



www.econet.co.zw

Sunday, November 27, 2011

Search Articles

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Property](#)
- [International News](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Advertising](#)

Business | Business | Rapaport slams KP decision

Rapaport slams KP decision

By Business writer

Thursday, 24 November 2011 17:36

HARARE - Diamonds trade watch-dog, The Rapaport Group (Rapaport), has condemned Kimberley Process' (KP) recent decision to allow Zimbabwe to export its diamonds from the controversial Marange fields.

"We hereby publicly warn members of the diamond trade that the KP does not certify against human rights abuses and KP certification does not ensure that diamonds are not involved in human rights abuses," Rapaport said in a statement.

The group said there were persistent reports of human rights violations related to Marange diamonds, adding that the funds generated from the sale of the diamonds were not properly accounted for.

"It is likely that they will be used to fund human rights violations in Zimbabwe."

Rapaport said: "In spite of KP certification these diamonds are under United States, European Union and United Kingdom government sanctions and are illegal for trade by US, EU and UK citizens and entities owned by them."

"The Rapaport Group calls on all ethical members of the diamond trade to cease and desist from the trading of Marange diamonds. In the event that firms insist on buying and producing them we demand that these Marange diamonds be separated from non-Marange diamonds so that they are not sold to US, EU or UK entities."

The group demanded that firms selling Marange diamonds do so with full disclosure, similar to the disclosure requirements for treated diamonds.

The Rapaport Group is an international network of companies providing added value services that support the development of free, fair, efficient and competitive diamond and jewelry markets.

However, following KP's certification, India — the world's largest diamond processor — said it will soon begin importing the precious stones from Zimbabwe.

Mines minister Obert Mpofu has said KP's green light was set to change Zimbabwe's economic fate.

Mpofu said the diamond trade, which he expected to contribute \$2 billion revenue to the fiscus annually, was the driver for economic recovery.

He said the gems will revive the country's economy, beleaguered by an approximately \$9 billion international debt and a \$700 million budget deficit.

"We want to shock the world with our stockpiles. We are going to unleash our worth to the world and Zimbabwe will not be asking for anything from anyone. I hate begging myself and Zimbabwe will not be begging from anyone," he said.

"The ministry of Mines has the pleasure to announce that it is ready to lead and champion the economic recovery of this country through a robust dynamic and aggressive policy to grow the mining sector in Zimbabwe whose growth is currently bullish and set to contribute in excess of 50 percent of our GDP," Mpofu added.

According to Mpofu, tax contributions from Marange are an average \$30 million per month and total levies in the first half of 2011 have reached an excess of \$300 million.

Although Mpofu insisted that there were no stringent conditions under the new terms, a KP draft proposal indicates otherwise.

The draft endorses exports of production from mining operations in Marange Resources and Mbada Diamonds, upon verification of compliance with the KP team.

The compliant mining operations are required to share mine level data with the KP monitoring team, comprising Abbey Chikane and Mark van Bockstael, on an on-going basis to ensure transparency.

The team was also tasked to visit Anjin, a diamond mining firm in Marange, within 14 days to verify compliance after which export of the company's diamonds resumes.

The requirements also include giving KP Civil Society Coalition representatives access to the mining area to allow continuous reporting, a key provision especially given that the civil society and Mines ministry officials were previously denied access to the diamond mining area. — With Diamonds.net

Comments

#1 **zim weeeafrika** 2011-11-25 09:28

0



facebook

Latest News

- Well done PSL, but...
- 'Our pricing competitive'
- Lindiwe Zulu talking tough
- ZCTU hearing postponed
- Gono praises Bifti over budget
- MSF not abandoning Zim
- Harare budget approved without objection
- PM raps BAZ over licenses
- Bifti casts doubt over election
- Weak Rand stabilises prices

Popular

- 'Mugabe unwell'
- Mujuru dies
- Is Mugabe fit for another term?
- Makandiwa cashes in
- Questions over Mujuru death
- War over Mujuru death
- Makandiwa turns down Zanu PF
- Where is Mugabe?
- Mugabe sneaks out of Zim
- Mujuru death mystery deepens

Weather

Your Weather for:
Harare, Zimbabwe
Harare (Oufaga ML...)

21°C

SUN 23°

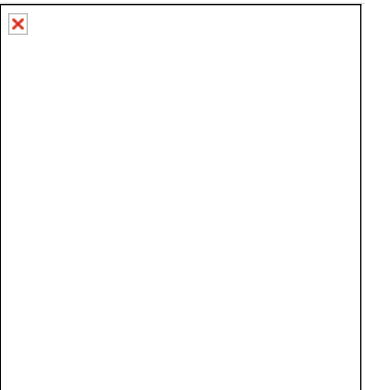
18°C

MON 26°

[Forecast Satellite Photos](#)

[View Local Weather](#)

Your weather just got better.



VOTE

Registrar General says there are no funds for elections in 2012. Should Zim hold elections?

- Yes, it solves the political crisis
- No, environment is not conducive

becoz of the tremendous gain expected by zimbabwe from the sell of diamonds, western sponsored civic groups are afraid that the land reform will be a success story and will be used by other african nations as a case study in their struggle for total economic independence. bravo zimbabwe! Bravo africa! alluta continua!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Quote

Refresh comments list
RSS feed for comments to this post

Add comment

Name (required)
E-mail (required, but will not display)
Website

Text area for comment

Notify me of follow-up comments



Refresh
Input field

Send

1 Comments

Vote

Sponsored by: Daily News Zimbabwe. View details

Featured Links:



Ads by Daily News Zimbabwe



Home | Terms & Conditions | About Us | Contact Us

RSS Feeds