MANAGING MINING LICENSES IN NIGERIA

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President, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

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About Us

ACCI Multipurpose Cooperative Society is an association of business people located in the FCT. It is affiliated to Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and promises to become the largest community of business people in the FCT supporting one another and working together for the mutual benefit of its members.

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About ACCI

Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in August of 1986 as a Company Limited by Guarantee with the principal objective of promoting economic and industrial development within the FCT in particular and Nigeria in general. It is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, member-funded organisation solely representing the common interests of the business community in the FCT. The Chamber is privately funded by Corporations, Foundations and Members, therefore its energies are directed by the interests of the business community and the general public. Its policy centre organises the event.

About Mining Cadastre Office

The Mining Cadastre Office (MCO) is an autonomous body of the Nigerian Government responsible for the processing of mineral rights applications; the issuance and administration of licences and permits; the maintenance of cadastral records, registers and maps; and the receipt and safe-keeping of reports and upon the written approval of the Minister revoking a mining title; all in an objective, non-discretionary and transparent manner in accordance with the laws of Nigeria.

About Nigerian Chamber Of Mines

It is an organization with the principal objective of promoting the business interest in the mining sector in the Country. It is a non-partisan and member-funded organization solely representing the common interest of the mining community in Nigeria.
The Nigerian mining sector is a focus of attention as the nation strives to achieve diversification of the economy. The strategic point for the mining sector reform has to do with the management of the licensing processes. This is the heart of the sector and its management determines the level of successes the government can record in the diversification process. The proceeding account for the webinar which seeks to review the mining licensing process, challenges and opportunities for further improvement.

Olawale Rasheed
Executive Director,
ACCI Policy Centre (PAC)

Map of Nigeria Showing Solid Mineral Locations
GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Process of Licensing management within the Mining sector
2. Review stakeholders’ position on the licensing process
3. Review the policy and legal framework of the mining sector
4. Recommend policy and legal actions to fill all identified loopholes
The conference has a total of three main speakers inclusive of the keynote speaker, Director General, Nigeria mining Cadastre Office, Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, the President of Nigerian Chamber of Mines, Alhaji Shehu Sani and the Vice President, Mines, ACCI, Dr. Johnson Somadina Anene.

The President of ACCI, Dr. Al-Mutjaba presented the welcome address. The Director General of ACCI, Ms Victoria Akai delivered the closing remarks.
Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom is the Director-General of the Nigeria Mining Cadastre, an Agency under the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Mining Engineering from Federal University of Technology, Akure in addition to various other qualifications which include an MBA and PGD in Management from University of Maiduguri, HND in Mining Engineering from Kaduna Polytechnic, Certificates in Geo-database, Geographical Information System, both from Houston, USA, Spatial Data Handling, Netherlands, Public Administration, Maiduguri, Mining and Metallurgy, MINETEC, Japan and he also obtained a certificate in Japanese Language.

He is currently the 30th President of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) and also member of the following professional bodies amongst others;

- Fellow, the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (FNMG)
- Fellow, the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE)
- Fellow, Nigerian Society of Mining Engineers (FNSME)
- Fellow, Geoinformation Society of Nigeria (FGEOSON)
- Fellow, Nigerian Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (FNAEGE)
- Member, Council of Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COME)
- Member, Council of Registered Engineers (COREN)

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Science and Fellow in Sustainable Environmental Development at St Louis D’Afrique University Porto- Novo, Republic of Benin. He also received an award on the African Leaders Integrity Merit in Lome, Togo, he has served in various committees as well as attended courses and conferences within and outside Nigeria in Mining and Mineral Sector Development. He is married with children.
He is fellow Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Chairman, Abuja Trade Centre. He Holds A Master of Science Degree (M.Sc) in Management of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is also Vice President (Mines), Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

Alhaji Sani Shehu hails from Toro Local Government of Bauchi state. He attended university of jos for his under graduate and post graduate studies. He did his NYSC in the former Anambra state in 1991. He worked with Azigbo Brothers Mining Company, as Tin Shade Manager in 1993 but resigned in 1996 to form his company-MAILALLE NIG LTD. The company is now into gold exploration and marble quarrying. Sani Shehu has been deeply involved in Nigerian Mining Reform Initiative.

