



THE WEEKLY



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RESIDENTS RESIST DESTRUCTIVE CHINESE MINING AT CHRISTMAS PASS

By Donald Nyarota

In the wake of a clandestine consultative process engineered by a shadowy Chinese investor, accused of decimating the pristine environs of the Christmas Pass Mountain range in Mutare, the Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) has issued a strong condemnation.

In a hard-hitting statement, CNRG states that the holding of a dubious “EIA Toronto Mining Stakeholders Engagement Meeting” convened on 22 October 2025 at the SDA Church is a sham.

This so-called consultation represents yet another attempt by mining interests to manipulate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, silence affected communities, and rubber-stamp environmentally destructive projects without genuine public participation, reads part of the statement.

Residents who talked to The Weekly about this shadowy process said the meeting was ditched in the middle as they collectively spoke against the further plunder of their pristine environs.

“We have talked to the Mutasa RDC council that they cannot come in representing the interests of the miners when they should represent us, the people,” said Tendai Manyeza, vice chairman of Greater Toronto Residents Association (GTRA). Reports indicate three groups operating in the area: illegal artisanal miners (makorokoza), Toronto Mines seeking to conduct deep shaft mining, and Chad’s Mining, which claims residency and land ownership.

At the meeting, Chad Mining admitted mining on land designated for housing and apologized, while EMA has issued a rehabilitation order requiring them and their Chinese partners to restore gullies, rehabilitate the mountain, and replant trees before the rains. Toronto Mines further claimed ownership of gold claims stretching from the Mutare River to the Christmas Pass and Mutanda Range, but none of the companies produced any documentation to support their claims.

After introductions, residents categorically rejected any mining activities in the Christmas Pass Mountain area and refused to continue with the meeting. Mutasa RDC requested residents, through the GTRA, to formally write their objections and reasoning. **(cont on page 3)**



A chaotic combination: Unregulated artisanal and small scale gold mining at Christmas Pass Mountain

SABI STAR MINE BLASTING DAMAGES HOMES IN BUHERA

By Donald Nyarota

The Weekly has received a report from concerned residents highlighting the plight of villagers affected by mine blasting activities at the Chinese-owned Sabi Star Mining Company in Buhera District.

According to the report, repeated blasting at the lithium mine has left several homes with deep cracks, raising serious safety and health concerns among residents. Villagers fear their houses may collapse if blasting continues unchecked.

The community is calling for urgent government intervention to investigate the extent of the damage and ensure that mining operations comply with environmental and safety regulations.

In acknowledging receipt of the report, we urge authorities to respond promptly to protect the rights and well-being of affected families. Chinese-owned Sabi Star lithium mine, built in 2022 by PowerChina, covers 2,637 ha in Manicaland and is slated to churn out 900,000t of ore annually. It's held by MaxMind Investments, a subsidiary of Chengxin Lithium Group



Blasting scars: A picture of a cracked house in Buhera

MaxMind operations have come at the cost of displacing families from their homes and land without what they feel was proper consultation. The rapid extraction of energy transition minerals (ETMs) exposes communities to displacement risks. Climate emergency and rapid ETMs extraction often undermines affected people's agency.

AFRICAN YOUTH LEAD THE CHARGE ON CLIMATE ACTION

By Tanaka Ndongera

In the face of an escalating climate crisis, Africa's youth are stepping up to demand action and drive solutions. With 527 million young people aged 15-35 calling Africa home, this dynamic demographic is poised to reshape the continent's approach to climate change, security, and migration. However, they can't do it alone the African Union (AU) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) must step up to support their efforts.

Climate Change is a Pressing Threat to Africa as Climate change disproportionately affects Africa, despite the continent's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. The impacts are already severe extreme weather events, including intense rains, dangerous storms, and prolonged droughts, are becoming more frequent and severe, water sources are drying up, threatening agriculture and food security, rising sea levels endanger coastal communities, climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, fishing, and tourism the backbone of many African economies are under increasing strain. These environmental pressures exacerbate existing challenges, potentially driving conflict, forced migration, and economic instability.

