

TANZANIA

Chamber of Mines



Today's News Update

GEITA GOLD MINE HEALTH SUPPORT INITIATIVE REACHES 55,600 PEOPLE IN LAKE VICTORIA ISLANDS IN 2017

Over 55,600 patients living in remote islands such as Chakazimbwe in Lake Victoria have received medical services from the Vine Trust Floating Boat in 2017. Geita Gold Mine has been sponsoring the project since its inception in 2014. The achievement in 2017 marks an important milestone in humanitarian projects history around the Lake Victoria zone by bringing the number of patients attended so far to 158,000.



The Lake Victoria Medical "Floating" Boat is an initiative of The Jubilee Hope Medical and Dental Programme in a partnership with the African Inland Church of Tanzania, the Vine Trust of Scotland and Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML). The latter is a Senior Member of the Chamber.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, Geita Gold Mine has been supporting various community projects in different ways with the aim of improving livelihoods of the communities surrounding the Geita Gold Mine and the Lake Victoria Zone in general. Most of islands located in the lake are remotely located and access to health care facilities has been a challenge to communities living in those islands. The Tanzanian part of the lake hosts more than 40

inhabited islands in Mwanza, Geita and Kagera region.

Geita Gold Mine is supporting the medical floating boat project by providing fuel and maintenance to the boat. More than TZS 80 million is spent on this project annually. The mine has set aside a five years budget of TZS680 million for the project. Apart from supporting the needy this project ensures sustainability of the social license to operate for Geita Gold Mine.

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The Medical Boat rotates between the Victoria Lake Islands for two weeks and docks back in Mwanza for refuelling, replenishing medicine stock and general maintenance, before restarting its route. It is the first floating hospital of its kind in East and Central Africa.

The African Inland Church through Pastor Samuel Limbe are delighted with GGM's support and look forward to extending its services by ensuring that 450,000 inhabitants of the Lake Victoria Islands are reached by the floating hospital. "We are very happy and proud reaching over 46,000 people and provide them with medical services in a short time, majority of them being Women and Children", said the General Secretary of the African Inland Church, Pastor Samuel.

What Geita Gold Mine is doing in this project is an illustration of what mining companies in Tanzania are doing to the communities as part of their CSR activities. In order for the society's social economic development to be progressive the society requires healthy people to think, innovate, work and produce. Geita Gold Mine is keen to see a healthy society in place and hence the support to this project. "We're pleased to have played a key role in such a noble initiative," GGML Vice President for Sustainability, Simon Shayo said.



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