KENYA CHAMBER OF MINES

NEWSLETTER

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From Chairman's Desk!

Dr. Kanyoro Patrick
Chairman, Kenya Chamber of Mines

Dear Members, Partners & Stakeholders,

As we close the first quarter of 2026, I extend my warm wishes to you and your families for a year that is prosperous, purposeful, and impactful.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support and commitment to the Kenya Chamber of Mines. Your confidence and collaboration have been instrumental in sustaining KCM as a resilient and credible voice for Kenya's mining sector, even as we navigate an evolving operating environment shaped by longstanding structural and institutional challenges.

As we progress through 2026, we do so with optimism and a clear sense of purpose. The year ahead calls for stronger partnerships, value addition, increased adoption of technology & innovation, and deliberate support for artisanal and small-scale miners.

On behalf of the Executive Council, I extend my gratitude to all our stakeholders; government, industry leaders, academia, communities in mining regions, partner institutions, and all Kenyans of goodwill, for your role in advancing the sector. It is our shared passion and collective effort that will continue to drive progress and shape a stronger, more inclusive, and globally competitive mining industry for Kenya.

The Silent Promise of Kenya's Untouched Minerals

An article by Eng. Waruru Gitau, Kenya Chamber of Mines

Across the vast landscapes of Kenya lies a quiet, often overlooked truth, beneath the soil rests immense mineral wealth that remains largely untouched. From the arid north to the coastal belt, Kenya holds deposits of gold, rare earth elements, base metals, gemstones, and industrial minerals that have yet to be fully explored or developed. This is not due to absence of value, but rather a combination of historical underinvestment, limited exploration data, and evolving policy frameworks that are only now beginning to unlock the sector's true potential.

For years, Kenya's mining industry has operated below its capacity. Compared to other African mineral giants, much of the country's geological promise has remained in the shadows. Yet today, this narrative is shifting. Advances in exploration technology, improved regulatory structures, and growing global demand for critical minerals are turning attention toward these untouched reserves. What was once considered uncertain ground is now becoming a frontier of opportunity.

The global energy transition has added urgency to this transformation. Minerals such as lithium, niobium, rare earth elements, and cobalt are no longer optional, they are essential. As the world accelerates toward cleaner energy, electric mobility, and digital infrastructure, countries with untapped mineral potential are becoming strategically important. Kenya stands firmly within this category, holding resources that could contribute significantly to global supply chains.

However, the real value of these untouched minerals lies not just in extraction, but in how they are developed. There is a growing recognition that Kenya must avoid the pitfalls seen in other resource-rich regions, where wealth is exported with little local benefit. Instead, the focus is shifting toward value addition, local participation, environmental sustainability, and long-term economic integration. This approach ensures that mining becomes a catalyst for national development rather than a missed opportunity.

It is within this broader context that Mrima Hill emerges as a powerful example of what lies ahead. Hidden beneath its green hills are significant deposits of niobium, yttrium, and other rare earth elements, minerals that are critical to modern technologies. For years, this resource remained largely dormant, symbolizing the wider story of Kenya's untapped mineral wealth.

Now, that story is changing. The launch of an international tender for Mrima Hill marks a turning point, not just for the project itself, but for the entire mining sector. It reflects a deliberate effort to transition from potential to production, from untouched resources to responsible development. The process emphasizes technical expertise, financial capacity, environmental responsibility, and community engagement, setting a new standard for how Kenya intends to manage its mineral assets.

Mrima Hill is, therefore, more than a deposit. It is a signal, a clear indication that Kenya is ready to embrace its mineral future with purpose and strategy. It demonstrates how untouched resources, when approached with the right framework, can become engines of growth, innovation, and shared prosperity.

As exploration expands and more discoveries are made, Kenya stands at a defining moment. The untouched minerals beneath its land are no longer just geological facts, they are opportunities waiting to be realized. And if Mrima Hill is any indication, the country is finally stepping forward to claim them.

Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing: Webinar Series Highlights

Webinar Series 1: Blasting Permits and Licenses – Legal Requirements, Process, and Compliance
5th February 2025

This session focused on enhancing understanding of the legal and regulatory framework governing explosives and blasting operations in Kenya.

Key Highlights:

- Overview of licensing requirements under the Explosives Act
- Clarification of permits: blasting, magazine, and transport licenses
- Compliance obligations and enforcement mechanisms
- Roles and responsibilities of licensed blasters and explosives managers
- Emphasis on safety, inspections, and regulatory adherence

Outcome:
Improved awareness of compliance requirements and the importance of adhering to safety and licensing standards to ensure responsible operations.

Webinar Series 2: Optimizing Drilling and Blasting for Improved Fragmentation and Reduced Costs
19th February 2025

A technical session focused on improving operational efficiency through better drilling and blasting practices.

Key Highlights:

- Fundamentals of blast design and fragmentation
- Alignment of drilling parameters with geological conditions
- Importance of delay timing and blast optimization
- Introduction to data-driven and predictive blasting approaches
- Link between blasting efficiency and downstream cost reduction

Outcome:
Enhanced understanding of how optimized drilling and blasting can improve productivity, reduce operational costs, and support safer, more efficient mining practices.

Industry Engagement: Environmental Governance & Sustainable Mining Training

The Kenya Chamber of Mines participated in the Environmental Governance Programme (EGP) – SwEPA Training on Mine Waste, Mine Water Management & Mine Closure, held from 15th to 21st February 2026 in Kisumu.

The week-long training, delivered by experts from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SwEPA) in collaboration with UNDP, brought together participants from government, private sector, civil society, and professional bodies to strengthen capacity in environmental management within the mining sector.

KCM represented at the EGP–SWEPA engagement, alongside key stakeholders.

Training Focus Areas:

- Mine closure planning and closure cost estimation
- Remediation of contaminated sites
- Mine waste and mine water management
- Environmental and social impact assessment (ESIAs)
- Waste Management Plans (WMPs) and Remediation & Closure Plans (RCPs)
- Monitoring, sampling, and geochemical processes
- Financial assurance (closure bonds) and social considerations

The programme combined lectures, workshops, group discussions, and fieldwork, providing both foundational and advanced knowledge through practical case studies and global best practices. Participants also gained insights into regulatory frameworks and environmental governance approaches, with reflections on Kenya's context.

KCM's Participation:

KCM's involvement underscores its commitment to:

- Promoting responsible and sustainable mining practices
- Strengthening environmental stewardship across the sector
- Supporting alignment with international standards and best practices
- Enhancing stakeholder capacity in environmental governance

This engagement reinforces KCM's role in advocating for a mining sector that balances economic development with environmental protection and social responsibility.

KCM Participation at the Institution of Engineers of Kenya Mining Conference

The Kenya Chamber of Mines (Kenya Chamber of Mines) had the privilege of attending the 1st Inaugural Mining Conference hosted by the Institution of Engineers of Kenya under the theme: "Engineering Sustainability & Investment Opportunities in Kenya's Mining Sector."

KCM represented at the IEK Mining Conference.

The conference served as a timely and impactful platform for industry leaders, policymakers, engineers, and mining stakeholders to engage in forward-looking discussions on strategies to collectively advance Kenya's mining sector.

Key takeaways from the conference included:

- The need to adopt sustainable mining practices that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship.
- The identification and promotion of investment opportunities aligned with global standards and Kenya's national development agenda.
- The critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in driving innovation, strengthening skills development, and ensuring responsible resource utilization.

KCM CEO, Mr. Brian Simiyu (Far Left) at the IEK Mining Conference.

KCM Executive Member - Academia, Dr. Ing. Nashon Adero address at the IEK Mining Conference.

KCM remains committed to championing dialogue that fosters sustainable sector growth, strengthens regulatory frameworks, and unlocks investment potential across the mining value chain. The Chamber is encouraged by the insights shared and the collective ambition demonstrated towards responsibly and inclusively harnessing Kenya's mineral resources during the 1st Inaugural Mining Conference.