- He is CEO Mailalle Nig Ltd
- Board member NEITI
- Member, minerals Implementation Strategic Team[MIST]
- Member, Road map Drafting Committee
- Former Board member Solid Minerals Development Fund
- An Alumni, Gemological Institute of America GIA
- Past President, Miners Association of Nigeria and
- Presently the Vice chairman West African Chamber of Mines (EFEDCOM)
- Currently President Nigeria Chambers of Mines
Welcome Address By ACCI
President, Dr. Al-Mujtaba
Abubakar

I welcome all participants to this another very important webinar to address the management of mining licences within Nigeria. This topic is important for many reasons namely:

- Nigeria urgently needs to act on diversification to reduce dependency on oil and hydro carbons;
- The sector most potent to fill this gap is the mining sub-sector, for which Nigeria is abundantly blessed;
- Attention to the sector is however yet to match its importance in the plan to diversify the national economy.

We have as our keynote speaker today the top public official in charge of mining licencing administration in the country. Our questions are likely to be answered. We are waiting to be enlightened on how the mining licence administration is managed.

But before then, I want to advance the following policy positions from private sector perspectives namely:

- Nigeria should advance to industrial scale mining approach. It is only this that can yield sufficient returns for the nation in need of diversification. Mining dominant nations operate at industrial level, yielding billions in revenue earnings;
- Nigeria should create a public private mining equipment Corporation to fill the equipment deficit in the sector. While the mining fund is commendable, the equipment Corporation is actually the standard route as it enhances the operational capacity and capabilities of the sector;
- Aside the above, we must as a nation consciously develop the mining sector value chains especially in term of value addition. The processing and packaging chains will boost private sector participation and increase communal community wealth.

Having said the above, I want to put on records that ACCI is already a strong partner of the mining sector. We host the Nigerian Chamber of Mining and the Geomological Institute of Nigeria. We look forward to closer partnership especially on the subject of a private sector driven Mining equipment Corporation.

I welcome us all again.
FULL REPORT OF WEBINAR

Moderator:
I welcome us all to this webinar. After remarks by the ACCI President, let me call on President, Nigerian Chamber of Mines for his remarks.

Alhaji Sani:
I want to observe that licensing is the starting point for legal operation and mining being regulated system all over the world. It is very critical to its legal operation. The licensing system here in Nigeria seems to capture both small scale and artisanal like in other countries, small scale mining operation is now limited to indigenous operators and it is a step in the right direction.

To obtain licenses, one has to go through a rigorous process and if the license is obtained, government has the obligation to protect that license from intrusion by the community and super illegal miners that use financial resources to compromise. Unfortunately, some of the government officials compromise and by so doing a legitimate license holder tend to be at the receiving end and cannot take care of his obligation to the government because a licensed miner has an obligation to pay annual dues.

Moderator:
Lets now hear from the keynote speaker.

DG Mining Cadastre Office:
The background of the Nigeria mining cadastre goes way back in 2006 when the Federal Government mining sector reform was carried out and 2007 came the establishment of the act of the mining cadastral office which is an autonomous agency with the act and we have a mandate to be able to now possess
applications at the same time, consider disputes, dispose applications, mineral titles permit, grants issue, suspend and a lot of other things, like maintain our chronical order of records by use of the cadastral register.

We equally relate and have community rights reflected making sure that mining is carried out not in urban areas but is carried out in local places where communities, farm lands and other places. We have now been able to maintain consent as enshrined in the constitution, community development agreements and responsibility of actor to take care of the environment. There are so many requirements that are there for grant of title.

The essence of this slide is to be able to look at the ACCI that is, the establishment way back in 1986. I don’t need to tell you people because you know who you are but as NGO you need to have an idea of what ACCI is. In the nutshell, AACI is protecting the interest of the commerce and industry and at the same expressing the opinion of business community on operations affecting trade, industry, mines and agriculture in FCT in particular and Nigeria in general. Another aspect is for the chambers to gain better understanding. Prior to now, NACCIMA have had reasons to invite us for a presentation some time last year on a one-day sensitization program in Lagos.

