

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Bikita Minerals to respond to the following item:

- “Investing Illicit Financial Flows in Zimbabwe’s Lithium Mining Sector”, TrustAfrica, July 2017

Bikita Mineral sent us the following response:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 3 articles that you listed in your email of 29th July 2019. Please note that we have responded to the two Zimbabwean newspaper reports in a single document outlining our CSR programmes.

There are therefore two primary documents attached hereto:

1. our specific rebuttal of the points raised in the ‘Investigating Illicit Financial Flows in Zimbabwe’s Lithium Mining Sector’ article which is titled ‘Investigating Illicit Financial Flows rebuttal August 2019’ well as
2. our rebuttal of the main points raised in the ‘Lithium Supply in Zimbabwe’ and ‘Daggers Out for Bikita Minerals’ articles which is titled ‘Bikita CSR Programmes’

As a starting point however I believe that it is necessary to begin with a brief overview of the lithium market and Bikita’s position within that sector. The ‘Investigating Illicit Financial Flows in Zimbabwe’s Lithium Mining Sector’ report presents several serious mistakes and inaccuracies which appear to suggest and/or show insufficient knowledge of the facts and a complete lack of understanding of both lithium mining and the lithium market. This confusion is unfortunately widespread and Bikita has spent a considerable amount of time and effort with the role-players within Zimbabwe to try and educate them as to the specific mineral (petalite) that Bikita mines and exports, which is NOT the same mineral (spodumene) that is used in the manufacture of batteries. As you may imagine, this tends to be a technical discussion but very simply:

1. Bikita is the only exporting petalite mine in the world (less than 90 000t p.a.)
2. petalite is fully beneficiated and is used ‘as is’ by our customers i.e. it is simply added to their manufacturing process in much the same way that one adds yeast to flour to make bread. The 4% lithium contained therein is NOT extracted
3. there is not a single lithium processing plant in the world that uses petalite because
 1. petalite concentrate contains approximately 50% less lithia than spodumene concentrate (approx. 4% and 6% respectively). As such when using a chemical process to extract such lithia it can be understood that the costs of doing so are considerably less per lithia unit when using spodumene as a feedstock
 2. spodumene is available in massive and growing quantities (from Australia and South America in particular) whereas petalite is an extremely limited resource. Millions of tonnes are required to support the growing EV industry and petalite simply does not occur in these quantities.
4. spodumene is therefore the feedstock that is used for onward processing into battery chemicals i.e. lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide

Two attached documents that we use widely will adequately cover this:

1. Bikita Minerals Press Statement (circulated to 23 journalists from all the major Zimbabwe publications during a mine visit in 2018)
2. A presentation 'Petalite in the lithium market (April 2019)'

I have also attached a number of supporting documents for our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts. I do not believe that you will want or need to publish them all but I would ask that you look at the overwhelming evidence in them and reflect on what they tell you about how we conduct ourselves as opposed to two sensationalist newspaper reports that rely on quotes from a single politician seeking election (note that I will send you some of our Newsletters under separate cover - they are too large to be attached here).



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“Investigating Illicit Financial Flows in Zimbabwe’s Lithium Mining Sector” TrustAfrica, July 2017

It is clear that the author of this particular report, while purporting to have initiated in-depth investigations, has in fact simply taken statements made to him at face value, and without any rigorous attempt to understand the technical and diverse nature of the lithium market has drawn far-reaching conclusions from the so-called ‘facts’ presented to him. While Bikita encounters this on a regular basis more is surely to be expected from a report of this nature.

Given the way the report is constructed and presented it is difficult to address every point made, however we have attempted to deal with the main issues as they pertain to Bikita. Generalised comments in the report (of which there are many) regarding the country and its management we will not comment on. If however there is anything else within our purview that requires further clarity we remain open to requests to do so.

Firstly though, here is an overview of Bikita Minerals which will also deal with a number of the factually incorrect statements made in the underlying report

A: Bikita Overview

- Privately owned mine
- 325km from Harare (tar road) in Masvingo Province
- Currently employs 430 staff (plus 120 casuals and \pm 300 contractor staff)
- Mining Lease of 1,539 Ha (15.4 km²)
- Mine Facilities: Staff Village, Shopping Centre, Junior and High School, Soccer Stadium, Clinic, Basketball pitch Etc.
- Environmental licenses approved & in place
 - Environmental Management Plan
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Tantalite Mining
 - EIA for Exploration.

Shareholders as of 30.06.2019

• African Minerals Limited	-	Mauritius	-	55.4%
• Amzim Minerals Limited	-	Mauritius	-	18.6%
• Dzikamai Mavhaire	-	Zimbabwe	-	16.0%
• Bishop Nehemiah Mutendi	-	Zimbabwe	-	5.25%

- Chekilli Investments (Pvt) Ltd – Zimbabwe - 4.75%

Directors

- Herbert Makuwa - Zimbabwe (Chairman)
- Grant Hudson - Zimbabwe
- Dave Saunders - Zimbabwe
- Bishop Nehemiah Mutendi - Zimbabwe
- Dr. Esnath Chikomba - Zimbabwe
- Donald Jansen - Zimbabwe

History

- 1910: Alluvial ore body discovered and known as the Nigel Tin Mine
- 1916-1950: Various claims pegged. Mining focused on Cassiterite (200t) & Tantalite (100t).
- 1950: Mining of lithium minerals commenced. Firstly amblygonite, then lepidolite & petalite. Majority of claims grouped around Al Hayat Mine in the North (petalite) and Bikita Minerals (lepidolite) in the South. Spodumene was briefly considered but ignored as the concentrate grades were too low and the iron content too high for the markets at that time
- 1956-1957: US acquired 450kt of high-grade lepidolite as a strategic lithium reserve. Mining of lepidolite ended and Bikita pit closed
- 1959: Selection Trust acquired and integrated Bikita Minerals & Al Hayat into a single Mining Lease
- 1980: BP acquired Selection Trust (and renamed it BP Minerals)
- 1989: Rio Tinto acquired BP Minerals and thereby Bikita Minerals
- 1991: Foundation Trust acquired Bikita Minerals from Rio Tinto
- 2014: AMMS acquired Bikita Minerals from Foundation Trust

Current mining

There are 3 hard-rock ore bodies of interest at Bikita, at various stages of development:

Ore Type	Petalite	Spodumene	Lepidolite
Exploration	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Completion	Ongoing	Compliant report due September 2019	Ongoing
Metallurgical Test Work	-	Ongoing (Australia/Germany)	Ongoing (Germany)
Completion	N/A	4 th Quarter 2019	4 th Quarter 2019
Product	Typically 4.2% Li ₂ O contained	Grade to be determined	Tantalum concentrate (25%) only ⁽²⁾
Beneficiation	Concentration & milling	Flotation	Concentration
Comment	Resource currently exploited commercially	Resource being assessed for commercial viability	Resource being assessed for commercial viability

⁽¹⁾ In-house estimates. Non-compliant.