We extend our appreciation to the Institution of Engineers of Kenya and all participants for a successful and engaging conference. We look forward to continued collaboration as these important conversations shape the future of mining in Kenya.

KCM at Stakeholder Engagement on Mining Finance in Taita Taveta



KCM represented at the Mining Finance Stakeholder Engagement in Taita Taveta led by Chapter Chairman, Frank Righa.

The Kenya Chamber of Mines recently participated in a stakeholder engagement meeting convened by KCB Bank (Corporate Department) in collaboration with the State Department for Mining, held at the Voi Gemstone Value Addition and Marketing Centre in Taita Taveta County.

The engagement brought together miners from across the county to deliberate on practical ways of improving access to financial support within the mining sector, with a particular focus on financing mining operations and facilitating the acquisition of modern machinery and equipment.

Such forums play a critical role in strengthening collaboration between financial institutions, government agencies, and mining stakeholders. They also contribute to advancing sustainable growth, improving productivity, and unlocking investment opportunities across Kenya's mining value chain.

We remain committed to supporting initiatives that bridge financing gaps and foster partnerships that enable miners, especially artisanal and small-scale operators, to access the resources and support they need to operate more efficiently and sustainably.

Regional Expansion: KCM Opens Migori Branch Office

The Kenya Chamber of Mines is pleased to announce the opening of its Migori Branch Office, marking a significant step in decentralizing services and strengthening regional presence.

The new office will enhance engagement with both artisanal and large-scale miners, providing closer support, improved coordination, and promoting sustainable mining practices within Migori and the wider Nyanza region.

Location: *Migori Town, Opp. Cooperative Bank, Craedex Building, 1st Floor, Office 109*
Contact: *Eng. John – +254 720 617680*

KCM looks forward to working closely with stakeholders in the region to drive growth, formalization, and responsible mining.

KCM Annual General Meeting 2026

The Kenya Chamber of Mines successfully held its Annual General Meeting on 6th March 2026 at the Nairobi Safari Club, bringing together members, stakeholders, and partners from across the mining sector.

The meeting provided a platform to reflect on the Chamber's performance in 2025, review financials, and set the strategic direction for 2026.

KCM Member, Ms Twamina Ali at the AGM 2026

L-R: KCM Chairman, Dr. Kanyoro Patrick, & CEO, Mr. Brian Simiyu addressing members at the AGM 2026

Key Highlights:

Chairman's Report:

- Progress in advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and institutional strengthening
- Successful hosting of the Nyanza Gold Summit 2025 and participation in international forums
- Continued engagement on mining regulations and sector reforms
- Launch of KCM webinar series to enhance knowledge sharing

Financial Performance and 2026 Budget Strategy:

- Focus on membership growth and improved subscription compliance
- Exploration of new partnerships and revenue opportunities
- Strengthening chapter engagement and grassroots impact

Governance:

- Audited financial statements adopted
- Auditors reappointed and authorization granted for appointment of a Company Secretary

KCM Members attending the AGM 2026

Member & Stakeholder Insights:

- Call for stronger regional chapter participation and empowerment
- Need to support artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM) through policy and capacity building
- Emphasis on improving sector visibility, access to markets, and regulatory clarity

The AGM reaffirmed KCM's commitment to advancing a transparent, inclusive, and sustainable mining sector, driven by strong partnerships and active member participation.

Policy Advocacy: Joint Statement on the Standards Levy Order, 2025

On 11th March 2026, the Kenya Chamber of Mines (KCM), alongside other Business Membership Organizations (BMOs), issued a joint statement raising concerns over the Standards (Standards Levy) Order, 2025 gazetted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

The revised Order maintains the 0.2% levy on turnover but significantly increases the annual cap from KES 400,000 to KES 4 million (and KES 6 million after five years), a tenfold rise that is expected to have far-reaching implications across key sectors, including mining.

