

NEWS DAY

Everyday News for Everyday People

Business

Zimbabwe Stock Exchange

INDICES	VALUE	CHANGE (%)
All Share	1,380.56	8,76%
Industrial	4,584.09	8,72%
Top 10	1,182.46	12,06%
Minings	1,863.25	10,68%

Currencies

CURRENCY	VALUE	CHANGE	NET CHANGE
EUR-USD	1,1163	0,0027	+0,24%
USD-JPY	108,2800	0,6900	+0,64%
GBP-USD	1,2550	0,0058	+0,46%
AUD-USD	0,6853	0,0055	+0,81%
USD-ZAR	17,2404	-0,1279	-0,74%

BNC registers 11% nickel sales decline

ZIMBABWE Stock Exchange-listed nickel producer, Bindura Nickel Corporation (BNC) recorded a decline in sales in the full year ended March 31, 2020.

The company's sales decreased by 11% to 5 685 tonnes from 6 410 tonnes sold in the prior comparative period.

The decline was according to company chairperson, Muchadeyi Masunda, in line with production which was lower than the prior year's output.

Nickel output of 5 720 tonnes for the year under review was 9% lower than the prior year's production of 6 289 tonnes due to lower ore grade and lower milled tonnage achieved year-on-year.

In spite of improved global nickel prices which led to an 8% year-on-year increase in the average price realised by the company for the sale of its nickel in concentrate, the annual turnover of US\$52,4 million was 1% lower than US\$54 million realised in the same period last year.

This was attributed to a decrease in sales tonnage.

"Cost of sales decreased by 7% from US\$40,3 million last year to US\$37,7 million in the year under review, mainly due to lower production," Masunda said.

Gross profit during the period grew by 7% from US\$13,7 million to US\$14,7 million, reflecting the corresponding decrease in the cost of sales.

Operating profit, however, declined by 86% to US\$2,8 million due to a reduction in the net foreign exchange gains realised on the introduction of the Zimbabwe dollar in the prior year amounting to US\$17 million, against US\$0,5 million realised in the period under review.

Nickel ore milled in the period declined by 2% to 434 077 tonnes from 443 876 tonnes in the prior comparative period.

Masunda attributed the decline to a decrease in grade.

"Head grade was 1,53% versus 1,64% in the same period last year. The decrease in grade was due to an increase in the mining of disseminated ore as opposed to massives, following the investment in new mining equipment", he said.

— Equity Axis News



Tourism players hail resumption of flights

BY STAFF REPORTER

STAKEHOLDERS in the tourism industry have welcomed government's decision to allow domestic and international flights to resume, with passengers being tested for COVID-19 48 hours before travel.

Africa Albida Tourism (AAT) chief executive Ross Kennedy said the decision would go a long way in resuscitating the sector after lying dormant since March 30 due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown.

The tourism sector is crucial to Zimbabwe's economic stability and contributes about 6% to gross domestic product.

"While there are some operational protocols to introduce and necessary statutory regulations to be published, it is a welcome and very positive decision by Cabinet and ministry," Kennedy said.

"We are collaborating with our air partners in Zimbabwe to get passengers

into the skies and enjoy the wonderful and diverse destinations and experiences as soon as possible," he said.

AAT had created fly-in packages for its Victoria Falls properties and was looking forward to welcoming guests stepping onto the tarmac at Victoria Falls airport very soon, Kennedy said.

"Victoria Falls Airport is ready to operate effective 10 September, and hopefully the first flights land in the coming days or week. Talks are ongoing about regional airlines' access to Victoria Falls, Livingstone and Kasane airports from South Africa and our regional neighbours.

"We are hopeful that borders will open soon to also allow self-drive traffic, with Victoria Falls and Livingstone being obvious travel bubbles over the Victoria Falls Bridge," he said.

"The Victoria Falls Regional Tourism Association is engaged with fellow stakeholders in this ongoing initiative to get tourism going again.

"It is also very good news to see Emirates announce that effective October 1 they will fly into Harare twice per week on their initial schedule," he added.

"Getting other loyal and supportive African carriers such as Ethiopian Airlines and Kenya Airways to return to Victoria Falls airport will also be a huge boost for tourism in the region."

Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services minister Monica Mutsvangwa announced on Tuesday that domestic flights were set to resume yesterday, with international flights set to resume on October 1.

"All travellers will be required to have a PCR COVID-19 clearance certificate issued by a recognised facility within 48 hours from the date of departure, in line with WHO guidelines," she said.

AAT operates a portfolio of properties in Victoria Falls, namely Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Victoria Falls Safari Club, Victoria Falls Safari Suites, Lokuthula Lodges and The Boma.