The Power of Youth-Led Action is very critical and needed as Africa's youth are uniquely positioned to lead on climate solutions through Activism with Movements like Fridays for Future have already shifted the climate debate, pushing it higher on political agendas.

Innovation as young people are at the forefront of developing technological and social innovations for a sustainable future, Changing social norms where youth culture can drive shifts in consumption, transportation, and other behaviors towards more sustainable practices and Climate diplomacy. Increasingly, young people are becoming negotiators in international climate discourse. Some of the successful youth-led climate initiatives in Africa has been the Climate Wednesday led by International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI) Africa based in Nigeria which is a leading youth voice on climate change which seeks to build climate-smart generation across Africa.

Also there is Climate Hub Tanzania which is a dynamic and influential youth-led national non-profit organization committed to championing climate sustainability and environmental conservation from the grassroots level and lastly African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) which is the umbrella network of all youth organizations in Africa working on climate change and was launched during the International Conference of Youth prior to the UNFCCC, COP 12 in 2006 which has a shared vision of An African continent with an empowered and united youth movement, proactively involved in the decision making process and the adoption of sustainable options towards a better climate and social equity.

RESIDENTS RESIST DESUTRUCTIVE CHINES MINING AT CHRISTMAS PASS

(from page 1) Christmas Pass, Mutare's iconic gateway and breathtaking landmark, faces irreversible environmental damage as mineral-hungry mining tears into its slopes, threatening Toronto residential areas and Hillcrest College, a private school nearby.

CNRG's investigations reveal that residents were not properly informed, nor given access to information about the project, with the letter announcing the consultation having no clear name of the company.

Further, invitations were issued selectively, deliberately excluding key stakeholders such as community leaders, environmental watchdogs, and local civil society groups. The use of a church as the venue and the absence of official EMA communication further underscore the illegitimacy and clandestine nature of the meeting.

Given the controversy surrounding the Toronto Mining project, the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) should have led official public hearings, with proper notice given to all stakeholders.

Section 100 of Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Act mandates pre-approval public consultations that must include affected communities, traditional leaders, residents' associations, and civil society organizations.

"Authentic EIA consultations must be transparent, inclusive, and conducted in good faith, ensuring communities can meaningfully engage with the potential environmental and social impacts of a proposed project," CNRG stated.

CNRG urges EMA to immediately nullify the fraudulent meeting, investigate its organizers, and ensure future EIA processes adhere to principles of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).

"Mining projects that begin in secrecy and deceit can only result in environmental degradation, displacement, and social conflict. Zimbabwe's natural resources must be governed openly, in the best interests of its people, not through covert deals and manipulated EIA processes."



An exposed underbelly of the Christmas Pass Mountain range which has attracted the ire of residents

IN PICTURES: PLUNDER OF LITHIUM AT BIKITA MINERALS**MY EXPERIENCE AT THE PEOPLE'S COP AGENDA EVENT: A STEP TOWARDS COP30****By Prisca Makore**

Recently, I attended an event at the Golden Conifer Event's Avondale in Harare, hosted by the Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG). The event was about "Beyond Green Washing" and getting ready for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, which is happening from November 10 to 21, 2025.

The event brought together people from marginalized communities across Zimbabwe, including those from Bikita, who shared their experiences with climate change. They talked about how droughts are getting worse, rainfall is becoming unpredictable, and temperatures are rising, making life even harder for small-scale farmers and exacerbating existing social issues.

Some of the key speakers included Honorable Joana Mamombe, Minister of Environment, Climate, and Wildlife, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality, Farai Maguwu, Executive Director of CNRG, and Donald Nyarota, communications and advocacy officer at CNRG. They all emphasized the need for African-led solutions, climate justice, and advocated for grants instead of loans to help with climate adaptation and mitigation.

