

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY



An interrogation into the impact of diamond mining by chinese companies

Case of Chiadzwa (2006-2016)

BY

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A research submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a Bachelor of Arts in History Honors Degree.

Department of History

Faculty of Arts

MAY 2017

Declaration

I declare that, “ **An interrogation into the impacts of diamond mining by Chinese companies, Case study of Chiadzwa, 2006 to 2016**” is my own work and it has not been submitted before for any degree programme at Midlands State University and other tertiary institution. I declare that all sources were used or quoted were indicated and acknowledged as references.

Dedication

To all inhabitants impacted by the socio-economic, political and environmental impacts of diamond mining in Chiadzwa-Marange who withstood the period of marginalization. The research is also dedicated to my mother Mrs Mavis Karenyi and my Late father Edmore Pembe Karenyi and also to all Mr and Mrs E.P Karenyi family for financial support, inspiration and motivation throughout the duration of my study.



MIDLANDS STATE UNVIVERSITY



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Abstract

The impacts on the diamond mining in Chiadzwa have been under research by historians, individuals, humanitarian groups and many civil society organisations. However, my research unpacked the impacts of diamond mining by the Chinese companies, how they affected the community socio-economic, political and environmental. This research revealed that the people of Chiadzwa-Marange area were impacted direct and indirectly by the mining activities by the Chinese companies since the formalization of diamond mining in Chiadzwa. The mining activities resulted into relocation of local inhabitants, violation of cultural, human rights, property rights, environmental degradation and the marginalisation of the communities in Chiadzwa-Marange area. Basic information about the impacts of diamond mining activities was obtained through personal interviews with local people through open ended interviews carried out in various places of Chiadzwa-Marange area, sources from community based monitoring organisations and interviews from Civil Society Organisations and other Companies representatives. This research has stand to be an eye opener to such extent that I found out that the formal mining activities by the Chinese mining companies severely pushed the community of Chiadzwa-Marange to a marginalized area.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFECG-	Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group
ATRDT-	Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust
CCJP-	Catholic Commission for justice and Peace
CIO-	Central Intelligence Organisation
CSOs-	Civil Society Organisations
DMC-	Diamond Mining Company
EIA-	Environmental Assessment Impact
EMA-	Environmental Management Agency
GNU-	Government of National Unity
KPCS-	Kimberly Process Certificate Scheme
MDC-	Movement for Democratic Change
RBZ-	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
TIZ-	Transparency International Zimbabwe
ZANU PF-	Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front
ZELA-	Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association
ZIA-	Zimbabwe Investment Authority
ZMDC-	Zimbabwe Minerals Development Company
ZNA-	Zimbabwe National Army
ZRP-	Zimbabwe Republic Police

Glossary

Gweja that was a name given to a male informal miner and **Chigweja** referring to the informal diamond mining activity. This was often used in the diamond field.

Gwejerine this was a name given to a female diamond miners

Gwejana a name given to a child of an informal miner

Magombiro those were the people who robbed off peoples diamonds, money and food during the early diamond mining. These people were known by not working only to wait to rob those with diamonds and money.

Ngoda it's an industrial diamond the one which is black usually of low value when it comes to market.

Ngoda-Girazi a diamond which is half pure and half industrial, usually the one in between the pure and industrial diamond.

Girazi this was a name referring to a pure diamond and this was the most valued class of diamonds amongst the three of them.



Fig1. Showing a locational map of *Chiadzwa Diamond field area in Zimbabwe.*

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Introduction

The extraction of alluvial diamonds in Chiadzwa had a ripple social, economic, political, cultural and largely environmental impact to the surround communities in Chiadzwa. Resource extraction in the semi-arid climatic zone of Chiadzwa has resulted in land degradation, ecology disturbances, dislodgment and relocation of villagers without adequate compensation and consultation, poor infrastructure development, poor mining methods, health hazards, unemployment, social conflict, economic impasse, politicization of minerals, human rights violations and erosion of a people's history and cultural values. These factors present a hub of problems and it is against this background that I shall seek to investigate the impact of alluvial diamond mining in the Chiadzwa area by Chinese mining companies with special emphasis on the period 2006 to 2016.

Background

Chiadzwa is a rural area in Marange, about 100 kilometers southwest of the city of Mutare in the Province of Manicaland in the Eastern part of Zimbabwe. The area which covers about 66,000 hectares of diamond fields are in an area that cascade under the jurisdiction of Headman Chiadzwa and the Marange Chieftainship. The livelihood activities of people in Chiadzwa and neighboring areas are undermined by adverse climatic conditions, which are not favorable to rain-fed agriculture. The Informal diamond mining in Chiadzwa came under the limelight in June 2006 and intensified in 2007 and 2008 period. During year 2007, the period marked an influx of thousands of diamond miners and buyers into Chiadzwa in look for the precious stones. This increased the competitiveness of the informal diamond market in Zimbabwe with the effect of creating and sustaining a lively informal diamond economy. The informal diamond economy in Zimbabwe is experienced by poverty on the part of artisanal miners and greediness on the part of the business elite and political leaders who sponsor the mining and trafficking activities at massive profits. In Zimbabwe, like in other parts of Africa, informal diamond mining is propelled by the macroeconomic, political and social challenges faced by the country. According to Human Rights Watch Report of 2009, such challenges are characterized by unemployment levels of more than 80% and runaway inflation of around 235 million percent as of July 2008

and unofficially estimated at over one billion percent in December 2008¹. The purchasing power of ordinary people in both rural and urban settings, most of whom are officially unemployed, misemployed, or underemployed, is therefore greatly eroded, creating a crisis of access to basic needs. The informal diamond economy in Zimbabwe is motivated by a political, military, police and business elite who use their access to authority as the basis for access to diamonds for self-enhancement upon the suffering and marginalization of the community.

The diamond dealing and smuggling in Zimbabwe is benefiting the top brass of the military and ruling party politicians and those linked to them which left the citizens suffering. These political, military, and business elite are propelled by politics of self-aggrandizement. In October 2006, after five months of government condoned open access to the diamond fields, the government deployed police officers to try and cordon unregistered miners from accessing the diamond fields. This was a move by the government to protect and enforce its constitution in which people were said to violating the Mine and Mineral Act, Chapter 21: 05 of the constitution of Zimbabwe and also it was a measure established to ensure sustainability utilization and protection of Zimbabwe's environment good and service in line with the Environmental Management Act chapter 20.27 of the constitution. This attempt was part of a national government operation to stem out informal diamond and gold miners and dealers in a police operation called chikorokoza chapera (end of illicit panning and dealing). Police presence fueled conflicts within the diamond fields which then became a pitch of fights, confrontations, and negotiations pitting police officers against unlicensed miners, informal buyers, and a host of other actors in the diamond fields. The police literally failed to flush out the diamond miners in a period of two years and the government unleashed the army under the pretext of beefing up security and flushing out unlicensed miners from the fields. In this case, the understandable though seemingly not prime objective of the government in unleashing the police and subsequently the army may have been to suppress informal diamond mining. It is important to note that the clandestine and more important objectives by politicians working in cahoots with high ranking army and police officials, under the wrap of government operations, was to facilitate extraction and trafficking of the gemstone for personal gain. The attempt once more of government to clear the diamond field of the poor informal diamond miners took a lethal turn when on the 27th of October 2008, the army aggressively took over the diamond mines using the air and the ground force. The army officers fired live ammunition and tear gas on civilians found

in and around the diamond fields. This heavy-handed attack toned down in November after most of the informal miners had retreated from the diamond fields. Civilians were indiscriminately considered to be informal miners, sometimes mistakenly. During the army crackdown, more than 200 civilians were estimated dead as a result of shootings by army officers according to Human Rights Watch Report, of 2009.² Sketchy evidence in Marange suggests the presence of mass graves in which killed people were buried, and this suggests that the number of people who fatally fell victim to army brutality could even be higher as surfaced by Human Rights Watch Report, 2009. Sachikonye highlighted that, in its attempt to take control of diamond mining activities in Chiadzwa, the government mandated the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC), which is a parastatale, to take charge of diamond mining with effect from October 2006. However with the lack of machinery and financial support the ZMDC was reluctant to engage on effective mining activities hence the illegal artisanal miners took advantage to engage into siphoning of the diamonds in Chiadzwa.

In 2010 the government geared up into fully control and takeover of the diamonds fields from the illegal miners and the period also signified the formal handover by the government to the Chinese mining Companies. The adoption of the Look East Economic Policy by Zimbabwe was a bid to liberate the ailing economic. The bilateral relation between China and Zimbabwe created a diamond mining venture in Marange-Chiadzwa, Anjin and Jinan Chinese Mining Companies were granted mining concessions. The diamonds in Chiadzwa are regarded as having the potential to generate revenue, which can be helpful in financing the much needed recovery of the Zimbabwean economy according to Human Rights Watch Report, 2009.³

Research Aim

The aim of this research is to explore and interrogate the impact of alluvial diamond mining in Chiadzwa by Chinese mining Companies with particular emphasis on the period, 2006 to 2016. It also aims at surfacing the changes which impacted in socio-economic, political and environment of Chiadzwa area as a result of the presents of diamond and as well formal mining by the Chinese Companies.

Research Questions

- What has been the socio-economic impact of Chinese alluvial diamond mining in Chiadzwa?
- How does the presence of the Chinese Companies benefit the community of Chiadzwa-Marange?
- Did the role of Chinese preserve and upgrade the environment and society change of Chiadzwa Marange?

Research Objectives

The objective of the research is to surface and document life in Chiadzwa-Marange before and after the formal diamond mining activities by the Chinese Companies.

To scrutinize the socio-economic impact of alluvial diamond mining in Chiadzwa by Chinese mining companies.

To elaborate and explore how the formal mining of the diamond by the Chinese Companies greatly impacted the environment and its inhabitants

To unpack the social and political dilemma in the diamond mining activities which have the reparation on the society.

