li> <li>• Kandoma 2</li> <li>• Muuso 1</li> <li>• Muuso 2</li> <li>• Kakhobwe</li> <li>• Zikula</li> <li>• Chisema</li> <li>• Katsekera</li> <li>• Magombo</li> <li>• Zuze</li> <li>• Dzing'anda</li> <li>• Dzikula</li> <li>• Chauluka</li> </ul>
<b>SURROUNDING HOSPITALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matanda Mission hospital</li> <li>• Katsekera ARV and Health Centre</li> </ul>
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chichewa</li> </ul>
<b>PROPERTY OWNED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycles</li> <li>• Satellite Dishes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar panels</li> <li>• Oxcart</li> <li>• Generators</li> <li>• Vehicles</li> </ul>	
<b>CHURCHES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostolic Church</li> <li>• Zambezi</li> <li>• Seventh Day Adventist</li> <li>• Abraham</li> <li>• Baptist</li> <li>• True Church</li> <li>• African</li> <li>• Anglican</li> <li>• Catholic</li> <li>• Mfulu za Yesu / Bible Believers</li> </ul>	
<b>CROPS GROWN</b>	Potato Beans Onions	Maize Cabbage
<b>MODES OF TRANSPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor cycles</li> <li>• Bicycles</li> <li>• Motor vehicles</li> </ul>	
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle</li> <li>• Goats</li> <li>• Pigeons</li> <li>• Rabbits</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Ducks</li> </ul>
<b>INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses like running grocery shops; butcheries; and maize mills</li> <li>• Formal employment such as teaching and nursing.</li> <li>• Casual labour</li> </ul>
<b>NEAREST MARKET</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ntonda market</li> <li>• Sela market</li> <li>• Daviko market</li> </ul>
<b>TRADITIONAL DANCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They only have one traditional dance, <i>Gulewamkulu</i>. Gulewamkulu which literally means the ‘big dance’ is found in Kakhobwe village. The dance was imported by the immigrants who came from Mozambique.</li> </ul>

## **INITIATION CEREMONIES**

### **a. Boys**

When a boy has come of age, a group of elderly men are called by the parents to counsel the boy about adulthood responsibilities as a man. This implies to both tradition and religion parents. The only difference is that, for religious parents the counselling is done at church by church elders while for those who are not religion the counselling is done by mere elderly villagers.

### **b. Girls**

When a girl has come of age, a group of elder women conduct counselling session to orient her into adulthood. The girl advised on sexual and reproductive growth including unprotected sex in fear of early and unwanted pregnancies. It should be noted that the women who initiate the young girls are church counselors or traditional experts.



## **MARRIAGE RITES:**

When a couple is courting, they arrange for the boy to visit the girl's parents which they call it "*kukawonekela*" (the boy is introduced). Normally, the boy comes with his uncle. After "*kuwonekela*" Parents together with the couple agree on the date of the wedding and all relatives are notified. On the wedding day they firstly bless the marriage at church and then all gather at the bride parents' house for celebrations. During celebrations all the initiated guests are served with food prepared by the parents from both sides.

## **FUNERAL CEREMONIES:**

### **a. Chiefs funeral**

When the chief has died, only the Traditional Authority (T/A) is supposed to announce about the funeral. The family is not allowed to mourn loudly until they notify the T/A about the death. And the funeral ceremony is conducted by fellow chiefs only. The chiefs' coffin is not supposed to touch the ground. It is laid on a table and during burial it is buried in a round shaped hole.

### **b. Ordinary funeral**

People can mourn as loud as they want and relatives can make all funeral arrangements according to how they please. Additionally, the burial hole is the regular rectangular shaped one.

## **KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MINING**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE MINING COMPANY**

The mine is taking place on Chimwadzulu hill. It goes by the name Nyala Mines, and it is a company owned by Abdul Mohammed, a Malawi national born of a Malawian woman and a Portuguese father.

Before Nyala established its roots at the hill, another company called Mineral Exploration PVT Limited (MINEX) was also mining there from the year 2005. However, active mining at the hill had already started back in the 80s by the whites. In 2011 Nyala mines began its exploration and found present in the soil, the following minerals: Ruby which is a precious stone found in colour varieties ranging from deep purple to pale rose; Sapphire, a transparent stone typically blue, or yellow; Green tomaring; and Garnet (deep red and used as a gem). Sapphire according to members of the community is the most expensive mineral.

Nyala Mining Company has by far managed to employ community members surrounding Chimwadzulu hill as guards, brick breakers; and has promised others involvement in a tree planting exercise. These employees' salaries are dependent on how long each person has served for the company i.e. newly recruited guards are currently being paid MWK20, 000.00 while old guards are at MWK28, 000.00 per month. Similarly, new brick breakers earn MWK18, 000.00, while the old ones get MWK20, 000.00 per month. As for the tree planting exercise it is unclear as to when it will begin; how much people will be paid; nor how many people the company wants for the exercise.

Furthermore, the research findings reveal that a majority of the community is unaware of when exactly the new company (Nyala) came because no proper handovers were made between the MINEX and it. As such, there was no formal communication relayed to the community for the purpose of developing a Memorandum of Understanding, as everything was done behind closed doors. This has caused feelings of bitterness and the elevation of unrealistic expectations towards the miners from the community members. Regardless of the absence on an MOU, Nyala has assisted greatly in the development of the community in the following respects: 1. Katsekela ARV and Health Centre (repainting the walls, building a placenta disposal, constructing a borehole on the hospital premises, made shelves for the health centers' dispensary, and sometimes uses its vehicles to take critically ill patients to Ntcheu District Hospital- which saves the patient his/her MWK15, 000.00 that would be paid if they used the hospitals' ambulance); and 2. Kandoma Primary School (Nyala is currently constructing two classroom blocks, paying some out of 10 volunteer teachers monthly, bought uniforms for some needy pupils, and supplies stationery equipment at the school).

However, interviewing certain parts of the community elaborated that the bitterness was the result of favoritism in that the developments are only being concentrated in Village Headman Kandoma's area.

## **PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE MINING AND THEIR CAUSES**

### **1. POOR WORKING CONDITIONS:**

#### *i. Being paid less for a lot of work and a lot of working time*

Guards employed by Nyala work for 12 hours without overtime allowances. Originally, it was agreed between the employees and their employer that they would work for 8 hours a day and that if need be then they would be required to work for 4 extra hours but will be compensated with an overtime allowance for every time that they work extra shifts. But as time went they were told that the rules had changed and they would be paid in lump sums enough for 10 hours even if they worked more hours, claiming that money for the deducted 2 hours goes to government. However, whenever they try to inquire more they are told to leave their jobs if they are uncomfortable with the arrangement. It should be noted that the mine owners work from 7am to 4pm while the guards and others work from 6am to 6pm.

#### *ii. Nyala is less concerned about the welfare of its employees*

There have been cases whereby the company's employees fell ill or got injured while at the work premises. When such emergencies happen, the bosses order that the victim be taken to hospital using the company's car, only to be dropped there (sometimes even as far as Ntcheu boma- Ntcheu District hospital) and not followed up or given money to use as transport back home. And usually, it means that he/she has been fired by default. Often times they are stripped naked when being searched before they leave the premises.

*iii. People work in fear*

This is the case because gun shots are fired unnecessarily (in the name of threatening thieves) by the mining bosses. As a result they fear even to sit to take a proper meal or move freely around the company yard

**2. ABSENCE OF CLEAR DEMARCATIONS OF THE MINE:**

**CASE STUDY:**

In the year 2014 six children all of about seven years old, and residents of Kandoma village, were sent to accompany their family's cattle to graze on Chimwadzulu hill as it is (or was, before the miners established their roots there) the community's main grazing area. The only available names at the time of research were Viela and James, two out of the seven children. It is assumed that some of the other kids just escorted their friends so they could chit-chat and play while at it.

As the children watched over the herd of cattle, they were confronted by a Nyala Mining Company guard who accused them of encroaching into the mine premises. The children were left defenceless and at the mercy of the guard who managed to grab all seven of them and reported them to his bosses: Abdul Mahommed (owner of Nyala mining company) and Mr. Mapira (Nyala mining company's legal advisor). The news about the encroachment infuriated the two bosses such that they did not hesitate to send the seven children to prison (Sela police station). This happened at about three in the afternoon (3pm).

Word about the arrest reached the parents later in the evening after they had wondered for a while why their children were not back yet. Early the next morning they followed their children at the police station to plead for their release or have...

...them trade places as they were only innocent kids sent by the parents to do the job. However, this was to no avail as the police held firm that they were ordered to punish the kids because they are the ones who were caught committing the crime (grazing in a restricted area, according to Nyala owners). As a result, the children slept another day in prison, covering themselves with a single wet blanket, and sleeping on cold floor. They did not eat anything until the next morning when their parents brought them food and kept pleading for their release. Luckily, they were released on this day and returned home together with their parents.