⁽²⁾ Lepidolite currently mined for tantalum content

Petalite

This is Bikita's only current lithium-bearing export. The mine has been mining and exporting this mineral for over 50 years, and is currently the largest commercial Petalite mine in the world. Petalite concentrate typically contains the lowest levels of lithium (approximately 4% when concentrated) of all 3 commercial lithium-bearing minerals and is mainly used in the ceramics and glass industries, and as such has a small niche in the technical applications (non-battery) market. Petalite, as used in ceramics and glass, is an additive in the production process, which means that the total beneficiation process for this mineral is limited to concentration and milling the material to customer specifications. Whilst Petalite can theoretically be used for the production of lithium hydroxides and carbonates, for commercial reasons Spodumene is the mineral of choice (6%-8% when concentrated) since producing Lithium Carbonate (for batteries) from Petalite is significantly more expensive than using Spodumene. For this reason therefore, Petalite was historically not economically viable as a battery lithium source.

Bikita distributes Petalite under various brand names, and each of these has slightly different characteristics depending on the specification of the final customer. The mine's new management has also developed new Petalite products, for instance, High Alkaline Petalite is produced from material that was previously considered waste, and is proving popular in Asian markets.

Generally Bikita's ore body is used far more extensively today than in the past, thus extending the life of mine as well as broadening the product and customer base.

Spodumene

While Spodumene was briefly produced at Bikita in the 1950's, the final concentrate grades were considered too low and the iron content too high for the market at the time and production was stopped. No further development of this potential resource was undertaken for the period 1950 to 2016. Bikita has however, for the past 18 months, embarked on an exploration programme under the guidance of a Competent Person (Geologist) to prove up a compliant Spodumene resource that could sustain commercial production, and this programme will result in a Compliant Resources Report which is expected to be available in the 3rd Quarter of 2019. At the same time an extensive metallurgical programme has been undertaken using laboratories in South Africa, Germany and Australia, to determine if a commercial lithium concentrate can be produced from such a resource. This test work should also be completed by the end of the 3rd Quarter 2019.

Assuming that the test work shows positive results, Bikita will then need to complete a full Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) for the construction of a concentration and flotation plant. Concurrently work will begin to assess the further beneficiation of this material.

Lepidolite

After the high-grade lepidolite resource had been depleted in the 1950s, the mining pit from which the ore had been extracted was closed down. After the current management took over the mine in 2014, extensive work was done on the old lepidolite dumps and it was ascertained that the Bikita lepidolite contains significant quantities of tantalum ore. A pilot plant was then erected in 2016 and production on a small-scale commenced.

Bikita is currently embarking on an exploration programme to ascertain if there are further commercially viable lepidolite resources, and if so the intention is to erect a significantly bigger plant.

Unfortunately, historically, the technology to exploit the lithium contained in the lepidolite itself did not exist. Bikita has however, started test work on this material with a German laboratory using newly developed technology. The MMCZ has visited this facility and has been appraised of the progress to date.

B: TrustAfrica – Specific Allegations

The response here is split into two sections:

1. Technical responses to technical allegations contained in the report
2. Specific responses to specific points of a non-technical nature raised by the report

1. Technical Responses

These are primarily contained in letters from two independent industry experts, namely Mr. Dexter Ferreira of Independent Resource Estimates (South Africa) and Dr. Dag Thiery of MiDevCon (Germany)

- 'Bikita MiDevCon 20171225.pdf'
- 'IRES Response to the article published in FinX.January.2018.pdf'

In addition thereto we also refer to the presentation

- 'Petalite in the lithium market (April 2019)

which has been presented to the chamber of Mines AGM 2018 as well as various other bodies including the Ministry of Mines (2019).

2. Specific Responses

- a. **Exporting undeclared lithium: Incorrect.** Bikita Minerals exports Petalite, which is a lithium-bearing mineral (4.2% Li₂O) and is fully declared. The statutory body that regulates exports on behalf of Government, the Minerals

Marketing Corporation Of Zimbabwe ('MMCZ'), raises all commercial invoices and is a signatory to all export contracts, on which all export permits are based.

- b. **Lithium not listed among the products exported: Incorrect.** Bikita does not produce lithium. Lithium is a chemical element and not a product and as such lithium will not be listed on the export documents. The lithium-bearing ore petalite (which when concentrated contains approximately 4% lithia) is the product, and the lithium content of all petalite products that are exported is clearly listed in the Product Specification sheets which are shared with customers and authorities alike.
- c. **Reluctance to venture into value addition: Incorrect.** Petalite is beneficiated by Bikita to the point that it is a simple additive for the customer, who does not alter it in any way prior to use in his final production process. Bikita has also spent in excess of US\$4 million over the past 36 months in upgrading and expanding the processing capacity at the mine.
- d. **Price is way below market value of \$180/tonne: Incorrect.** The average selling price is substantially higher and is agreed and managed together with the Zimbabwe Government. Attempts to directly link the price of petalite (glass and ceramics) to spodumene (batteries) are erroneous.
- e. **Zimbabwe produces 1 100t of lithium Incorrect.** Bikita is currently the only producer of lithium-based minerals in Zimbabwe and exports around 46 000t of petalite products per annum. The petalite, contains roughly 4.1% or 1 680t of lithium dioxide (Li_2O). "Lithium" alone is neither produced nor an exportable product.
- f. **Misstating ores and types: Incorrect.** All Bikita exports are made under the supervision of the MMCZ and the Ministry of Mines.
- g. **Does not declare lepidolite exports: Incorrect.** Bikita does not export lepidolite at all.
- h. **Secretive operations: Incorrect.** Bikita Minerals has, inter alia:
 - 1. Hosted top management of the MMCZ in June 2019 and every year before then
 - 2. Hosted the Parliamentary Committee on Mines then chaired by Hon. Temba Mliswa in June 2018
 - 3. Hosted the Masvingo Provincial Minister of State in 2019
 - 4. Hosted the Ministry of Mines in April 2019
 - 5. Organized a media tour of the mine in May 2018
 - 6. Hosted the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining and the Senior Mining Engineer in 2019
 - 7. Been the subject of multiple visits and inspections from the Ministry of Mines
 - 8. Accompanied the MMCZ on a visit to customers in Europe
 - 9. Has a permanent presence of officers from state security agencies at the mine who are fully informed of everything that happens

Bikita is also entirely compliant with all statutory legislation and submits all quarterly and other reports as required by law. However, as a private company, Bikita is under no obligation to publish any of its financial and production information other than to the relevant authorities.