Justification

At a global level, mining has been known to be the major driver of economic development, employment creation, and infrastructural development. In Chiadzwa ever since the genesis of alluvial mining the diamonds have allegedly been contributing to the growth of the national income. However, regardless of these opportunities inherent in mining; mining areas like Chiadzwa in Marange has been home to social conflicts, relocation conflicts, environmental degradation, poor resource governance, poor infrastructure, poor service delivery, disempowered communities, disempowered local leadership and untapped opportunities and passion. The extraction of these resources has affected the lives of people, lives of wild and domestic animals, strength of families, social capital and social cohesion. Due to destructive extraction methods, there has been degradation of the environment, air pollution and water pollution. Further resource revenue has been a secret to the government and there is no accountability and transparency to the community and the continuing of community marginalization. Therefore it is plausible to note that this research is not only justified but is relevant to the context.

Literature Review

Extensive research has been conducted across Africa pertaining the impact of mining upon the country and even at local level that is the community. In the Zimbabwean context, the impact of alluvial diamond mining has been analyzed by academics like V Nyao-Shava, D Goredema, M D King, O Katsaura, L M Sachikonye, Centre for Research and Development, Human Rights Watch Report, S Mtisi , J Mupfumi, Mungure, M Dhiwayo there works helped this research to find out on the concrete background and deep understanding of Chiadzwa diamond mining area. The works of Nyao-Shava (ed) surface the phases in which the Chiadzwa diamond can be accounted on for they postulated that, “ The Chiadzwa story is said to have undergone three phases: one where diamonds in form of small stones of usually greenish to black colors were being collected by villagers and being stored in their home without giving them much monetary value, second, was a period of awareness where people flooded to place in their thousands to mine, smuggle, sell and all sorts, third, is the situation today, a period of total restriction and security where particular mining companies such as Mbada Diamonds holds the rights to mine and individual are chased away by dogs.”⁴ However their works help to inform the research the need to look deep also on the other Mining Companies activities on which the Chinese represents vast activities which impacted the Chiadzwa-Marange community.

The Centre of Research and Development, postulated that, the influx of illegal miners and mining companies was a violation of cultural belief, the Chiadzwa community was also worried about the violation of local custom and tradition like the wayward social practices such as rampant prostitution and sexual misconduct in sacred groves such as cemeteries and the Ushonje mountain range, breakdown of family structures, disruption of education (school dropouts and early child marriages), food insecurity, air pollution, disruption of biodiversity, and social conflicts⁵. The work had limitation on the level on which the influx tremendously impacted to date.

J Mupfumi gave a descriptive account of the beginning of formal mining in Marange which saw the worst form of human rights violation, villagers forcibly removed from Chirasia, Dzoma, Muedzengwa, Tonhorai, Chiadzwa, Tenda, and Zengeni villages to Arda Transau to pave way for the diamond mining in 2010.⁶ Unfortunately however, all these claims are without basis as there has not been adequate exploration to establish the exact diamond endowment of the fields.

The question that remains unanswered is to what extent are the local communities benefitting from the diamond mining.

There is voluminous literature on the environmental consequences of diamond mining and related activities. There is however very little documentation of the environmental impacts of large-scale mining ventures indicating that such activities do not have or they only have minimal impacts. Katsaura, posits that, diamond mining in Chiadzwa has gone through a number of phases, from activities that can be classified as “diamond panning” activities to large-scale diamond mining and activities that can be classified as informal or formal⁷. He further opines that, realizing the potential environmental damage of mining activities, it is mandatory in Zimbabwe to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment that includes a statement to rehabilitate the mining area once mining ceases⁸. However, the research will show as far as the Chiadzwa diamond fields are concerned these anxieties seem not to relate. Both informal and formal mining have been responsible for substantial environmental destruction most of the reflection points out to the Chinese Companies. The first issue is the environmental pressure posed by the massive influx of immigrant artisanal miners. Second is the environmental destruction and pollution associated with the diamond mining process as according to, Centre for Research and Development⁹.

Similarly, commenting on the environmental impact of diamond mining in Chiadzwa, S Mungure, elicits that, whilst the alluvial diamond mining loosens the soil the heavy vehicles and machinery have the effect of hardening the soil. The loose sediment is easily carried away by the increased runoff because of the hard surfaces increasing sediment input into the Save, Odzi and Singwizi Rivers and the small dams in the area¹⁰. The pollution of the Odzi River pronounced more when sorting of ore by the Anjin Chinese company and the deposits its sorting water and sewer. The research shall put volume on the experienced that polluted water along the Save and Odzi Rivers led to skin rash and livestock losses which resulted to impoverishment of local communities for livestock was their spending power and wealthy and clean water as there right. Another negative impact of alluvial diamond mining in Chiadzwa as registered by Sachikonye, has been deforestation. He aptly postulates that, as expected there was massive deforestation characterised by an increased use of fuel wood because of the influx of people into the area with no other source of energy, the greatest deforestation however was caused by the mining

companies as they effectively cleared large tracks of land in order to expose the diamond ore¹¹. A comparative edge with the works of Sachikonye, my research shall further unveil the extend on which the Chinese Mining Companies utterly ignored the rehabilitation of the mines, environmentally and not consider future of Chiadzwa.

S Mtisi (ed) brings to light the concern for the environment and the untold suffering on which the mining companies injected into the surrounding community, “As mining companies embarked on extracting minerals they take away valuable land from the community and lead to deforestation, cause water and air pollution and siltation of the river.”¹² The research shall further fill the gap on the marginalization of the community as a result of the environmental impacts brought about by the Chinese Mining Companies and also the relocation as a means to pave way for the mining activities.

Theoretical Framework

Theoretically this research shall be informed by The Resource Curse Theory. The term resource curse encompasses the significant social, economic and political challenges that are unique to countries rich in oil, gas and minerals¹³. The theory describes the phenomenon on how a poor country discovers the vast wealth that could not benefit the country in the long run. In the case the country with rich minerals failed to reach their full potential. The resource curse theory seeks to show case the expectation of the country from the discovery will be for better development outcomes but however the country tend to be a battle ground for conflicts, economic instability and authoritarianism¹⁴. The theory also seeks to inform that the blessing for a country or community turns out to be a curse. The causes and effects of the resource curse theory are democracy, conflict, inefficient spending and borrowing, Dutch disease, patriarchy and gender-based challenges, limited government capture of benefits, weaker institutional development and social and environmental problems¹⁵.

In many resource rich countries, the expectations and demands of citizens to benefit from the new wealth exceeded the technical and bureaucratic capacity of states to make the best out of natural resource revenues. The theory shall inform this research.

Sources and Methodologies

Research Instruments

Research instrument has been defined as a testing device for measuring a given phenomenon, such as a paper and pencil test, a questionnaire, an interview, a research tool, or a set of guidelines of observations.¹⁶ Instruments are needed to measure the subject of research. However the design of a reliable instrument for measuring impact of resource extraction demands cautious planning. In this regard the researcher will make use of questionnaires, and in-depth structured interview.

Primary Data

Primary data includes information collected from interview, experiments, survey, questionnaires, focused group and measurement.¹⁷ This offers more consistent information since it is first-hand material collected from the target respondents. Field research information will be acquired through questionnaires, and structured interviews.

Structured Interview

A structured interview is a data collecting methodology that encompasses a standard set of questions where respondents express ideas in their own way and explore issues in depth. It guarantees that each interview is presented into correctly the same question in the same edict. It is instigated by the researcher through the superseding intent of finding appropriate data for the research.

The researcher hence shall interview key civil society organizations operating in Chiadzwa and Chinese mining companies coupled with the Chiadzwa traditional leadership as key informants to gather data for this research. The interviews shall make fruitful strides towards answering the researchers' research questions.

By engaging a structured interview, the researcher shall be capable to observe the non-verbal responses through the interview which in their right shall be significant in fetching out possible variations to the meaning of some aspects under probe. To add on to that the interview shall prove freedom for the researcher to ask more questions.

Questionnaires

The network of responses shall be spread by the use of questionnaires. Those are list of research or survey questions questioned to respondents and planned to extract in depth information. In this light the researchers' questionnaires shield the objectives of the task. Questionnaires serves different basic purposes that is to reduce bias when conveying and asking questions, it makes questions be engaging and varied, data comparable and also easy analyzed and to gather appropriate data¹⁸.

To attain the best response rate, the researcher will pledge that questions are rolling from the least sensitive to the most sensitive, from the factual to the attitudinal and from the more common to the more specific.

Using the questionnaire will make fruitful strides towards the researcher having more opportunity for independence whilst also making it easy to measure the aftermaths. The questionnaire will also be a crucial instrument in discerning data beyond the physical rejoinder of the observed. It will further permit the researcher to gather data from too many people (bigger sample) across the Chiadzwa area in a short space of time.

Qualitative Design

Denzin and Lincoln, holds the opinion that qualitative research design as involving “an interpretive naturalistic approach to the world. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings attempting to make sense of a interpret phenomenon in terms of meanings people bring to them.”¹⁹ When applying this research design the prominence will be applied mostly to the natural settings and the research participants point. The design method it is descriptive approach and contains real events, soundtrack what the groups have to say and detecting behavior. Hancock (ed) on the qualitative design postulates that, “Studies behavior in natural settings or uses people’s accounts as data, usually no manipulation of variables”²⁰ The researcher shall watchfully incorporate qualitative research to warrant complete description of the situation, take hold that there is minimum bias in the collection of data and this lessens errors in interpreting the data to be collected.

Justification of the Qualitative Design

Qualitative research design shall of excessive worth in gathering data necessary for this research to make prolific developments towards meeting its objectives. Personal evaluation and data interpretation coupled with realistic comments on research findings can be availed without loss of original meaning. This design of research shall have the dominant intent of discovering the fundamental motives and desires using a structured interview with key informants for the purpose. The design shall guarantee possible ideas and leads that can be used in the formulation of testable and realistic hypothesis. The researcher shall also adopt this approach in order to be personally involved hence reduce impartiality and have better understanding of the flow of the research. The role of the society is vital and the qualitative design seeks self-reflection upon one's attitude and also position. The research design shall further help the researcher in exhuming people of Chiadzwa and relocated people in Ada Transau in Odzi area position on mining in their traditional home, how they feel, and what they see and think.

Sampling

With a large population of Chiadzwa-Marange area it is difficult to manage interviews with all inhabitants hence purposive sampling technic was conducted. Sampling can be commonly defined as a way of selection of a part from an entire for the drive of providing understanding on the features of a whole. Thus sampling was essential as it assisted time and resources throughout the research.