### **3. UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT:**

- Most of the good posts are held by Muslims and Asians.
- There is a gender imbalance in that only one woman is currently employed at the Nyala mine.
- The few people who have been employed there are from the same families.
- Despite the Chimwadzulu hill being surrounded by a number of villages, only people from Kandoma village are employed at the mine.

### **4. THEFT**

#### ***Community's Opinion vs. Miners' Opinion***

- There is no clear demarcation between the mine the community's farms; water resource; and other belongings of the community. As such, it is cruel to arrest someone that only out of fortune has found one of the precious minerals/ stones in his/her garden. The community members do not handover these stones to the miners because they are not rewarded a dime for it
- Furthermore, there is a growing tendency of some villagers sneaking into the actual mine premises to draw some of the sand dug by the miners into their own buckets in the hope of uncovering precious and expensive stones that the miners are making a fortune from. This according to the miners is stealing and arresting the offenders is only right. On the

contrary, the community feels that they are only getting a portion of what is rightfully due to them

- So since there has been no clear-cut communication on the demarcations, most of the arrests are unwarranted as it stands at the moment and they relay to the community that the miners are undoubtedly just cruel people

#### **4. SCRAMBLE FOR WATER RESOURCE:**

- Kapeni River is the main water source in the area. It aids people in both irrigation and domestic use. This rivers' water flow is normally constant even during the dry season. However, with the coming of the mining company the river has to some extent been personalized by the miners. They have resorted to pumping water from this river into their dams where they are storing it for cleaning the sand they dig from the ground to make the precious stones visible and easy to pick out of the chunk of other soil particles. During the pumping, they close all other outlets to increase the pressure and speed of the water flowing into their tanks. This is a process that sometimes starts very early in the morning (a time that most farmers relying on the river prefer to water their fields) and goes on for even up to three days depriving the community's crops of water and some families of water for domestic use.
- As such people have to go through the trouble of scrambling for water at the few boreholes in the area and some have to go long distances to fetch water. Busy farmers who heavily rely on irrigation for the health of their crops are forced to uses buckets to water and ignore all of their other engagements and sometimes even let the crops suffer until when the miners feel like they are done using the river and reopen the channels.

#### **5. RIVER SILTATION:**

- As explained in (E), the dug sand is cleaned to identify precious stones. The water from the cleaning process is stored in a dam for reuse once the silt has settled. However at times, there is spillage into Kapeni River as the dams fail to accommodate the silt for long; thus reducing the water table. And also as mentioned earlier, some farmers rely on

supplying water to their crops by means of channels; so once this spillage occurs, the channels are blocked by the heavy clay.

- Spillage into Kapeni River, being the main water source means that people can no longer drink the water because it turns into dirt / mad (*dothi la katondo*)

#### **6. THE NYALA MINING COMPANY HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO ANY PRECIOUS STONE FOUND WITHIN THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES:**

- The miners arrest any person who is found with the stones regardless of where the person got them. Some people may find the stones as they are cultivating in their farms.
- People have lost farming land without their consent.
- The community has lost its natural forest which carried with it natural fruit trees without giving the community a chance to protect them.

#### **7. DEFORESTATION:**

- The Nyala mine company has been cutting down trees on Chimwadzulu hill for their projects on their site. They used the trees as fuel for their brick ovens.

## EFFECTS OF THE PROBLEMS

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>EFFECT</b>
<b>1. Victimisation</b>	Since there is no clear demarcation of the mining area, most people are beaten and arrested for trespassing.
<b>2. Poor harvest</b>	For those who are practicing irrigation farming along the Kapeni River, they are experiencing lower yields since they are scrambling for the river water with the mining company.  Crops do not grow once they have come into contact with the silted water.
<b>3. Theft</b>	Due to high levels of unemployment, some of the community members end up stealing the soil from the mines hoping that they may find the mineral deposits and sell them by themselves.
<b>Deforestation</b>	Clearing of the natural forest has made firewood scarce and women have to travel long distances on foot just to fetch firewood enough for one day
<b>Fear</b>	The community is living in fear with the gunshots fired by the mine bosses when scaring their employees and thieves.  The people can no longer afford the luxury of their old lives i.e. land is being snatched ruthlessly as a result people cannot fend for their families and themselves for long enough.



## **MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

1. The company should provide job opportunities to the community members i.e. employ more people and use a fair basis so that everyone can benefit from the mine. This will reduce poverty and theft.
2. Government should set a certain percentage of benefit to go directly to the communities in which active mining is taking place. This will ensure that the miners are bound by law to fulfil promises depending on the standards set forth by government
3. The community members should be the ones to do the active mining and sell the minerals to the Nyala mines company. Meaning that the company should open a special office where they can be buying the stones from the community members who found the stones or dug them on their own.
4. To ensure that there is less damage done to natural resources, the community should consider identifying their precious stones experts who know just by instinct where in the ground the stones rest. These people will only dig holes enough to extract the stones and instantly refill them without destroying much land arable land and resources
5. The Nyala miners should donate at least one vehicle to be serving as an Ambulance at Katsekera ARV and Health Centre and be responsible for covering all vehicle expenses. This will act as a token of appreciation and show that they care for the welfare of the community in which they are accumulating themselves items wealth a lot of money
6. The company should promote local businesses such as buying food from local restaurants. And they should allow their employees a reasonable break for lunch so they can get nice, decent, and satisfying food from these restaurants or food delivered for them from home

7. The company's corporate social responsibility should be distributed fairly so that every surrounding village should benefit from the mine i.e. build a bridge over Kapeni river which will serve a total of four villages namely: Katsekela, Kandoma, Muuso, and Kakhobwe. People will be able to easily travel to the hospital because the distance will have been reduced and it would be better than the bumpy road they are currently using

### **EXPECTATIONS**

- i. The company to drill at least 5 boreholes.
- ii. The company to construct a proper bridge over the Kapeni River.
- iii. The company to construct school blocks.
- iv. The company should construct a proper road which will help farmers to transport the produce to the nearest markets easily.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

- i. There is a committee which connects the community and the company. It is called Dzonzi Village Development fund. But no progress has been reported yet.
- ii. Demonstrations.

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>CAUSE</b>	<b>EFFECTS</b>
<b>Poor working conditions</b>	<p>There is no workers union in the area responsible for attending to their grievances and checking the conduct of their bosses with regards to allowances; working hours etc</p> <p>The mining investors' have no work ethic, therefore are just cruel</p>	<p>People work under pressure and in fear, which could affect the quality of work as people only do tasks for the sake of completing them rather than achieving the best results.</p> <p>Fatigue caused by working longer than necessary hours without rest and taking proper meals. This could result to an</p>

		<p>increase in the number of rather avoidable accidents in the workplace i.e. workers collapsing in the course of work; mishandling of machines; etc- in turn leading to low productivity.</p> <p>The harsh words and cruelty from the mining investors could reduce their employees' self-esteem. And the long term effects of psychological trauma include low self-efficacy (or effectiveness) and lack of motivation to produce the best result, leading to low input and low productivity</p>
<p><b>Absence of clear demarcation</b></p>	<p>There is no physical demarcation between the mining area and peoples' farming and settlement area. As such, the miners just dig wherever they find fit at that particular time</p>	<p>Unwarranted arrests and beatings for merely being found in your own family's farm or garden. As long as one is seen closer to the mine, there is no sensible explanation according to the mining investors; it is either you are stealing from them and hiding the stones in the farm or encroaching</p> <p>People are living in fear in their own land and growing bitter by the day towards the mining investors. This kills the possibility of a future peaceful relationship between the community members and the present miners or any</p>

		mining companies to come. As a result Malawi will not prosper in the mining industry because people will make certain that they are hostile to any mining investor for fear of being taken advantage of repeatedly
<b>The miner has the exclusive rights for every stone found in the area</b>	<p>The miners are taking advantage of the community's ignorance on issues related to mining i.e. the community's rights and government policies on mining.</p> <p>The miners are misusing the authority given to them by government to mine in the area in that they tend to ignore the welfare of the community because it was not with the community that they signed a licensing agreement. So for them it is enough to have mining rights and what they do with these rights matters less as long as they are getting profits from their mining operations</p>	<p>Victimization of anyone found in possession of a precious stone regardless of where they got it from. These stones are confiscated by the miners while others are beaten on mere suspicion of theft.</p> <p>The community sees no benefit in mining. Therefore are less likely to participate where need be.</p>
<b>Unfair employment</b>	The human resource officer at Nyala mines is prejudiced towards Muslims and Indians than people of other religions and races.	People will lose their sense of ownership and responsibility for the mine. As such they cannot collectively retain a position of strength to combat

