

Baluba Mine to close next year

Daily Nation Newspaper · 23 Sep 2021

CHINA Non Ferrous Metal Company (CNMC)'s Luanshya Copper Mines (LCM) is considering to shut down mining activities at Baluba shaft in 2022, deputy Chief Executive Officer, Robert Kamanga has said.

Mr Kamanga said LCM had exhausted all copper deposits at the mine, hence the decision to close mining activities at the end of next year.

He said the company was critically looking at other possibilities for both immediate and future mining activities.

Baluba mine is LCM's largest employer with about 3, 000 employees whose jobs hang in the balance once the mine closed down.

Mr Kamanga said this when UPND Luanshya Member of Parliament Lusale Simbao alongside his Independent Roan counterpart Joel Chibuye, engaged CLM to consider re-opening shaft 28.

The MPS also urged

LCM to revitalise the sports complex in a bid to create jobs and revive the district'd economy. "The company is undertaking explorative works and we will open up alternative mines before the closure of Baluba to an Open- Pit mine, very close to Baluba mines.

"Mashiba mine is one of the possible mine to commence mining activities within the course of this year or sometime next year and that should be able to accommodate some of our current work force working at Baluba mines," Mr Kamanga said.

And Mr Chibuye said together with his fellow lawmaker was on a mission to see how best they could work together to revive the economy not only in Luanshya but the nation as a whole after shaft 28 re-opens.

"Basically our mission is to engage the mines as an investor to see how best we can work together to revive our economy through the reopening of shaft 28, the people of Roan are calling on LCM to open shaft 28.

"The information that the people hold in the community is that Shaft 28 is viable and can run up to 20 to 25 years, meaning it would create jobs for the local people, hence our visit to engage the mines on that possibility and understand facts," Mr Chibuye said.

The observed that the re-opening of 28 Shaft would translate into jobs creation and contribute immensely to economic recovery. - ZANIS