- i. **Poor corporate social responsibility: Incorrect.** Bikita Minerals does extensive work in the community, and some of the signature, ongoing programmes are highlighted in the attached document 'Bikita CSR'
- j. **Political party involvement: Incorrect.** Bikita does not get involved in politics in any shape or form and maintains cordial relationships with all stakeholders. Until shareholder and board changes effected in 2018, Mr Dzikamai Mavhaire had been a board member since 2004 and a shareholder since 2012. This was before the current owners became involved. During the time he was involved with the mine, at no time did Mr. Mavhaire ever tried to unduly influence the Board or extract any advantage from his position.
- k. **Mine management states Bikita Minerals exports between 3 000t and 4 000t of petalite annually: Incorrect.** This is the total tonnage per month.
- l. **No website or publication of financials:** Bikita is a private company and does not publish its financials. The mine has a website - www.bikitaminerals.com
- m. **Low royalties: Incorrect.** Bikita pays the statutory royalty of 2%.
- n. **Zero VAT rating: Correct.** All mineral exports from Zimbabwe are zero-rated for Value Added Tax

BIKITA MINERALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
2018
Schedule of community donations

USD

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quarry stones	7 026.00	17 361.00	15 216.00	14 721.00	7 002.00	10 650.00	12 981.00	15 750.00	24 993.00	19 518.00		22 000.00	145 218.00
Vim	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	264 000.00
Uyerera Clinic		2 550.94		1 170.00		4 800.00	11 627.23		1 530.00				21 678.17
Domboshava Primary Sch									184.20				184.20
Overnight Maheu- Primary Schools	10 980.00						5 079.90		10 736.67			1 603.60	28 400.17
ZRP Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	8 640.00
ZRP Housing-Glenclova	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	9 000.00
ZRP Water-Glenclova	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	1 080.00
Bikita Minerals Pri. Sch teachers (Housing & Utilities)	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	17 280.00
CIO Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	7 200.00
Zim Prisons				200.00									200.00
Community	1 125.00	125.00	1 629.00	325.00	80 125.00	425.00	505.00	389.00	600.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	83 994.00
Bikita RDC	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	30 000.00
Independence day celebrations				1 000.00									1 000.00
Total	47 231.00	48 136.94	43 316.00	45 516.00	115 227.00	43 975.00	58 293.13	44 239.00	66 143.87	47 743.00	28 225.00	29 828.60	617 874.54

BIKITA MINERALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
2019
Schedule of community donations

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quarry stones	4 449.90	4 221.00	5 871.00	10 249.20	11 062.50	31 200.00	41 550.00						108 603.60
Vim	22 000.00				22 000.00		22 000.00						66 000.00
Chief Marozva Tournament							8 183.15						8 183.15
Uyerera Clinic	1 289.72	3 978.14	34 064.55	28 378.07	14 123.55	116 821.92	35 476.67						234 132.62
Cyclone Idai			6 553.59	72 000.00		27 605.19	9 869.33						116 028.11
Overnight Maheu- Primary Schools		27 734.00			36 000.00								63 734.00
ZRP Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00						5 040.00
ZRP Housing-Glenclova	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00						5 250.00
ZRP Water-Glenclova	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00						630.00
Bikita Minerals Pri. Sch teachers (Housing & Utilities)	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00						10 080.00
CIO Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00						4 200.00
Save the Rhino						789.52							789.52
Happy Readers Project		579.00			15 225.05		1 310.19						17 114.24
Bikita RDC	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00						17 500.00
Other Community						7 250.09	973.73						8 223.82
Knitting Project							17 572.02						17 572.02
Bikita Fashu High School						298 470.68							298 470.68
Mangondo School-electrification					3 546.18								3 546.18
Marinda School-electrification							19 743.52						19 743.52
Total	33 839.62	42 612.14	52 589.14	116 727.27	108 057.28	488 237.40	162 778.61	-	-	-	-	-	1 004 841.46



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Bikita CSR

Bikita Minerals is considered to be a leading light within the Zimbabwean mining community for the extensive work that it does with the local communities, and has in particular been lauded for its efforts with regard to education within the Bikita District. Bikita's philosophy has always been to work hand-in-hand with the local community, and in any one of a number of its larger schemes it can be seen that the mine and the community act as partners in achieving their aims.

Listed below are some of the initiatives where Bikita is currently active:

1. SCHOOL FEEDING SCHEME

School-feeding scheme: every day the mine provides *mabeu* (a nutritious drink made from corn) to over 3 000 primary school children in 7 schools in the district. This has seen a marked increase in school attendance. On a monthly basis we measure the attendance, the weight of the children and test results.

2. HAPPY READERS PROGRAMME

The mine launched and fully funded a programme aimed at improving reading and pass rates at 7 schools located in and around the mine. The programme is being run in collaboration with the Bikita District Council through offices of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education – with full support of the Ministry head office. Latest assessments of the programme demonstrated improved reading skills and the mine has already committed to further investing more funds into the next level of the programme.

3. CYCLONE IDAI INITIATIVE

In the aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Idai, Bikita Minerals immediately mobilised 200 litres of fuel, 100 bags of mealie meal, 20 000 bricks, 100 tonnes of quarry stone and other essentials to assist the victims of the disaster. The Mine has also since bought 2 400 bags of cement earmarked for the moulding of bricks to be used in the reconstruction of selected schools and homes. It is expected that the donated cement will mould in excess of 200 000 bricks.



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4. CONSTRUCTION OF UYERERI CLINIC

The mine has assisted the community to build a clinic including all staff housing and the installation of a borehole and an electricity supply. This is in an area that until now was a significant distance from the nearest health facilities, and should be fully operational by end of 2019.

At the same time that the clinic has been built the mine has extended the water and electricity supply to the nearby Domboshawa School, which has existed for over 105 years without either of these two resources.

5. KNITTING PROJECT FOR EXPORT MARKETS

The mine initiated a fully funded one-year 'masters' training course to produce high-quality knitwear suitable for sale to export markets. The initiative is aimed at financially empowering spouses of Bikita Minerals employees to create business and income earning skills for their families. The women are also looking at exploiting available gaps in the local market.

6. OTHER KEY PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MINE

- **EDC CENTRE:** Built a fully furnished and resourced ECD Centre with 6 classrooms for Bikita Primary School.
- **NEW TRANSFORMER:** Installed a new transformer at Madindi Primary School
- **SCIENCE BLOCK:** Refurbished the Science Block at Bikita Fashu High School and donated textbooks and all the necessary microscopes, laboratory equipment, fridge etc.. This was a major development as more students including girls were enrolled into Science classes and student performance improved due to access to modern equipment and textbooks.
- **CHICKEN PROJECTS:** Initiated and supports 5 chicken breeding schemes in schools in the district. The income from these projects is intended to supplement the schools' income.
- **QUARRY STONE DONATIONS:** Every month, the mine donates 40 tonnes of stone to assist the needy in the community. The stone is sold to a contractor and



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the funds are applied to causes that are determined to be in need by a Committee comprising the mine management and the local chief.

- More than 50t of stone is donated per month to needy causes in Masvingo Province
- VIM DONATIONS: Over 100 women benefit from the sales of 'Vim' (a finely-milled quartz product sold and used as a pot-scourer) that is donated to them every week by the mine. For many this is their only source of income and this in turn pays for school fees etc.

In addition, once a month the mine donates and sells approximately 10 tons of VIM and the proceeds of this are used to benefit in particular the elderly i.e. we purchase maize etc.

- CHIEF MAROZVA SOCCER & NETBALL TOURNAMENTS:
Bikita sponsors an annual youth soccer and netball tournament together with Chief Marozva who is the patron. The tournament is aimed at promoting healthy living at the same time creating opportunities for those with talent to move into league soccer and netball. Eight teams take part and the mine sponsors kit including shirts and boots, balls etc.

