



Focus On Africa – Zimbabwe Villagers Face China's Growing Appetite for Minerals

By William Niba

Thousands of Zimbabweans are facing eviction as another Chinese investor prepares to take over a mine-rich village on the outskirts of the capital Harare.

The generosity of President Mnangagwa's government to Chinese investors is threatening the livelihoods of thousands of villagers in a rural suburb of Harare.

The Standard reports that up to 20,000 villagers face eviction from their homes in Domboshava, a mountainous neighbourhood overlooking the capital as a Chinese investor prepares to launch mining operations.

According to the newspaper, while Aihua Jianye Company unveiled plans to invest 500 million dollars in the quarry mine, the project is allegedly mired in corruption.

The Standard quotes Deputy Information Minister, Energy Mutodi who is also a lawmaker for Domboshava, as claiming that the license was granted without prior consultations with residents within a 5km radius from the mining site, who are now facing eviction.

“It's unfortunate that MPs are not consulted prior to the granting of mining rights,” Mutodi said in an interview with the newspaper.

The Standard also relays threats by villagers fearing eviction without compensation, to resist the move.

“Something has to be done to stop this company from operating because we cannot be displaced at such a difficult time,” says Tobias Arifadika a community leader from the near-by Mverechena business centre.

Arifadika spoke to The Standard at the end of Sunday's village leaders meeting on the contracted which is shrouded in controversy.

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