So, I think ACCI is in the right direction. Now, we already started collaborating with NACCIMA to make sure that we are able to reach out, these at the end of the day is actually to enforce understanding because there is general requirement for the grant of mineral title that are spelt out in our website. Now, I might be able to answer one of the questions that President Alhaji Shehu Sani raised about the processes of obtaining licences which he said is rigorous. Well, I believe that to be very candid which he knows now are very simple because the simpler the processes are, the better for people to have access. There are some key areas that definitely needs to be concentrated on, like as a company, you must have certification if at the end of the day you are going into mining, you should be able to know what you are going into.

Even if you are going into a reasonable business of groundnut like ACCI will know, you must be able to have a plan and what the plans you will carry out so that at the end, you don’t just put your money into the business. Mining is not a simple business, it is something that needs a lot of technical competence, so that at the end of the day you don’t invest N1 million (one million) and loose it. It should be an investment, not an expenditure and the other aspects are evidence of financial capabilities. We are not saying you should have trillions or billions in your account but we believe that you have an idea. These things are clearly spelt out by the requirements and that is why the law made sure that this bureaucratic nature of governance does not stop the process and that is why it is enshrined in the act that for exploration licenses, date of submission of application is not supposed to be more than 30 days.
It is not as if it is a guideline, it is in the law. From the date you submit an application with all things in order, you can even get licenses within one week, two weeks, you must also have tax clearance as enshrined in the constitution because we cannot be working in isolation. The different kinds of licenses like you know, exploration license, mining leases, small scale, foreign leases depending on the type activity you want to carry out with different durations that we have. The strategies in place, collaborations with organizations like ACCI, is making sure that first come first serve, use it or lose it, we don’t want people having licenses and not utilizing it and losing it does not mean sitting down here and just take it away. Some of you know the essence is, we are quite conscious of the situation in terms of COVID, and at the same time people who have no business with mining should not be there. If you have a license and you don’t use it definitely you will lose it. Objectivity and professionalism is key, transparency is another aspect that we have continuously worked with transparency International. I have attended all their programs, we work in collaboration with them and it is evident because we have good ratings and for mining cadastral definitely we can proudly raise our heads because transparency international is very important and that is key for business.

Security of tenure, when you have a license, you should be assured that tomorrow when somebody who calls himself Minister comes and say this or that concerning license, that is why you find that the act clearly empowers the Director General as the Chief Executive and the MCO is autonomous and the Minister himself ensure that the MCOs stays autonomous. That is way till date the Minister has continually given us the necessary support to ensure that there won’t be any reason that from this part of the country or any part of the country you are deprived of getting licenses.
The second aspect is that, we have put in place by establishing zonal offices for strategic communication and at the end of this is to bring government closer to the people. We are able to establish research, development and sustainability. The essence is we should not just be giving license, we should be able to have projections and a lot of developmental programs have been put in place toward managing conflicts and publications of updated mineral inventory with our 2020 mineral inventory in the press and it should be released in the next one week so that we have an inventory of mineral title updated for people to be able to know who have license in any path of the country and this is on our website. The virtual conference attendance, is very key like what we are having now because of the current challenge.

What we are doing to improve on the resources and at the same time being able to reposition the sector is that we have upgraded the system to an EMC (Electronic Mining Cadastral) so that people in the comfort of their homes, office anywhere do not need to come to Lobitto crescent in Abuja or go to zonal offices to submit applications but just go online download, submit their application, scan the document and at the same time try as much as possible to improve capacity of all our staffs. Definitely, we are going to launch the upgrade of the system, very soon but it’s already online and it is being used and public will be adequately informed through jingles through and lots of public enlightenment. I believe that my friend Rasheed and his constituency will be ready to play a very key role.

It’s not just bringing a new system but about making sure that people themselves are well acquainted and any system that you bring that is very difficult to reach people, you will find serious problems that may lead to the people not enjoying such things. We have had a lot of interventions and we are collaborating with the Press, NACCCIMA, ACCI, and so many other agencies to make sure we are not working in isolation.

We are now able to work closely with Miner’s Association so that we can discuss issues affecting the sector. We are very kin to develop the sector relatively to the COVID situation. I believe that we are quite excited for having this collaboration and we continue to work with ACCI, NACCIMA, the press, because we believe that by the establishment and migration to an online mining system, the system will now bring in more foreign direct investment, job opportunities, and clear off all our youth from the ills of the society and keep them busy in terms of job creation at the same time improve the economic wellbeing of everyone through revenue generation.