Bikita also sponsors its own mine soccer team currently playing in the Division One League and has sponsored a local youth to attend soccer trials with clubs in France (2018)

- DONATIONS TO BIKITA DISTRICT COUNCIL:
Bikita donates \$2 500 every month to the Bikita Rural District Council which the council uses for various community based projects targeting the under-privileged.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Date: 06.1.2018

Bikita Minerals in the press: errors and comments

Recent publications in the Zimbabwean press about Bikita Minerals came to my attention. Moreover, I am staggered to see prejudices expressed creating a negative public image about Bikita Minerals. I got to know Bikita Minerals as a professionally developing mining company taking care for its corporate responsibilities and contribution to the social and economic society of Zimbabwe. With its ongoing developments and investments in exploration and ore beneficiation Bikita Minerals should be seen as an exemplary poster child of the industrial minerals industry.

Below I take the liberty to comment and educate on some of the errors as they relate to MiDevCon's expertise in mineral science and technology as well as the economics and global markets of "Lithium".

Reference is taken to an article published in "The Herald" on December 25, 2017 by Taurai Mangudhia with the headline "Bikita Minerals prejudice Zim of millions" and a note prepared by Finx Zimbabwe titled "Bikita Minerals in illicit financial flows scare".

Both articles are referring to a study by Trust Africa published in July 2017 titled "Investigating illicit financial flows in Zimbabwe's Lithium Mining sector" and, unfortunately, the authors did not review the facts and correctness of the content of the study and simply pass the errors on as information to the public.

The study published by Trust Africa states in its executive summary on page 1

"Bikita Minerals (Pvt) Ltd could be prejudicing Zimbabwe of revenue running into tens of millions of dollars annually by exporting undeclared lithium..... However lithium is not listed among the products exported by Bikita Minerals, raising a strong possibility that the high value mineral is being exported illicitly as petalite."

The fact is that Bikita Minerals does not produce and had never produced lithium, thus it can't list lithium as a product for export declaration. And since Bikita Minerals is not producing and exporting lithium it cannot be prejudicing Zimbabwe of revenues.

The Ministry of Mines records precisely the mineral products produced and exported by Bikita Minerals. Furthermore the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe is monitoring and auditing the mineral products supply chain.

It seems that there is a lack of basic education in mineralogy and chemistry which led to a misunderstanding of the literature used as a base for the study and, thus wrong conclusions were reached.

Lithium is a chemical element, a metal and not a mineral, as wrongly stated. While Petalite is a mineral occurring in the pegmatitic ore bodies explored and mined by Bikita Minerals.

The Lithium metal and the mineral petalite are distinctive different in the chemical and minerals properties, as in there visual appearance seen in below photos (Lithium on the left and petalite on the right).



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium>
<http://www.geology.neab.net/minerals/petalite.htm>



The ore mined by Bikita Minerals contains petalite beside many other minerals as feldspars and quartz in low concentration. It requires an intensive beneficiation to concentrate physically the petalite mineral to make products which are used as raw material or additives in complex tailored recipes for making glasses, glass-ceramics and ceramic materials.

Petalite contains some Lithium in its mineral formula $\text{LiAlSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$. Therefore the petalite concentrate products produced are reporting in their chemical analysis some Lithia as ~4,1 mass-% Li_2O . Beside the Lithia content, other chemical properties, physical properties as the particle size, thermal expansion and melting behavior are important properties for the application of petalite products in the glass and ceramic industries. Bikita's on site laboratory tests and monitors product properties, which results are open to Government departments as well as Bikita's global customer base.

The study states on page 14

“ While the mine management stated that Bikita Minerals exports between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of petalite annually, the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development has it on record that in 2013 Bikita Minerals exported 40 933.32 tonnes..... There is a discrepancy of 36,000 tonnes between Bikita Minerals data and the Ministry of Mines. ”. The misunderstanding of the author of the study is, that Bikita Minerals produces 3,000 to 4,000 tons per month and not annually. And the monthly production sums up to the 40 933,32 t exported in 2013. There is no discrepancy and thus no base to conclude on illicit financial flows. With the developments and marketing of new products largely from the former petalite waste stream Bikita is aiming to produce close to 100,000 tons pa of petalite related products in 2018.

The above clarifies just on a few mistakes of the study within its chapters “Bikita Minerals (PVT) LTD page 12-16” and “The lithium value chain page 8-10”. Within that chapter The “Lithium market” is discussed and again it is stated “*Bikita Minerals have a proven track record in lithium production*”. This is not true, Bikita Minerals did never produce lithium nor lithium chemicals.

Furthermore, the study's approach comes from the position where the petalite products produced by Bikita Minerals could be used as raw material for the chemical process to manufacture Lithium chemicals such as Lithium carbonate. This is misleading. There has indeed been research on how far petalite could be used as a feed to a chemical process manufacturing Lithium carbonate. But today there is no existing technology

and production available to use petalite as raw material for the Lithium chemicals production apart from the substantial economic disadvantage of using a low Lithia-containing petalite rather than the globally available high grade spodumene.

We need to also consider some fundamental concerns on the potential economic viability. One is based on the Lithia content of the Lithium minerals used as feed for the chemical conversion process. Spodumene is the common Lithium mineral in use. The spodumene feed grade typically contains 6 mass-% Li_2O . Compared to petalite concentrate the spodumene provides 50% more Lithia. This means, the chemical process would need at least 50% more volumes on acid, energy for calcination and Li-mineral feed using petalite. This results in a significant cost disadvantage in using petalite as alternative to spodumene.

Comparing the currently explored deposits at Bikita Minerals to exploited spodumene deposits in Australia or Canada, we need to admit that Bikita Minerals has also disadvantages in its location and the poor logistics infrastructure. The quality of the infrastructure and the accessibility to the consuming markets are criteria included in the definition of a “world class deposit”. It is questionable, if the deposit exploited by Bikita Minerals is a “*world class deposit*” as stated in the study.

The above are my comments on the chapters about Bikita Minerals and the Lithium value chain in the study done by Trust Africa. The remainder of the study is not evaluated. The missing knowledge in mineralogy, chemistry and on Lithium chemicals and Li-minerals led to incorrect conclusions in the study and subsequent publications. MiDevCon clarifies with its expertise some, but not all, of the misunderstandings.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Dagobert Thiery
Neuss / Germany



BIKITA MINERALS

Bikita CSR

Bikita Minerals is considered to be a leading light within the Zimbabwean mining community for the extensive work that it does with the local communities, and has in particular been lauded for its efforts with regard to education within the Bikita District. Bikita's philosophy has always been to work hand-in-hand with the local community, and in any one of a number of its larger schemes it can be seen that the mine and the community act as partners in achieving their aims.

Listed below are some of the initiatives where Bikita is currently active:

1. SCHOOL FEEDING SCHEME

School-feeding scheme: every day the mine provides *mabeu* (a nutritious drink made from corn) to over 3 000 primary school children in 7 schools in the district. This has seen a marked increase in school attendance. On a monthly basis we measure the attendance, the weight of the children and test results.