	<p>The mining bosses seen to be concentrating only on people from the villages surrounding the mine than those further from it</p>	<p>any challenges that might emerge due to the mine. Everyone will feel it is the responsibility of those who directly benefited from the mine i.e. the mines' employees.</p> <p>Division among villages; and people of different religions which could result to bitterness and anger toward each other.</p> <p>Increased theft rates as people will prefer getting what is due to them the unsafe way. This will inevitably lead to low productivity for the mining investors depending on the quantities in which things (i.e. stones or machinery) are stolen.</p> <p>There will be no cordial relationship between the mining investors and the community.</p>
<p><b>Theft</b></p>	<p>Nyala mining company's' unfair employment has made people bitter towards them.</p> <p>The community lacks sense of</p>	<p>The mining investors will not feel the need to assist and commit in the development of a community that is stealing from their profits.</p>

	<p>ownership and responsibility to protect the mine.</p> <p>The mining investors have shown no commitment to fulfill its promises on CSR and extend development to all villages as opposed to just those surrounding the mine.</p> <p>No natural relationship between the mining and investors and the community; a relationship that would have paved way for mutual understanding</p>	<p>Low production and profits for the mining investors.</p> <p>Poor relationship between the miners and their employees because they will work under tight supervision on suspicion of theft.</p>
<p><b>Scramble for water resources</b></p>	<p>Kapeni River is the community's only large/main water source; but the miners use it as though it is their own i.e. closing all other outlets when they want to pump water into their enormous reservoir tank</p>	<p>Low yields resulting from insufficient supply of water through the irrigation channels to the crops. This will eventually lead to poor harvests as other crops will have died; this means hunger and a high rate of deaths related to it.</p> <p>Eventually the river will dry out and irrigation will no longer be possible. This could result to hunger that particular year or perhaps perpetual poverty if no solutions were found promptly</p>

	<p>Discharge of silt into Kapeni River.</p> <p>The miners do not manage their dams appropriately.</p>	<p>Blocking of irrigation channels which causes the drying and stunting growth of crops.</p> <p>Early drought caused by the reduction of the water table. Persistent drought will in turn lead to low yield and hunger in the area</p>
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## 2. DATA ANALYSIS

This section of the report offers a detailed examination of the research findings from the perspective of the researcher’s analysis of the research outcomes using problem and solution tree:

### MITIGATION STRATEGIES (SOLUTIONS)

#### i. POOR WORKING CONDITIONS

- Formulate a workers union to attend to the concerns of the miners’ employees
- Sensitize the workers at the mine on the stipulations of the employment act; labor laws; and work ethics

#### ***BENEFITS:***

- The employees will be satisfied with their jobs and their work performance will improve significantly
- Reduced stress related to working conditions. This will motivate the workers to ensure that there is high productivity and profit for the mining investors

#### ii. NO CLEAR DEMARCATION OF THE MINE

- The miners should set a physical boundary i.e. a fence or beacon
- Government should review its original contract agreement with the miners
- Government should hold sensitization meetings with the community and relevant stakeholders on mining related issues i.e. how big an area in terms of radius, belongs to the mining investors.

**BENEFITS:**

- There will be reduced conflicts between the miners and the villagers because mining issues will be well understood by both
- People will develop a sense of responsibility guided by the physical boundary i.e. they will be in a better position to warn encroachers
- There will be no unwarranted arrests as it will be clear to the offender the crime for which they are being apprehended
- There will be a clear basis for the compensation of people who were displaced by the miners

**iii. MINING INVESTORS HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO ANY PRECIOUS STONE**

- Government should review the mining Act/ policy i.e. on issuing of licenses
- Government and other stakeholders should sensitize communities in which active mining is taking place i.e. why Nyala mining company confiscates stones found in anyone's possession but themselves

**BENEFITS:**

- People will be aware of the extent to which the mining investors' mining rights go and where the community's themselves stand in the agreement
- There will be reduced illegal trade also known as Black market.



**iv. UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT**

- Nyala mining company should adopt a quota system type of recruitment process so that everyone whether male or female; a Christian or Muslim; from near or far should have the same opportunity of employment.

**BENEFITS:**

- Development will be evenly distributed to all villages
- Employment opportunities will be equal to all
- There will be reduced conflicts between villages because everyone will understand that merit is the basis for the employment unlike favoritism
- The communities will be equally economically empowered
- Reduced theft as people will guard the mine with passion and determination

**v. THEFT**

- Employ people from the community where mining is taking place
- Set clear physical boundaries of the mine and people's farming and housing land.
- Improve working conditions at the mine i.e. pay reasonably; pay attention to employee's grievances; not firing guns unnecessarily; talking to employees without using fear appeals.
- Use rotational type of recruitment to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity of getting employed by the mining investors.

**BENEFITS:**

- More profits and productivity as people will be satisfied with their jobs and work exceptionally well
- Reduced theft

## QUANTIFYING DATA

### 1. PROBLEM TABLE

	PROBLEMS	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
1	No clear demarcation	73
2	Poor working conditions	27
3	Unfair employment	38
4	The mining investors have exclusive rights to any stone	27
5	Theft	54
6	Scramble for water resource	9
7	River siltation	5

✚ The predominant problem therefore is Unfair employment

### 2. EFFECTS TABLE

	EFFECTS	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
1	Theft	54
2	Victimization	64
3	Shortage of firewood	15
4	Poor harvest	5
5	No safety in the area	23

✚ The predominant effect is Victimization

### 3. MITIGATION TABLE

	SUGGESTED MITIGATIONS	NO. OF PEOPLE
1	Employing community members	75
2	The community's stone experts should be the official miners	48
3	Fulfillment of promised CSR	26
4	The miners should promote local businesses e.g. restaurants	6

✚ The predominant solution was for the mining investors to employ community members

## **STORYLINE CREATION; SCENE DEVELOPMENT; CASTING; AND REHEARSAL**

### **STORYLINE CREATION**

Research from the three targeted villages revealed that in the area the following are the predominant problem, cause, and effect: Unfair employment; Favoritism; and Victimization respectively. We then used this information to come up with a story that would highlight these and all other bits of information that we came across during research.

#### ***The Story:***

In Katsekela village there lived a poor family by the name Dzimbili. The family had one daughter who they named Agnes. Agnes was a student at Katsekela primary school; she lacked basic learning materials including a school uniform because her parents did not earn enough to cover such expenses.

Earlier that month Mr. Dzimbili had applied for a job as a guard at the mine that was operating in the area. So he decided to follow-up with the mining boss Abdul. He was so hopeful that he would get the job and his family would sing a new song. However when he got to the mine, Dzimbili's plea for a job was declined for the reason that he was a christian and not a muslim.

One fateful afternoon Mrs Dzimbili was about to cook *nsima* for her family when she noticed that they had no relish in the house. She had come a long way from the borehole at Dzonzi village that she could not afford another journey back to that side to fetch vegetables from the field Mr Dzimbili had inherited from his grandparents. When Mr Dzimbili arrived he complained of hunger and together with his wife they agreed to wait for Agnes their daughter to get back from school so that she could go and fetch *nkhwani* (pumpkin leaves) for her mother to prepare lunch.

After whining and complaining Agnes left for the field. While there she was confronted by a guard working for the mining company; he accused her of trespassing. Agnes tried to defend herself saying she was only plucking pumpkin leaves from her fathers' field. Her persistence infuriated the guard and he beat her mercilessly.

The little girl ran home to her parent's whailing and shivering as she was in deep pain. She reported the news and left with her parents for the mine to get an explanation on why their daughter was beaten so ruthlessly. While on their way, Agnes noticed the guard dancing at a nearby beer joint called *Amai Abwino*; she alerted her father and they all stopped at the joint to confront the guard. The guard had just received his monthly pay and was fast blowing it on beer such that the Dzimbili's found him very drunk. His drunk condition made it impossible for the two parties to come to a peaceful resolution. Melting with anger Mr Dzimbili starting a fight with the guards, causing commotion and the joint and inviting attention from passersby and others who were having their leisure time at the joint. People intervened and managed to have the two taken to the chiefs' court to resolve their issues peacefully.

At the chiefs' court the guard was ordered to pay a goat to the Dzimbili family for hurting their young daughter on no clear grounds. The community was sensitized on a number of issues including the demarcations between the mine and the community's farming land and settlement. It was also agreed that the mine owners would work in collaboration with a committee elected by the villagers to represent them.

Later on Mr Dzimbili was employed at the mine as a stone grader. He was now able to support his family. Agnes started going to school a happy child because she had all necessities made available to her. Mrs. Dzimbili started a small scale business of *zigege* (fritters).

