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Is Zimbabwe prepared to reap the benefits from BRICs investments?



Fig 1

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1.1 ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACR	Africa Consolidated Resources
ATRDT	Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust
BRICs	Brazil, Russia, India, China
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
CRD	Centre for Research and Development
CSOTs	Community Scheme Ownership Trusts
DMC	Diamond Mining Company
EMA	Environment Management Agency
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
EPO	Exclusive Prospectors Order
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
LEDZRIZ	Labour and Economic Development Research Institute, Zimbabwe
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KP	Kimberly Process
MPC	Mining Promotion Corporation
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZIA	Zimbabwe Investment Authority
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZMDC	Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2. Introduction

The Goldman Sachs report of 2003 predicted —BRICs countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China could become the world's largest economies in 50 years. The past decade has seen BRICS countries contributing more than 50 percent of the world's economic growth and more than 20 percent of world economic output according to global market reports. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from these five economies rose from \$7 billion in 2000 to \$145 billion in 2012, accounting for 10 per cent of the world total and their Transnational Corporations are increasingly becoming active in Africa (UNCTAD: 2013). Although the UNCTAD report indicates that most BRICS FDI projects in Africa are in manufacturing and services, there has been a scramble by BRICS nations to exploit Africa's vast natural resources in recent years.

The failure of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) and its related hardships between 1997 and 2008 led government to adopt ad hoc economic policies that were characterized by irrational controls, policy inconsistencies and reversals, most significant of these failures being the fast track land reform programme (LEDRIZ 2012). This was further worsened by government's failure to respect the rule of law in implementing the agrarian reforms moreover the continued use of violence to suppress democratic voice led to withdrawal of western aid to government of Zimbabwe. Saddled with ballooning debts to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank including isolation from the West, the ZANU PF government adopted the look east policy in 2003 in a bid to rescue its ailing economy.

2.1 Economic linkages with BRICS

The look east policy saw BRICS countries such as China, Russia and India obtaining a foothold in Zimbabwe's key economic sectors such as mining and agriculture. When Marange diamonds were put under trade restriction by the Kimberly Process (KP) in 2009, India rushed to buy these undervalued rough diamonds creating over 60 000 jobs for its cutting and polishing industry in Surat (Times of India February 2012). If Indians are allowed to have their way at New Zim Steel in Kwekwe, Indian diversified group, ESSAR Holding, out of a capital injection of 750 million dollars will gain access to Zimbabwe's iron ore reserves at Buchwa estimated to be above 33 billion tones according to Minister Chidhakwa. It is alleged that the company plans to build a railway line from Chivhu to the port of Beira in Mozambique.

A Russian registered company OZGEO, in partnership with the Development Trust of Zimbabwe, acquired exclusive prospecting orders for gold, diamonds and platinum in Zimbabwe in 1995. The last decade has seen the company extracting alluvial gold along the Mutare River in direct violation with the Zimbabwe's environmental laws. The company is also mining diamonds in Chimanimani. Mining operations are shrouded in secrecy with very little resources going towards community development. A state media report indicate that Russian firms Rostec and Vneshekonombank acquired 40 percent in government controlled

Ruschrome Mining company which is licenced to mine the Darwendale platinum deposit that holds —19 tonnes of platinum reserves and 775 total tones of other metals .|(Herald 29 July 2014). Mining at Darwendale according to this report is scheduled to commence early in 2015.

Zimbabwe Investment Authority (ZIA) has approved over 2.25 billion business proposals from China, constituting more than 50% of the total proposals. Since the dollarization in 2009 the proposals have been spread across varying sectors of the economy including the mining, manufacturing, construction and agricultural sector. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has risen from 11.2 million in 2009 to 605 million by end of 2013 (ZIA 2014). With support from EXim Bank of China, Chinese companies have invested heavily in hydro-electric power generation and other water and sanitation projects. In the agriculture sector China has become Zimbabwe’s biggest buyer of cheap Zimbabwean tobacco and companies like Sino-Zimbabwe Cotton have mortgaged desperate indigenous farmers with loans to grow cotton for them through contract farming. China has provided loans and agricultural equipment to support agrarian reform in Zimbabwe. In his article published in The Herald, Chinese Ambassador described the relationship with Zimbabwe as —jointly inclusive development, based on mutual benefit and win win results.¶ Ambassador Lin Lin also indicated that President Mugabe’s State visit to China opened new bilateral relations between Zimbabwe and China.