Population Sample

To ensure the gathering of adequate yet relevant data for this research, one shall have structured interviews with four purposefully selected Civil society organizations doing advocacy work in the Chiadzwa area, that is the Centre for Research and Development (CRD), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace Mutare (CCJP-M), coupled with Transparency International Zimbabwe-Mutare office and Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA). One shall also conduct in-depth interviews with the Traditional leadership in Chiadzwa, and Chinese mining companies. Questionnaires shall be distributed among the ordinary community members in Chiadzwa and families relocated to Arda Transau.

Sampling Techniques

Neville, rants that there are numerous sampling techniques, namely stratified sampling, multi staged sampling, simple random sampling, purposive sampling and systematic random sampling²¹. In this research the researcher will employ simple random sampling and purposive sampling.

Purposive Sampling

This is one of the most common sampling tactics, which groups participants according to preselected norms relevant to a specific research question. Sample sizes are lithe prior to data gathering; be contingent on the resources and time offered, as well as the study's goals. This technique therefore was worthwhile, as it facilitated the researcher to gather much data contrary to the time offered for the data assortment in the area of study. More so, it permitted the researcher to gather data from the significant respondents therefore saving time and resources²². This sampling technique was specially employed to gather important information for the research from two Chinese mining companies, traditional leadership in Chiadzwa and civil society organizations that the researcher believes shall be relevant to the research.

Justification of purposive sampling

Since the method shall depend on the selection of people and organizations the researcher believes have relevant information, this research shall become a lot less time consuming and the results shall almost always be accurate and factual. The advantages that come with this method are limitless; it shall eliminate candidates that are out of the reckoning of the research from the beginning and has a concrete systematical method which shall be cost effective.

Simple Random Sampling

Members of the Chiadzwa community and the relocated in Arda Transau (youth, women, men) shall be randomly selected and administered with questionnaires across Chiadzwa to provide empirical information on the impact of mining activities of Chinese companies. Simple random sampling can be defined as a subset of a statistical population in which each member of the

subset has an equal probability of being chosen. A simple random sample is meant to be an unbiased representation of a group.

Justification of Simple Random Sampling

Since the method involves random selection it shall be free from human bias and classification error because it shall give each community member of Chiadzwa a fair chance of being selected. A simple random sample, being highly representative of a population shall also simplify data interpretation and scrutiny of results. Trends within the sample shall act as exceptional indicators of trends in the inclusive population since the entire community lives under the same climate and tension caused by Chinese Mining Companies. Hence generalizations derived from this well assembled simple random sample will be necessary to bear external validity.

Data Presentation and analysis.

Gwimbi and Dirwai, hold that data analysis makes sense out of large quantities of raw data²³. Through data analysis the researcher shall easily summarize gathered data. Data analysis shall be done through open coding. Strauss and Corbin, define coding as “operations by which data is broken down, conceptualized and put together in new ways”²⁴. Hence in this regard the researcher identified themes in the data and conceptualized categories.

The researcher shall then employ selective coding. This shall be an informative process whereby the ideas/data found shall be translated into more theoretical concepts. Hence responses attained from the questionnaires shall make it possible to compare results that yield connections or recurring patterns to provide theory.

Conclusion

In light of the above, the researcher seeks to interrogate and investigate the impact of Chinese mining operations in the Chiadzwa area with special emphasis in the period 2008- 2016. The research shall make valuable contribution to knowledge and inform advocacy framework of concerned civil society organizations.

Chapter’s layout

Chapter Two

The chapter will be consisting of the background on which the diamond mining started in Chiadzwa. The chapter seeks to give attention on how the diamond was discovered, the rise of

Gweja era (illegal diamond miners), social life and their mining lingo, aspects which triggered the eyes of the government and Kimberly Process Scheme, military and police intervention and the illegal activities by both security sector and inhabitants in Chiadzwa.

Chapter Three

The research focus on the period of Government takeover of the diamond fields from informal miner (the gweja's), and handover to the formal Mining Companies in which several companies such as Chinese Companies, Mbada diamonds, Marange Resources and ZMDC. The period signified the beginning of formal mining activities in Chiadzwa-Marange were Chinese Companies represented the leading aspect in mining of diamonds having a large area of operating. The period when the government and Chinese Companies partnership in the formal mining activities in Chiadzwa-Marange.

Chapter Four

In this final chapter of the research, the researcher shall surface the Socio-economic, Political and Environmental impacts of mining activities in Chiadzwa-Marange created by the Chinese Mining companies that is the Anjin Investment and the Jinan Mining Company during their period of operation. Finally the chapter offers an overall conclusion of the whole research giving brief research information in each and every chapter.

End notes

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CHAPTER TWO

Informal mining activities in Chiadzwa before the Chinese Mining Companies, 2006-2009.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

In this chapter, focus will be on the discovery of diamonds in Chiadzwa and the rise of chigweja (informal mining activity). Examine the politicization of the mining activities by the government of Zimbabwe, where allegedly the government officials and leading politicians took advantage of the chaotic situation to engage in diamond mining for personal and political gains. The use of the army, police forces and secret services personal for purportedly restore order and its impact on the gweja population will also be analysed. The chapter will end with discussing the return to normalcy in Chiadzwa diamond fields through interference of the Kimberly Processing Scheme and the government takeover of the fields.

The Discovery of Diamonds and the Rise of the Informal (*Gweja*) Mining Activities

In June 2006, alluvial diamonds locally known as “*ngoda*” were discovered in Marange-Chiadzwa area. The diamonds in Chiadzwa-Marange were associated with myths and beliefs to the logic of belonging. The diamonds are believed to have been given to the local people by the ancestors and on this basis the locals in chief Chiadzwa and Marange's area claimed ownership of the precious stone, as the direct descendants. The discovery of diamonds is considered to be as a result of collaboration between the spirits of Chiadzwa and those of the Ushonje range. After the discovery of the diamonds by local people there were rituals conducted in the fields by spirit mediums. There were series of rituals including beer brewing and ancestral worship this was being led by elderly people in the community including the Chief Chiadzwa, this was done in the

Ushonje range were the first discovery took place and also in the shrines of chief Marange and headman Chiadzwa.

The diamond deposits in Marange-Chiadzwa exist close to the surface making it easy to extract them through panning by artisanal miners and open cast operators. According to The Standard newspaper, from July 2006, a diamond rush began, with thousands of people from Marange District and other parts of Zimbabwe and other countries such as South Africa, Angola and Mozambique scrambling for precious stones¹. The diamond rush in Chiadzwa should be understood in a broader context of socio-economic problems that was affecting Zimbabwe from. When alluvial diamond begins in Chiadzwa-Marange in 2006 the country was facing stark economic meltdown and also winds of strong political opposition of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). By the period the ruling party Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) was also trying to regain its power and support and this lead to the relaxation of the diamond field and were declared to well-wishers to mine the diamonds.



Fig2 above, Showing Artisanal miners Man, Women and Children dwelling in Chiadzwa Diamond field

The state actors encouraged a free mining to all inhabitants of Marange and other from surrounding areas, for they espoused a discourse on indigenisation and black empowerment basically in search of peoples votes. The discovery of diamond was hijacked and was used for political benefit for the ruling part as The Standard newspaper also denotes that, “the government effectively fostered the diamond rush at Marange. In an apparent attempt to get political mileage from the discovery, Zanu PF authorities in June 2006 declared the diamonds fields open to any wishing to look for the diamonds.”² This resulted in a chaotic diamond rush and smuggling rampant. In the year 2006, the area was free for all, with panners from across the country descending on Marange to dig for the gems that were sold on the black market. The period was the siphoning of the gem out of the country and also the funds being diverted to fund private and political projects.

There is a strong belief that the government turned a blind eye to the activities which were done in Chiadzwa for the reason to preserve political support from the public. Given that the constituency during the 2002 presidential and parliamentary elections was won by a ZANU PF this was a way by government to continue safeguarding the legacy and popularity in the constituency hence it was one of the way to say thank you and allowed people to continue carrying out the uncontrolled mining activities. Mungure and Chimoyo argue that the laxity in the stamping out of illegal mining by the ZANU PF it was because it was taken by surprise pertaining the diamond gift and therefore it did not have strong strategy for its people to become involved, this period was therefore a window period during which ZANU PF was strategizing in order to take over the diamond.³

The action plan on the protection of the diamond fields by the government.

Few months down the line from the discovery, the government thought of drafting measures to protect diamond rush. The minister of Mines by that period Amos Midzi, granted exclusive mining and exploration rights in Marange to the state-owned company, The Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC).⁴ The Zimbabwe authorities (government) gave all mining concession to several companies and they were to provisional operate in partnership with ZMDC, the drive of permitting ZMDC prospecting and mining rights was to reinstate order in Marange following the diamond scramble. The government during this period gave the right to the Fidelity Company and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), to buy the diamonds from illegal miners and unlicensed individual buyers. This initiative by the government was to protect the leakage, selling and smuggling of the precious mineral out-side the country. However the measure by the government did not work out since the government companies offered low prices than those which were offered by the foreigners at black market and this enabled people to continuously engage in informal trading of the gem. The diamonds were not always exchanged for cash rather there was also the ancient practice of trading that is the barter trade. The illegal miners (*magweja*) could also exchange their diamonds with cloths, food, drugs, sex, cars, cell phones, radios and all other things that the buyers brought. It's of paramount important to note that although the local villagers realized the stones were valuable they were not fully aware of the exact value of the diamond hence the reasons they practiced barter trading. However, Mungure says that the "...local community members soon became aware that the minerals were very valuable"⁵ and began to demand more. This accelerated what can be best described as a diamond rush", as people from different countries and all walks of life descended on the gem field to informally mine and trade in the alluvial diamonds and in the process creating a new community known as the *gwejas* or "informal/illegal" miners.

Life of Gwejas and their Mining Lingo

The word *gweja* was derived from a Shona word *kugweja* which means dismantling something. The fields in which the artisanal mining took place were referred to as *munda* (field) so as they will be mining in the fields they would call it *kugweja mumunda*. They were certain languages which were regularly used by the miners which made them to understand each other or even signal each other. The *gweja* practices (illegal mining) involved all age groups of man and women. The female miner was called *gwejerine*, the child of a *gwejerine* was called *gwejana*, and the male were referred to as *Gweja* and plural is *magweja*. *Gwejanyumwawo* (Illegal miner beware!!) was also among the languages used by miners in the fields which simply used as a common call to alert the diamond miners. *Kuherereswa* referred to be chased away by the police forces. *Dzemabhinya* was used to refer marijuana by which miners smoke in order for them to get courage.