As time passed, the miners began promoting local businesses; Mrs. Dzimbili's business grew and she started running a local restaurant that served both the miners and people willing to eat away from home. Her husband continued working at the mine and running others businesses as well such as selling the family's' farm produce.

## SCENE DEVELOPMENT

The story was organized in nine scenes. Below are the scenes and their details:

<b>SCENE 1</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Mr and Mrs Dzimbili's house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Introducing an impoverished family</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother doing household chores; Daughter leaving for school; Father leaving to seek job at the mine</p>
<b>SCENE 2</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Chimwadzulu mine</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show Mr. Dzimbili declined of a job at the mine.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Late-morning.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Bwana Abdul giving instructions to his employees; Dzimbili arriving at the mine.</p>
<b>SCENE 3</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Dzimbili's home</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show Dzimbili send his daughter to the farm.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Father arriving back from the mine; Mother coming from the borehole; Daughter coming from school</p>
<b>SCENE 4</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Dzimbili's field near mine</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show Agnes being beaten by mine guard</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Agnes getting <i>nkhwani</i>; Guard beating Agnes on suspicion of stealing stones and trespassing</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Song:</b> <i>Nkhaza nkhaza</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Objective:</b> To emphasize on the cruelty of the miners</p>	

<b>SCENE 5</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Dzimbili's house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show Agnes report about the beating</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Mid-afternoon.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother preparing nsima in anticipation that Agnes will come home with relish; Father chopping firewood; Agnes comes crying.</p>
<b>SCENE 6</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Amai Abwino's tarven</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Conflict i.e. Dzimbili vs Mine guard</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Late-afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Amai abwino dancing with guard; the Dzimbilis arrive.</p>
<b>SCENE 7</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Chiefs' court</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Conflict resolution</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Late-afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Villagers gathering at the chiefs' court.</p> <p><b>Issues to be discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No clear demarcations of Nyala mine;</li> <li>- Unfair employment at Nyala mine;</li> <li>- Theft;</li> <li>- Sensitization of mining licensing process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Song:</b> <i>Tagwilizana.</i></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show agreement &amp; allow time for cast members to change.</p>	
<b>SCENE 8</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Mining site</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Changed situation i.e. Dzimbili is employed at the mine.</p>

	<p><b>Time:</b> Morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Dzimbili sorting stones; Committee chairperson briefing Dzimbili about his meeting with Abdul.</p>
<p><b>Songs:</b> “Zikamatele”</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To allow for cast members to change for the next scene.</p>	
<b>SCENE 9</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Dzimbili’s house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Ideal situation i.e. standards of living have changed</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother offloading grocery items bought at the boma; Child leaving for school in a near uniform and with pocket money; Father leaving for work, where he has been promoted to foreman.</p>
<p><i>A series of songs marking the end of the play)</i></p>	

## CASTING

CHARACTER	ACTOR
Mr. Dzimbili	Lucky Khulani
Mrs. Dzimbili	Chifundo Chisala
Agnes (daughter)	Bianca Mwale
Mine guard	Lonjezo Katunga
Committee chairperson / Chief	Leleni Nyasulu
Abdul	Godfrey Kambewa
Amai abwino	Jane Njoka

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsals started in the morning around 10:20 at a slow pace because it was raining. Scenes were discussed and rehearsed momentarily. Later on in the afternoon rehearsal commenced from 15:20 to 17:30, and closed with practising songs and dances until 18:00 when we paused for supper preparations.

The next morning at 08:50 we did a run through of the play and interrupted/corrected were necessary. The second round was done uninterrupted and ended at 11:02.

## AUDIENCE ESTIMATION

CATEGORY	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Chiefs	16	-	16
DC representatives	-	1	1
Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi	2	-	2
Nyala Mining Company	1	-	1
Health Surveillance Assistant (HAS)	1	-	1
School Authorities	3	3	6
Tilitonse Committee	9	7	16
Dzonzi Mining Committee	1	-	1
Adult villagers	250	400	650
Young villagers	180	120	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>984</b>





*From left to right: Simeon Labana from Quadria Association of Malawi, the Eland Coal mining personnel and some of the chiefs at the performance.*

#### **AREAS THAT WENT WELL**

- i. ***Stage variation and utilization:*** Actors were able to cover all stage spaces and make practical and effective use of the stage by miming a good number of activities. This helped the audience identify with the story.
- ii. ***Miming:*** During the play, actors especially the mother and father frequently were miming household chores. This was exciting because the audience could easily mirror their daily lives through these miming. The miming was also exciting to watch as the performers would, for example mime carrying a bucket full of water just as it is done in real life.
- iii. ***The audience was glued to the performance:*** Because of the exciting way in which the play was being done, the audience was glued to the play till the end.
- iv. ***Exit and entry points:*** the actors were using various points of the arena as exits and entrance. This helped capture the attention of the entire audience as all points could be used at any time.
- v. ***Open ups:*** actors were able to frequently ask the audience for clarification of some of the issues found during research. As such the audience fully participated and paid attention throughout the performance.

- vi. **Verification of issues:** through open ups actors were able to get verification from the audience on the research findings. This helped the actors to be sure of the issues portrayed in the play.
- vii. **Costume:** The costumes the actors wore were good in the sense that they portrayed real life of the people. For example, the actor who acted the role of Abdul (the Miner), wore clothes that the audience identified with him without een him talking to portray his character.
- viii. **Rapport:** the TFD Performers made some dances before the plays that entertained the audience. Some of the audience even joined in the dance. This made the audience to be open enough and relate with the play and the performers throughout the play.
- ix. **Characterization:** the Miner (Abdul), the father, and the mine guard managed to display characteristics typical of the particular people they were imitating. This was exciting for the audience
- x. **Voice projection:** actors were audible enough thus made everyone in the audience follow the story; show emotions; and respond to questions asked in the course of the play.
- xi. **Improvisation:** actors were able to work with whatever responses as they came even without being prepared for them i.e. new issues emerged

## **AREAS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT**

- i. **Songs and dances:** Actors were not singing and dancing with energy. This made the songs and dances not exciting to the audience.
- ii. **Gaps between scenes:** There was 1 gap between the changed situation scene and the ideal situation scene. This was the case because the father delayed to change clothes as he wanted to come dressed in good clothes to show the change in economic status.

## FACTS VERIFIED

- i. There is no known boundary between the village farming area and the mining area. This was verified by the audience during the performance.
- ii. The performers verified that the mining Company has indeed done some development work like constructing 2 school blocks at Kandoma Primary School and paying salary for 10 teachers, and installing a water pump at Katsekera health centre.
- iii. People were not consulted by the government about the coming of the mining investors in the area. This was verified during the performance by chiefs and various committees.
- iv. Because of bitterness and anger the community members have resorted to be stealing the precious stones and selling by themselves. All verified by the community members during the performance.
- v. Other surrounding villages do not have working committees to coordinate development work from the mining company.

## AUDIENCE REACTION



*A community member contributing his views during the play.*

- i. During and after the performance the audience could express various comments over the issues discussed in the play as well as relate the sequence of events in the play to their own lives in the village.
- ii. The audience was glued to the play. This can be seen by how close they moved to the arena from the beginning to the end without unnecessary movements. This proves that the performance was worth watching.
- iii. They expressed interest in solving the problems depicted in the play by contact dialogue among themselves; with chiefs; and government officials.
- iv. Some of the audience verbally applauded the performance saying it created a platform for a direct dialogue between the community, the Mining Company and the government official; thus it has paved a way for the community to start strategizing practical ways of handling mining related complications.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS**

- i. On 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2:00pm, VH Kakhobwe will convene a meeting to elect a mining development liaison Committee which will be working with the Nyala mining committee to develop their Village.
- ii. On 10<sup>th</sup> April, VH Chagoma will convene a meeting to elect a mining development liaison Committee which will be working with the Nyala mining committee to develop their Village.
- iii. On 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Katsekera Tilitonse committee which is already existing, Kakhobwe Committee and Chagoma Committee will meet the Dzonzi (Nyala Mining Development Committee) to discuss the modalities of future development work.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- i. Some of the community members have mining knowledge, especially those belonging to mining committees (Tilitonse mining committee). However, this knowledge is hardly shared

- ii. There are growing suspicions that chiefs and committees involved in mining issues have been bribed thus do not present real concerns of the people in the village to the mining company
- iii. There is great bitterness in the community members as they feel they are not benefitting from the mine as compared to them mining and selling the stones by themselves
- iv. It was the first time a government official (in this case the DCs representative) came and had direct dialogue with the community on mining issues.
- v. There is no communication between Capitol Hill and district level government offices on mining issues and this create a hard time for the district officials as they hardly have any information on what was agreed between government and the miner.