3.0 Zimbabwe/China mining venture in Marange Diamond fields.

3.1 Government Perspective

In 2009 Zimbabwe partnered with China, creating a diamond mining venture in Marange. The partnership, Anjin Investments Private Limited, saw the Zimbabwe Defense Industry claiming 40 percent of the shares and ZMDC taking 10 percent. According to government sources, the remaining 50% goes to Chinese investors. Under this arrangement Anjin automatically complied with the country’s indeginisation law which demands that foreign investors cede 51 percent shares to indigenous Zimbabweans. The mining company described by its Chinese investors as —the biggest diamond mining company in the world¶ had 7 diamond processing plants which produced over 1 million carats per month between 2010 and 2013. However operations at the mining giant over the years have been mired in controversy with both government and civil society raising serious concern over accountability and transparency issues.



Fig 2 Large scale alluvial diamond mining underway at Anjin, Chirasia in Chiadzwa

In their report to parliament in 2013 the portfolio committee on mines described the government's presence at Anjin, Mbada and DMC as, —bystanders despite having 50 percent ownership. In 2012 finance minister Biti suspected that the Ministry of Defence was running a parallel government after Anjin failed to submit revenue to treasury in spite of making huge profits. In his comments early this year mines minister Chidhakwa said; —plans to overhaul Chiadzwa diamond mining operations are driven by pillage and graft and the move will affect six companies including Anjin. Government approved a loan facility of US 98 million from China for the construction of a national defence college in Mazowe on condition that Anjin would use proceeds from Marange diamonds to repay the loan.

3.2 Community Perspectives

Anjin started mining operations in Marange amid allegations of disposing hazardous chemicals and sludge into both the Odzi and the Save rivers. As a result, several villagers have lost their livestock after drinking contaminated water from these rivers or out of drowning in unprotected mine dams. Whilst mining companies have traded accusations over the dumping of hazardous substances in these rivers, most villagers interviewed by CRD pointed at Anjin as the major culprit. Although Environmental Management Agency (EMA) could not single out Anjin, it however admitted that the possibilities of effluent finding its way into water sources were high because several mining companies did not have water facilities of recommended standards that use the evaporation system. Attempts by village heads and councilors to seek compensation over loss of their livestock from Anjin failed to materialise because EMA and Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) could not provide adequate evidence to back their claims. More than 500 cattle, sheep and goats belonging to villagers living in communities adjacent to Marange have died after drinking [contaminated water from Save and Odzi rivers](#).

3.2.1 Were the communities better off under artisanal diamond mining?

The CRD recently conducted a survey in the Anjin mining community following numerous reports of unfair labour practices. This culminated in the strike by semi-skilled workers in 2012. Most respondents interviewed confirmed that Anjin had the worst labour practices of all of the mining companies operating in Marange. A wide range of labour related issues such as unlawful dismissals, inconsistent wages, and exposure to dust without protective clothing were raised during the interviews. Some respondents alleged that they were physically manhandled by their Chinese bosses because they could not understand the sign language used when instructions were given. Both army officials and Chinese managers were hostile to the idea of workers forming workers unions at Anjin. Patrice Mabika the then chairman of the workers committee in 2012 and his four colleagues were dismissed on trumped up charges after the strike. According to the respondents of the survey, the new chairperson of the workers committee was handpicked by the executive at Anjin.



Fig 3 Patrick Mabika (52 years) ID NO 44-090-301P-44 of Nenhowe the then chairman of the workers committee in 2012 when workers went on strike to demand better wages and improved conditions of service was dismissed on trumped up charges without a salary by Anjin. According to him “Chinese only care about production not the safety of their workers”

One respondent described the working conditions as horrible and unhealthy.

—We are working in very bad conditions, horrible conditions. After a blast, it takes an hour for the dust, gases, and fumes to move out of the area. But with the Chinese, they say, “Go, go, rush right away!” And if you don’t, they’ll terminate your contract. So we go straight into an area full of fumes and dust.... The doctor said that these gases have caused my ulcers and chest pain

Tapiwa Saurombe aged 28 years bemoaned the coming of formal mining in Marange. Tapiwa lived a decent life whilst working as a diamond panner during the diamond rush. He managed to build a three bedroom house for his family and bought a truck to use for his various income generating projects. According to Tapiwa his problems started when he got a job at Anjin in 2011.

