

## RAISING THE COMMUNITY VOICE IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR

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Will government declaration of emergency powers end plunder and lawlessness in riverine ecosystems in Zimbabwe?

**Full article features:** (i) Degeneration of Mutare River Deepens, (ii) Shifting Statutory Instruments and Sustained Civic Advocacy (iii) How Sincere is the Government about the River Rehabilitation under the new SI 91 of 2026?

### Introduction

The gazetting of Statutory Instrument(SI) 91 of 2026, the Civil Protection (Declaration of State of Disaster: Emergency Riverine Ecosystems Rehabilitation) Notice, 2026, is intended to unlock emergency powers to address catastrophic siltation, channel collapse and ecological ruin of 17 rivers in Zimbabwe caused by years of illegal alluvial mining. The affected rivers had already been identified by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) as requiring urgent rehabilitation. However, while the stated objective is environmental restoration, the notice creates legal exemptions for contracted companies from important environmental and mining laws, raising critical questions about accountability and oversight. More so, the legal decree comes at a time when state authorities, who should be enforcing the law and protecting these vital resources, are active participants in driving a breakdown of environmental governance. [Click here to view full article](#)

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Mining Displacement in Penhalonga  
Residents Cry Foul Over Arbitrary Land Conversion into Mining Zone

**Full article features:** (i) Administrative Decision and Its Implications for Penhalonga Residents (ii) Background to Administrative Failures and Community Resistance (iii) Legal, Environmental and Human Rights Implications

**16 Penhalonga Families Face Imminent Displacement After Administrative Decision Converts Residential Land into Mining Zone**

About 16 families in the Penhalonga Low Residential Area (PLRA), historically known as Manager's Hill, are now facing imminent displacement. A long-standing land ownership and land-use conflict between local property owners and a mining entity has escalated rapidly following an administrative decision by the local authority to strip the community of its residential status. In a shocking turn of events, the Mutasa Rural District Council (MRDC) and the District Development Coordinator (DDC) have capitulated to high-level administrative pressure, nicodemously sacrificing the land rights, properties, and health of over 800 households to toxic gold-mining developments. Three weeks ago, government valuers from Harare arrived unannounced at the doorsteps of some of the affected residents to value their properties. One shocked resident interviewed by CRD pointed out that an official from The Mining Portfolio(TMP) harshly warned some affected property owners that resisting the valuation would mean missing out on compensation, because the transition to a mining zone was already a "done deal." [To read full report click here](#)

## RAISING THE COMMUNITY VOICE IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR

### Manhize: The Steel Giant Rises as Mushenjere Faces Disappearance



**Full article features:** (i) Mushenjere's long road to Relocation (ii) Key Demands by Mushenjere Families Earmarked for Relocation (iii) Selective Incentives to Force Relocation (iv) Uneven Government Response

### Introduction

The US\$1.5 billion Dinson Iron and Steel plant in Manhize has significantly transformed Zimbabwe's industrial landscape. According to Dinson Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Benson Xu, the company recorded US\$100 million in steel sales during the first half of 2025. This milestone was achieved under Phase 1 of the project, which has an annual production capacity of 600,000 tonnes, as the company progresses towards its full operational targets. Complemented by government's enactment of SI 46 of 2025, restricting imports of selected steel products, Dinson has benefited from a protected domestic market, contributing to a reported 50% annual drop in steel product imports. Boosted by production from the Manhize plant, Zimbabwe exported 146,314 tonnes of steel worth US\$92.1 million in 2025, representing a 450% increase in export value compared with 2024.

The latest MMCZ data shows that export earnings rose by a further 254%, from US\$19.25 million in the first quarter of 2025 to US\$68.22 million in the first quarter of 2026. The government views this project as a core pillar of Zimbabwe's national development strategy and Vision 2030 industrialisation agenda; consequently, it has granted the project Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status. Despite government's protection, Dinson's rapid industrial growth over the past four years stands in sharp contrast to persistent human rights concerns within the host community regarding relocation, compensation, and livelihoods. [To read full report click here](#)