## **SENSITIZATION**



*District Commissioners' representative, Mrs Mwakayoka, sensitizing the community.*

- i. During the performance people were sensitized by the DC representative about the procedure followed for one to be given a site for mining.
- ii. People were also sensitized on the government structure and how it operates with regards to mining.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. Government should have frequent interface meetings with the community so that they update people on mining information and policies. These meetings should also be done before the miner starts mining.
- ii. Government should make available mining offices at district level so as to decentralize the Ministry's power.
- iii. Government should set measure that will ensure that the miners are fulfilling their responsibilities as stipulated in the contracts signed.

## **CHALLENGES**

The bitterness in community members nearly collapsed the play as some members could not reason at all. They only centered at the fact that the miner had to go and live them to mine by themselves.

**RARE EARTH MINE BY MKANGO RESOURCES LIMITED, SONGWE HILL,  
GVH MAONI, PHALOMBE.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The research was conducted in the area of Group Village Head Maoni, Traditional authority Nazombe, Phalombe. It was an exercise of three days, starting from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2016. The following report conveys information regarding the activities of each of the three days as follows: research findings; data analysis; storyline creation (also scene development, casting, and rehearsal); and performance evaluation.

**2. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	The research area is about 13km from the tarmac road at Chilinga.	
<b>SURROUNDING SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mphembedzu primary school</li> <li>- Mangazi primary School</li> <li>- Chiringa community day secondary school</li> </ul>	
<b>SURROUNDING HOSPITALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GAIA mobile clinic</li> <li>- Nazombe health centre</li> <li>- Muwakhi health centre</li> <li>- Migowi health centre</li> </ul>	
<b>SURROUNDING VILLAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maoni</li> <li>- Muhowa</li> <li>- Namalamba</li> <li>- Mphembedzu</li> <li>- Wahiya</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mangazi</li> <li>- Nanseta</li> <li>- Musolo</li> <li>- Namalima</li> <li>- Mwala</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitawa</li> <li>- Nowa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kathumba</li> </ul>
<b>CHURCHES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providence Industrial Mission (PIM)</li> <li>- Assemblies of God</li> <li>- Atopia</li> <li>- Evangelical Church</li> <li>- Four Square Church</li> <li>- Roman catholic church</li> </ul>	
<b>CROPS GROWN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cow peas</li> <li>- Maize</li> <li>- Rice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potatoes</li> <li>- Tobacco</li> <li>- Cassava</li> </ul>
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pigs</li> <li>- Goats</li> <li>- Cattle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chickens</li> <li>- Ducks</li> <li>- Rabbits</li> </ul>
<b>MODES OF TRANSPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal bicycles</li> <li>- Hired bicycles</li> <li>- Hired motor cycles</li> </ul>	
<b>PROPERTY OWNED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar panels</li> <li>- Sofas</li> <li>- Bicycles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motor cycles</li> <li>- Television sets</li> <li>- Radios</li> </ul>
<b>INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial farming</li> <li>- Fishing</li> <li>- Formal employment i.e. teaching.</li> <li>- Motor cycle repairing.</li> </ul>	
<b>TRADITIONAL DANCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masewe</li> <li>- Nselebwe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jiri</li> <li>- Tchopa</li> </ul>



## **MARRIAGE CEREMONIES**

Marriage is usually between two people who have been known to be dating for a while. Once the two are ready to commit to marriage, the groom to be visits his bride to be's parents; the girl is called out by her uncles to testify that she indeed knows the boy. When it is confirmed that she knows and intends to get married to him, the boy presents the gifts he came with i.e. clothes to the girls' uncle or aunt and they are the ones who pass on the message about the proposal to the girls' parents.

Later on the uncles from both sides meet and agree on an engagement date but nothing is exchanged as a gift during this meeting. Once the date is set and the engagement succeeds, the girl and boy are at liberty to start a family. Not many do another ceremony after the engagement.

## **FUNERAL CEREMONIES**

### **a. Ordinary person**

Whenever a community member dies, the first to be informed is the chief of that particular village, then the deceased's relatives. However if the relatives are away, a coin is left at the doorstep of the deceased persons' house as a sign that someone has died. Burial is done during the day.

### **b. Chief**

The body of the deceased chief is carried by fellow chiefs up to a certain distance then handed over to the community's youth (locally known as *adzukulu*).

As a sign of respect, chiefs are buried in the evening as the sun sets and they are buried in a round hole.

## **KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MINING**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE MINING COMPANY**

The current mining company in the area is called Mkango Resources Limited. It is a company owned by a group of Canadians. Mkango succeeded some years after the Japanese miners left the mine only after exploration in the 1980s.

Mkango started its exploration process in the year 2011 and in 2012 they managed to take and send samples to companies abroad for testing.

Following the exploration and sampling stage, the company will undertake a feasibility study which will help them determine the workability of their project if they are to take it on. It will do so by determining the natural elements in the environment that will be affected by the processes including vegetation, water resources, air, people, and animals currently flourishing in the areas surrounding the mine. The results from this feasibility study will be used by government and investors like banks, to evaluate the damage that may be caused. Results of this study are still under way; this explains why the mine is not in operation just yet.

According to the company's agreement with government, active mining should have begun by 2017 provided the mining license is granted to Mkango Resources Limited by then.

In preparation for the attainment of a mining license Mkango Resources Limited met with the chiefs and committee representing the people of the area. During this meeting the chiefs and committee members were granted an opportunity to make a list of developments that the area needed urgently; the following were listed: reconstruction of the main road network, a bridge, electricity, school renovations (i.e. painting of happy classrooms), and a community hospital.

## **1. PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MINING AND THEIR CAUSES AS PERCEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY**

### ***a. Machinery passing through Mphembedzu school***

Mkango Resources Limited formed a road that passes through the school blocks to the mining site; they use this shortcut to transport their machines. This is to avoid using the main road network as it is a longer and circular route.



*This is the shortcut the company's vehicles pass through: between classing room blocks and pupils latrines*

### ***b. Unemployment***

Since Mkango Resources Ltd has not started active mining yet, it has only managed to employ a few guards at the moment to watch over some of its equipment i.e. boreholes. However, a great number of the employees are from villages' way far from the mine. Mkango Resources has formed close ties with these villages while sidelining the villages closer to the mine. This is because of the greed and jealousy among the chiefs.

***c. Action group committee members are not from the villages closest to the mine***

It does not make sense therefore how they are representing the entire community when no one from the other communities is present in the committee. This is all equally because of greed.

***d. Committee members do not share information on mining***

It has come to the attention of the community members that the committee attends workshops on mining but never shares the knowledge with the rest of the community. This is because of a growing sense of self-importance and also because they are all from the same area.

***e. Exploration/ sampling takes too long***

Mkango Resources Ltd has been taking samples of rare earth for five years now and the community fears that the company might actually be extracting minerals all this while. There is this suspicion because the community is not sensitized about the stages of mining

## **2. EFFECTS**

- Cracks are developing in the schools' infrastructure
- Bitterness between the two villages
- People are threatened by chiefs when they demand information
- Division of action group committees as they are trained of different/ conflicting aspects of mining i.e. others are trained on the dangers and others on the benefits

## COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MINING INVESTOR

### a. School blocks

So far Mkango Resources limited has managed to paint classrooms at Mphembezu School. However, the community is still expecting the company to build them an additional school block from scratch.



*One of the classrooms painted by Mkango Resources Company*

### b. Clinic

The villagers currently travel long distances to seek medical attention especially pregnant women; some have even given birth on the way to the hospital. As such, the community looks up to the mining investors for assistance with a community clinic.

### c. Electricity

Inevitably the mining company will need electricity to run its operations. As such, the community looks forward to having the electricity poles go through the main road to the mining site than the shortcut at Mphembezu School. This will allow them access to be able to tap the electricity to their own homes or shops and pay a certain amount to Mkango Resource Limited because they cannot afford to have ESCOM electrify their houses individually

#### **d. Road / bridge construction**

According to the research, the community wants good road networks connecting to the main markets of Namalamba and Molande to easily transport their goods and/or farm produce. However, the mining company periodically carry out maintenance works on road they use when coming from Chilinga turn off to the mining site through Mphembedzu village. And so far has managed to construct several bridges and renovated some drainage systems.



*One of the bridges constructed by the mining company*

### **3. INTERVENTIONS BY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

In 2013, Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) convened a meeting with the mining company and the villagers for the purpose of sensitizing the community on mining related issues. Even to date EAM works with the Action group committee and the miners so that they can constantly and actively engage with each other for the betterment of the community

### **3. DATA ANALYSIS**

This section of the report offers a detailed examination of our research findings as follows:

#### **PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MINING**

##### **a. CONFLICTING MESSAGES FROM CSOs GROUPS**

There are several Civil Society Organisations working with the community on mining issues. These CSOs have community groups that work with the communities of the villages surrounding the mining site. Amongst these groups is the leaflet circles of ActionAid. The community reported that these leaflet circles are teaching the community negative information about mining, portraying it negatively, stating that mining will cause adverse effects to the community like diseases, earthquakes, environmental degradation and air and water pollution. These groups therefore propagate that the community should not allow mining to take place in the villages because of these negative effects.

