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Business

Malawi's Kanyika Niobium Mine awaits board's nod to proceed

By Collins Mtika, Nyasa Times October 31, 2012 · 8 Comments Email This Post

The fate of the much awaited Kanyika Niobium Project in Mzimba district northern Malawi lies in the hands of the board of directors of the parent company Globe Metals and Mining which will meet in February 2013 to review the project after five years of ground work.

Globe is currently carrying out a definitive feasibility study (DFS) on the Project, which is planned for completion in December 2012.

The company therefore expects to be able to submit an application for a mining licence for the Project well before the expiry of the current exploration licence, which ends in December 2013.

"The decision mainly will centre on the Feasibility study which we have already done because it has major economic implications and also on whether the Malawi government has approved our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report," Globe Metals and Mining Country Manager Chrispine Ngwenya said.

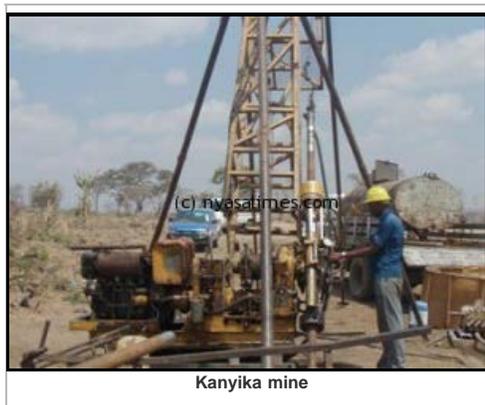
Once operational, the Kanyika Niobium Mine will be the first of its kind in Africa but the fourth in the world after two other mines in Brazil and one in Canada.

With a projected life span of 20 years and an annual output of 3000 metric tonnes of Niobium metal, the Mine is expected to rake in US\$180million (MK50 billion) per year in revenues and employ 2000 Malawians in the construction phase and 800 operations start.

But should the board, which comprises of the Chinese with a major stake and the Australians, decide other wise it means the company will have registered a US\$150 million (MK48 billion) loss.

Ferro-niobium is a critical additive in the production of sophisticated steels.

The Kanyika Mining project will be the second major mining operation in the country after the Kayelekera Uranium Mine in Karonga district.



Kanyika mine

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Ngwena disclosed this during a public sensitization meeting of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report the company compiled and submitted to the Malawi government.

Ngwena said the (EIA) report is one of the prerequisite for the company to be granted a Mining Licence.

Principal Environmental Officer in the department of Environmental Affairs Allan Kazipute said government will scrutinize the report saying if it finds it not feasible then mining cannot go ahead.

"The good thing about the Kanyika Niobium Mining project is that it is based on the omissions and commissions derived from the Malawi government's experience with the Kayelekera Uranium mine in Karonga district. The other thing is that we now have a law in place,"

Kazipute said.

But Kazipute expressed worry that people not concerned about how the mining project may affect the environment but concentrated on the socio-economic benefit they might derive from the Mine.

According to village headman Moffat Phiri people have started splitting villages in anticipation of the compensation that the Mine will pay to those in the face off area.

The Kanyika Niobium exploration area covers an area of approximately 607sq km and will affect 244 households and 1360 people.

"The area is experiencing many local immigrants who think the mine is a panacea to their economic ills," Phiri said.



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8 Responses to "Malawi's Kanyika Niobium Mine awaits board's nod to proceed"

8 warya warya Says: October 31st, 2012 at 6:19 pm



Please Kanyika management, dont behave like Paladin Africa when you start mining. Greg Walker has completely failed malawians. Malawians expected a lot from Paladin but alas, Greg and his cohorts have spoiled everything. Greg is very crooked, he has now hired Andre de Goede to help him in his chicky corruption business. please Kanyika dont be like Kayelekera.



7 adore Says: October 31st, 2012 at 5:32 pm



opanga minewo pa chaka adzipeza ndalama zingati? Put this figure against the \$180million that the country will be getting.

whats the market price of the nobium on the global market. We shdnt allow them to exploit us as they have been doing



6 Gong'ontha Says: October 31st, 2012 at 4:12 pm



Are we sure these guys have not already started mining our nobium? am afraid they might have already taken out of the country substantial amounts of the mineral



5 Vincent Chafulumira Says: October 31st, 2012 at 2:44 pm

Please don't let us down pple frm Kanyika,what we need is amodern sec. Xool, astadium,electricity@ our TC and atarmac road as asocial responsibility.Do us the

▶ Atupele vows to rebuild UDF ahead of Malawi 2014 polls



Cartoon

Kunjani





needful.SIBANDE VINNIE.



Like 0 0



Reply

4 nyaka Says: October 31st, 2012 at 2:37 pm



First Uranium, second Oil, and then this, all in one Glorious region. Wina akasuma kwa Mulungu kufuna Kotatu apa!



Like 0 0



Reply

3 Tribalism and DPP hater Says: October 31st, 2012 at 2:35 pm



Yes! a lets see what all these haters of the North Say! Its funny how they all keep saying the Lake does not belong to Tanzania and get very vocal about it yet they hate anyone North of Kasungu... ..Tione mmene zithere



Like 0 0



Reply

2 Sir VCM Says: October 31st, 2012 at 2:20 pm



A breek of relief,mwina ma Bunowa atikwana kwambiri,mwina tikaone zina pa Kanyika,Kayelekera yalowa mbola,lero unva no mafoni mawa unva no breakfast kenaka tidzanva no transport.....Kenaka mwezi uno ndalama mwezi uno tilibe....My Kayekelera Mine why now



Like 0 0



Reply

1 master Says: October 31st, 2012 at 1:38 pm



it seems north is on the rise of mineral resources which will bring multimillion Forex, wars do not start in countries where there is nothing, wars start in countries where there is something, these projects if not well crafted by politicians, will lead to strong civil wars, here is the lake being claimed by TZ after just hearing of oil and gas, and lake Malawi is the deepest in north, but lets welcome these things and how Malawians will battle it out, Malawi economy is now changing from tobacco based to minerals based and north has the largest chunk on this, so polticians hold the key for peaceful malawi on these delicate projects!!!!



Well-loved. Like 4 0

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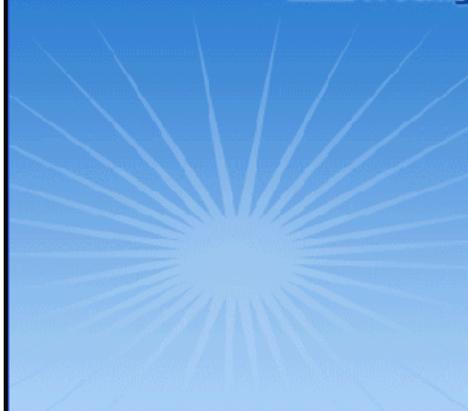
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