ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to develop strategies that can be used to enhance Zimbabwe's competitiveness in attracting more mining investments. According to the Fraser Institute (2019) Zimbabwe has a mediocre ranking in terms of its mineral potential, with an average, in the last 3 years, at the 50-percentile ranking. Zimbabwe has a very poor ranking in terms of policy perception, with its global policy perception ranking at the 96-percentile, in the same period. Thus, Zimbabwe's poor policy perception can therefore be described as the biggest constraint to the country's competitiveness to be able to attract mining investments

The research is based on analysing data mainly from the World Bank, World Economic Forum, and the Fraser Institute in making its arguments. Reports from these institutions were analysed over a period of at least a decade in order to identify patterns that can be used to explain the salient constraints limiting Zimbabwe's mining competitiveness.

A SWOT analysis method was used to holistically analyse the factors that are perceived to be affecting Zimbabwe's mining competitiveness. Strategies that can be used to enhance Zimbabwe's mining competitiveness were then explored through suggesting solutions to each of the factors identified to be affecting the country's competitiveness in the mining sector.

The main findings of the study show that Zimbabwe's political and policy instability are the biggest challenges affecting Zimbabwe's business environment. The root problem in Zimbabwe is politics, and the poor economic performance, including the lack of mining investments, is just a reflection of the underlying political problems in the country. The study recommends that, in order to enhance Zimbabwe's competitiveness in attracting mining investments, the implementation of strategies that can help resolve the political and policy instability in the country needs to be prioritised.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB……………………………………………… African Development Bank
DRC…………………………………………… Democratic Republic of Congo
EU………………………………………………………… European Union
FDI………………………………………………. Foreign Direct Investments
FTLRP………………………………… Fast Tracked Land Reform Program
GDP…………………………………………………Gross Domestic Product
GNU……………………………………………. Government of National Unity
IMF………………………………………………. International Monetary Fund
NPV……………………………………………………… Net Present Value
PEST…………………………. Political, Economic, Social and Technological
PGM's………………………………………………… Platinum Group Metals
R&D………………………………………………. Research and Development
RBZ………………………………………………. Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
SADC……………………………. Southern African Development Community
SWOT………………… Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UK………………………………………………………… United Kingdom
USA………………………………………………… United States of America
WEF……………………………………………………. World Economic Forum