#### **CAUSES**

- CSO groups have conflicting objectives on the mining programmes in the mining community.
- CSO groups are not working together to share information and discuss on issues that concern the mining and the community and to iron out their differences.
- CSOs are not properly monitoring the work of their officers on the ground to cross check what information is being disseminated in the communities and if that information is representative of their programme objectives.

#### **EFFECTS**

- The communities are confused on which information to believe and they are sceptical about the positive messages on mining benefits.
- The community is slowly building mistrust on the groups presenting positive mining benefits especially when they hear examples of negative effects that may have taken place elsewhere.

- The community may become uncorporative in different activities and projects which may be proposed by other community groups. These may pose challenges in implementing projects in the community.
- The community may eventually be divided into two camps which may cause local wrangles and infighting, derailing all attempts at local development projects initiated by the investors.

#### **b. UNEMPLOYMENT**

This is in the sense that it is unclear as to what criteria is used in the recruitment process of Mkango's employees. As a result, there is growing suspicion of unfairness in the recruitment process [precisely between villages under Group Village Headman Namalima and those under Group Village Headman Maoni].

Evidently, Mkango mining company has employed more people from GVH Namalima and less or none from GVH Maoni despite being the villages closest to the mining site. It is worth noting that much as there are growing concerns about unfairness in the recruitment process, the communities are not aware of the seasonal nature of recruitment that Mkango uses.

#### **CAUSES:**

- The levels of unemployment are high in the area because of the temporary nature of the work.
- Research revealed that there is a biased relationship between Mkango owners and GVH Namalima, resulting inevitably to favoritism in terms of employment i.e. much as employment is seasonal, there is a high possibility of employing people from the same villages every season.

#### **EFFECTS:**

- Feelings of bitterness which could lead to unending conflicts and violence between villages.
- There will be perpetual poverty as it will be hard for communities that are bitter towards each other to come up with development plans in unison. As a result, it is either only one side will develop or there will be no development at all.



**c. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NOT FROM THE VILLAGES CLOSEST TO THE MINE**

There is a committee in the area, it is said to deal/converse directly with the mining owners. However, members of this committee are all from villages farthest from the mining site and are all under GVH Namalima.

It is not only questionable as to what criteria was used to elect these members, but also that what exactly this committee stands for since not all villages know about its existence.

**CAUSES:**

- Per observation, suspicion and division have always been present between members of GVH Namalima and members of GVH Maoni, and in some instances between chiefs and their people even before the emergence of Mkango. While the latter accumulates handouts to himself and threatens his people when they speak out, the former makes certain that all developments happen in her villages first before extending to the rest of the villages.
- The Mkango mine owners have a closer personal relationship with the female GVH Namalima because of either of the following reasons:
  - They plan on taking advantage of her powerlessness as a woman by bribing and blinding her so that by the time they officially start operating, they should have already bought her royalty
  - It could just be because they have not officially started operating and they feel like it is a waste of resources to be extending alms to the rest of the villages
  - They are unaware of the tension between the villages and could just be doing well out of innocence.

**EFFECTS:**

- Due to the said favoritism, people are left frustrated and unwilling to actively participate in any community development activities as they always feel that

behind their commitment someone is making a fortune and only using them as a means to a personal end.

- If any problems arose due to the coming of the mine, villagers leaving closer to it will have no say and cannot take any action because they will have been left out from the very beginning. However, if they decide to take any action then it would be one very chaotic.

#### **d. MACHINERY PASSING THROUGH MPHEMBEDZU SCHOOL**

From time to time the mine owners bring their machines in preparation for the mining operation that is to commence next year (2017). These machines are transported up the mountain using a shortcut right at Mphembedzu School instead of using the main road network.

##### **CAUSES:**

- There is no other through road leading to the mine rather than the main road that goes as far as Changa village. However, this is a longer than necessary route thus the mine owners decided to use a shortcut right in the schools' premises.
- Mkango is only being business minded as resorting to use the main road network would mean extra costs i.e. paying those ferrying the machines; reconstructing the road so it is safe for their vehicles; and other related costs. So it could be that in as far as Mkango is concerned, it is only saving costs of the operation.

##### **EFFECTS:**

- Cracking of schools' basic infrastructure needed for its operation i.e. staffrooms; lavatories; classrooms; water supplies etc. This will be caused by the constant passing of heavy machinery too close to the school leading to underdevelopment as the community will consume its time reconstructing

structures that were already present and satisfactory in the beginning instead of focusing on new agendas to be addressed for the advancement of the school

- Threatens the lives of pupils and people surrounding the school as they are exposed to the risk of accidents i.e. some pupils could be hit by the vehicles; or the school buildings could fall on them. In turn not a lot of children will enjoy being in school, they will die uneducated and unproductive
- Disturbance of classes as pupils are carried away with watching the vehicles. This discourages teachers from working hard at their profession to transfer knowledge to the pupils as the miners pose themselves as successful. Students misinterpret this as *education is not important, we can be rich and drive vehicles anyway.*

#### **e. COMMITTEE MEMBERS DO NOT SHARE MINING INFORMATION**

The committee deals directly with Mkango owners and supposedly speaks on behalf of the villagers mainly on issues to do with urgent development projects needed in the area. So far the committee has made a list comprising the following needs: electricity from which villagers would tap from and use in their homes and/or shops; a hospital; additional school blocks; more boreholes; and a decent road to mention a few.

Word says that the team has been travelling to Lilongwe and Kayelekera mine in Karonga where they were sensitized on issues related to mining i.e. the purpose of sampling; mining licensing; etc. However, when they got back from the meetings there has never been a time that they called for a meeting with the community to share the knowledge they acquired nor the proceedings of the meetings they have had with the mine owners.

For instance, during one of the committees' meeting with Mkango owners, it was told that Mkango had completed its sampling process for which it was granted an exploration license. But the committee never informed the villagers such that during our research a total of 16 people

complained about the sampling process taking too long not knowing that Mkango was done with samples and was now only preparing for its operation in 2017.

**CAUSES:**

- Committee members value more the exploration that the information entrusted to them. As such, they do not feel the need and importance of sharing such valuable information to the rest of the community
- Greed and sense of self-importance i.e. a larger portion of the committee members are already chiefs; as such they hold back information so that people can continue exalting them for possessing such information and continuously turn to them for the same information in bits as opposed to informing the rest of the community as a whole and have other people present there views as well.
- Being all from GVH Namalima's side, the committee members are inclined to conclude that the information is already available to everyone without noticing that they are leaving out another large group of people (those from GVH Maoni) and in turn creating a wider knowledge gap.

**EFFECTS:**

- Bitterness and division between villages and their chiefs, leading to underdevelopment
- Development projects will be concentrated on one side but will not last because others will be left at liberty to vandalize out of bitterness and lack of unity between the villages
- There will be a wider knowledge gap between communities such that the lesser knowledgeable communities will not care for any development projects to come as they will lack a sense of belonging and ownership.

#### **f. SAMPLING TAKES TOO LONG**

The community members complained that from the year 2010 (when the Japanese miners had just left) to date, they have been lied to that the current miners (Mkango) are steal taking samples and will start active mining in the year 2017. However, in the community's thinking, they feel that they are being robbed in broad daylight because there is no way sampling can take that many years. Mkango seems to be running away from fulfilling the promises it made to the community in the name of "sampling".

Therefore, according to them it is only right that Mkango compensates for its dishonesty by fulfilling the promises it made about construction of: a decent road; a nearby hospital; more boreholes to ensure there is clean portable water; and new school blocks from scratch. Failing which, Mkango should just come clean about its operations.

#### **CAUSES:**

- There is an information gap between government and the people it ought to serve (the citizens of Malawi). This is in the sense that before accepting mining deals government takes no initiative to inform the affected communities on the benefits and dangers of mining and other precautions set forth. As a result, miners take advantage of the ignorance of the communities where active mining is taking place because they do not have to answer to anyone as agreements are signed in private
- Government does not conduct proper follow ups and dialogue with the mining companies, making it easy for the investors to act shady and prolong their stay as much as they can
- The mining policy is open ended and silent on the length of the period for which sampling should take place. Thus the mining investors can lie that they are steal sampling while smuggling the country's valuable minerals and crippling our economy little by little

### **EFFECTS:**

- People feel cheated by both the mining investors and their government such that by the time active mining begins, it will be hard for them to work collaboratively with the miners were need be
- Communities will have unrealistic expectations from the miners as they focus on the promised benefits and the time taken before fulfilling them. Consequently, they will not take development initiatives of their own, which could lead to underdevelopment and perpetual poverty. Their justification being that eventually another investor will come and meet some of the newly emerging development needs because they will have gotten accustomed to waiting for longer periods before any developments take place
- Miners will be restrained from doing anything full swing because they have not been licensed to start active mining yet. The end result will be limited Corporate Social Responsibility. Again, since the Act is silent on this, the investors can take as long as they please

### **MITIGATION STRATEGIES (SOLUTIONS)**

This section discusses the solutions to the problems already explored at the beginning of this section as follows:

#### **1. UNEMPLOYMENT**

- Develop a recruitment system that will ensure that there is equal representation of people from all surrounding villages.
- Prioritize people living in the villages closest to the mine when both recruiting and considering development projects.
- Sensitize people on the seasonal or rotational nature of recruitment that Mkango uses and its advantages.

