

Paper Number: 5602

IS AFRICA DOING ENOUGH TO PROMOTE ITS MINERAL ENDOWMENT?

ABSTRACT

Throughout the world, rich mineral deposits are the nation's most valuable, although, ephemeral, possession. Although Africa was, and in some cases is still, referred to as the dark continent, its mineral industry is one of the largest in the world. Africa is richly endowed with mineral reserves of bauxite, cobalt, (*industrial*) diamonds, phosphate rock, platinum group metals (*PGM's*), vermiculite and zirconium. Gold mining is Africa's main mining resource. For many African countries, mineral exploration and production should constitute a significant part of their economic development and growth. Sadly, this is not the case. The key question is **WHY?** What is it that hinders Africa to reach its highest economic development through exploration and mining?

In this paper, I will endeavour to show the great potential of Africa's mineral resources and how Africa can begin to address the exploration, development, exploitation and beneficiation of these resources in order to benefit Africa. Africa's future lies in attracting both local and foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the minerals and mining sector. This is now the time for Africa to do it for themselves. The great success of Egypt in becoming the second largest African economy in a matter of five years shows that *"to prosper, citizens need 'inclusive institutions' which create virtuous circles of innovation, economic expansion and more widely-held wealth"* (Daron Acemoglu and James A Robinson: 2013).