Thank you very much. I am happy that Rasheed had already introduced the president of Nigeria Mining Society, which is one of the oldest societies. Thank you for the opportunity.
Moderator:
How will you respond to the issue of security for lincence holders?

DG Mining Cadastre Office:
He who ask for equity must come with clean hands! They are community related matters; every community has one of this kind of issues. You can go to your village, you will know that there are some parcels of land that they are still in conflict, this family will say no its their great grandfather that own the land, ownership is key!

Community consent is very key and that is why you find out that even in the course of community consent you now see that some people go to the wrong people to get community consent, some want to do short cut to get community consent. Now, we make sure that we try to enforce that people should go to court and swear affidavit.

Haven’t done that, they obtained the consent from the rightful person and if you didn’t obtain it from the rightful person, that means it’s up for revocation or cancellation and that means you gave a wrong information. So, on legitimate, unclear cases, there are sometimes you obtain the consent and this consent have coordinates of the application areas in which some community or land owner do not take time to look at the extent of land the person is talking about. They might just think it is on the right and another person come and ask for the left, they keep thinking they only sold the right and if you come to mining cadastral you will realize that the entire place has been given out not knowing that the person who have given the consent has given it for the entire area. But the law has a way of finding solution to this issue.

For instance, you have an area that have three communities and you go and obtain consent from two communities, neglecting the third one and somebody
obtain the consent of the third party and comes to mining cadastral. Meanwhile, we have given the area to the person with two community consent so, we withdraw the license of the person with two consent and give him 30 days to obtain the consent of the third person or we exercise the area.

In terms of illegal mining, it will continue one way or the other, the biggest one is the license holders, a license holder that have the permission to drive a car but now driving a trailer because people with exploration license are carrying out mining.

Talking about small scale operators being indigenous Nigerians which is common all over the world but sometimes operators get this license and lease them out to foreigners and at end of the day who do you blame? But we will continue to protect license holders against any community in line with the law and against illegal miners. We have a department called the mines inspectorate who are charged with the responsibility.

Dr. Anene (VP, Mines, ACCI):

I want to commend your efforts and also appreciate our DG, Mining Industry for this wonderful presentation, and also Alhaji Shehu Sani. I want to add that the 44 minerals, that have been identified in the various states of this country, if they are well explored, they are enough to provide the much needed jobs for our teeming youths. If these are well explored, they are enough to contribute meaningfully to the economic growth of this country and also provide jobs for our youth.

But we are still having problems and some of these problems are caused by the government, the host communities and other critical stakeholders. So, it is high time that Nigeria gets more serious with the mining sector because it is going to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of our economic development. I Record that in 2015, there were over 2500 licences granted by the Minister of Mines and Steel Development across the country but these licencees could not operate optimally. Because of these problems ranging from insecurity problems to problems associated with illegal mining, foreign exchange and access to the mining sites brought about by conflicts with the landowners and the host communities. Therefore, I think that the government needs to do more to ensure that these problems are taking care of for these mining licences to be fully optimised.

Also, in 2016 I know that the government identified seven strategic minerals, ranging from gold, lead, coal, limestone, bauxite, zinc, iron ore as key minerals to drive economic development in the country. But we cannot achieve the desired objectives, if these identify problems are not dealt with.

I want to recommend on behalf of the ACCI, that the government should take a more critical look at us solving problems. At the chamber, what we do is to
support business in the various sectors of the economy. We have membership in various sectors, and one of our core mandates, is to support government policies that will promote economic development. I also urge all stakeholders to come together to support the government for the good work they are doing. But I know they can do better with the cooperation of the mining operator and other stakeholders, so that we can move the sector forward because the sector will be able to add immensely to our much-desired economic growth in this country and the mining sector is one key sector. Like I have said earlier that it can create jobs for our teeming youth.

I want to really thank the DG of Mining Cadastral, the Policy Advocacy Centre of the chamber, the former President of the Miners Association and the Secretariat. I do hope that this is not just an exercise in an academic exercise that at the end of the day, the decisions taken under recommendations will be implemented. Thank you very much.

