



*Raising the community voice in the extractive sector*

### **Police in heavy handed battles with diamond panners as diamond mergers stall in Marange.**

The government's turn around strategy in the diamond sector was marked by the arbitrary seizures of diamond mining companies in Marange and immediate operationalisation of Zimbabwe Consolidation Diamond Company (ZCDC) in february 2016. Despite incessant calls for government to engage other stakeholders such as mining communities business and civil society and undertake due diligence processes ,government instead chose to do it alone with mines minister Chidhakwa reassuring the nation that he had done his homework and diamond mergers were going to be successful. The 90 days ultimatum given to mining companies to remove their mining equipment have since passed and government is embroiled in battles with Mbada, Anjin and Jinan over control of Marange diamonds. Meanwhile the limited mining operations undertaken so far at ZCDC in Marange is secretive amid allegations of corruption and misrepresentation of diamond production figures by the executive. Meanwhile police operatives have become have handed in their bid to control diamond panners invading the diamond fields with fatal results. The biting economic hardships in Zimbabwe is driving hundreds of mostly unemployed youth into panning for diamonds in protected diamond fields of Marange. Diamond mining in Marange have benefitted elites at the expense of the communities.

Crispen Dlamini aged 38 from Rusape, Tinashe Matanda aged 21 from Mutare and Norest Munjoma aged 28 from Marange were this week victims of police indiscriminate shooting in Marange diamond fields. The victims are all married, unemployed and cannot support their families. Zimbabwe's unemployment figures is alarmingly standing at over 80%. The exploitation of natural resources in Zimbabwe has a potential to generate employment and turn around the economy if it is properly managed. Crispen died from bullet wounds to his head



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