“I was working in the jaw crushing area without protective clothing and i had to improvise using mutton cloth to cover my mouth and nose in 2011 but the intensity of the dust was overwhelming to the extent that you could not see someone working one metre away from you. I started coughing persistently over the years producing blood stained saliva. I was taken to Mutambara hospital by Anjin where i tested positive to Tuberculosis (TB) and was put on six months treatment. The Company paid a full two month salary but put me on half pay for the next four months and then stopped paying me after that. A senior security officer called Colonel Sedze whom I was referred to by Chinese management after my salary was ceased, told me that the company did not pay unproductive people.”

Tapiwa never fully recovered from his illness at the same time he could no longer afford to buy prescription drugs since he had lost his job. The truck that he was using to generate income had broken down and needed service and new tyres. Quizzed by CRD if he will ever work for Anjin in the event that he recovers, Tapiwa said he would rather start a poultry project than return to Anjin. According to him Chinese are the worst thing that has happened to Zimbabwe after colonization. Tapiwa sadly succumbed to his illnesses a month after granting CRD this interview. Although he provided medical reports that showed that he contracted TB during his time at Anjin, no medical records were readily made available to prove that he contracted TB as a result of direct exposure to dust from the mine. The CRD made relentless efforts to get a response from Anjin on all allegations leveled against it without success. In 2013 the public relations officer for Anjin granted CRD an interview on community rights at Anjin headquarters but she was stopped half way through the discussion by one of her superiors.



Fig 4.1 & 2 Tapiwa's hey days during informal artisanal diamond mining. He bought a truck and build a 3 bed roomed house.



Fig 4.3 Tapiwa's last days before he passed away a month later.

3.3 Victims of forced relocations continue to fight for socio-economic rights at Arda Transau.

Anjin built 474 houses at Arda Transau in 2010 for over 400 families they forcibly dislocated from Marange without due compensation. The company used its influence in government to dupe poor villagers to accept food handouts and disturbance allowances whilst promising to address their socio-economic rights upon relocation to Arda Transau. A few years into relocation, Anjin abandoned the community without fulfilling commitments made in Marange that were meant to address livelihood issues.



Fig 5.1& 2 The Community drawing water from unprotected wells since 2010 after ZINWA switched off water supplies demanding payment upfront. Anjin provided chemicals for water treatment that lasted for only 6 months soon after relocation. Negotiations between ZINWA and ATRDT resulted in water being switched on early this year. Families have no choice but to contribute 5 dollars per head in spite of the high level of unemployment in the community.

Beginning of 2010 saw the CRD undertaking various advocacy initiatives to raise awareness on the rights of relocated communities at Arda Transau. These initiatives increased community's knowledge on their rights thus inspired the community to form Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust (ATRDT) in 2013. Through the trust members of the community at Arda have been speaking with one voice and meeting with various stakeholders including government as they uptake efforts to claim their rights.



The Zimbabwean Miners must pay money pledged to Trust

The refusal by the diamond mining companies to fulfill their initial \$10 million pledge to the Marange-Zimunya Community Share Ownership Trust undermines the President, who commissioned the Trust in 2012



A clinic constructed by Anjin at Arda Transau relocation site.

Marange miners had pledged \$50m towards the trust, but not a cent had been realized. Meanwhile, a severe food crisis is looming at Arda Transau as mines cut food supplies.

[Click here to read full article](#)



Arda Transau settlers take govt head-on

MUTARE — The Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust (ATRDT) has urged the government to address the issue of unfulfilled commitments made by diamond mining companies which relocated villagers from Marange to Odzi.

CLAYTON MASEKESA
About 1 000 families from Chiadzwa diamond fields were relocated to Arda Transau in Odzi in 2012, to pave way for mining activities.

ATRDT chairman Cephas Gwayagwaya said the community was concerned that government recently announced plans to merge mining companies in Marange before addressing the issue of the relocated families.



