

Zambia's Chamber of Mines upbeat about country's mining future

CBM-TEC event will gather 1500 mining experts in Kitwe in April

The CEO of the Chamber of Mines of Zambia, Mrs Maureen J Dlamini, says there is still a huge potential for green fields operations with high grade copper and other minerals available for exploitation in that country.

The Chamber's President, Mr. Emmanuel Mutati, heads up an impressive list of speakers at the upcoming Copperbelt Mining Trade Expo and Conference or **CBM-TEC** in Kitwe, Zambia from 28-29 April. Some 1500 mining experts are expected to attend the event.

Zambia a key player

Mrs Dlamini says Zambia is a key player in the global mining industry and is currently ranked 7th largest copper producer in the world. She adds: "we are pleased to note that the current government is willing to engage industry and the chamber in promoting the sector and further enhance its contribution to the economic advancement of the country. The chamber and the industry have been given the fora to interact with government on various policy related issues."

According to the Chamber CEO the main challenges to the industry include high energy and transport costs, a highly regulated environment, the fact that mining involves long term investment and skills shortages. She adds, however, that "Zambia is politically stable and has been for the past 49 years and will continue to be so, providing a stable environment for investors both local and foreign to operate in the sector. The industry itself is pooling its resources with the Chamber, government and training institutions to come up with skills development programmes to increase and improve the skills base of the sector. In so doing we are providing a pool of resources that the new investors can employ when starting their operations."

Putting the Copperbelt on the map

Zambia's Chamber of Mines decided to partner with **CBM-TEC** because the event "carries the theme of 'Putting Zambia's Copperbelt on the map' – local strategies for creating sustainable world-class mining operations, which tandem with the Chamber's role of promoting value addition and promotion of local entrepreneur's in the mining business."

Mrs Dlamini says the Chamber's message at **CBM-TEC** in Kitwe will be that "all countries in the world now, appreciate that they need new technology, technical expertise and funds from other countries for them to develop their own economies. **CBM-TEC** will help to create stakeholder linkages with various players in the country and abroad with a view to establishing productive partnership."

CBM-TEC

Organised in association with Electra Mining Africa, **CBM-TEC** consists of a professional attendance expo with free technical workshops, aimed at engineers, geologists and plant managers, and presentations plus a two-day strategic and operations-focused conference.

Confirmed speakers in the programme in Kitwe include:

- Zambia Development Agency, Zambia: Mr Mukula Makasa – MSE Director
- Kalumbila Minerals Ltd, Zambia: Mr Garth Lapperman, Resettlement and Community Engagement Manager
- Zambia Ministry of Environment: Mr Jewette Masinga, Former Permanent Secretary

- Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management: Mr Namuchana Musiwa, Former President
- Association of Zambian Exploration Companies: Mr Nathan Chishimba, President
- Lubambe Copper Mines, Zambia: Gary Strong, GM
- Chibuluma Copper Mines, Zambia: Jackson Sikamo, GM

Main conference topics are:

- ***Putting Zambia's Copperbelt on the map*** – local strategies for creating sustainable world-class mining operations
- Roadmap for developing ***the local supply chain***
- Creating a ***sustainable mining industry*** – best practices for managing the environment
- Creating optimal conditions for mining output – ***the energy question***
- ***Skilling up*** the Zambian mining sector – best practices
- ***Infrastructure*** requirements to boost mining operations
- ***Snapshot*** of mining exploration and mine expansion projects

Some 80 leading names in the mining community have already confirmed as exhibitors including: Murray & Roberts Zambia, Barloworld, Specialty Emergency Services, Mintek, Verder Pumps, Oryx oil, Set Point Zambia and more!