The *magweja* used rudimentary technology for the extraction of the mineral, these includes digging iron rods and shovels. The diamonds were in alluvial deposits which make the illegal miners easy for them to extract the mineral. The mining activities in the early days were done at any time but however with the coming of the police and military in the later stage resulted into shifts of time of mining by illegal miners. The mining by the *gweja*'s was done haphazardly for they do not have the equipment's for surveying and testing the actual belts in which the diamonds were moving. The diamond miners stayed in the hills of the surrounding areas of Chiadzwa. These places were the base camps where they stayed when they were off the fields.

The miners usually worked in groups or teams, which they referred to as syndicates or *sindalo* in their informal *gweja* language. These syndicates were formed on the basis of place of origin and named accordingly, such as Buhera, Ndau, Wengezi, Chimanmani, Shurugwi and Zezuru. Each

syndicate had its own specific area of mining as a result of this ethnicity it became a common feature of the mining activities of Chiadzwa. These numerous syndicates of vigilantes miners they were meant to be groups for defending themselves from both rivals and police security.

There were wide ranges stories of the artisans surviving on the illegal diamond mining community; some of those activities massively disturbed the community which includes stealing, prostitution, diamond buyers, robbers crisscross the bush. Cases in the community reported to the chief, of domestic animals especially goats and chicken were stolen by the gwejas and it was difficult to fish out the suspect since the areas was too crowded. The miners had a common policy on which they desire only to feed with meat and by so doing they resorted to stealing of community domestic animals. There was terror in the community caused by the robbers (magombiro). Those people stab anyone who they suspect of possessing the gem and money. After the limb and risking of life's panners would squander their illegal (diamonds) acquired gains for sex and booze. The life of those miners was extravagant it was characterised with pitiable homesteads which were surrounded by makeshift lodges. Sex commercial workers were frequent in the area some of the events they would exchange it with diamonds. There was also rape cases were women were raped by magombiro. The increasingly population in the area caused an immediate sanitation, water and housing crisis which triggered various outbreak of diseases one among the leading was Malaria which killed dozens of people in Chiadzwa.

The gweja, gwejerine character was a dramatic story on which can be narrated by eat and run behind the dense bushes. In their narrating of the story they have this language they say gare gare tobvonga gare gare tomhanya meaning to say at any time they could cook and they could run from being chased away by police officers.

The mineral was of different size, shape and value which enhanced the miners to categories and further grades the diamond into three categories. There was the black industrial diamond which they called *ngoda*, this was the lowest paid type of diamond, the lowest valued of all diamonds. The other type was the pure or clear diamond which they called *girazi*, this was the most valued. Finally there was what they referred to as *ngoda-girazi*, this was identified as half *ngoda* black industrial diamond and half *girazi* pure or clear diamond, and it followed the clear or pure diamond in the range of prices.



Insert 3 showing three types of diamonds (ngoda,ngodagirazi and girazi) found in Chiadzwa

A period before government takeover of the fields

On November 21, 2006, five months after the discovery of the diamonds in Marange the government launched a nationwide police operation code-named *Chikorokoza Chapera* (End of illegal panning), which was aimed at stopping the illegal mining activities across the country including Marange.⁶ In an attempt to end illegal mining the government used the police forces to drive away all *gwejas*, unlicensed miners and buyers of the gem from the fields. People resisted the drive out operation and this was met with police brutality and mass killings. During the

operation the police deployed 600 police officers and they arrested about 22 500 persons who were said to be illegal miners.⁷ When the police force appeared to be failing to cope with the resistance offered by the unlicensed miners a military force was sent to the diamond fields to assist in clearing all illegal people from the area. One interviewee, a former *gweja* who was a victim of the operation said,

“The operation *chikorokoza chapera* was a horrible operation which I even by now call one of the worst ever massive operations that the uniformed forces of this country have ever undertaken in this country. It consisted of the black boots and red beret officers armed with guns and tear gas and they were operating on the ground with dogs and horses of the horses which was white in colour called Memo, and in the air they were using helicopters firing live bullets. The operation was well networked for *gwejas* hardly escape while officers were shouting at will. There was one of their bosses called Gowu he was cruel he shouted at will using what *gwejas* called ‘*chifefe*’ a gun that spills out several small rounded bullets. It started when I was at the middle of the field whilst I was mining and suddenly the whole range was surrounded by soldiers. They commanded everyone to seat down however people ran away from all angles they thought they could escape with and there was no room to pick up the tools which we were using all were left behind. I was lucky enough to escape but to those who were with children, who were old and women were the victims of the operation. Reports went all over the area in the following day that many people died trying to escape some were shot, some were killed by dogs some by being beaten up by the security forces and some sustained injuries that they could not make it upon reaching to their place and died. News spread out that over thousands of the people were held at a local area by police officers the area which they called diamond base, something more like a police and army camp.”⁸

This operation spread out to the surrounding villages. One affected villager Gamunorwa, testified to the brutality and torture that villagers experienced at the hands of the police and military officers.

“The operation *chikorokoza chapera*, was not an operation focused on driving out the illegal miners but by my own assessment it was meant to deal with those people residing near the field area and it was like an offense to be a villager in this area for the villagers become victims of the operation. Police officers could even come during the night and order a search in each and every home looking for *magweja* and buyers. Failure to identify yourself enough or to produce a National Identity Card resulted to thorough

beatings and you were to be taken away to the diamond base. I was once a victim of this operation when the soldiers and police raided at Muchena shopping centre and they ordered all of us to produce IDs and by that day I did not carry it with me. They only released those with IDs which started and ended with 75. Others with different numbers were victims and were taken to Bambazonge. I spent the whole day at Bambazonge being physically assaulted while sitting at an open space in the direct sun. I was released when my brother brought my National Identity Card”⁹

During the process of flushing out the *magweja* and unlicensed buyers around the diamond fields there was the emergence of corruption within the government forces responsible for operation *chikorokoza chapera*. The police and military forces were engaged in corruptive ways to acquire the diamonds within those fields that they were assigned to drive out all forms of illegal diamond trade and mining. The police and military officers also formed what they called syndicates which were involved in smuggling diamonds.

Police and Military syndicates

When both forces which were used as an instrument to chase away people from the diamond field realized that they were dwelling on top of rich precious stones they started to form what they called syndicates. The period of operation *chikorokoza chapera* was defined with economic instability and the salaries of security forces including the police and all civil servants were not enough for survival. The soldiers and police officers realized that they were safeguarding stones that could change their lives and they began to loot the resources that they were guarding. A syndicate was a group of miners that would be operating under the direct control of police officers or military officers. According to the Human Rights Watch of June 2009, the police were in full control but deliberately let illegal mining and trade activities thrive while seeking to profit from them. Groups of two to five police officers would partner with a large group of local miners under a loose arrangement where police provided the local miners security and escort in the fields in turn for share of proceeds from selling any diamond the local miner’s found.¹⁰ These

syndicates were meant to pillage and smuggle the diamonds. At the height of these activities there was the involvement of government officials in the looting of the diamonds, police bosses with the direct commands from offices and on the ground were also having their own diggers and traders. They were syndicates not only in the field but outside the fields where police protected buyers of the diamonds who were either based in the local villages or in the cities such as Mutare and Harare. These principal buyers were mostly foreigners and they used local people to buy the diamonds on behalf of them hence they acted as middle mans on behalf of the principal buyer and the police officers. These buyers often enjoyed political, military, police and other official patronage. However, the period experienced social unrest in the areas of Marange for the police conducted min-operations within the surrounding areas of Chiadzwa diamonds fields. The government launched a police crackdown against illegal miners and smugglers several times in December 2006.¹¹

Security operations in the diamond areas

At the height of the economic crisis that Zimbabwe was facing, thousands of unemployed man, women and children plundered the diamond fields in Chiadzwa and this resulted in increasing pressure to the police who were the watch dog of the diamond fields. The increasing pressure of illegal artisanal panners, smugglers and syndicates within the police security drawn much attention to the government to work on the action plan on how best can the smuggling of diamonds be reduced. In early 2007 the government was much concerned on securing and stopping the illegal activities as Mtisi asserted that “however, in 2007 the government realized the need to secure and protect the resources and stop the illegal activities.”¹² When the government noticed the continuous illegal activities at the expense of police security it engaged the military as a measure to stop the illegal mining and smuggling that was happening in

Chiadzwa diamond fields. According to Williams, “On October 27, two years after operation *Chikorokoza Chapera* (End of illegal Mining), the government launched *Operation Hakudzokwi* (No Return) in Marange.”¹³ The move by the government was to enforce tight security to control the leakage of the minerals. It was again a combined military operation involving all arms of national security, ZRP, ZNA and CIO. It was aimed at flushing out the illegal miners and plugging all holes of leakages of the minerals within the area of Marange. On the ground the police and soldiers were using horses and dogs, in the air the soldiers were using helicopters and also firing live bullets to drive out *magwejas* from the fields. It was a move to stop all activities that the government deemed illegal.