**Moderator:**

Are you actually well equipped to address many of these challenges that have been identified? Are your zonal offices functioning now to actually attend to the need of the people? I mean the licence holders at the local level so, let’s listen to Alhaji Sanni first.

**DG Mining Cadastre Office:**

Let me add up something, in term of improving the mining sector particularly, this government has taken mining seriously and have brought diversification into the mining sector making mining to become one the priority areas toward the economy particularly with what is happening in the oil sector globally we cannot run away from it.

There is no reserve that when you take it, it replaces. Looking at the strategic minerals, discoveries are made every day but the key thing is how are we going to develop this thing? We kept saying we have these minerals and that minerals at the end of the day what geoscience do we have? And that is why since the inception of this government we have been able to carry out more geoscience data acquisition, some of you are aware of the Ministry intervention, the NEMEP. The essence of the project is to have target minerals all over the country for all to be accessed so that it can derisked.

Derisking the sector means at the end of the day we have concessions that is competent persons all the world now come into the sector. We have five companies that have come and are internationally recognised. We also have competent person in the mining sector coming in, so that whatever data that they give our people stands like a law, and any information that they have is more or less valuable data that can be used anywhere nobody will doubt it. Government is spending billions to acquire this thing but at the end of the day
it has gone to an advanced stage, the essence is to bring the big players so that they can come into Nigeria and develop this thing.

It is not how many licenses that we have that matters but active mines we have in the sector. Government is doing a lot and has targeted small scale mining operators through a lot of programmes. Look at the Ajaokuta steel, it is going on very well at the same time we have mineral situated there. There is National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency that has project. The Agency has the responsibility to provide associate minerals towards the production of steel. It is not only iron ore they have; they get other minerals all over the country to make sure that Ajaokuta become a reality and if its becomes a reality, we all know that steel is the bedrock of any industrialization.

The second aspect is that most of the activities in Nigeria are small scale explorations and what we are doing about it because we have quite a number of them that is why the president has established the presidential initiative program to be able to develop the abundant resource we have. We have some companies that are coming up like junior mining companies. We are repositioning the mining sector so that at the end of the day, the sector become very vibrant so that it can become a principal source for the economy.

For the mining cadastral, talking about challenges it will always come anyhow but the most important thing is to overcome this challenge. Our zonal offices are very vibrant and active and they are well equipped. We also have training programs that we are working with the World Bank for the establishment zonal office.

The migration to the online system is done in collaboration with the intervention of World Bank and Federal Government. We have digitized all our operations and we have thematic maps, restricted areas which will help a lot of end user not only the mining cadastral. For instance, the oil pipelines, the depots, the
military ranges, the forest area, urban areas, churches, burial ground etc. which is sponsored by the World Bank so that at the end of the day we have the thematic maps and restricted areas. So that people will not give license to where there is deport. So, there are lot of programs going on to reposition the industry.

Alhaji Sani (President, Nigeria Chamber of Mines):
I am not complaining but if someone can go through the process of obtaining license and has it, the government should protect the holders in event of encroachment or from mining community from compromising to issues consent to another applicant because consent is supposed to be irrevocable.

DG Mining Cadastre Office:
Let me say that security issue is a sensitive area. I want us to look at the African continent like the War torn areas in Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, others. But what happened? Mining was still going on in these places. Depending on the resource that you have, I am telling you that when the resource is there, whenever they are bombing or whatever, mining activities will go on. But at the same time, I believe that I am not competent to be able to speak on security issue. But I am very sure that this government is quite sensitive.

Moderator:
Thank you very much. Before the last question, we take the closing remarks by our able DG, Miss Victoria Akai. The last question has to do with mining equipment for example in Australia, where they have the private sector driven mining equipment Corporation, we have fund agency here. Is there anything being done about helping miners to secure or necessary equipment for mining?

DG Mining Cadastre Office:
I wish the BOI (Bank of Industry) was here, the Solid Mineral Development Fund, there was an intervention in the mining sector. The miners are aware that there is money been available. The essence is to support, particularly a few numbers
of them now are able to meet up with conditions and I am happy that I can see the President Miners Association looking at me and refusing to smile. I know that he is competent to throw more light on this issue of BOI and making the equipment available.