Key Concerns:

- Substantial increase in cost of doing business, impacting competitiveness and investment
- Additional financial burden on sectors already subject to multiple levies and regulatory fees
- Risk of double taxation and overlapping regulatory charges, particularly in extractive industries
- Disadvantage to local industries, as imports are not subject to the same levy
- Potential inflationary effects due to cascading costs across the value chain

For the mining sector, the application of a turnover-based levy raises critical concerns around sustainability, given existing compliance costs and operational challenges.

Industry Position & Recommendations:

- Immediate suspension of the Standards Levy Order, 2025
- Review of KEBS financing framework to ensure fairness and transparency
- Establishment of a public-private working group to develop sustainable, service-based models
- Exemptions for sectors not directly benefiting from KEBS services
- Alignment of levies with actual service delivery costs and international trade principles

The matter is currently before the High Court, with a hearing scheduled for 13th April 2026.

KCM remains committed to working collaboratively with government and stakeholders to advocate for a balanced, predictable, and competitive regulatory environment that supports industry growth, protects jobs, and promotes sustainable economic development.

Read full statement here:
https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7437467019266076672

Policy Engagement: Mining (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Kenya Chamber of Mines convened a Stakeholder Information Session on the Mining (Amendment) Bill, 2025 on 19th March 2026, bringing together 43 participants from across the mining sector to deliberate on the proposed legislative changes.

The session, facilitated by legal expert Michael Ocharo, provided a platform for industry stakeholders to interrogate the Bill and contribute to a unified industry position.

Session Focus:

- Understanding the intent and scope of the proposed amendments
- Identifying gaps and potential unintended consequences
- Gathering stakeholder input for policy advocacy

Key Issues Discussed:

- Royalty Disbursement: Concerns over the proposed 21-day timeline, with recommendations for more practical timelines
- Governance Structures: Need to avoid duplication of institutions, particularly the proposed CPIC and existing CDA frameworks
- Financial Management: Call for clear, ring-fenced accounts for community funds
- Administrative Efficiency: Emphasis on lean structures to reduce costs
- Representation & Independence: Importance of inclusive and transparent governance structures

Outcome:

KCM successfully consolidated stakeholder inputs and submitted a unified memorandum to Parliament, reflecting industry concerns and practical recommendations on the Bill.

This engagement reinforces KCM's role in driving structured policy dialogue and ensuring that legislative reforms are responsive, practical, and aligned with the needs of the mining sector and host communities.

Industry Engagement: KCM at KIICO 2026

The Kenya Chamber of Mines participated in the Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO) 2026 held on 25th March 2026, under the theme "*Unlocking Investment Opportunities to Drive Kenya's Transformation.*"

As Kenya's premier investment forum, KIICO brought together global investors, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore high-impact opportunities across key sectors, including mining.

KIICO Mining Side Event Panel Session

KCM contributed to the Mining Side Event, themed "*Responsible Mining and Value Addition for Kenya's Growth*," engaging in discussions on:

- Sustainable mineral development
- Value addition and beneficiation
- Strengthening Kenya's mining value chain
- Positioning Kenya as a competitive global mining destination

With participation from over 30 countries and over USD 2 billion in targeted investment deals, the conference reaffirmed Kenya's growing position as an investment hub in Africa.

KCM remains committed to promoting responsible mining, attracting investment, and advancing policies that unlock the full potential of the sector.

KCM representation at the KIICO Mining Side Event

Press Statement: Advancing ASM Compliance & Formalisation

The Kenya Chamber of Mines issued a press statement on enhancing compliance and formalisation within the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) sector, reinforcing ongoing engagements with the State Department for Mining.

This initiative highlights the sector's collective commitment to building a responsible, transparent, and sustainable mining industry that contributes to Kenya's economic transformation.

Key Focus Areas:

- Strengthening compliance with the Mining Act, 2016
- Promoting licensing and lawful mining operations
- Upholding environmental and safety standards
- Supporting formalisation of ASM activities

KCM has called upon all stakeholders across the mining value chain to take proactive steps towards compliance within the stipulated timelines and to seek guidance where necessary.

The Chamber remains committed to supporting miners and operators through advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to foster a well-regulated, inclusive, and thriving mining sector.

