

Zimbabwe to seize land from mining company

The Zimbabwean government will seize nearly 28ha of land leased by platinum miner Zimplats, in a fresh drive to re-allocate assets to local business, the mining minister, Obert Mpofu, said on Tuesday (12 February).

"My ministry is taking a forward step to repossess from Zimplats land measuring 27,948 hectares," Mpofu told journalists.

"The ministry will exercise its prerogative to ensure that all idle ground is repossessed and reallocated to other investors," he added.

Mpofu said the repossession would "invigorate the mining industry."

Zimbabwe, which is recovering from a decade of economic malaise, has passed strict regulations for international firms operating in the country.

One of them is a controversial indigenisation law, which forces foreign-owned companies to cede 51% of their assets to black Zimbabweans.

Last month Impala Platinum (Implats) sealed a deal to sell a 51% stake in its company Zimplats, under the 2010 law signed by President Robert Mugabe.

The deal will see Impala get US\$971m making it one of the largest empowerment transactions in Zimbabwe to date.

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