

## Lubambe Copper Mine Projects High Copper production

Zambia Daily Mail

July 19, 2019.

By Nancy Mwape

Lubambe Copper Mine is projecting to produce 30, 000 tonnes of Copper this year as it commits to support the mining industry in the country.

The mine, which is expected to be Zambia's largest underground mine with the planned extension project of undeveloped Copper deposit resources of 212, 000 tonnes, will this year produce 30, 000 tonnes, an increase from 22, 000 produced last year.

Lubambe Copper Mine Chief Executive Officer Nick Bowen said the extension project located south east of the existing mine boasts of the world's most significant undeveloped copper deposits at 3.6 percent.

"This represents some of the highest-grade of unmined mineralisation in the Copperbelt and equates to seven million tonnes of contained copper, a truly world class resource," he said.

The mining company plans to invest US\$500 million into its expansion project. Next year, the company plans to produce 40, 000 tonnes of Copper.

And Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Richard Musukwa said the Lubambe extension project has potential to create jobs and business opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, thus generating new revenue for the treasury.

Mr. Musukwa said it is unfortunate that of the huge expenditure on all mining projects in Zambia, only a negligible percentage goes to local firms, depriving the country of the opportunities to grow the economy.

"I urge you to give preference to Zambians as much as possible to ensure that a significant portion of expenditure on this project, supports the growth of the local contractors. This way, you are supporting government in enhancing participation of Zambians in the mineral value chain to achieve economic diversification and wealth," he said.

He commended Lubambe for opening its corporate and project office in Lusaka, saying it will help accelerate the pace at which the extension project will be implemented.

Mr. Musukwa also urged mining houses to continue with the culture of dialogue with Government so that issues affecting them are resolved amicably.

And Lubambe Copper Mine Chairperson Owen Hegarty promised to create more jobs for Zambia and pay more taxes once the extension project takes off.

Currently, the mine employs 1, 200 direct employees and an additional 1, 500 contractors.