2. HAPPY READERS PROGRAMME

The mine launched and fully funded a programme aimed at improving reading and pass rates at 7 schools located in and around the mine. The programme is being run in collaboration with the Bikita District Council through offices of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education – with full support of the Ministry head office. Latest assessments of the programme demonstrated improved reading skills and the mine has already committed to further investing more funds into the next level of the programme.

3. CYCLONE IDAI INITIATIVE

In the aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Idai, Bikita Minerals immediately mobilised 200 litres of fuel, 100 bags of mealie meal, 20 000 bricks, 100 tonnes of quarry stone and other essentials to assist the victims of the disaster. The Mine has also since bought 2 400 bags of cement earmarked for the moulding of bricks to be used in the reconstruction of selected schools and homes. It is expected that the donated cement will mould in excess of 200 000 bricks.



BIKITA MINERALS

4. CONSTRUCTION OF UYERERI CLINIC

The mine has assisted the community to build a clinic including all staff housing and the installation of a borehole and an electricity supply. This is in an area that until now was a significant distance from the nearest health facilities, and should be fully operational by end of 2019.

At the same time that the clinic has been built the mine has extended the water and electricity supply to the nearby Domboshawa School, which has existed for over 105 years without either of these two resources.

5. KNITTING PROJECT FOR EXPORT MARKETS

The mine initiated a fully funded one-year 'masters' training course to produce high-quality knitwear suitable for sale to export markets. The initiative is aimed at financially empowering spouses of Bikita Minerals employees to create business and income earning skills for their families. The women are also looking at exploiting available gaps in the local market.

6. OTHER KEY PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MINE

- **EDC CENTRE:** Built a fully furnished and resourced ECD Centre with 6 classrooms for Bikita Primary School.
- **NEW TRANSFORMER:** Installed a new transformer at Madindi Primary School
- **SCIENCE BLOCK:** Refurbished the Science Block at Bikita Fashu High School and donated textbooks and all the necessary microscopes, laboratory equipment, fridge etc.. This was a major development as more students including girls were enrolled into Science classes and student performance improved due to access to modern equipment and textbooks.
- **CHICKEN PROJECTS:** Initiated and supports 5 chicken breeding schemes in schools in the district. The income from these projects is intended to supplement the schools' income.
- **QUARRY STONE DONATIONS:** Every month, the mine donates 40 tonnes of stone to assist the needy in the community. The stone is sold to a contractor and



BIKITA MINERALS

the funds are applied to causes that are determined to be in need by a Committee comprising the mine management and the local chief.

- More than 50t of stone is donated per month to needy causes in Masvingo Province
- VIM DONATIONS: Over 100 women benefit from the sales of 'Vim' (a finely-milled quartz product sold and used as a pot-scourer) that is donated to them every week by the mine. For many this is their only source of income and this in turn pays for school fees etc.

In addition, once a month the mine donates and sells approximately 10 tons of VIM and the proceeds of this are used to benefit in particular the elderly i.e. we purchase maize etc.

- CHIEF MAROZVA SOCCER & NETBALL TOURNAMENTS:
Bikita sponsors an annual youth soccer and netball tournament together with Chief Marozva who is the patron. The tournament is aimed at promoting healthy living at the same time creating opportunities for those with talent to move into league soccer and netball. Eight teams take part and the mine sponsors kit including shirts and boots, balls etc.

Bikita also sponsors its own mine soccer team currently playing in the Division One League and has sponsored a local youth to attend soccer trials with clubs in France (2018)

- DONATIONS TO BIKITA DISTRICT COUNCIL:
Bikita donates \$2 500 every month to the Bikita Rural District Council which the council uses for various community based projects targeting the under-privileged.

BIKITA MINERALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
2018
Schedule of community donations

USD

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quarry stones	7 026.00	17 361.00	15 216.00	14 721.00	7 002.00	10 650.00	12 981.00	15 750.00	24 993.00	19 518.00		22 000.00	145 218.00
Vim	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	22 000.00	264 000.00
Uyerera Clinic		2 550.94		1 170.00		4 800.00	11 627.23		1 530.00				21 678.17
Domboshava Primary Sch									184.20				184.20
Overnight Maheu- Primary Schools	10 980.00						5 079.90		10 736.67			1 603.60	28 400.17
ZRP Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	8 640.00
ZRP Housing-Glenclova	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	9 000.00
ZRP Water-Glenclova	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	1 080.00
Bikita Minerals Pri. Sch teachers (Housing & Utilities)	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	17 280.00
CIO Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	7 200.00
Zim Prisons				200.00									200.00
Community	1 125.00	125.00	1 629.00	325.00	80 125.00	425.00	505.00	389.00	600.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	83 994.00
Bikita RDC	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	30 000.00
Independence day celebrations				1 000.00									1 000.00
Total	47 231.00	48 136.94	43 316.00	45 516.00	115 227.00	43 975.00	58 293.13	44 239.00	66 143.87	47 743.00	28 225.00	29 828.60	617 874.54

BIKITA MINERALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
2019
Schedule of community donations

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quarry stones	4 449.90	4 221.00	5 871.00	10 249.20	11 062.50	31 200.00	41 550.00						108 603.60
Vim	22 000.00				22 000.00		22 000.00						66 000.00
Chief Marozva Tournament							8 183.15						8 183.15
Uyerera Clinic	1 289.72	3 978.14	34 064.55	28 378.07	14 123.55	116 821.92	35 476.67						234 132.62
Cyclone Idai			6 553.59	72 000.00		27 605.19	9 869.33						116 028.11
Overnight Maheu- Primary Schools		27 734.00			36 000.00								63 734.00
ZRP Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00						5 040.00
ZRP Housing-Glenclova	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00						5 250.00
ZRP Water-Glenclova	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00						630.00
Bikita Minerals Pri. Sch teachers (Housing & Utilities)	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00	1 440.00						10 080.00
CIO Housing & Utilities-Msarasara	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00						4 200.00
Save the Rhino						789.52							789.52
Happy Readers Project		579.00			15 225.05		1 310.19						17 114.24
Bikita RDC	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00	2 500.00						17 500.00
Other Community						7 250.09	973.73						8 223.82
Knitting Project							17 572.02						17 572.02
Bikita Fashu High School						298 470.68							298 470.68
Mangondo School-electrification					3 546.18								3 546.18
Marinda School-electrification							19 743.52						19 743.52
Total	33 839.62	42 612.14	52 589.14	116 727.27	108 057.28	488 237.40	162 778.61	-	-	-	-	-	1 004 841.46

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Date: 06.1.2018

Bikita Minerals in the press: errors and comments

Recent publications in the Zimbabwean press about Bikita Minerals came to my attention. Moreover, I am staggered to see prejudices expressed creating a negative public image about Bikita Minerals. I got to know Bikita Minerals as a professionally developing mining company taking care for its corporate responsibilities and contribution to the social and economic society of Zimbabwe. With its ongoing developments and investments in exploration and ore beneficiation Bikita Minerals should be seen as an exemplary poster child of the industrial minerals industry.

