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Working from Home in the Mining Sector: The possibilities and Impossibilities



Presenter: T.E Vere- AMMZ Past President

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Homework on FAQs

- Is it practical to work from home?
- How do we measure performance?
- Can technology totally substitute physical presence at the workplace?
- Productivity per capita increases or decreases?
- It's not everyone who can work from home. True/false
- Do you think paternity leave should be allowed?





COVID19 Risk scenarios that can exacerbate the impact on employment

- ✓ Extended lockdown, with negative implications on employment, productivity, and future investment plans
- ✓ Stop-go policies due to new waves of virus spread, causing new lockdowns
- ✓ Credit crunch facing less resilient mining companies (juniors, mid-sized companies etc.), leading to reduced operations and investments
- ✓ Local supply chain risks and knock-on effects on jobs, due to bankruptcies of SMEs Lower investors' confidence in the future global economic prospects
- √ Commodity price slumps due to uncertainties over global demand and/or supply of raw materials recovery

Zimbabwe's test on readiness on working from home :Mining in Zimbabwe during COVID19

- √The Zimbabwean government has a projection of attaining a 12 billion mining industry by the end of 2023.
- ✓ COVID affected minerals prices and demand therefore putting pressure
 on business cost structure.
- ✓ Mining continued uninterrupted as it has been an essential source of foreign currency for Zimbabwe

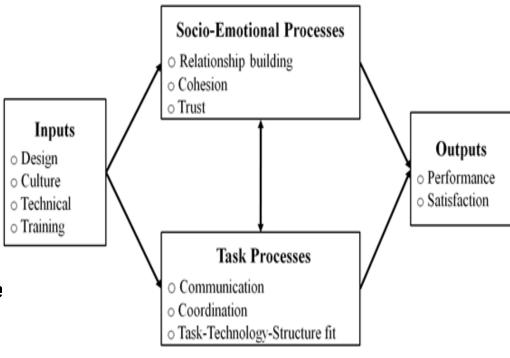
Discussion points

- √ How did the mineral production profile change?
- √ How many jobs were lost as people were not required to be at work?
- √How many new projects came onboard during the lockdown? Does this
 mean the new normal is favorable to already existing operations?
- ✓ Small scale miners do not have capacity to work from home?

Possibilities of the approach

Key Enablers

- √ Home infrastructure and working facilities suitability
- √ Connectivity to virtual offices centre
- ✓ Employee contracts re-design consider the shamrock approach (core workers, contract and flexitime workers)
- ✓ Automation of activities- repetitive tasks are easier to automate
- ✓ Performance measurement methods
- ✓ Shared values to be a key parameter on the contracts



THE EVOLUTION OF THE EMPLOYEE



Advantages of working from home

- ✓ Flexibility and agility
- ✓ Improved employee retention
- √ Attract new talent
- ✓Increased productivity
- ✓ Increased staff motivation
- ✓ Improved staff health and wellbeing
- ✓ Financial benefits- saving on fuel, travel costs
- ✓ Better work/life balance
- √ Technology makes it easier
- √ Reduced exposure to work place hazards
- √ Fatigue management

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Some tips on working from home



The Impossibilities of the approach

- √Working from home doesn't suit everyone
- ✓ Staff feeling isolated, no team cohesion, loneliness
- ✓ Difficulty monitoring performance
- √ Home distractions
- ✓ Potential burnout
- **✓** Cost of working from home
- **✓ Problems with staff development**
- ✓Information security risk
- √ Negative impact on mental health- overworking, depression
- ✓ Decreased staff morale and motivation
- ✓ Different time zones

Conclusion

- ✓In the changing macro-economic environment, resilient businesses will survive as they adopt to change with agility. The term "new normal" implores leaders to move with the times.
- ✓ Employees will soon be bargaining for the freedom of being at home whilst also working.