

LUSAKA TIMES · ZAMBIA

Zambia Pushes Inclusive Mining Policy to Attract Local and Foreign Capital

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Zambia's government is actively working to broaden participation in its mining sector, creating structured opportunities for both foreign investors and domestic enterprises, including small-scale miners. Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development, Tobias Musonda, outlined the policy direction, emphasising that the government has invested heavily in mapping the country's mineral potential to support targeted exploration and improve the investment proposition for incoming capital.

The inclusive approach signals a deliberate shift in how Zambia intends to manage its resource base — balancing the need for large-scale foreign investment with a mandate to grow local enterprise participation. This dual-track strategy is increasingly common among Sub-Saharan African resource economies seeking to retain more in-country value from extractive industries, while remaining competitive enough to attract the technical expertise and capital that only international players can provide.

For companies operating in or considering Zambia, the policy context matters. A government that is actively investing in geological understanding and exploration data is one that is preparing the ground — literally and administratively — for a new cycle of mining activity. This reduces exploration risk for incoming investors and suggests that licensing and permitting frameworks may be under review or

improvement to accommodate higher levels of activity across different investor categories.

The emphasis on local enterprise inclusion also carries commercial implications for service providers. Requirements for local content, subcontracting, and procurement localisation are typically embedded in the regulatory frameworks that accompany such policy announcements. Companies entering Zambia's mining sector — whether as operators, contractors, or service providers — should anticipate structured local content obligations and factor these into partnership and contracting strategies from the outset.

Zambia remains one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most significant mining jurisdictions, with copper at the core of its extractive economy. Government-led efforts to better understand and market the country's broader mineral endowment suggest ambitions that extend beyond copper into critical and industrial minerals — a segment attracting growing international interest due to global energy transition demand. For Norwegian service companies with transferable competencies in subsurface work, logistics, and technical services, the current policy climate in Zambia represents an environment worth monitoring closely as it matures into concrete licensing rounds and project pipelines.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies with mining-adjacent capabilities — particularly in subsurface data services, drilling, and project logistics — should monitor Zambia's evolving licensing environment as government geological investment translates into exploration activity. Local content requirements will likely shape how service contracts are structured, making early partnership with Zambian enterprises a practical entry strategy. This is a market to watch and position for, rather than act on immediately.

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- **Drilling:** Increased government-backed exploration data could trigger a new drilling campaign cycle — companies offering mineral exploration drilling or directional drilling services should track upcoming licensing rounds.

- **Service:** Local content obligations embedded in inclusive mining policy create demand for joint ventures with Zambian firms, favouring service companies that move early to establish in-country partnerships.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Limited direct relevance now, but if copper or critical mineral export infrastructure develops toward port and logistics build-out, subsea and marine service capabilities may become relevant downstream.
- **Pipeline:** Expanded mining activity typically drives demand for process pipelines, slurry transport infrastructure, and water management systems — pipeline engineering firms should assess project development timelines.

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