Below I take the liberty to comment and educate on some of the errors as they relate to MiDevCon's expertise in mineral science and technology as well as the economics and global markets of "Lithium".

Reference is taken to an article published in "The Herald" on December 25, 2017 by Taurai Mangudhia with the headline "Bikita Minerals prejudice Zim of millions" and a note prepared by Finx Zimbabwe titled "Bikita Minerals in illicit financial flows scare".

Both articles are referring to a study by Trust Africa published in July 2017 titled "Investigating illicit financial flows in Zimbabwe's Lithium Mining sector" and, unfortunately, the authors did not review the facts and correctness of the content of the study and simply pass the errors on as information to the public.

The study published by Trust Africa states in its executive summary on page 1

"Bikita Minerals (Pvt) Ltd could be prejudicing Zimbabwe of revenue running into tens of millions of dollars annually by exporting undeclared lithium..... However lithium is not listed among the products exported by Bikita Minerals, raising a strong possibility that the high value mineral is being exported illicitly as petalite."

The fact is that Bikita Minerals does not produce and had never produced lithium, thus it can't list lithium as a product for export declaration. And since Bikita Minerals is not producing and exporting lithium it cannot be prejudicing Zimbabwe of revenues.

The Ministry of Mines records precisely the mineral products produced and exported by Bikita Minerals. Furthermore the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe is monitoring and auditing the mineral products supply chain.

It seems that there is a lack of basic education in mineralogy and chemistry which led to a misunderstanding of the literature used as a base for the study and, thus wrong conclusions were reached.

Lithium is a chemical element, a metal and not a mineral, as wrongly stated. While Petalite is a mineral occurring in the pegmatitic ore bodies explored and mined by Bikita Minerals.

The Lithium metal and the mineral petalite are distinctive different in the chemical and minerals properties, as in there visual appearance seen in below photos (Lithium on the left and petalite on the right).



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium>
<http://www.geology.neab.net/minerals/petalite.htm>



The ore mined by Bikita Minerals contains petalite beside many other minerals as feldspars and quartz in low concentration. It requires an intensive beneficiation to concentrate physically the petalite mineral to make products which are used as raw material or additives in complex tailored recipes for making glasses, glass-ceramics and ceramic materials.

Petalite contains some Lithium in its mineral formula $\text{LiAlSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$. Therefore the petalite concentrate products produced are reporting in their chemical analysis some Lithia as ~4,1 mass-% Li_2O . Beside the Lithia content, other chemical properties, physical properties as the particle size, thermal expansion and melting behavior are important properties for the application of petalite products in the glass and ceramic industries. Bikita's on site laboratory tests and monitors product properties, which results are open to Government departments as well as Bikita's global customer base.

The study states on page 14

“ While the mine management stated that Bikita Minerals exports between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of petalite annually, the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development has it on record that in 2013 Bikita Minerals exported 40 933.32 tonnes..... There is a discrepancy of 36,000 tonnes between Bikita Minerals data and the Ministry of Mines. ”. The misunderstanding of the author of the study is, that Bikita Minerals produces 3,000 to 4,000 tons per month and not annually. And the monthly production sums up to the 40 933,32 t exported in 2013. There is no discrepancy and thus no base to conclude on illicit financial flows. With the developments and marketing of new products largely from the former petalite waste stream Bikita is aiming to produce close to 100,000 tons pa of petalite related products in 2018.

The above clarifies just on a few mistakes of the study within its chapters “Bikita Minerals (PVT) LTD page 12-16” and “The lithium value chain page 8-10”. Within that chapter The “Lithium market” is discussed and again it is stated “*Bikita Minerals have a proven track record in lithium production*”. This is not true, Bikita Minerals did never produce lithium nor lithium chemicals.

Furthermore, the study's approach comes from the position where the petalite products produced by Bikita Minerals could be used as raw material for the chemical process to manufacture Lithium chemicals such as Lithium carbonate. This is misleading. There has indeed been research on how far petalite could be used as a feed to a chemical process manufacturing Lithium carbonate. But today there is no existing technology

and production available to use petalite as raw material for the Lithium chemicals production apart from the substantial economic disadvantage of using a low Lithia-containing petalite rather than the globally available high grade spodumene.

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Comparing the currently explored deposits at Bikita Minerals to exploited spodumene deposits in Australia or Canada, we need to admit that Bikita Minerals has also disadvantages in its location and the poor logistics infrastructure. The quality of the infrastructure and the accessibility to the consuming markets are criteria included in the definition of a “world class deposit”. It is questionable, if the deposit exploited by Bikita Minerals is a “*world class deposit*” as stated in the study.

The above are my comments on the chapters about Bikita Minerals and the Lithium value chain in the study done by Trust Africa. The remainder of the study is not evaluated. The missing knowledge in mineralogy, chemistry and on Lithium chemicals and Li-minerals led to incorrect conclusions in the study and subsequent publications. MiDevCon clarifies with its expertise some, but not all, of the misunderstandings.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Dagobert Thiery
Neuss / Germany

BIKITA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel.: 0772 666 262

Cell: 0772130516

Email: bikitarde@gmail.com



**ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

P. BAG 594
Nyika

REF: BRDC/BIK/MIN/1

23 May 2019

The Chief Executive Officer

Bikita Minerals (Private) Limited

P. Bag 9128

MASVINGO

**RE: APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT GIVEN TO BIKITA DISTRICT BY BIKITA
MINERALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED.**

We would like to express our invaluable gratitude for the support given by Bikita Minerals Private Limited to Bikita District at large. Since the establishment of the company, the community in Bikita has benefited a lot from the generous hand of Bikita Minerals.

Noted support areas include:

1.0 Infrastructure Development.

- 1.1. Public institutions are supplied with concrete stone.
- 1.2. Rehabilitation of works at surrounding schools: Bikita Fashu.
- 1.3 Construction of a school laboratory at Bikita Fashu.
- 1.4 Construction of Uyerera Clinic.
- 1.5 Water supply at Domboshava Primary School.
- 1.6 Supply of a Transformer at Mangondo Primary School.

2. Cyclone Idai Assistance

- 2.1 Supply of fuel towards assessment and delivery of donated goods for victims.

- 2.1 Supply of 2400 bags of cement.
- 2.2 Supply of bricks for construction of shelter for affected victims.
- 2.3 Supply of concrete stones for civil works for affected infrastructure such as bridges.
- 2.4 Supply of maize for victims of Cyclone Idai.