**BENEFITS:**

- The bitterness between communities will perish and they will work together towards sustainable development
- Development will be equally spread
- People will be empowered economically and the levels of poverty will drop significantly

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NOT FROM THE VILLAGES CLOSEST TO THE MINE**

- Re-elect committee members using a forum that involves members of all surrounding villages to ensure that there is fairness in the election process in the form of equally representation.

**BENEFITS:**

- There will be lasting unity between the villages, which is an important component as far as development is concerned.
- There will be no suspicion of bias.
- The committee will be transparent and accountable enough.
- People will develop a sense of belonging and ownership and work in collaboration with the miners so as to develop their communities without greed.

**3. MACHINERY PASSING THROUGH MPHEMBEZU SCHOOL**

- Mkango should humble itself and use the main road network to ferry its machines up the mountain. Alternatively, they should find another shortcut that will not damages peoples' house or schools; and that will not put the community's' lives at risk

**BENEFITS:**

- People will no longer live in fear of losing their lives and hard-earned property

#### **4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS DO NOT SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT MINING**

- Committee members should be advised to share information.
- There should be equal representation of people from all villages in the committee to ensure that information is dispersed.

#### **BENEFITS**

- Everyone will be informed and will in turn take an active role in anything to do with their communities
- Development plans will be a result of many different ideas fused together and will therefore be supported by all.

#### **5. SAMPLING TAKES TOO LONG**

- Government should revisit the mining policy and sensitize communities where mining is taking place.
- The miners should update government and the communities in which they are mining at every stage so as to kill suspicions and impatience; and the possibility of unrealistic expectations.

#### **BENEFITS:**

- There will be no unrealistic expectations because people will be kept up to date and placed in a better position to reason.
- Mining investors will not take advantage of the ignorance of the community members because they will both be aware of the set limits and timeframe of the sampling process.



## QUANTIFYING DATA

The following tables determine the predominant problem and effect by looking at the number of respondents for each problem and effect as discussed in the last two sections. The figures are as follows:

### **1.0 PROBLEM TABLE**

	<b>PROBLEMS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>
<b>1</b>	Unemployment	<b>35</b>
<b>2</b>	Committee members are not from villages closest to the mine	16
<b>3</b>	Machinery passing through Mphembezu school	5
<b>4</b>	Committee members do not share information about mining	26
<b>5</b>	Sampling takes too long	16

### **1.1 EFFECT TABLE**

	<b>EFFECTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>
<b>1</b>	Bitterness	22
<b>2</b>	Fear to speak out in front of chiefs	11
<b>3</b>	Division between villages	1
<b>4</b>	Development concentrated on one side	<b>32</b>
<b>5</b>	Causing cracks and disturbing classes	1

### **SUMMARY**

Research findings revealed that Unemployment is the predominant problem in the area while development concentrating on one side emerged as a predominant effect. This information was later used to determine the direction of our play in what is known as Theatre for Development (TFD).

#### **4. STORYLINE CREATION; SCENE DEVELOPMENT; CASTING; AND REHEARSAL**

##### **STORYLINE CREATION**

The sequences of events in the following story were derived from our research findings and a quantification of the data we collected highlighting the following: 1. what was the predominant problem directly linked to the coming of the mining company; 2. what was the likely cause for the problem; and last but not least, 3. what was the major effect resulting from the problem.

From our research the following emerged as preponderant problem, cause, and effect respectively: unemployment, favoritism, and development being concentrated on one side / village. However, in the course of the play, the action researcher is not limited to the points that led the direction of the play or story, but rather he or she explores all of the other points realized from the research for the sake of verification.

##### **The Story:**

In Wahiya village there lived an impoverished family of Mr. and Mrs. Kohowa. The couple had a 13 year old daughter, Puna who was in standard 8 at Mphembezu Primary School. A lot of mornings Puna would leave for school on an empty stomach because her father and mother could not afford every meal of the day as her father was jobless and her mother only a housewife.

Luckily enough, there was news about the coming of a mining company in the area and that it would be recruiting guards soon. Mr. Kohowa being a member of one of the villages closest to the mining station had high hope that the employment opportunity would not escape him. With this expectation he assured his family of a better living in no time.

One day Mr. Kohowa and his family were hunger stricken to the point that they could no longer persevere. This led Mr. Kohowa into a debt of five thousand kwacha (K5, 000.00) with

the areas' famous shop owner Mr. Subili. The two agreed that the amount would go up by two percent (30%) every month. However, Mr Kohowa promised Subili that he would pay back the money sooner because he was in line for the job as a guard at the mine.

Later on Mr. Kohowa learnt that the mining company had already recruited 10guards but none of them were from his village and that there was no intent to employ more any sooner. This left Kohowa frustrated and unsure as to how he would pay back his loan to Subili as it was now past the agreed date.

One day as Kohowa was at his house sharing his frustrations with his wife, Subili came not only to remind Kohowa about the loan but rather to collect it right there and then because he meant to use it to buy more supplies for his shop. Mr Subili was done hearing excuses and was ready to hold any of Kohowa's possessions as surety; he was warmly welcomed but eventually got infuriated by Kohowa's continued excuses. Parked outside Kohowa's house was a bicycle that he would occasionally borrow from his sister to travel long distances. On seeing the bicycle, Subili threatened to take it and hold it to the time that the debt gets repaid. However, it was hard for Kohowa to authorize such because it was not his own; he pleaded for more time from Subili as he drew near the bicycle to start off. This provoked a fight between the two to the point that passersby intervened and took the two to the chiefs' court as it was unclear to them how the fight started.

The chief resolved the conflict by ordering Subili to return the bicycle to Kohowa and give him ample time to source some money and pay the debt. To Kohowa he advised that he and his wife should engage themselves in income generating activities like piece work, irrigation farming etc like most poor families in the community do. On the issue of employment, the chief and the people of Wahiya village agreed to form a committee with a fair number of representatives from all surrounding villages. This committee would be the community's ambassadors to the mine owners; it would be responsible for vocalizing the people's needs and concerns on their behalf and report back to them.

As time progressed the community started reaping the fruits of their good partnership with the mine owners through the vibrant committee they had elected. Developments were distributed evenly, people were employed fairly, and the community was kept up to date about the operations of the mine. Mr. Kohowa was one of the mines' employees; he was first employed as a guard but later on was raised to the position of a mine operations supervisor. His daughter was selected to Phalombe Secondary School and he could finally afford both her fees; upkeep and transport (a motor bicycle) to pay her frequent visits. Mrs. Kohowa opened her own grocery shop where she was selling even some of her farm produce i.e. tomatoes, vegetables, and onions.

### SCENE DEVELOPMENT

The story was then represented by a total of seven scenes, all of which paid attention to showing a sequence of continued action for the story to make sense to the audience we would later show it to. Below are the scenes and their details:

<i>Songs for pre-performance rapport</i>	
<b>SCENE 1</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Mr and Mrs Kohowa's house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Introducing an impoverished family.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother doing household chores; Father leaving to loan some money; Child leaving for school on an empty stomach</p>
<b>SCENE 2</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Mr. Subili's shop</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show Mr. Subili lend some money to Mr. Kohowa on trust.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Late-morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mr. Subili serving customers at his shop; Mr. Kohowa coming.</p>

<b>Song: Mamuna siwako</b>	
<b>Objective: To show passage of time</b>	
<b>SCENE 3</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Kohowa's home</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To show prolonged poverty</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Mid-day</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother setting fire to boil water; Father coming from <i>bawo</i>.</p>
<b>SCENE 4</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Kohowa's home</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Conflict i.e. to show Kohowa and Subili get into a fight over unpaid debt</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Father parking the borrowed bicycle; Mother coming from the borehole; Subili reminding Kohowa about the loan</p>
<b>SCENE 5</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Chiefs' court</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Conflict resolution</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Late-afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Community members gathering at the chiefs' court</p> <p><b>Issues to be discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sensitization on sampling process;</li> <li>-Committee members being from one side;</li> <li>-Machinery passing through Mphembedzu;</li> <li>-Committees working against each other</li> </ul>
<b>Song: Tagwirizana</b>	
<b>Objective: To show agreement &amp; allow time for cast members to change</b>	
<b>SCENE 6</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Kohowa's house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Changed situation i.e. the Kohowa's</p>

