



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2023 NATIONAL BUDGET BASED ON SOME
PROVISIONS OF THE AFRICA MINING VISION (AMV)**

The AMV is a continental policy framework that was created by the Africa Union (AU) in 2009 to ensure that Africa prudently utilizes the wealth of its natural resources. The AMV seeks to promote transparent, equitable, and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and social-economic development. Under geological and mineral information systems, the AMV expects the improvement of geological and mining information systems to underpin development in exploration and mine development. Just like most geological survey institutions across Africa, Zambia's Geological Survey Department (GSD) faces financial capacity challenges.

The Department is underfunded or poorly resourced making it difficult to effectively discharge its functions. The total budget allocations for geological mapping, petroleum exploration, and other exploration activities in 2021 and 2022 were ZMW 9,211,426 and ZMW 8,963,312, respectively. This reflects a 2.7 percent reduction in the budget allotted for activities aimed at gathering geological information.

It is worth underscoring that the annual budget allocations for the activities of mapping and exploration must be guided by a strategic plan. The plan must elucidate what percentage of Zambia we intend to map and explore. The completion date and detail must also be indicated. Based on this, total cost projections should be made. Using the total cost estimation, the government must make annual projections that will guide budget allocations for this very important activity. Furthermore, the strategic plan needs to further indicate what percentage will be covered by private enterprises and Private Public Partnerships (PPPs). This is against the backdrop of being painfully aware that government cannot solely undertake comprehensive mapping and exploration of the country because of a limited operational budget to support the mining sector. Mining is Zambia's economic wheel. Hence, it is expected that we have a robust mineral resources development and management plan as a country.

It is important to mention that improved geological and mining information systems can provide better government decision-making and the capacity to negotiate mineral resource development contracts with foreign investors. For the artisanal and small-scale mining

players, geological information which is a causal challenge will help address other challenges such as poor mining practices, land degradation, lack of access to finance, and poor occupational health and safety. This will initiate poverty reduction and induce economic development.

As the government is planning to review policies and laws on mining, it must prioritize adopting some of the key issues in the AMV. Some of these key issues are expected to be part of the 2023 National Budget. In the context of the raised key issues, the following are some of the policy recommendations to the government.

- (i) Legislate an Act of Parliament that transforms the GSD into a state agency with its governing board;
- (ii) Increase the 2023 total budget allocations to geological mapping, petroleum exploration, and other exploration works; and
- (iii) Sustainably fund the GSD using a portion of mineral royalty.

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Editor's Note

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) is a not-for-profit, membership based trade policy and development think tank. The organization was established in 1999 and existed as the civil society trade network (CSTNZ), until 2009 when it was rebranded as the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD).

The mandate of CTPD is to influence pro-poor trade and investment reforms at national, regional and multilateral levels as well as facilitate the participation of various stakeholders including member organizations in ensuring that trade is used as a tool for poverty eradication.

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