Arda Transau relocation: A tale of unfulfilled promises

When villagers from Chiadzwa diamonds fields in Marange were relocated to Arda Transau in 2009 to pave way for diamond mining, they were promised a better life



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Displaced Marange villagers starve as miners scoot



No water supplies ... Few boreholes sunk by gem companies banned as water was rusty

[Click here to read full article](#)

3.3.1 Anjin finally acknowledges the cultural rights of Kambeni.

The Kambeni family was dumped into temporary shelters at Arda Transau by Anjin in 2010. Kambeni refused to take up shelter in a ten room compound house demanding fourteen separate houses for his polygamous family as had been agreed by all parties concerned in Marange. Kambeni had more than ten houses in Marange that were constructed separately in line with his traditional beliefs before they were demolished by Anjin to pave way for alluvial diamond mining. Over the years, Anjin made several attempts to force Mr. Kambeni and his fourteen wives to move into the Anjin built compound without success. Kambeni remained resolute in fighting for his cultural rights in spite of living in squalid conditions at Arda Transau. ATRDT lobbied for Kambeni's rights at civic society platforms and released media statements pleading with Anjin to meet Kambeni's rightful demands. Anjin finally succumbed to these community efforts and opened doors for Mr. Kambeni's eight wives four years after relocation. ATRDT will continue to work with its partners in civic society to lobby Anjin so that it meets all of the accommodation requirements for the remaining six wives of the Kambeni family. 54 families drawn from Marange Resources, Mbada and Jinan are still living with their extended families at Arda Transau yet there are 123 unoccupied houses built by Marange Resources. The CRD will continue to capacitate ATRDT to effectively lead the community at Arda Transau in claiming their socio-economic rights that were violated by mining companies in Marange.



Fig 6.1 Shows the controversial compound Anjin built for Kambeni and his 14 wives in direct violation of his cultural practice. **Fig 2** and **3** shows some of Kambeni's wives finally occupying some of the houses the company had been holding on to for the past four years whilst the Kambeni family live like squatters at the farm. Villagers believe army officials were earmarked to occupy these houses at the expense of some relocated families who are still living with their relatives at Arda after failing to secure accommodation from Anjin.

3.4 Adherence to community share ownership scheme.

Mining companies in Marange pledged to meet the Indeginisation and Economic Empowerment requirements by contributing 10% from mining proceeds to Zimunya-Marange Community Share Ownership scheme. Only \$400,000 from Mbada and Marange Resources has been given to the trust against the projected \$50 million dollars ever since mining operations began in 2009. In his comments in the media Francis Nhema, the Indeginisation Minister said that these —gentleman’s agreements‡ were honoured for several Community Scheme Ownership Trusts (CSOTs) elsewhere except for Zimunya-Marange.

Appearing before the portfolio committee on Indeginisation trust members argued that companies pledged an initial deposit of 1.5 million dollars when the trust was launched in 2012 but they did not honour the pledge. Former Indeginisation Minister Kasukuwere refused to appear before parliament to give reasons on why he misled the people of Marange to believe that mining companies had committed US 10 million each for the trust. When invited to parliament Anjin told the portfolio committee on Indeginisation that they had openly told Kasukuwere that Anjin did not have funds for the Zimunya –Marange Community Share Ownership Trust.

In spite of their disruptive mining practices, mining companies have not carried out any remarkable social responsibility activities for the communities in Marange. Minister Chidhakwa blamed mining companies for the deplorable state of the roads in Marange and described their attitudes as —fly by nights‡... —Who just come to take and leave nothing behind‡ (Herald 9 December 2013). Representatives from Anjin, Marange Resources and DMC mining companies made commitments to resuscitate irrigation schemes in communities adjacent to Marange in 2012 but eventually abandoned the idea. Only food handouts and agricultural inputs have sometimes been given to communities by mining companies. Mining companies like Mbada Diamonds have used divide and rule tactics by showering traditional leaders with expensive gifts and cars. Mansions have also been built for traditional leaders at the expense of community development in Marange. Anjin occupies the biggest mining concession in terms of hectarage and villagers complain of severe dust emissions coming from their blasting sites. The company has not undertaken any meaningful developmental projects for the community of Marange as part of its social corporate responsibility.



Fig 7.1.Final touches to Headman Mukada’s house by Mbada Diamonds. **Fig 7.2.**Rest of the community lives in such houses. Formal mining of Diamonds in Marange has not uplifted the living standards of the rest of the community.