The Standard newspaper of November 2009 highlighted that, “The joint police and military operation was brought to drive away illegal diamond seekers.”¹⁴ There was completely turnaround of the activities in the fields for the soldiers were heavily armed and there was human rights abuse were people were subjected to harassments, torture and killings. However, pertaining the illegal and corrupt activities that the other force (police) which were assigned the duty before to protect the fields it raised question that was it not another way by the government to use its arm to loot the resources in the name of operations. The deployment of the military and the enforcement of Operation no Return was heavily criticized by many people and civil societies and humanitarian organizations. According to Mungure, the operation and the way and situation on which it was handled did not match with the respect of human life and it was parallel to human rights at all angle, he asserts that, “The operation used both helicopters and infantry support to crack down illegal diamond mining and hence heavily criticized for the heavy handed way the situation was handle.”¹⁵ During the operation there confined reports that the suspected panners and dealers were brutally tortured and some even died during the massive three weeks

nonstop Operation Hakudzokwi (No Return), the era was experienced by human rights abuse; thousands of artisanal miners including innocent villagers were assaulted, tortured and killed. Due to economic hardships the miners find it economically rational to take the risk and try their luck to smuggle on those highly secured fields though they encountered dangers of being killed and heavily beaten. The situation that was in Chiadzwa created fear to local villagers to such an extent that people lost freedom of movement, for any one confined with random movements were brought to crucifixion by the military. According to Mungure,

“...the military become involved in mining diamond together with senior police officers they recruited villagers to do the mining for them but villagers gained very little if anything at all”

Thus clearly depicts that the phase was rather a continuous siphoning of the minerals, “a government killing its country”.¹⁶

Intervention of the Kimberly Process

The activities that were happening in Chiadzwa caught the attention of the international community and the call for the Kimberly process to intervene in the mining of the rough diamonds. The Kimberly process it is an international certificate scheme which governs trade in the rough diamonds. The situation by which mining activities by the government and the artisanal miners and the illegal selling of diamonds on the black market caught the KPS by surprise and it was force to intervene into the mining which was already out of hand.

The KP it's a board created by diamond producing countries to ensure safety and legal rights upon the mining of the mineral. At its core the KP aims at stopping all; extreme human rights abuse concerning to diamonds. Under the KP participants are required to export rough diamonds provided that they hold certificates validating that their diamond are conflict-free. The certificate

resembled the trade of rough diamond as being in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Kimberly Process Certificates Scheme. Its core value states and stick to no entry of conflict diamonds to the legal diamond trade. The monitoring team was sent by the KP to Zimbabwe on what it argued as a fact-finding mission. The report on the visit shows that the rough diamonds of Zimbabwe were yet to meet the minimum level to be given certificates therefore a six month suspension of exporting and importing the diamonds was handed to Zimbabwe government up to 2010 to fully standardize operations to be in line with KP requirements. The operations (mining operations) were deemed by many to be crime against humanity. However the outcome of the KP report and measures did not stop the mining activity to take its course, for the ZMDC was reported continuing mining the diamonds and collectives were taken to Harare for stocking, also the artisanal miners with and without the police and military protection (syndicates) continues illegal mining.

The gradual possession of the fields by the government

Between 2009 and 2010, the government mapped the way in which it was going to take direct or full control of the mining activities in Chiadzwa. The government moved in and took over control of all the mining activities. The takeover should also be understood in context of the pressure from the Diamond Council which pressured the government to curb the smuggling of the diamonds. In February 2009, the GNU was formed, during this era the Human Rights and other CSOs advocated for the removal of soldiers by the government from the diamond fields of Marange and to restore security accountability to the police officers accord with the international standards of law enforcement. It is also understood that the gradual government took over of the fields was as a result of subsequent running battles with illegal miners and corruptive ways by the security officers. In January 2009 the government announced plans to resettle some 4 700

villagers from Chiadzwa to government owned farms of 12 000 ha Adar Transau. This was a clear plan to chart up for the proper government take over and legal mining by the companies. According to The African report of 2012, “Having secured the diamonds fields the government moved a gear up in 2009 when it announced that it was going to forcibly relocate over 4000 families from Marange to Arda Transau, a government farm located about 40 km north of Marange.”¹⁷ The year 2010, totally represents the licensing of various companies by the government to engage in legal mining. Mtisi and Dhliwayo say that, “Since 2010 government has licensed mining companies such as Mbada Diamonds, Marange Resources, DMC, Sino-Zimbabwe and Ajin.”¹⁸

Conclusion

The period 2006 signified the discovery of diamonds in Chiadzwa and resulted into diamond rush people coming from different parts of the country for illegal mining (chigweja). The activity involved different social groups, elderly people, and young people looking for the precious gem. The period represented a new social order in Chiadzwa which impacted the physical and socio-economic background of Chiadzwa. The influx of the people into the Chiadzwa community destructed the social fabric already existing for gwejas committed different atrocities and through their dominance affects the already existing people in the communities. The police and military upon rendering there protection they took advantage of the torn and also infiltrated into speeding and practising illegal activities in such a way that they created syndicates responsible for illegal mining of the gem for personal gains. There was the violation of human rights which has been noticed through military and police operation on which they brutalised illegal miners during the process of flushing out illegal mining activities in Chiadzwa. The process and the practise of driving out illegal mining and illegal buyers in which it was done triggered the attention of the

Kimberly Process Scheme into verification of the rough diamond mining in Chiadzwa. The recommendation by the KPS was for the government to meet the requirements by the KPS and the endorsement for formal mining and trading on the world market to be granted on Chiadzwa diamonds. This pushed the government into fully possession of the diamond fields mapping a way to legal and formal mining activities. The form of possession and dispossession did left the communities expatriate and vulnerable never before.

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CHAPTER THREE

Government hand over of the diamond fields to the Chinese Mining Companies



Insert 4: showing President R G Mugabe, Vice President E D Munangagwa and Chinese Representatives exploring Chiadzwa diamond fields in 2010.

Chapter Overview

The chapter reveal on the government of Zimbabwe hand over the diamond fields of Chiadzwa to the Chinese Mining Companies, the Anjin Investment Company and the Jinan Mining Company. It is the contention of the chapter also to inform on the period of formal mining activities in Chiadzwa area whereby the government partnership with the Chinese Mining Companies as a way to safeguard the Indigenization policy. The chapter shall also surface the areas of operation and production level by both Chinese Companies.

Formalisation of diamond mining and government partnership with the Chinese companies

In the past two decades the Chinese has undergone an extreme global economic enhancement and there searching for resources to guarantee their high growth targets. The transition by the Chinese converged with the adoption of the Look East Economic Policy by Zimbabwe, and as a result massive Chinese investment in the Mining sector of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe Investment Authority (ZIA) has approved over 2,25 billion business proposals from China and Chiadzwa diamond mining happened to be among the Chinese mining investment sector.¹ Since the dollarization in 2009 the proposals have been spread across varying sectors of the economy including the mining, manufacturing, construction and agricultural sector.² By the late 2008 the mining activities in Chiadzwa were being carried out by informal miners, soldiers, villagers, however the government gear up to secure the fields through formal mining hence the take over and finally the hand over to the Chinese Mining companies and other Companies such as Mbada Diamonds Company and Canadile late named Marange Resources. According to the News day, the secretary for Mines and Mining Development, Thankful Musukutwa in 2010 confirmed that Anjin Investment Company was one among the four companies permitted to mine diamonds in Chiadzwa.³

In 2010 a partnership was made creating a mining venture in Chiadzwa-Marange. The diamond mining by the Zimbabwe Mining Development Company (ZMDC) in Chiadzwa was operating at a least level in the previous period of 2006 to 2010. The partnership with the Chinese was a move by the Zimbabwean government to lift the mining sector to a large scale alluvial diamond mining in Marange-Chiadzwa by the period 2010. The partnership also involved the Nation Army in which some percentages helped the defence industry. The partnership with Anjin Investment Private Limited saw the Zimbabwe Defence Industry claiming 40 percent share and

the Zimbabwe Mining Development Company (ZMDC) taking 10 percent and the remaining 50 percent belonged to the Chinese investors.⁴ According to Zimbabwe Situation, upon the granting of the concession and permission to mine, Zimbabwe moved seven steps upwards to become the world's seventh diamond producer.⁵



Insert 5 Showing cross cutting flags symbolising Sino-Zimbabwe relationship.

However the handover of the diamond mining fields to the Chinese by the government is much of a private deal between the government and the Chinese without much awareness and information dissemination to the people of Zimbabwe. Much information about handover and permission of the Chinese Companies is clarified and few are willing to comment. The security sector especially the military has control of the diamond fields through Anjin which is a joint venture with the Chinese.⁶ The grounds on which it was done some government officials and other Civil Society Organisations groups were afraid to question the security sector that is the army generals who controls the mines like the Anjin. The situation then call for enhanced

vigilance and several works on transparency and accountability from CSOs groups local communities and parliament in trying to investigate the handover how it was done.

Interview with one of the Civil Society Organisation which operates in Chiadzwa-Marange area in promoting Justice and Peace, The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace Mutare, Programmes Officer P. Bindura narrated that,

“After the effective authorisation and cording of the diamond field the government through the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development (MMMD) which is accountable for safeguarding a sustainable mining sector partnership with the Chinese firms to engage into formal mining activities. The partnership by the government with the Chinese firm was a one way or another to restore order in Chiadzwa and also for the Kimberly Processing Certification Scheme (KPCS) to grant permission and approval for Chiadzwa diamonds legal trading. In our understanding though was not made clear by the government and the Anjin it was form between the ZMDC and the Chinese Investment group the Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group (AFECG). As the Civil Society Organisation we are regarded as enemies of the state so there was no consultation about the handover to the foreign mining companies, much of the information we obtain it through some who happened to be spies of the state when we rub shoulders in some occasions much of the deals pertaining diamonds is state private information. There was no community participation in the issuing out of mining lease and licences. Influential community stakeholders like traditional leaders were side-lined in the process of take over and handover of the fields to the companies.”⁷

Another active and monitory Civil Society group the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association also shades light in the process of handover of the diamond fields and through the interview there wasn't enough awareness by the government and the process did not guarantee transparency and accountability for legislative roles were ignored by both parties. Interview with ZELA,

“The joint venture in 2010 represented the government takeover and handover the diamond fields to the foreign companies a transition from informal to formal mining activities. The period was also noted with the most of the diamonds companies in Chiadzwa being controlled by the military and political elites. The process of the handover did not guarantee transparency the way it was done since the blue print was

politicized. Politics played its oversight and ignored legislative role and it was difficult to bring the executive to account. As ZELA during the period we focused on the assessment for government actions in those areas of Marange as a way to have a clear picture for the country about parties responsibly for the mining of diamonds and that when the finding surface that the government partnership with the Chinese. ZELA starts to engage on the legal frameworks to ensure environmental conversation for the local. The discovery was that the Chinese and other mining companies did not undertake the Environmental Assessment Impact (EIA) prior to mining and environmental damage was taking place but surprisingly the companies were not brought to justice. All the mining activities by the Chinese Companies were far-fetched from accountability and transparency initiatives.”⁸

Interview with Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ)

