



High Commission of India
LILONGWE, Malawi
Tel: +265 1750011, 1755337
Fax: +265 1755346

Press Release

2ND JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING IN THE FIELD OF MINERAL RESOURCES BETWEEN INDIA AND MALAWI

The 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting in the field of Mineral Resources between India and Malawi was held from 16th to 18th August 2017 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

2. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Subhash Chandra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the Malawian delegation was led by Mr. Patrick C.R. Matanda, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining. The Hon'ble Aggrey Masi, MP, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Government of Malawi graced the occasion and joined the talks in the forenoon.

3. The talks were very satisfactory and fruitful. The following were the important points which emerged from the discussions:

- (i) Both sides showed keen interest to hold subsequent JWG meetings annually and alternatively in each other's country. The first JWG was held in India in 2011.
- (ii) Hon'ble Aggrey Masi, MP, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Government of Malawi expressed hope that Malawi mining industry could benefit from India's experience and expertise for promotion of sustainable development optimal exploitation of mineral resources in Malawi.
- (iii) Mr. Subhash Chandra, Leader of Indian delegation briefed on the strengths of Indian institutions who can help Malawi in capacity building and skill development. He also mentioned possibilities of Indian Public sector and private mining companies who could be potential investors in mining industry in Malawi.
- (iv) The Leader of Indian delegation extended invitation to Hon'ble Aggrey Masi, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Government of Malawi, to visit India along with delegation of private investors so as to initiate B2B talks for prospective collaborations and joint venture opportunities in mining sector in Malawi.
- (v) Malawi side outlined possible cooperation in mineral resource development, capacity building in mining and geo-scientific fields including hydrocarbons, development of policy, legal and regulatory framework, mineral exploration on sustainable basis, data sharing & processing, research in mineral resources.

- (vi) Leader of Indian delegation shared India's new policy guidelines which ensure complete transparency through e-auction of mining rights and also addresses the challenges of environmental degradation.
 - (vii) Malawi side appreciated Indian expertise in the field of cutting and polishing of precious and semi-precious gemstones and sought India's support in value addition to its gemstone resources.
4. Government of India and Government of Malawi have decided to accelerate the pace and broaden the scope of cooperation in the mining sector.
 5. The Indian delegation also called on the Malawi Mining Chamber and met Mr. Dean Lungu, President of the Chamber along with other office bearers of the Chamber & prominent private sector businessmen in the mining sector.

Lilongwe

22nd August 2017.