3.5 Is the end in sight at Anjin?

Citing viability challenges, Anjin has recently reduced its workforce from 1800 to less than 500 workers. Mine director Munyaradzi Muchacha told mines minister Chidhakwa in his maiden trip to Marange early this year that Anjin —wanted to be immediately allocated new mining claims with resources for them to continue operating according to government sources. There has not been adequate exploration to establish the exact diamond endowment of the fields (Mungure 2012). De Beers held Exclusive Prospectors' Order (EPO) over Marange for over 15 years and carried out covert diamond operations. Despite winning in the courts, Africa Consolidated Resources (ACR) was kicked out of Marange by the Government on allegations that they did not follow proper procedures in acquiring mineral rights to mine the diamonds in Marange. The Government rushed to parcel the diamond fields to different investors and failed to undertake adequate and comprehensive geological surveys of the diamond fields. Compounding this issue is the fact that the geological survey unit in Zimbabwe lacks modern equipment, funding and training.

The Treasury recently awarded 5 million USD to operationalise the activities of the Mining Promotion Corporation (MPC). According to Chidhakwa;—*This Company should make sure that identified (mineral) deposits will be allocated to State institutions and made available to private organisations for optimised sustainable development and operations for the benefit of the nation.* (The Herald, May 6 2014). This development is laudable if implemented but it will not improve the current mining trends due to the fact that the Government is unable to gain an objective perspective because they rely heavily on information coming from mining companies.

In May 2014 civil society groups in Manicaland released a statement which called for the Government to cease mining operations in Marange to allow independent audits of mining operations. In spite of the Government admitting that Zimbabwe might have lost billions of dollars due to lack of transparency and accountability in Marange, the ministry of mines did not heed the call and preferred mergers instead. It has been four months since this announcement and Government has only managed to merge two companies. These are Marange Resources, where the Government has monopoly ownership and Gye Nyame whose licence was withdrawn under controversial circumstances. Other mining giants such as DMC, Mbada diamonds and Anjin have not merged in this phase but instead downsized to minimize operational costs whilst accelerating mining operations. Hundreds of workers have either lost their jobs or had their salaries arbitrary slashed ever since the Government announced plans to merge mining operations. Anjin is reported to be stifling the merging process in Marange irrespective of government threats to take drastic measures against it.



Fig 8 Dumper Trucks parked at Anjin as company shut down some of its plants in Marange.

4.0 Conclusion

Exploitation of natural resources must be equitable and sustainable. Diamond mining at Anjin has, to a large extent, revealed worst mining practices that are exclusionary and unsustainable (Mashingaidze 2014). Transparency and accountability challenges have dominated their mining activities resulting in insignificant revenue contribution to government. The mining venture has been accused of human rights violations notably against workers and the community. Anjin has dislocated more than 474 families to Arda Transau without exercising due diligence to their social and economic rights. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) —Africa and its individual countries must deploy high-quality resources to manage the Africa –BRICS relationship, in a dialogue of equals---build negotiation capacity to be effective in bilateral forums, as well as to handle large and complex commodity deals. (UNECA 2013). Nathaniel Manheru alleged to be Presidential Spokesperson George Charamba in one of his weekly articles to the herald described the situation at Anjin as a —national tragedy (Nathaniel Manheru, (The Herald, March 22 2014)) after his discussion with Chidhakwa who had made a maiden visit to Marange as the new minister of mines.

Manheru vividly described Chidhakwa’s conversation with a Zimbabwean representative working for Anjin as follows.

—So, what is happening here”, asked the Minister, tall ears ready. “A hmm, a hmmm I don’t know, Cde Minister.”

“But you are our representative in the joint venture?” “Ahmmm, yes Minister, but the Chinese brought in their own people.” “Yes, they were minding their own interests, you were minding ours?” “Yes Sir, but all the papers on the mining activity are in Chinese.”

“So full of shame and a shared sense of national mortification, national tragedy... (Nathaniel Manheru, (The Herald, March 22 2014)).

Zimbabwean representatives at Anjin are from the army that has no proven record of running huge mining projects in Zimbabwe. President Xi Jinping of China described Zimbabwe-China relationship as —mutual, built on win win results and common development,|| when Mugabe visited China this year. Mugabe describes China as an —all weather|| friend a view not shared by the bulk of Zimbabweans who have interacted with Chinese operations in the country. The mining contract for Anjin and dividend paid to shareholders remains largely secretive and Zimbabweans have no idea of how their diamond resource is being managed. The mining communities around Anjin continue to wallow in poverty 5 years after the company started mining alluvial diamonds.

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