	<p>elevated from poverty</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Morning</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother and Father coming from the garden with a basket full of onions Committee chairperson buying their produce and informing Kohowa about his employment at the mine.</p>
<b>Song:</b> “ <i>Tilitonse y ayamba</i> ”	
<b>SCENE 7</b>	<p><b>Place:</b> Kohowa’s house</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Ideal situation i.e. standards of living have changed.</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Afternoon</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Mother offloading grocery items bought at the boma; Father coming from work with a new motor cycle.</p>
<i>A series of songs marking the end of the play</i>	

#### CASTING:

CHARACTERS	ACTORS
Mrs. Kohowa	Jane Njoka
Mr. Kohowa	Lucky Khulani
Puna (daughter)	Bianca Mwale
Mr. Subili	Lonjezo katunga
Chief	Godfrey Kambewa
Committee Chairlady	Chifundo Chisala

## REHEARSAL

After developing the scenes, and identifying characters, the next step was rehearsal. We started rehearsing late in the afternoon and began by reminding each other the following Theatre for Development key elements: stage variation; stage utilization; scene activities; triangle movements; voice projection; open-ups; and other elements as they were brought back to memory.



*Icome actors rehearsing the Phalombe play*

Due to time, we did not manage to do a comprehensive rehearsal on the first day; we started the next day with an early run through and were then convinced about the quality of our play.

## 5. EVALUATION



*A scene from the play in Phalombe.*

### AUDIENCE ESTIMATION

CATEGORY	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Chiefs	9	1	10
DC representatives	1	-	1
Mkango mine	1	1	2
Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM)	4	1	5
Community Action Group (CAG)	6	1	7
Village Development Committee (VDC)	1	-	1
Teacher	1	-	1
Adult villagers	187	168	255
Young villagers	89	73	162



## AREAS THAT WORKED WELL

- a. **Stage variation and utilization:** Actors utilized the entire stage space making the performance lively and easy to follow.
- b. **Entry and exit points:** Various points of the arena were used for this purpose.
- c. **Voice projection:** Throughout the play, all actors were very audible. The audience was able to listen and follow conversations and dialogue.
- d. **Open ups:** Actors were able to ask the audience for clarification and verification of issues that were found during the research. This also helped the audience to participate and pay close attention to the proceedings of the play.
- e. **Verification of issues:** with the use of open ups, all issues that were realized during the research were verified; thus making the play relevant to the audience.
- f. **Miming:** Correct usage of mimes especially by the mother, father and the shop owner. This made the play exciting as people were able to visualize their activities without using the actual objects.
- g. **Costume:** Appropriate costumes were used for the relevant scenes especially during the ideal situation, both mother and father mimicked success and change.
- h. **Gaps:** The performance had no gaps in between the scenes.
- i. **Play internalization:** The actors were able to continue with the play without a prompter. They were able to follow and execute every scene accordingly.

## **AREAS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT**

- a. *Songs and dances*: Some of the actors did not memorize song lyrics and dance moves making the music/ dance less lively and exciting.

## **FACTS VERIFIED**

- a. Unfair employment: The people employed at the mine site at the moment as guards are not from the immediate surrounding villages. Out of the ten guards employed only five are from the nearby villages and the rest from the villages far from the mine.
- b. Mining: Mining at the site has not yet started because Mkango is still at a feasibility study phase of their process.
- c. Lack of information: Committees or the chiefs do not share with the community any information they learn or acquire during meetings with either the government, Mkango or partners.
- d. Poor coordination between the committees: There is a bad/sour relationship between the CAG and Action Aid reflect circles and it seems they are taught different things by their respective trainers.

## **AUDIENCE REACTION**

- a. The audience was able to relate with issues being discussed in the play. This was seen especially during the court scene. They were clapping hands and agreeing when issues were raised especially on the lack of information on the matters to do with mining in the area.
- b. The audience was glad with the performance as evidenced by their gluing to the performance nor disturb the performance with noise and other distractions. This made

them follow the play and actively participate. There was a vibrant contact and dialogue among chiefs, Mkango, villagers and government officials. As an example a community member was given a chance to ask a question to Mkango official and in return he was given a satisfactory response.

- c. Some of the audience appreciated the opportunity to be able to actively participate in community meetings because ideally they could not have otherwise had the opportunity to have direct contact and dialogue with officials present at the meeting.
- d. Officials from both government and other affiliate bodies present commended the ICOME team for its advocacy expertise.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS (CAP)**

- a. All the CAG and VDC and any other committee in the village under GVH Maoni are to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> April ,2016 at 12 noon at GVH court to plan on how they can work together to disseminate similar messages on mining.
- b. With immediate effect, starting from 3<sup>rd</sup> April, all community members absconding from community meetings will pay a fine of one goat to GVH Maoni.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- a. It was observed that people were reluctant to participate in the discussions. There seems to be fear for repercussions if they say something that will offend chiefs so they did not express themselves enough and as individuals around the chiefs.
- b. Lack of information somehow contributed to the absence of comments for the fear of being deemed ignorant or making errors in the process.

- c. This was the first platform to have necessary stakeholders for example Mkango, chiefs, government officials, EAM, CAG and reflect circles together with the villagers in one place mapping the progress of development in the area.
- d. There is to some extent the use of fear appeals by chiefs to control their subordinates and makes them shun away from participating.
- e. People do not usually show up for community meetings or they show up very late. We had to wait for 2 hours to start our performance because we had a few number of people available yet our message was meant for the ears of the whole community together.

## **SENSITIZATION**

- a. Mkango Mining company had the following to say:
  - 1. Taxes and taxation: tax is set by and goes to government and not the company. He said that there is a tax free wage bracket but any income above it is taxable. This was in response to a question from one community member on why Mkango mine use tax on the wages of both piece work and monthly.
  - 2. Rotational/seasonal employment: He stressed that the reason why those working on the road do not have fixed jobs but work as casual laborers is to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity/chance of benefiting from the road project.
  - 3. Employment opportunities: He assured the villager that when the company starts its official operations, they will go through the chiefs to help them identify men and women to work at the site. However, there are some jobs that require special skill and training; for those, only those with qualifications will be considered whether from the area or not.

4. Mining phases: Mining licensing undergoes 3 phases namely: 1. Exploration phase whereby samples are collected and the site is mapped; 2. Feasibility study which is the current stage now; and finally 3. Mining begins when they are awarded a mining licence (they have not been given one at the moment).

5. Cooperate social responsibility: CSR is not a must at the stage they are. They are only doing some development initiatives to build a relationship with the community and make it known that they are still around and have the intention of working in the area. It was further explained that they are rehabilitating the road leading straight to the mining site because it links with all other roads in the area not just because they pass through it going to the mine.

b. Chief Maoni:

1. Explained how pupils are selected into secondary school and then awarded a scholarship by Mkango mining company. He assured the people of having no hand in the pupils getting selected to a secondary, it is entirely the responsibility of the pupils and the parents.

2. The chief also asked the community to understand how mining works in order for the community to end conflicts between villages. He insisted on full participation and involvement with the CAGs and Reflect circle meetings.

## **CHALLENGES**

We spent a lot of time waiting for people to show. The officials came early while the community members were nowhere to be seen; thus killing the teams' morale.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Need for intensive community awareness and mobilization

1. To bridge the gap between community members and the company on how mining is taking place and what is their role as a community.
2. To completely remove misconceptions on mining for the people to start seeing mining from positive side.
3. To bring awareness to local leaders for them to spearhead good relationship between the community and the miners.
4. Provide capacity to local leaders and community members to understand mining issues from Miners\investors perspective.
5. To bring together CSOs working in the area, the miners and the community to start working together and iron out doubts and mistrust.
6. To strengthen community structures CAGs in understanding mining companies principles and community development plans so that they can share this with community members.

## **MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) ON COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION**

After the action research on mining issues in the three districts as highlighted in the report, Institute for Community Mobilization and Empowerment has made a number of recommendations to CSOs. Below are the overall recommendations that has to be considered by CSOs as far as change is to be made in the mining industry:

1. To avoid bringing in conflicting messages on mining issues that misinform the community on mining and develop hatred towards mining companies a case of Phalombe.
2. To start engaging with mining investors on a positive way and not on a negative way that view a mining company as a rival.
3. To continue exerting pressure to government on policy review.
4. To start aligning community structures i.e. CAGs to mining companies in order for the community to develop trust with mining investors.