“During the period of the handover of the fields by the government to the Chinese Companies the process itself was not clear was not open to anyone except the top brass of government officials and state security. As TIZ we undertook a research in trying to get a full understanding about the operation in Chiadzwa and this research was on the legal framework that governs mining. It was a baseline for legal analysis on specific laws and policies that should be involved and taken into account during diamond mining in Chiadzwa. We were trying to seek the constitutional context in which the law operates and to interrogate into policies and laws to apply in the case in the case of mining companies operating in Chiadzwa. The aim was to though the handover was not open to everyone at local level or at national level and therefore we seek the foregrounds of effectiveness activities that promote accountability and transparency directly to the minerals sector.”⁹

The process of the handover by the government some asserts that, the polarisation within government they asserted has magnified the inconsistencies as different ministers hold meetings with mining companies from different political front resulting in contestation when it comes to the finalisation of the process.¹⁰ Upon giving details on which the process could have been done some of the Chinese pretended not to understand English and some openly refused to provide information. Much of the information of the Mining companies has generally suffered distortion for much of the information is protected under the laws and policies that guarantees the

negotiations. However an interview with one of the Anjin Officials, former government representative at the Company, J Mutizhe surfaced that,

“The handover of the diamond fields to several mining companies in particular the Chinese Companies was however not clear in the people’s eyes for sources say it was more of a private thing, yes I can say information about the complicity of mining companies is generally misinformed usually by the CSOs. The companies would not come open about the contracts negotiation since the prevailing laws and policies did not guarantee them to make it public disclosure. The law did not state the publishing of negotiations of contracts processes and even ownership beneficiary hence people at the end analyse the handover as improper and even that’s why it is a difficult proposition for the companies to respond for the laws and policies did not either provide for such. The contracts for these mining companies deliver for what they should deliver and all activities that the comp any would do for the community are just out of its generosity for there are no legal necessities upon those activities.”¹¹

The Chinese Companies occupied much of the diamond fields through the partnership with the government unlike any other companies in Chiadzwa-Marange area. The Chinese Companies were the companies which had many workers and heavy duty machineries which were well advance in terms of diamond mining. The Chinese in Marange had 7 processing plants which had over 1 million carats per month between 2010 and 2013.¹² The period in which the commercialisation of the diamonds started was noticed with great production of the gem generating huge revenue for the country. In 2011 when the commercialisation of the diamonds started US \$2, 2 billion was generated and this was following the adoption of the Kimberly Process Certificate Scheme by the Administration decision of Zimbabwe which allowed exports of rough diamonds.¹³ During the period of the formalisation of the gem the company produce and export millions of carats. The official figures from the KPCS showed that Zimbabwe achieved to produce 8,4 million carats by the year 2010 and 8,5 million by the year 2011 and the calculation of the worthy on the exports cost US\$320 million and US\$422,9 million.¹⁴ The first phase in the mining activities by the Chinese companies was experienced with high levels of production for

they operated like the contracts expires within some months. The year 2012 also signified a peak in production level when 12,1 carats were produced in which it generated US\$741 million in the export revenue.¹⁵ However the way the Chinese were operating resulting into a decline in the mineral production. The year 2014 was witnessed with a slumped in exports to US\$ 470 million.¹⁶

These seven plants were located in two different areas, Chirasika and Tonhorai village. The operation was an open cast mining for the diamond was found beneath surface and it was easy for them to extract the mineral.



Insert 6 showing open cast mining activity in Chirasika area where Anjin Company was mining.

Conclusion

Therefore the year 2010 signified the government takeover of the diamond fields from the illegal miner that is from the informal mining activities and finally the handover to the Chinese Mining.

Companies in what was referred to as the beginning of formal mining activities in Chiadzwa-Marange. The Chinese companies that is the Anjin Investment and Jinan Ming Company were to partnership with the government in the mining of diamonds in Chiadzwa-Marange. However the handover of the diamond fields and partnering with the Chinese Companies in mining of diamonds was not clear and transparent for local inhabitants and Community based CSOs attested that the process lacked openness and awareness before both engaged into formal mining. Sources from the partnership suggested that the security sector that is the Army was also involved. The first phase of the formalization of the mining was noted with high production of the gem and generating of revenue, though in the late phases there was a decline in production and revenue generating.

End notes

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CHAPTER FOUR

Impact of the Chinese mining activities on the communities of Chiadzwa-Marange

Introduction

The chapter unveils the socio-economic, political and environmental impacts created by the Chinese mining companies to the communities of Chiadzwa-Marange diamond area. It is the contention of this chapter that Chinese activities had a deleterious impact on the African communities although there are a few coincidental benefits.

The socio-economic, political and environmental effects on the Chiadzwa diamond mining area basically can be supported and well-articulated by the Resource Curse Theory which encompasses the significant socio-economic, political and environmental challenges that are unique to areas or countries rich in oil, gas and minerals. According to Bleaney and Nishiyama, the theory informs about countries with rich minerals that failed to reach their full potential¹. Like Chiadzwa, the area with vast diamonds which cover up to 60 000 hectare fields, the diamonds have failed to be a blessing to the community rather a curse for they failed to support and develop the area. The communities in Chiadzwa area continue to wallow in poverty and there accusing diamond companies for pursuing profits at the expenses of the welfare of local inhabitants. The exploitation of the resources since the formal extraction did not benefit the communities in Chiadzwa-Marange but are getting further impoverishment; as a result the household members are being forced to engage life threatening activities such as smuggling into diamonds fields and prostitution.

Socio-economic effects

The beginning of the formal mining activities in Chiadzwa-Marange in 2010 was the worst of all the time to the lives of the local. The area of Chiadzwa characterised by low rainfall and referred to as arid region. The people in these areas cultivated dry resistant crops such as rappocco, sorghum and ground nuts. The discovery of the diamonds in the year 2006 up to 2009 was supplementary economic activity which provided opportunities to get money through mining and selling the mineral. However the period 2010 to 2016 saw a drastic shift in the way of life to the Chiadzwa-Marange communities following the eviction of the people from their former lands to make way for the Chinese mining companies. The loss of valuable agricultural lands has strongly affected food security for the surrounding communities.

The relocation phase

“Having secured the diamond fields the government moved a gear up in 2009 when it announced that it was going to forcibly relocate over 4000 families from Marange to Arda Transau, a government farm located about 40km north of Marange”² The relocation was to pave way for mining activities by the Chinese mining Companies.. The relocation was a violation to the international standards and treaties of the International Human Rights Declaration for some villagers evicted pronounced the transition as painful. According to the Herald, 5000 families were to be relocated to Arda Transau.³ The relocation process lacked consultation about impending eviction by the Chinese mining companies for it was more of a nightmare for the communities of Chiadzwa. The relocation phase show case the violation of human rights at every stage for Mupfumi notes that “The beginning of formal mining operation in Marange saw the worst form of human rights violations in Marange community by diamond companies. More than 1500 families were forcibly removed from Chirasika, Dzoma, Muedzengwa, Tonhorai,

Chiadzwa, Tenda and Zengeni villages in Marange to Arda Transau in Odzi alternative source of livelihoods to pave way for diamond mining in 2010.”⁴

People were relocated without any formal consultation or awareness, the right to information was violated, forcing people to pack and load their things in trucks with immediate effect, villagers were to carry few domestic animals with them and the rest they were supposed to sell them.

Interview with Musadaro he notes that

“The Companies did not give people the platform to air their views and voices rather everything was done according to their will. We lost our valuable lands grazing areas. Those who resisted were forced to pack their things, some of our property we left them behind because of the way the process was done and also if the truck fails to accommodate all your property you were forced to leave some behind.”⁵

According to Mupfumi , “The relocation exercise also decimated people’s social fabric and left them traumatised.”⁶ The formalisation of the diamond mining meant that the whole diamond area was supposed to have a similar land use which is diamond mining that means the families residing in the diamond area had to be evicted. The Mining Companies did not observe the principal on which people should be relocated, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement also prohibits arbitrary displacement and provide for consultation with affected communities and planning before displacement can take place.⁷

The receiving areas of evictees were not ready for human settlement. No provisions were made for social services such as schools, hospitals, safe drinking water and even infrastructure such as roads. According to the Human Right Watch, at least four secondary schools and 18 primary schools were forced to close and there were no plans to reopen them elsewhere.⁸ The situation resulted into high rate of school drop outs and some children spend some month not attending

school and psychologically affected the school child. The relocated parents hardly afforded the huge burden of purchase new uniforms and even the number of the incoming children going to school could not be accommodated with few schools in Arda Transau. Interview with Mashava a parent to the affected school children,

“When the relocation took place we thought the companies will provide us with enough schools but to our surprise only two schools were built to accommodate the relocated families a ratio of thousands of families. I spend about a whole school term with my children home for there was no place to enrol them. On the next second term in 2010 I then sent my children to stay with my relative in Rusape in order for the to obtain better quality of education for my fear was then even though a new school was built would there be enough quality of education for my children.”⁹

The impact did not only affect the evicted population rather it also had a negative impact on the remaining population in Marange areas like Chirasika, Bambazonge, Kusena and Chishingwi. The remaining households which were to be relocated were left with no schools for they were destroyed by the Chinese in paving way for mining. In Chirasika a primary school was demolished by the Anjin mining company. Children were forced to cross over to the nearest schools in Chimanimani district, miles away and even crossing dangerous Odzi River in times of flooding. The children had to walk long distance to school getting there tired. An interview with Gamunorwa a 21 years former student at the destroyed school in Chirasika,

“The period of the coming in of the Chinese Companies and activities which lead to the destroying of schools negatively impacted almost 400 children at Chirasika Secondary School by that time (2010), I was forced to walk about 10 kilometres to a nearby Hot springs Secondary School in Chimanimani District. Sometimes the road which we use in the morning with my colleagues, surprisingly in the evening will be closed and the mining activities will be taking place there we were forced to establishing a new way to cut throw. It was also challenging to encounter new teachers and the syllabus seems to differ the way and methods they used to teach which were different. Not only I was affected by they were some who walked long distance than mine. After some months we were lodging at Hot Springs shopping centre for it was a way to cut the burden of walking long distance and also to catch up with school time table. There was reports on school drop outs to some students we

used to walk with especially girls, for they do not afford the distance and rentals to lodge near the school.”¹⁰

Relocation also had far-reaching consequences for education as well. The mining companies failed to provide health facilities and safe drinking water. The companies lacked full accountability in the provision for health facilities before the relocation. Already in Arda Transau there was a shortage of clinics only one clinic was found in the area thereby the coming in of the population of 5000 families made matters worse and it posed a great threat to the health issues.