Alhaji Mohammed (President, Miners Association of Nigeria):
Good afternoon DG, my President, and other participants. This is a very critical question and I am happy the DG, my brother, Mr. Nkom is replying very cautiously and diplomatically.

The issue is that we have been battling this equipment leasing facility because we have had so many here and there even before I came on board. It was there when I came in, we still continue to pressurize the Honourable Minister of Mines because the money is there, as it has always been known with the BOI. But the stringent measures that was given for us to access the money has been so cumbersome and too stringent for anybody to get access to it.

Based on that, we were able to broker a kind of compromise which is on right now, and the Honourable Minister out of his magnanimity said, okay you people are looking for equipment to lease to your miners so that you can have a soft landing on production. So, what we are now doing is that the ministry is now planning to see how many equipment can we access from the fund we have so that we can distribute it zonally that is, the six geopolitical zones in such a way that it can reach out to our miners.

Let us give an example of what we call Excavator, everybody knows that to rent an excavator is about N150,000. So, if we could have our own equipment from the leasing facility that we are asking for right now, we will be able to give out, maybe N80,000 per day, depending on the cost benefit without necessarily putting too much interest in it for profit that is online now. Even the SMTF, we are parts of series of negotiations and understanding in such a way that they are ready to come in, so that they can help to see some equipment been provided for our miners to cushion their problem.

Thank you for allow me to chip in about the problem of this insecurity or lack of activity. I want to use this forum to appeal to either DG or directly to the minister that there is need for the police, the IGP to lift the blanket order he has given for this mining stoppage of activity in some of the war torn banditry area of Katsina state, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kaduna, because those who are not affected by the banditry are now being asked not to participate and asked to look elsewhere for their livelihood and this is really taking a toll on us financially.

So, I think it is an opportunity for us to say that most of us are down now, no food, no activity. Nobody would want to go to a site if there is insecurity. I think there is something to be done so that people can still take active participation in
their own mining site, where there is no security challenges. Thank you

Are you satisfied with the way the Government and the Ministry is handling the issue of equipment?

Alhaji Mohammed (President, Miners Association of Nigeria):
So far, not that I am satisfied, because we have not started getting the equipment yet but we are now on the drawing board. We have planned how its going to look like because the problem that the Minister was looking at is that, how do we get the money back? We must understand that this money we are talking about is not a gift but a loan. So, they will buy this equipment and give it to us as a loan, as a facility, through which we will raise funds.

I mean we will generate money to pay back the money that is being used to purchase it. Consequently, we are doing the necessary framework for us to succeed. But for now, we don’t want to say we were satisfied or not satisfied. The Minister is at the top of the situation and we want to see within this couple of weeks now if it is going to mature, but for now we are on the right course.

Moderator:
Thank you very much, Mr Bode Thompson, a council member ACCI. You raised your hand, are you online?

Mr Bode Thompson (ACCI Council Member):
Good afternoon once again. I want to especially thank the DG for this great opportunity and I must say the enlightenment has been very good. It is a great moment to listen to him, enlighten us on this area. I want to also thank Mr. Olawale Rasheed for your great commitment to ensure we are making progress in this area. I just want to point out one or two area which other people have spoken about. I actually point at them because they have been major challenges. Of course, we know that basically, it is an issue for the nation and partly the whole world now with the insecurity issue. It would have been good before the bushes are more safe but now is not safe for any miner but that is not the main problem because like somebody also mentioned on this platform that once there is enough money, no matter the challenges people want to find a means to protect themselves, But notwithstanding, I don’t know the level of engagement of the representative of this body in engaging government to ensure some level of security if not for all, of course, but at least some level of security for miners. Secondly, I also don’t know how possible the local or illegal miners can actually be encouraged because, I noticed sometimes ago we made some research to know why a lot of people are going into illegal mining. We found some reasons like the rigorous condition about the licences and the irregularity in it, particularly you could refer to the 2007 Act that talks about the land belonging to the State and the resources underneath belonging to Federal Government. Then, you have
to go through a lot of processes to get license for the approval or license from the Federal Government and when you get to the state, you start facing another challenge, hoodlums harassing you here and there asking for money. I actually have a friend who is into this and he has actually invested a lot of money and he start facing some challenges and all of that. Then, these are the areas that the leadership of mining sectors could possibly look at.