Honorable Joana Mamombe stressed how important it is to include marginalized voices in global climate talks. Maguwu advocated for policies that are transparent and provide direct support to vulnerable communities. "We need to make sure that climate action is people-centered and not just about profit," he said. The discussions highlighted Zimbabwe's preparations for COP30, building on outcomes from COP29, where countries agreed on a new climate finance goal and transitioning away from fossil fuels. Zimbabwe is pushing for increased climate finance, just energy

transition, and inclusion of marginalized communities in decision-making. Zimbabwe is taking steps to address climate change, including a new Climate Change Management Bill that aims to align national climate action with environments rights in the constitution and speed up the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The country produces 8 million tons of greenhouse gases, with 43% per capita emissions, and faces severe climate impacts like cyclones and droughts, necessitating \$10 billion for adaptation by 2030. Globally, there's a growing recognition of the need for collective action on climate change.

The International Court of Justice has ruled that countries must work together to curb emissions and protect the environment. As Zimbabwe gets ready for COP30, it's clear that the country will be pushing for more climate finance, a just energy transition, and inclusion of marginalized communities in decision-making. Zimbabwe's climate action plans highlight African-led initiatives like community granaries, zero tillage, and rainwater harvesting to build resilience.



Empowering Voices - Female delegates follow proceedings at the People's COP

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FEMINIST PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH IN MASVINGO

By Staff Reporter

The Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) conducted a series of Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) workshops in Masvingo's Chiridza and Bikita Districts, aimed at equipping communities with the knowledge and skills to investigate the gendered and intersectional impacts of extractive industries.

At the training, communications and advocacy officer Donald Nyarota said under the project titled Enhancing Advocacy and Capacity Building of CBOs and CSOs for Natural Resource Governance and Community Led Engagement (ENABLE), communities will be co-authoring research.

The ENABLE project is co-funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with Bread for the World, across three provinces: Masvingo, Manicaland, and Matebeleland South.

"It is critical that we engage communities through such participatory research to ensure that the research reflects their lived experiences, priorities, and challenges, and that the outcomes directly inform policies and interventions that benefit them. By co-authoring the research, communities are not just subjects but active partners in shaping sustainable natural resource governance and advocating for their rights. This approach strengthens local ownership, accountability, and the long-term impact of our initiatives," he said.

Facilitator Melody Rumbidzai Kuzomunhu, public education officer with the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, said the training focuses on practical research skills like collecting evidence, documenting women's experiences, conducting interviews and focus groups, and turning lived stories into actionable insights.

"Through this program, women and youth are not just participants, they are community researchers, ready to advocate for social and environmental justice in their districts," said Kuzomunhu. Participants will engage in field visits, collect data, and prepare reports to share with key stakeholders during validation workshops.

This initiative also fosters collaboration and networking, connecting participants with local authorities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. Research findings translate into practical actions and policies that address gendered inequalities in mining-affected

POETRY CORNER: SPOKEN WORD BY SHAKESPEAR MAPFUMO.

Young people ,sharp minds, Young hands, strong and free minds.

The powerhouse to the future of the nation and the world at large.

Energetic and rightful Overseers of natural resources- the land, water and everything in it.

Young people, Young people!

They Rise and forever last

Their footprints in the world of natural resources has given us an indicator of what tomorrow will surely bring.

A better tomorrow they proclaim!

From Cap to Cairo ,and from desert vast ,to savannahs,

The voices of young people on natural resources management are becoming more vocal by day,

Their ideas are framing the protection structure of this heritage preserved, day in day out.

They have bodied themselves into the story!

Young people are seen in tree plantation activities, giving birth to a greener tomorrow.

Their heads up ,hearts aflame and voices loud , for a good and sustainable future ,they advocate!.

Eyes of the Youths in Zimbabwe are arrowed towards, clean water , farmlands ,proper mining rights and fishing rights and many more,

They foster inclusive and participatory natural resources management.

The young hearts of Zimbabweans also beat with a noble pride of the beautiful valleys ,hills, waterfalls ,springs and mountains found in the arms of the nation, Zimbabwe.



Women participants follow proceedings during an FPAR training