During the relocation the cultural norms and practices were affected. In an interview with Chimhete from Nyazika area noted that,

“The Chinese activities have affected us culturally. When the Chinese construct their plant they located near our home steads. At the source of deposition by the Jinan Company there were graves of my relative all of them they have been washed away but the company did nothing about it they act like they did not know now we do not have any access to revisit our relatives graves as you know in African culture we believe in the living dead and there is the uncertainty on the interlink with our ancestors and the living. Most of Johannes Marange apostolic sects shrines have been destroyed without any consultation to their leaders and most of our church activities were disrupted.”¹¹

The discovery of diamonds on its on is confined with myths which suggest the places of Chiadzwa were sacred and upon the early days of the discovery chief and elders of the land perform rituals in order for spirit medium to pave way in free access to the mineral. However reports are suggesting that by the coming in of the Chinese Companies their manning activities impacted negatively the cultural value of Ushonje range for they do not work hand in hand with local traditional leaders. One of the Chishingwi villager Mai Maoyo pointed out that,

“ During our childhood the Chiadzwa ranges were sacred in such a way that you could not urinate in it once you do that you went missing, provoke each other, shouting, cutting tress unnecessary, some of those things you went missing. However by the coming in of these companies deforestation on daily bases and the use of heavy machines levelling the

ranges and mountains clearly depicts the area is no longer sacred which even suggest that the spirit medium who once lived there are nowhere to be found”¹²

Claims of the relocation suggest that kraal heads were to be relocated with their subjects in Arda Transau for them to maintain and preserve community fabric; surprisingly the families have been totally dumped and neglected. Currently conflict arise whereby the relocated people are refusing subjection to the already chieftainship in Arda Transau area and also the royal families are not willing to be subjects. In the case of mining the Chinese companies with their caterpillars destroys shrines and graves of their ancestors in search of diamonds. The companies proved inadequate houses to the relocated families and families of 10 or 15 people were forced to stay in five roomed house built by the Chinese, moreover the reports are even suggesting that within some months of settlement outside views were visualised through cracks at any angle of the house for they were built and completed within short period of time, they were not even strong. The relocation also affected polygamous families mostly those from Vapostori sect were greatly affected. One of the cases was of the Kambeni family who had 14 wives’, it took time for the Ajin Company to provide houses for each wife of Kambini and even the eviction of graves at Kambeni homesteads in Chirasika village. An interview with one of Kambeni wife,

“The relocation was tremendous we were forced to live together under one big room sought of a hall. When the Chinese were providing houses they found it financially difficult to provide each of us (Kambeni’s wives), houses of the same size with other relocated people. Upon the relocation we refused to be given a ten roomed house in which we were supposed to stay together. We continue demanding to be given 14 separate houses for each wife. It took us two years and finally through engaging of different stakeholders like ZELA, the Provincial Administrator, Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust (ATRDT) and other CSOs, we were finally settled on more like a homestead area with each wife given a big rounded thatched hut and a five roomed house. These authorities partner with us in fighting for our cultural rights. It was a period which was difficult for us all for we did not even predict the future. The Companies did not consider our welfare and how we were going to survive till now ‘torarama nehwakumukwaku’ survival of the fittest.”¹³



Fig 7 A picture showing the houses built by the Chinese for the relocated family in Arda Transau

Beside the fact that the available resource could sustain and benefit the available population of Chiadzwa through infrastructure development, the formalization of diamond mining in Chiadzwa by the Chinese Companies did not represent any form of community development or empowerment. Infrastructure development was not a priority among the miners.

The Chinese Companies totally ignored giving back to the community to a company operating in a community with a population that demands social service. The Chinese did not provide support to infrastructure development but went on to destroy the schools where diamonds were available. Chirasika primary school was demolished and they did not provide the community with other school. The increasing population of workers become a burden to available resources such as schools and clinics. The only infrastructure that the Chinese built was their temple, which was

also the conflicting factor to culture and religion of the surrounding communities for people were against the Chinese worshipping their Buddhism. All this impacted the communities in different angles and left them referring the resource as a case to their community.

The Chinese Companies impact in Chiadzwa-Marange community also had strong impact for the relationship between the Chinese and workers. The recruitment of workers did not priorities the local inhabitants, for the high percentages of workers were not local people rather they were migrant, already the criteria of employment opportunities marginalized the locals. Reports suggested that “several cases of assaults on workers by Chinese authorities were reported at Anjin.”¹⁴ The workers could be retrenched at any will by the companies; the fact that they gave only short contracts of not more than three month empowers the Chinese over workers for they could not claim the benefits after work dismissal. The minority group of local workers luckily to be employed become victims to the working conditions at Anjin and Jinan Companies, workers were physically abused. According to News day, at Jinan mine workers were physically kicked by Chinese bosses, when a worker who is a machine operator does not understand what they were saying, because the Chinese cannot speak English they end up physically abused¹⁵. The Companies in the early years meet the demands of their workers however changes resulted when the companies failed to pay salaries for workers. Interview with Khomozana one of the Ajin Company worker postulate that,

“Between 2013 to 2016 August we hardly earn our salaries, in some cases they gave us salaries after six month and it was so difficult to claim or demonstrate for salaries. The Companies operated 24 hours per day and 7 days per week it was non-stop and we were having shifts. There was 7am to 6 pm shift and 6pm to 7 am shift, a week night a week day shift for a worker. The shifts were horrible since they had so many hours of hard labour. After work you could feel muscles are tired. Failure to report to work resulted into being sucked. The Chinese owes

us more than US\$10 000, even when I was retrenched they did not give me package I was chased like a dog.”¹⁶

The community was also socially affected by the increasing population by works from different parts of the country in the sense that available resources could not support, the population ratio become too demanding. The community become a hunting ground of women by workers and this resulted into many cases on marriage breakdowns and early child marriages which even spread beyond the education system for there was high rate of school dropouts. Women and children failed to resist the temptation because of the spending power by the migrant workers, the impacts still haunts the community for most children were connived to drop from school and get married however at some time they will run away going back to their unknown places.

Interview with Matiashe,

“The Chinese Mining Company workers socially impacted the communities for they engaged into marital affairs with our children some of the under the age of 18, school going. It happens to say the spending power which the workers have made it difficult for our children to resist the temptations by these flamboyant workers. In schools they were reports of drop outs mostly girl child and in the communities early child marriages. All this was caused by the presents of companies, prior we did not experience such atrocities”¹⁷

Environmental Impact

The Environmental Management Act states that the mining operation of all large scale mining is supposed to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to the mining started. The EIA review and pin points the implication on environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts for the operation. However the Chinese companies upon their start they ignored the Act. It also recommended by the EIA that upon the mining process the companies should periodically undertake environmental audits that ensure recommendation by the EIA to be sufficient and

effectively practiced. Mtisi propounded that “As mining companies embarked on extracting minerals they take away valuable land from communities, degrade the quality of the land, lead to deforestation, cause water and air pollution and siltation of the river.”¹⁸ The mining of diamond in Chiadzwa has creased environmental concern in situations rivers are heavily polluted, land degraded, air and noise pollution, deforestation and exacerbating land deterioration, the benefit sounds to be sad tale.

The Chinese mining companies have greatly polluted the two main rivers that supply water to both human beings and animals. The diamond mining area is surrounded by two major sources of water that is the Save and Odzi Rivers. Save River geographical boundary of Marange District and Buhera Districts, therefore it supplies water to both districts. On the eastern side is Odzi River that is also an administrative boundary of Marange and Chimanimani districts. When the Chinese came in, the first priority was water source before establishing their mining plants and it happened that several mining plants were constructed near the rivers. The Jinan Company is located near Tonhorai close to Save River and Anjin close to Odzi River. In the Case of Odzi River the Chinese plants are just less than a kilometre away from the river banks. The processing of diamonds on a large scale mining requires a constant supply of water. Since the establishment of the mining companies in these areas there is untold suffering whereby the Anjin mining Company directly deposits polluted water into the Odzi river and the Jinan Mining company also directly deposits polluted water into Save River. The water is dirty and tainted with, dangerous chemicals that greatly harming the ecosystem since the rivers are filled with silt and also this is affecting fishing and farming activities. There is heavily contaminated of the rivers to such extent that it’s not safe to drink for both human beings and livestock. In the early days the company directly deposits sewage into Odzi River. The rivers are characterised with mud-

choked in the river bed and banks, and the presents of chemicals which are causing itching of skins. The discharge after the sorting process caused the water to be turbid. The people living along the rivers experienced mining as a disaster for the polluted water contains chemicals that maddening heath conditions and even the domestic animals. Several people along Save-Odzi River lost their cattle especially those residing near the source of discharged polluted water. Reports by Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) support the constant perishing of cattle in the communities along Save-Odzi River due to chemicals.



Fig 8 showing polluted Odzi River and a child bathing using the polluted water.



Fig9 showing the polluted water from Odzi River during the early mining when the Chinese directly deposits sewage into Odzi River.

More than 1000 cattle die from mining pollution, according to The Zimbabwean newspaper an interview with M Karenyi who had over 60 cattle she lost 55 of them due to polluted water, she said that the cattle become clumsy, then grew huge bellies and eventually unable to walk. There was also the experiencing of still births, it's now difficult to send children to school since cattle was a source of income and she no longer have enough to sell.¹⁹

An interview with one Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) community based Trust member Mavis Mupandare, reviewed the untold story of Chinese companies to the communities.

