MONTEPUEZ RUBY MINING

A Gemfields Group Company

MRM resettles 105 families in new village in Namanhumbir



NAMANHUMBIR, 28 DECEMBER 2020

Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM) has now delivered 105 houses for families in the resettlement village of Namanhumbir, built by the mining company, to re-house Nthoro communities previously residing on the MRM concession.

Montepuez Ruby Mining spent USD 10 million in the construction of the new village which is part of the concession agreement.

The new village in Namanhumbir and the associated farmlands cover an area of 2,400 hectares. In addition to providing homes for the 105 resettled families, the village has water and electricity infrastructure, a primary school, market, church, mosque, police station, cemetery and landfill site.

MRM has also developed a vocational training centre within the village as part of its commitment to ongoing community development. At an additional cost of USD 1.4 million for the entire programme, the VTC facilities incorporate an administrative block, two classrooms, two workshops, changing rooms and two employee residences and will train 2,100 young locals over seven years.

Each family will receive a title of Land Title (DUAT) granted by the State, for an area of 5,000 m2, which includes the main house, all additional infrastructure and two hectares of farming land.

According to the Montepuez Administrator, Isaura Máquina, this transfer coming to fruition, has satisfied both the residents themselves and also the Government. "This has a great impact on our communities, as they move to conventional houses, with drinking water and electricity, which will improve their quality of life. Furthermore, the new houses will boost the development of our district."

The resettlement process has taken place collaboratively with the communities. Having been shown the model house, they were given the opportunity to provide their feedback and members of each family were also brought in to familiarise themselves with the houses and see how the construction was going.

MRM Chairman, Samora Machel Júnior, believes resident participation was key in ensuring trust. "I am really happy, because we are reaching the culmination of a process that has taken some time. The communities needed to be convinced that MRM's activity would benefit them. The construction of the village has always been a priority for us, despite the difficulties imposed by COVID-19, in a year in which we have not had any turnover. Despite this, we continue to ensure that our communities have a better quality of life".

Over the next three years, MRM will continue to support these communities and make sure they are better integrated and well-maintained.

A key part of the resettlement was to ensure that the families' livelihoods were sustained. "The ten million dollars spent on the new village includes the construction of infrastructure, compensation for families affected by the mining project and implementation of the livelihoods restoration programme, which will start as soon as we complete the relocation of families," Ambrósio Fonseca, senior manager for implementation of the resettlement action plan, explained.

Since it began operations in February 2012, MRM has spent approximately USD 267 million on the construction and operation of the mine, contributed a total of USD 144 million in corporate taxes and duties to the Mozambican government and spent more than USD 3.9 million (up to June 2020) in environmental conservation and local community development- building schools, providing healthcare and establishing farming cooperatives.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

MRM sustainability highlights

- Provides two mobile health clinics to support 10 communities in the Namanhumbir Administrative Post, which had previously depended on a single health facility. From March 2017 to August 2020, more than 125,000 consultations were held;
- Constructed an outpatient ward for the Namanhumbir Health Centre;
- Built three primary schools with 13 classrooms and 6 teacher houses (in Nanune, Mpene and Nseue villages). Also rehabilitated one primary school with 5 classrooms in Nanune village. Provides a combined capacity of 2,000 students;
- Established 9 farming associations which benefit more than 400 local farmers through skills training, improved seeds, pesticides and agricultural equipment, improving yield by 200%. Two of these are chicken production projects, providing a source of regular income for women and with 35,000 chickens produced since the beginning in 2016;
- Launched 7-year vocational training programme aimed at equipping 2,100 community members with vocational skills to improve their employability and ability to create self-employment;
- Opened 12 holes of drinking water and rehabilitated an additional 4 in different villages;
- Awarded with the best Social Responsibility practices by the Government of Cabo Delgado in 2017;
- Biggest taxpayer in Cabo Delgado province in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- Created more than 1,000 jobs at the mine.

About Montepuez Ruby Mining

Montepuez Ruby Mining Limitada (MRM) is a Mozambican company operating at the Montepuez ruby deposit located in the northeast of Mozambique in Cabo Delgado province. Covering approximately 33,600 hectares, it is believed to be the most significant recently discovered ruby deposit in the world.

MRM is 75% owned by Gemfields and 25% by Mwiriti, a Mozambican company. MRM aims to emulate the values of Gemfields and operate in a way that contributes positively to the national economy, while taking a leading role in modernising the coloured gemstone sector and building sustainable livelihoods for the communities around the mine. MRM believes that coloured gemstones should be mined and marketed by championing three key values - legitimacy, transparency and integrity.

Gemfields is a world leading supplier of responsibly sourced coloured gemstones. In addition to MRM, Gemfields is the operator and 75% owner of the Kagem emerald mine in Zambia (believed to be the world's single largest producing emerald mine), as well as bulk sampling licences in Ethiopia, amongst others.

Gemfields has developed a proprietary grading system and a pioneering auction and trading platform to provide a consistent supply of coloured gemstones to the global jewellery market.

Fabergé - an iconic name with an exceptional heritage - is a member of the Gemfields Group. This enables Gemfields to improve its positioning, perception and consumer awareness of responsibly sourced coloured gemstones through the beauty of design and craftsmanship.

Gemfields' responsibly sourced gemstones are the preferred choice for show pieces created by many worldrenowned luxury houses and cutting-edge designers.

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