



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

OPENING SPEECH  
BY HON. RICHARD MUSUKWA, MP, MINISTER OF  
MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT,  
AT THE PANAFGEO TRAINING ON ARTISANAL AND  
SMALL-SCALE MINING: 19<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2018

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**The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development**

**The UN Resident Coordinator, Janet Rogan**

**The EU Head of Delegation to Zambia, His Excellency Alessandro Mariani**

**Senior Government Officials,**

**Participants from neighbouring countries**

**Members of the press**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my honour to grace this training workshop aimed at building capacity of regulatory agencies in Zambia to effectively manage the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) Sector. This is in line with the Seventh National Development Plan. The Plan has prioritised promotion of small scale mining and exploitation of development minerals as key to job creation and economic diversification. This training programme, therefore, could not have come at better time than this when the country is promoting and focusing on diversification within and across sectors.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Despite being endowed with a variety of mineral resources, Zambia continued to be highly dependent on copper. The exploitation of copper has not supported growth of a diversified and resilient economy. Policy initiatives to diversify the economy after the privatisation of copper mines have not yielded much results. Challenges that have led to this include: inadequate capacity of Government to support the growth of a productive ASM sub-sector; weak backward and forward production linkages between the mining sector and other sectors; and inadequate environmental management systems in mining.

The potential of ASM to contribute to economic development has been highlighted in past National Development Plans but very little has been achieved. This could be attributed to the manner in which programmes to address challenges in the sector were designed. Most, if not all the programmes focused on empowering the miners, no attention was paid to build the capacity of the regulatory agencies to provide the necessary support services.

ASM, as you know, has its own peculiarities different from large scale mining which require certain capacities to be developed within regulatory agencies. I am glad that today we have commenced this process by conducting training for regulatory agencies which will culminate in the development of a handbook on ASM. The Handbook will work as a guide for both the regulators and the miners.

The development of the handbook will also reflect experiences from other countries in the region. For this I commend the organizers, PanAfGeo.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Mining remains the prime mover of Zambia's economic growth and this cannot be doubted. For this reason, my Government will continue to encourage investment in the mining sector not only to ensure increased copper production but also exploitation of other minerals, mostly those mined by ASM. In this way Government will spur development of other sectors thus contributing to economic diversification and job creation. With diversification of mineral production and enhanced productivity of ASM, I am confident that Zambia will continue to develop and the standards of living of

our people will be improved. This is the primary objective of the Government's investment policy and a situation most desired by our people in Zambia.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me take advantage of this workshop to highlight some of the other initiatives aimed at developing ASM in Zambia.

1. Geological information being key to the development of mining, Government is focusing on generating geological information that can easily be accessed by ASM.
2. With the strengthening of the institutional framework, provision of technical extension services will be enhanced to ensure safe and efficient mining by ASM.
3. Promotion of investment and facilitation of market linkages is another focus area. Most ASM have challenges accessing the market. Government will come up with interventions to facilitate market linkages for the ASM.

4. Working with Cooperating Partners, Government is developing mechanisms to facilitate ASM access affordable financing.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

In conclusion, let me express my gratitude to the organisers and sponsors, (the European Union, United Nations Development Programme and the Pan-African Support to the EuroGeoSurveys Organisations of African Geological Surveys) of this training workshop for a job well done. I am optimistic that the training and handbook that will be produced will go a long way in assisting the Ministry and other regulatory agencies better manage the ASM sector. I urge all participants to take advantage of this and acquire as much knowledge as possible.

It is now my honour to declare the workshop officially open.

I thank you.