When I talked about the illegal miners, you know some of these guys, these people already have experience and all of that. Let there be a kind of what you call a kind of amnesty to get the numbers of these people, instead of them doing it in an illegal way. I mean, let us be able to see how they come, cooperate or partner with foreign investors or local investors because there are lot of resources here but many people don’t know how to put it, especially the risk in investing in mining. So, if you could get number of these people who are doing the illegal mining, educate them, inform them to let them be aware of how they can do it rightly.

Secondly, I am happy when Alhaji Kabiru Mohammed was talking about the equipment, aspect too. This is another way to encourage people in that line so that they can begin to work together.

Finally, I want to thank Mr Rasheed and everybody on this platform to ensure we keep bringing this matter from time to time. You know, I noticed some of these things happen all over the world, the advanced country when they want to invest or talk about a particular sector, they keep talking about its different sector, different people keep bringing matters up. So, let us keep bringing matters up that have to do with mining, before we know it, it will get things right.

Moderator:
Thank you very much. DG Do you want to make a comment on the contribution.
DG Mining Cadastre Office:
I must commend Mr. Bode Thompson and appreciate the composition of ACCI and other stakeholders. First, you are quite up to speed with what is happening in the sector and I may need to add that issue of small scale, medium scale, we have a Department called the Artisanal and Small-Scale department. The essence and the main objective of that department is to be able to organise these people just like Mr. Bode said. Organise them into cooperatives provide extension services, and all over the country we the artisanal and small-scale officers and the essence is to provide technical services for them to increase their productivity and give them necessary support. That is why if you look at the BOI intervention, it is targeted at this small-scale operator. Therefore, they come to the Ministry, they form themselves into cooperative, licenses are given to them, then they go back and continually improve because some of this small-scale operator, the minerals are found in their community and they want to do it properly and the ministry is always there to support.

Like, Bode said we will continually make sure we close the gap to continue to talk about mining. Mining should not be talked about only from the Ministry of Mining and Steel or relevant agencies and ACCI should come in. Then, like I said, our doors have been removed there wouldn’t be door for us not to have access.

Nobody whether you are a professional, whether in the agencies or not, everybody has a contribution and when you invest, we have a responsibility to protect it. Even the issue of land belonging and mineral belonging to Government, in all of those things, what are we talking about? We are talking about developing the mineral sector. The common thing whether it is State or Federal Government, we are talking of developing the mineral sector. State government have their own special purpose vehicles, mining companies, and it becomes like an investment arm for other companies to come. I mean for collaboration you find out that many of these State Government have established their own companies.

Like over 20 States have their own company and it has become an investment arm and also going into collaboration with foreign investors. We call the miners in the state to ask about their challenges through the minerals resources committee and the essence is to work together. Many things are being done to ensure we close up the gap and ACCI and the Press have a big role to play.

Moderator:
Thank you very much. Before I call the DG, ACCI, Miss Victoria Akai, let me assure the DG, mining cadastral and other speakers here that we are going to
have a conference report that will actually detail all the contributions. It will come with recommendations and conclusions which will be sent to all relevant stakeholders from presidency to MDAs to development partners and to Mining Association.

So, what you have done today is not just a talk show but you have given us an advocacy instrument, which will be widely circulated in support of the mining sector. I want to call on our DG, ACCI, Miss Victoria Akai, to give us the closing remark. DG, you have the floor.

Victoria Akai (DG, ACCI):
Thank you, Mr. Rasheed.

Let me on behalf of the President, ACCI, Dr. Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, the EXCO Council and members of ACC thank all our distinguished guests for making out time to attend this important webinar in the energising operators and licences in the Nigerian mining sector.

