
India Boosts Investment in South Africa

Vedanta to further strengthen ties in Africa through its investment in metals and minerals

Mumbai, 8 July 2016: Vedanta, India's leading diversified natural resources company with interests in oil and gas, zinc-lead-silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and power, is set to expand its footprint in Africa.

Vedanta has a long-standing presence in Africa and has invested more than US\$4 billion in its African operations since 2004. Currently, the company mines copper in Zambia, produces zinc and lead concentrate at Black Mountain Mining (BMM) in South Africa, and zinc metal at Skorpion Zinc in Namibia.

Recently, Vedanta kick-started its Gamsberg Zinc Project at BMM with a capital investment of US\$400 million. Gamsberg, which is in the Northern Cape, holds one of the world's largest undeveloped zinc sulphide deposits, with approximately 160Mt of defined ore resources.

"The true scale of business opportunities in Africa has not yet been explored, particularly in South Africa's rich natural resources sector," Anil Agarwal, Chairman of Vedanta Resources said. "I am certain that this visit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi heralds an even more prosperous future for India and the African continent."

For a natural resources company like Vedanta, South Africa offers a unique opportunity with its wealth of diverse natural resources. "We are committed to expanding our operations here and will continue to invest in our greenfield project at Gamsberg," added Mr. Agarwal. "We already have a significant presence in South Africa and are well placed to help realise the vision of our Prime Minister of shared growth between India and South Africa in the future."

Mr Agarwal announced that the group will be signing two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with South African companies when he visits South Africa as part of the delegation accompanying the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 8 July.

These MoUs are for the development and supply of equipment and the transfer of technology, with the aim of improving safety and productivity at the mechanised underground mines of Vedanta's subsidiary, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).

Some 125 South Africans work on various HZL sites across India and Vedanta has awarded projects worth almost US\$300 million to at least seven companies based in South Africa to date.

Vedanta believes that its Gamsberg project together with its investment in technology and innovation with local partners will contribute significantly to improving the livelihoods of local communities in both India and South Africa.

While most mining operations in South Africa have been declining over the past few years, BMM continues to be an efficient producer of zinc, lead, copper and silver. It has been a stable employer in the region for the past 30 years and, with the development of Gamsberg, has the potential to remain so for at least the next two decades. BMM is the largest private employer in the Bushmanland and Namaqua region, providing employment for 1,300 people.

“The Gamsberg Project represents a significant opportunity to grow the local economy and create jobs while remaining committed to a long-term plan to rehabilitate a region rich in biodiversity,” says Naidoo. Gamsberg is located in the ecologically sensitive Succulent Karoo Biome, which represents one of the world's 35 biodiversity hot spots, according to Conservation International.

Vedanta is committed to ensuring that it leaves a positive legacy when its operations reach the natural end of their economic lives. As such, the company has committed to all closure processes reflecting best practice in terms of sustainability and environmental rehabilitation.

About Vedanta Limited (Formerly Sesa Sterlite Limited.)

Vedanta Limited is a diversified natural resources company, whose business primarily involves producing oil & gas, zinc - lead - silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and commercial power. The company has a presence across India, South Africa, Namibia, Australia and Ireland.

Vedanta Limited is the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, a London-listed company. Governance and Sustainable Development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities. The company is conferred with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Sustainable Plus Platinum label', ranking among the top 10 most sustainable companies in India.

Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India and has ADRs listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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