Read full statement here:
https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7445402999159554048

Kenya Mining Dialogue

The inaugural Kenya Mining Dialogue, convened by the Kenya Chamber of Mines, was held on 31st March at 7:00 PM (EAT) via X Space. The session brought together government, industry, civil society, and mining professionals to begin a much-needed national conversation on the future of Kenya's mining sector.

Why This Dialogue Matters

The dialogue was convened in response to growing concerns across the sector, including:

- Delays and inefficiencies in licensing processes
- Reduced investor confidence
- Limited access to financing for artisanal miners
- Rising concerns around transparency, public participation, and community trust
- Increasing regional competition from countries like Tanzania and Uganda

The session aimed to create an open platform to surface these issues and begin identifying solutions collaboratively.

Key Highlights

- Strong participation from government, industry players, civil society, and ASM representatives
- Clear consensus that licensing is the sector's biggest bottleneck
- Recognition that Kenya risks falling behind regional peers
- Calls for improved transparency, coordination, and public engagement
- Commitment to continued structured dialogue

Government & Leadership

Participants commended Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai for his active leadership in the sector. Government representative Thomas Mutwiwa noted that increased scrutiny in licensing, especially for strategic minerals, is intended to ensure national value and responsible investment, even as stakeholders raised concerns about delays.

Industry Perspective
Most industry stakeholders highlighted how licensing challenges are directly affecting investment and growth:

"Licensing plays an extremely powerful role... it gives confidence to investors."
— Ed, Impact Facility

"*We have no option but to fast-track licensing... more licenses mean more benefit for everyone.*"
— Eng. Cyrus Njonde, Mining Engineers Society of Kenya

Industry emphasized that without efficient licensing systems, miners remain informal and unable to access financing or scale operations.

Stakeholder Concerns
Participants raised key issues including:

- Delays in license approvals and renewals
- Weak communication and system transparency
- Gaps in public participation and community engagement
- Concerns around land use, displacement, and trust

The Way Forward
The dialogue concluded with a strong call for collaboration:

- Continued multi-stakeholder dialogue forums
- A planned national hybrid (physical + virtual) mining dialogue
- Ongoing efforts to translate discussions into policy and sector reforms

"*We have started a long journey... bringing everybody on board to keep these conversations active for the good of the mining sector.*"
— Dr. Kanyoro Patrick, Chairman, Kenya Chamber of Mines

Watch the full session: https://x.com/i/spaces/1YxNrZeYBrVxw?s=20

Share your feedback: https://forms.gle/CuzeRrQ1diMPjZkT8

Upcoming Events

2nd Quater 2026

Policy Roundtable

20th May 2026

A strategic engagement bringing together industry stakeholders and policymakers to address emerging issues and advance sector reforms.

East Africa Mining & Investment Forum 2026

20th – 21st May 2026

A premier regional platform convening investors, operators, and government to explore opportunities, partnerships, and growth in the mining sector.

KCM Monthly Webinar Series

23rd April 2026

Ongoing knowledge-sharing sessions addressing topical issues across the mining value chain.

Blasting Training & Safety Workshop

8th - 9th May 2026

A practical capacity-building session focused on safe and efficient blasting techniques, targeting artisanal and small-scale miners as well as industry practitioners.

SCAN ME

KCM
KENYA CHAMBER OF MINES

STAY **TUNED**

As we wrap up this edition of our newsletter, we reflect on the incredible journey we've embarked on together. Your support, engagement, and enthusiasm continue to fuel our passion and purpose and your feedback and contributions are invaluable in helping us achieve this mission.

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MEMBERSHIP **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Join our dynamic community of industry leaders, experts, and enthusiasts to shape the future of mining in Kenya. Become a member today and be part of driving sustainable growth in Kenya's mining sector.

Get exclusive opportunities to Connect with like-minded professionals and Access exclusive resources, and stay ahead of industry trends. Whether you're a miner, geologist, investor, or simply passionate about mining, our diverse network welcomes you.

Becoming a part of this dynamic community is simple: Visit

https://.kenyachamberofmines.com/membership/ for more details.

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