Our utmost gratitude, goes to our keynote speaker. Thank you so much, sir. The Director General of the mining cadastre office, Engr. Obadiah Simon. Special thanks goes to the President's Nigeria Chamber of Mines, Alhaji Shehu Sani. Our friend, and our brother hereat the chamber, ACCI is home to the Nigerian Chamber of mines. The Gemmological Institute of Nigeria and gems and jewellery Training Centre. A gems and jewellery market is being planned for the very near future. Our dispute resolution Centre is also available for settlement of disputes that may arise between businesses within the sector, please kindly consider using our DRC, instead of spending so much money on litigation. We are indeed delighted to have you all participate in the third webinar organised by a ACCI policy advocacy Centre this year. Well done Mr Rasheed and your team.
ACCI has over the years set the pace by embarking on activities that have unlocked several doors of opportunities, which have put other people to work and also expanded businesses. Part of our mission is to contribute meaningfully to shaping policy and implementation. So, we are into shaping policymaking and meditation in Nigeria.

This webinar is of so much importance to ACCI and the business community as a whole. As we cannot do mining business profitably without adequate policies in the mining sector, of special importance is this webinar in this period when Africa is commencing its implementation of the free continental Free Trade Area agreements (AfCFTA). The proper development of our mining sector will help improve our income and promotes the growth of our dear country.

Nigeria's business community looks forward to continuous improvement of the Centre for the ease of doing business and conjugation of employment and other business opportunities. Please, again indulge me to commend our team, and Policy Advocacy Centre of ACCI led by Alhaji Olawale Rasheed, for his so much efforts channelled into organising these events.

In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, I will like to thank you for your participation. And I wish you a very successful and COVID-19 free 2021.

Please, stay safe, and adhere to the preventive measures.
Thank you and God bless.
Thank you very much.
Observations/ Conclusions/ Recommendations

Following deliberations at the webinar and related literature review, the event concluded as follows:

- That we take commendable note of the ongoing reforms and achievements of the Mining Cadastral Office and applaud the Director General of MCO, Engr. Nkom for his dedication to implementing a coordinated upgrade of the Mining licencing processes;

- That we take note of the increasing contributions of the Mining sector to GDP and urge government to expand the funding of MCO and other mining agencies to further expand the ongoing diversification of the economy;

- That we note with commendation the activities of mining associations including that of the Nigerian Chamber of Mining and call on the government to support the Chamber in line with international best practices;

- That we observe that the Nigerian government has earmarked billions of naira to fund mining exploration but there is a policy lacunna as to fund disbursement to sector operators; and

- That we note that despite current efforts, more support is needed for the private sector to fully operate within the sector while government stick to its regulatory amd facilitation roles.

- That we commend current synergy between private sector and the licencing authorities but also urge more robust professional linkage that reduce or eliminate red tapism.

We subsequently recommend the following policy actions and options for government and stakeholders:

- Nigeria should advance to industrial scale mining approach. It is only this that can yield sufficient returns for the nation in need of diversification. Mining dominant nations operate at industrial level, yielding billions in revenue earnings;

- Nigeria should create a public private mining equipment Corporation to fill the equipment deficit in the sector. While the mining fund is commendable, the equipment Corporation is actually the standard route as it enhances the operational capacity and capabilities of the sector;

- We must as a nation consciously develop the mining sector value chains especially in term of value addition. The processing and
packaging chains will boost private sector participation and increase communal community wealth.

• The government should continue and intensify formalisation efforts of ASMs to increase employment and enhance the lives and livelihoods of mining communities.

• Improve the security of mines especially in remote communities.

• The mining sector should be considered an essential service to mitigate oil price shocks and support the economy.

• Identify minerals that are quick wins and leverage on the seven strategic minerals to catalyse the growth of the sector. Emphasis should be paid on the minerals of the future.

• Intensify local efforts on minerals that reflect strong global prices and are internationally competitive.

• Support of the local processing sector to reduce importation dependency and improve trade balance.

• Intensify data gathering across the value chain to drive evidence-based decision making and policy formulation.

• Promote the formalisation of artisanal miners.

• Strengthen local content efforts to spur domestic production, create employment and lower import dependence.

• Improve mining infrastructure requirements by promoting public private partnerships.

• Promote safe mining practices, health and sustainable mining operations to ensure mining communities and workers do not feel the adverse effects of mining practices.
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“ACCI Policy Centre is committed to leading and advocating for policy formulation and policy changes that promote businesses and facilitate thriving private sector-led economy.”

~Dr. Abubakar Al-Mujtaba Gumi, FCA
President, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

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