3. Community Share Ownership Trust.

- 3.1 Initial Capital of \$50,000.00 which assisted in the establishment of the Trust for Bikita.
- 3.2 The monthly deposit of \$2,500.00 has sustained the trust to date.
- 3.3 The community of Bikita have seen the construction of 3 classroom blocks at 3 schools in the 3 constituencies of Bikita namely:
 - 3.3.1 Nyemba Primary School in Bikita West
 - 3.3.2 Chivaka Primary School in Bikita East, and
 - 3.3.3 Zindove Primary School in Bikita South
- 3.4 Supply of concrete stones for all the civil work of the Trust Infrastructure projects

4. State Functions

- 4.1 *Independence and Heroes Day Celebrations* – Supply of fuel and cash donations that have always made Bikita District outstanding in its preparations for state occasions.
- 4.2 *Other state functions* – The support given for any emerging state functions like Presidential, Ministerial and other momentous occasions is valuable to the community of Bikita.

5. Bikita Rural District Council

- 5.1 Annual payment of Development Levy has boosted finances of the Rural District Council.
- 5.2 Road grading around the mine area has improved accessibility to the area.
- 5.3 *Infrastructural Support* – Construction of classroom blocks and Uyerera Clinic improved the both environments for better service delivery to the Bikita community.
- 5.4 The assistance given as stated in the other section above is greatly complimentary to the service delivery mandate of the local authority.
- 5.5 *Continued support* – We would like to thank you for the continued support given to Bikita Rural District Council. May the good Lord bless all the operations Bikita Minerals (Private) Limited.

Kindly ~~you~~ extend our gratitude to the board and shareholders of Bikita Minerals (Private) Limited.

Thank you

Peter Chibhi

Chief Executive Officer

Bikita Rural District Council.

Mangondo Secondary School
P .Box 480
Nyika

30 July 2019

The Manager
Bikita Minerals (Pvt) Ltd

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: LETTER OF APPRECIATION: ELECTRICITY CONNECTION OF 6 STAFF
HOUSES AT MANGONDO SECONDARY SCHOOL ON 26 JULY 2019**

The matter above refers.

The SDC, Head and staff of Mangondo greatly appreciate the magnanimous gesture shown by the Mine. The fulfilment of this pledge is a huge "shot - in- the arm" for us.

As an institution we feel this development will spur us. We pledge to raise standards as well.

Yours faithfully



Mudefi P.I.F Head

mudfiprec@gmail.com

0773028465



file

Domboshava Primary School
Post Office Box 263
Nyika

31 May 2019

The Mine Manager
Bikita Minerals Pvt Ltd

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: THANKING YOU OVER ASSISTANCE FOR MATSVANGE CYNTHIA'S TREATMENT

Our School heartily thanks you for your timely intervention towards Cynthia Matsvange's chronic illness.

Your intervention has seen great improvement to Cynthia's unfortunate condition. Her treatment has resulted in

- a. Improvement in her performance.
- b. Great improvement in her performance.
- c. Improved interaction with her peers.
- d. Walking without being carried from home.

It is because of the above improvement that will see the girl return to her normal achievement of being amongst the top five performers in class.

May God bless you abundantly for your immeasurable gesture of love.

Yours faithfully

Mapetere. J (School Head)

THE SCHOOL HEAD
DOMBOSHAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL
31 MAY 2019
Mapetere

file

Domboshava Primary School
Post Office Box 263
Nyika

31 May 2019

The Mine Manager
Bikita Minerals Pvt Ltd

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: APPRECIATING YOUR COMPANY'S PROVISION OF WATER TO OUR SCHOOL

May I, on behalf of our School, community and indeed on my own behalf take this opportunity to express gratitude towards your company's immense contribution towards eradication of water problems to our school and community.

Since time immemorial, our school has been relying on river water for consumption exposing learners, teachers and the community to water-borne diseases.

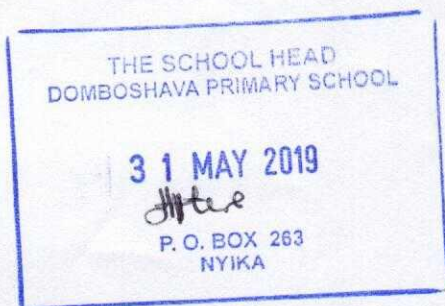
Because of the provision of this precious liquid the following things are definite

- i. Growth in the school's income base as a result of school projects like gardening.
- ii. Tremendous improvement in the health status of learners, staff and the community.

Your usual assistance is greatly appreciated

Yours faithfully

Mapetere .J (Head)



file

Domboshava Primary School
Post Office Box 263
Nyika

31 May 2019

The Mine Manager
Bikita Minerals Pvt Ltd

Dear Sir/ Madam

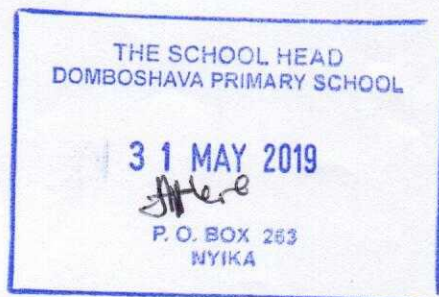
RE: ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF 166 BAGS OF MAHEU

Our School thanks you very much for your great concern to us as a school through your continuous support to the health of our learners through the nutritional drink of maheu. Our School thanks you immensely for the 166 bags of maheu we received from you. This will go a long way towards an improved health of our learners with an ultimate improvement in our school pass rate across the system.

We thank you for your usual gesture of philanthropy.

Yours faithful

Mapetere. J (Head)



Mungezi Primary School
P Bag 190
Nyika

6 June 2019

The Mine Manager
Bikita Mineral (Pvt) Ltd
Masvingo

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of Mungezi Primary School pupils, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation of the maheu you gave us.

The mahewu drink is proving to improve the following to the learners

- a. No more absenteeism
- b. A rise in school enrolment
- c. The morale among pupils is high since they are delicious.
- d. Their health is positively going to improve since the maheu is highly notorious.

Above all, the examination results of the pupils are going to improve ultimately at the end of each term.

Your continued support to the educational needs of Mungezi learners is highly welcomed.

Thanks once more.

Yours faithfully



Engineer V
(School Head)



Domboshava Primary School
Post Office Box 263
Nyika

08 February 2019

The Managing Director
Bikita Minerals Private Limited
Masvingo

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: THANKING YOU FOR THE DONATION OF MAHEU.

On behalf of Domboshava community, staff, learners and indeed on my own behalf I heartily thank and appreciate the immense contribution to the well – being of our school through various programmes, of late being the donation of the popular maheu drink to our school.

We greatly appreciate this kind deed happening at a time our country is going through a very difficult economic hardship.³ The drink will go a long way towards augmenting the government school feeding programme both meant to improve the health of our learners. The highly nutrition content of maheu has seen very healthy learners at our school in particular and the whole cluster in general.

High pass rate at our school of 63% is attributable to the healthy learning environment of our learners cognizant of the fact that learners perform ^{optimally} ~~optionally~~ and actively with healthy minds and bodies. May the lord bless you and your company through this priceless philanthropic gesture. May we also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences to you and your company for the untimely loss of one of your worker⁴ towards the end of last year, 2018. Our school and community are⁵ with you in grief in this immeasurable loss.

Yours faithfully

Mapetere . J (head).