“It all started in 2010 when the companies come in and we were happy that development has visited our area not knowing disaster finally come. The rivers are polluted at daily bases, during the early days the Chinese deposit at any time of the day and pollution become the order of the day and it became difficult for us to utilise the water to drink or for domestic use. When the pollution was at its height we engaged our chiefs to go and dialogue with the companies that’s when they changed the time of discharging their polluted water thou it was not so easy to fool us we could even notice in the early mornings with mud-chocked river banks. The water contains chemicals that had an effect to human beings and animals. The communities lost thousands of cattle which were not even compensated. I personally lost 40 cattle some of them died during giving birth and am left with 3 luckily survived oxen. Those cattle were the only source of income and am left nowhere to depend on. The effect spread even downstream areas where Odzi and Save converge. The pollution of the local water sources marginalised the community capacity to develop even though with the closure of companies they have already in the past destroyed us.”²⁰



Fig 10 showing already dead cattle affected from drinking polluted water in Odzi River.



Fig11 showing a decay cattle in Odzi River as a result from continuous drinking of chemical polluted water.

Interview with Mrs Jena,

“The very period when the Chinese stated their mining strange experiences happened in this community whereby our cattle started to bare pre-mature calf’s, die during giving birth, unhealthy livestock’s things that we never experienced before and that was because of polluted water with chemicals. After we tried to engage the companies they did not cooperate and they did not gave us the platform to talk with them however through ZELA advocacy we managed to engage the companies but it was too late for many families downstream lost their source of wealth (livestock’s) to an extend that the companies destroyed our future.”²¹



Fig 12 showing a dead cattle with a premature calf also die due to polluted water in Save River.

Water problems caused much trouble which includes loss of livestock. According to the Standard newspaper, an interview with Headman Nelson Mangwadza point out that, “Save River is now heavily contaminated. We have lost so many cattle and goats since the mining venture started. There is really nothing we benefited from the diamond in terms of infrastructure development. Only a few individuals were employed from my area and we were not even included in Zimunya Marange Community Share Ownership Trust here besides being close to diamond. We are living in a sea of poverty yet a few kilometres away there are diamonds”²²

The presents of the companies in these areas pushes the communities to a marginal society.

Since the formal mining activities started in Marange almost at daily bases massive destruction of tress was experience in the environment of diamond area. The clearing of trees most of them which have social and economic benefit to the local communities. The companies failed to provide environmental protection and also the EMA turned a blind eye to the mining activities in Chiadzwa. According to Mtisi, the problem with the rights in the Environmental Management Act is that they are just meant to act as a guide to government actions.²³ The cutting down of tress was done randomly by the Chinese in any areas they suspect the diamond belt could be present. Interview with Chikukwa,

“The earth movers were seen at anyplace be in the middle of the jungle clearing and destroying trees. Those heavy machineries destroyed our environment. The companies lacked testing machines to check on the surfaced diamonds and therefore this led to a massive vulnerability to the environment of Marange The destruction of fruit tress like baobab trees by the Ajin company that had economic and social role to the community has left the community vulnerable when it comes to traditional values of the environment”²⁴

The mining activities by the Chinese mining Companies did not take into consideration for resource conservation to the Marange communities.

The area of Marange prior to the discovery of the diamond it was strongly intact with beautiful landscape however the changes come with the presents of the Chinese mining companies which created moonscapes, scrap hips of sand left out, and the exacerbating erosion in Marange. The mining activity opened up gullies and quarries some of them they did not close them and now the community there at risk for their livestock’s are falling and dying into those pits. The few that escaped from the water pollution are those now at risk of the opened pits. There also earth dams constructed by the Ajin company which is now acting as a trap for the livestock’s of the

remaining inhabitants of Marange for their reports of cattle failing to come out once they get into those dams because of the mud surrounding.

Apart from worrying much about their uncertain future the remaining villagers of Marange are more concerned about drastic increasing pollution by the Mining companies. The use of caterpillars, motor graders, heavy dumper motor, which raises dust at every corner of the community is affecting people's health. The fear is that tuberculosis would be everyone's disease due to the daily dust inhalation. The Anjin mining company, the biggest mining company in Marange operates 24 hours a day with its heavy machinery and trucks roaring throughout day and night. One interviewee who resides near the Anjin Company, Muchaya commented that,

“The coming in of the Chinese and the establishment of diamond plants in this Chirasika village has a restless effect of noise and air pollution and I cannot talk about the sidelined of the community as a stakeholder to the natural resource. They operate 24 hours a day, during the day the noise might not be strongly affecting us but however in the night we hardly enjoy our sleeping due to the machines crushing stones, machines that speaks Chinese loudly and hooters for heavy and light motors. At least the closure of those companies as a result of a commanding order by the government had brought back peaceful nights. During their operation dust was everywhere like clouds roaring in the air”²⁵

Political impact

The background on which the Chinese were granted the permission to diamond mining lies in the countries strong relationship with Zimbabwe. The look East policy initiated the granting of mining concessions to the Chinese. The Chinese mining Companies upon their mining enjoyed political protection whereby they ignored the country's constitution. They did not observe the Mining and Mineral Act (Chapter 21:05) of the constitution. The reason why they turned a blind eye was that other individual political big wings gave the protection to such extent that they

failed to put in place appropriate frameworks for regulatory measures. Politics in the mining arena of Chiadzwa gave the opportunity for the Chinese to exploit at the expense of the affected community. The area become much into control of politics rather than laws and order of the country hence some of the agents become crippled in carrying out their duties, for instants EMA. The major challenge that EMA faced was political, reports have suggested that in 2012, Anjin was fined \$14 000 US by EMA and it can be argued and questioned that it was too sufficient for a company which is dealing in billions annually, and this made it cheaper to pollute and pay a fine than preventing the pollution.²⁶

The recruitment of workers was controlled political it was on the bases on which party do you belong to. The ruling party possessed the powers of recruitment which therefore impacted the community politics. According to The Standard newspaper an interview with Headman Chibuwe postulated that, “We didn’t have our children employe, we are breathing dust and mine workers are taking our wives here. I am 72 years old but I have never seen this. There is no more fish in Save River and no infrastructure development like new clinics and schools”²⁷

Conclusion

Therefore the presence of the Chinese mining Companies (Anjin and Jinan Mining Companies) in Marange diamond area have negatively impacted on the community political, socio-economic and environmental. The displacements of people have deeply threatened life to the people of Chiadzwa through marginalization, food insecurity, social disarticulation, the destruction of formal education activities, loss of communal lands, joblessness and homelessness. The

displacement of the people from diamond areas did not ensure compliance with international law and standards and also ignored the respecting of affected population rights. The basic principles states to guarantee and ensure that displaced and evicted population are supposed to be provided with compensation, housing and shelter, water, food and sanitation. The nature of the state and its role in the dynamics of diamond exploitation was reluctant to the extent that the Chinese activities greatly impacted the environment and socio-economic life of the community. On the other hand the Environmental Management Agent (EMA) was crippled when it comes to deal with those companies. In fact the Chinese mining companies did not promote sustainable development to the people of Chiadzwa rather they pushed the communities to a marginalised society where the Resource Case Theory can be best be described.

The communities were impacted through the relocation process; there was family disintegration, destruction and disturbances of school child education system, cultural violation, loss of agricultural and grazing lands, health challenges and human rights violation. On the environmental impacts the chapter shall review the vulnerability of the land immediately when Chinese possessed the rights to mine. The land degradation, deforestation, noise, air pollution and water pollution impacting the already deprived communities. The political aspect was impacted through politicization of the gem. The Chinese Companies impacted the community in such a way that all activities done depict a clear picture of a marginalised community of Chiadzwa-Marange.

Overall conclusion

In 2006 diamonds were discovered in Chiadzwa, locally known ngoda. This led to the diamond rush, influx of people from different parts of the country and outside the country into the area of Chiadzwa. The rush has been described in different contexts where others associated it with government fostering the diamond rush for political mileage through the discovery for some officials declared the fields for well-wishes. However, the rush could not be associated with any political mileage since the government by then did not have enough equipment's and even the know-how about the mineral itself. The early dynamics in the illicit mining by the gwejas impacted the surrounding communities at a large scale. The increasingly population affected the socio-economic of the already existing inhabitants of Chiadzwa area. The illegal mining activities by the artisanal miners created a crisis in which the overcrowded experience shortages of water, poor sanitation and even housing shortages and Chiadzwa became a threat to human life. After a period of free for well-wishers the government advanced on to the protection of the gem and it deployed police and military to flush out illegal miners. The process had crackdowns launched in order to stop the siphoning out of the diamonds from Chiadzwa, however it was noted with human rights abuses for the security used brutality during the processes. However, the forceful removal of the illicit artisanal miners by the government was an outstanding measure that aimed at solving the chaos which attracted consideration from the international community.

After a successful removal of the illegal miners the government went a step ahead in the formalisation of the diamond mining in Chiadzwa and it gave different companies mining rights and concessions. Companies like Mbada, Marange Resources and ZMDC were granted the permission to mine. The government entered into multiple joint ventures with the Chinese investors. Due to the Sino-Zimbabwe relations the Chinese emerged the leading investors into the diamond mining sector in Chiadzwa. The government with the two Chinese Companies, the Anjin Investment and Jinan Mining Companies partnership in the mining of diamonds in Chiadzwa. However, the condition on which the partnership was done and how it was going to run remain unknown for a lot of information remain unpublished only available in few government officials and the Chinese representatives. Other Civil Society Organisation such as ZELA, CCJP and ITZ complained about the process for it was more of a secret to the people of Chiadzwa and the country at large. However, few sources noted that the partnership involved the military

sector, the government and the Chinese where the Chinese obtained 50% from the mining and the rest belonged to the government.

The formalization of the diamond mining and the handover of the diamond fields to the Chinese Mining companies signified what the people of Chiadzwa called the beginning of community marginalization. The mining activities had negatively impacted the communities in Chiadzwa. Mining by the Chinese created a deteriorating community this was notable in the socio-economic impacts, Political impacts and largely environmental impacts. The relocation by the companies did not consult the people or even surrounding stakeholders and it left the people vulnerable in Ardar Transau area. The pollution went further to impoverish the local communities for it affected them economically and socially, their livestock were affected and health wise they were forced to use domestically the polluted water. Cultural rights were violated and even various human rights were deprived. Though the companies obtained high production what surprised most was the fact that the diamond did not benefit the community rather continued to marginalise the Chiadzwa-Marange communities hence the formal diamond mining in Chiadzwa represent a curse rather than a blessing to the community.

End Notes

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- 12 Interview with N, Maoyo, Tonhorai Village in Marange District, 26 February 2017.
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