THE SCHOOL HEAD
DOMBOSHAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

13 FEB 2019

JBA

P. O. BOX 263

NYIKA

**From: Rusununguko Primary School
4430/8915**

Report on the Happy Readers Programme

**To: The Management
Bikita Minerals Pvt/ Ltd**

Rusununguko Primary School
4430/8915

To D.S.I

MOPSE

Bikita

REPORT ON THE HAPPY READERS PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

What a splendid programme! The reading programme was welcomed by infant learners, teachers as well as parents. Parents liked seeing their children grow day by day in attacking and reading English words.

COMMENTARY

The readers were designed in a user friendly way. The concepts and vocabulary were structured from simplex to complex. Learners liked the pictures of the characters depicted in the readers. Teachers use the alphabet, word cards and sentences to develop learner's literacy levels. The young learners can comprehend their reading texts without much difficulty.

The teachers monitor the learner's reading proficiency through a well-structured timetable, reading registers and activities.

The learners have reading lessons as morning work, before they go home and fast learners can be allowed to take books home.

TABLE 1: STATISTICS ON INFANT READERS

GRADE	FLUENT	INDEPENDENT	STRUGGLING	FRUSTRATED	TOTAL
1	10	13	11	10	44
2	11	7	5	3	26
TOTAL	21	20	16	13	70

The table shows that 41 learners out of ~~69~~⁷⁰ infants read very well. The school is enjoying the progress in the department. Thanks to the Happy Readers Programme for assisting, improving the reading levels in the school.

Rusununguko appreciates the assistance and promises that Zero (0%) percent should be a thing of the past, it should cease. Bikita Minerals has done a great job. The school community really enjoys the progress in the school from inside the classroom to the outside.

THE HEADMASTER
RUSUNUNGUKE PRIMARY SCHOOL
07106/19
M. Mulewati
P. BAG 528
NYIKA

**From: Rusununguko Primary School
4430/8915**

Report on the Maheu Feeding Programme

**To: The Management
Bikita Minerals Pvt/ Ltd**

REPORT ON MAHEU PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY BIKITA MINERALS

The Maheu Feeding Programme was an answer to our prayers. We were eagerly waiting for such a programme as Rusununguko Primary School. The Programme contributes a lot to the health and education of our learners.

The Maheu programme augments the insufficient food most learners are exposed to due to drought conditions this year. Most families ^{were} heavily affected by the climatic conditions the area is suffering from currently. According to philosophers like Maslow, food is a basic need hence children are not easy to teach, they become restless.

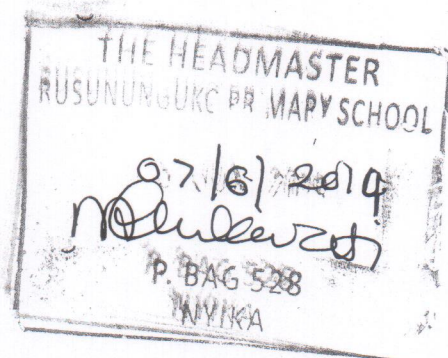
Most learners improve their performance after drinking Maheu. Teachers comment that the learners become more active after ^abreakdown ^{time}, all this ^{being} appraised in line with Maheu. A sample of learners' marks will be supplied next time as testimony.

The children's health is boosted by Maheu. An initial weight check is done every beginning of each term and compared to monthly weights. Most registers supplied to Bikita Minerals show that there is a gradual weight gain for most learners. There are however other learners who may have a decline of weight due to reasons like illness and inconsistency in drinking Maheu.

Rusununguko School would like to extend profound gratitude to Bikita Minerals for its generosity in giving the learners Maheu. The parents express their thankfulness in meetings. They like the programme. We hope the programme will continue. God bless.

Compiled by: Chamunorwa M.

Designation: T.I.C



Makotore Primary School

P O Box 230

Nyika

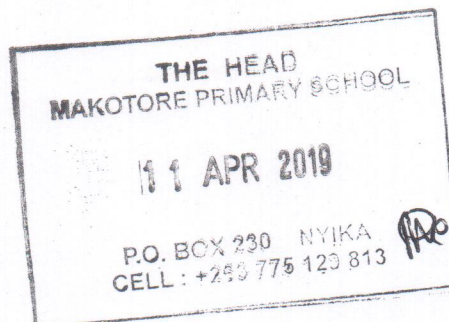
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The Manager

Bikita Minerals (Pvt)

Nyika

HAPPY READERS REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Makotore Primary School received her set of Happy readers on 05th March 2019. After putting the logistics into place of stamping, numbering and covering, we started using them as we were all excited and enthusiastic. We received 12 copies for each of the reading levels. We started using them on 7th March 2019 for the grades 1 and 2 with the following enrolment.

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
GRADE 1	31	12	43
GRADE 2	13	20	33
	44	32	76

Progress so far

A. Letter sounds

Grade 1 learners started by letter sounds and identification of pictures.

Problem letters are b, d, p, q, m; n only six learners have problems in interchanging the letters because of mirror reading.

Statistics

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Can sound letters A-Z	28	11	39
Cannot some letters A-Z	3	1	4
TOTALS	31	12	43

B. INDENTIFICATION OF PICTURES AND OBJECTS IN HAPPY READERS

WORD BOOK 1

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Can	22	8	30
Cannot identify some	9	4	13
Totals	31	12	43

C. Number cards

100% can now read, count and name objects and pictures on number cards.

D. Happy readers word book 1 ABC

Grade 1 learners have covered up to letter V page 23. 7 girls and 22 boys can now

- a) Name pictures
- b) Sound letters of alphabet
- c) Name sentences- here is a /an-----
This is a/ an -----
Look at the ----- etc

E. Obeying Instructions

All 43 learners in grade 1 can now obey simple instructions e.g. go to the -----

Walk to the -----

Sit on the ----- etc

Grade 1 ones have started on the phonic method reading and decoding words which has just been kick started. Progress is being observed from only a few.

Grade Twos started by reading related vocabulary in happy reader bkk1 Betty Bear.

11 girls and 8 boys are now able to read the vocabulary. Having mastered the vocabulary, they will embark on reading the actual book at the start of the few term.

Remarks

- Happy readers are very useful and handy in the teaching of first and second languages.
- They have come to assist in the building of learner's vocabulary.
- They expose teachers' variety of teaching strategies making reading simpler interesting and funny.
- They enhance and motivate learners to reading because of their attractive colours.
- All in all happy readers have come to make us happy.

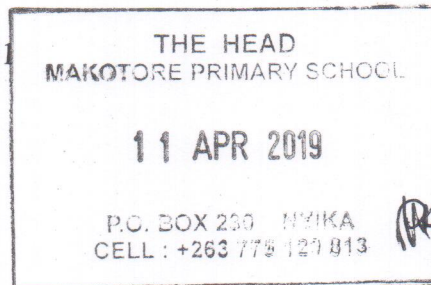
Conclusion

The above are comments to highlight how Makotore Primary School has started off with the happy readers. However, we are requesting if we could have an additional of books so that each of our learners has access to a book.

Thank you

Complied by

Chinomwe G (TIC Infants) 0772247715



C.C.

- The DSI
- The Head Makotore