In an effort to upskill current employees on business management, GGML has entered into a partnership with the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI). The Institute will be responsible for the facilitation and execution of the Executive Business Management programme.

The Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programme was established in 2010 with an intake of 40 students. Since inception, the programme has been successful with notable results. Some of the positive impacts amongst others, include enhancement of senior management effectiveness, attaining localization goals and staff retention.

The ongoing 2019/2020 program admitted 20 candidates and focuses on empowering prospective managers. The programme commenced in May 2019 and lectures are held on site. GGML’s contribution is payment of fifty percent of the school fees and the students pay the remainder.

One of the beneficiaries of the course, Mr. Dominic Marandu expressed his gratitude for being part of the program; “It is both a great opportunity and a benefit. The MD’s motivation about the possible refund is a challenge for us to study hard while managing our portfolios at the same time. I aim to do well and to graduate successfully,” said Dominic.

The program is very useful for managers as some of the concepts they learn throughout the program are applicable to their current roles. Tatu Tibashengwa is GGML’s Internal Control Superintendent. She is the only female student sponsored by GGML and she is grateful to the company for this life changing opportunity.
In March 2020, the Chief Inspector of Mines Dr. Abdulrahman S. Mwanga visited Geita Gold Mine and during his visit, he attended the National Mine Closure Committee (NMCC) meeting.

The Chief inspector wanted to understand GGML’s closure options as well as to provide guidance on Mine Closure Plans.

Among other things, the Chief Inspector commended GGML for its robust Mine Closure Plan and indicated that he would like to see all outstanding matters completed successfully.

“I would like to commend GGML for the initiatives presented regarding mine closure. This is an ongoing process and I appeal to all stakeholders to comply with Tanzania regulation and standards,” he said.

He further reiterated that GGML is in the right direction and that his office will continue to work closely with the mine to provide the needed support.

Some of the issues discussed in the National Mine Closure Committee (NMCC) meeting were changes to the GGML’s closure plan in accordance to regulation 206 (2) of the mining (Safety, Occupational Health and Environmental Protection) Regulations, of 2010.
On the 2nd of March 2020, the newly appointed Minister of State in the Vice President’s Office (Union and Environment) Honourable Mussa Zungu visited Geita Gold Mine on a familiarization tour.

Minister of State in the Vice President’s Office Hon Musa Zungu (centre) plants a tree to promote environmental conservation

Richard Jordinson the Managing Director of GGML welcomes Honourable Mussa Zungu to the mine
On the 5th of March 2020, the Commissioner of Community Policing, SACP Englebert Izidore-Kiondo visited Geita Gold Mine. During the visit, his delegation surveyed GGML’s concession with the view to assess and to understand the topography of the GGML’s Special Mining Licence area.

The Commissioner also visited Nyakabale secondary and Manga primary schools, which are some of the key projects funded by GGML through the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

“I have seen some good infrastructural projects, however, there is more work ahead of us in respect of further developments, provision of services such as potable water in schools,” he said.

The Commissioner urged the community to improve their afforestation initiatives, urging that it is key in environmental conservation.

The Commissioner said the Police Force aspires to achieve the following through the Community Policing project.

1. Ward Police - to be closer to the community by focusing on educating the stakeholders on basic human rights and good governance;
2. Police project (Children )–zero pregnancy and zero absenteeism in Geita Schools.
3. Youth projects-empowering the youth to become self-reliant; Environment –to promote tree planting to reduce environmental degradation.

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Perched at the top of a tree of a pole, birds of prey are not very difficult to find at Geita Gold Mining site. They are big, conspicuous and one does not need a binocular to visualize them. Literally, birds of prey or raptors are carnivorous birds that kill and eat other animals for food. These birds (vultures, eagles, hawk) possess distinctive hooked beak and large sharp talon specialized in hunting on other living creatures or tearing down on carrion. However, raptors are deadly killers, most of the time they rely on scavenging of carcasses killed by others.

Raptors are majestic birds and heralded as the most beautiful creatures on Earth. Perhaps, their important function is to keep natural system in balance by controlling animal population. If their prey such as mice, rabbits, feral cats become too abundant they could damage crops and/or transmit disease to humans and domestic animals.

Environmentally, raptors are sensitive birds and once their population is starting to dwindle you can easily tell that something damaging has entered in their food and reproductive cycle. Worldwide, poisoning is the leading cause of raptors death followed by electrocution. In Africa, poaching of the birds for the use in traditional medicine as well as food source is understood to be another death cause.

Peregrine Fund, a research institution founded in direct response to the near extinction of the peregrine falcon in the U.S documented some of the leading compounds responsible for the mass mortality of birds of prey. These compounds included pesticides such as DDT, lead and pharmaceutical contaminants. These were engulfed and affected populations of peregrine falcons, Asian vultures as well as California condor.

At Geita, some of these birds have been spotted soaring in search of food in most areas around watering points. Tawny eagles for instance have been viewed more often than other birds of prey. Other observed birds were black kite, African harrier hawk, common kestrel, long crested eagle and fish eagle.

According to IUCN list of threatens species, tawny eagle is currently listed as “vulnerable” making their conservation efforts a matter of utmost importance says SUA biodiversity specialist, Dr Geoffrey Soka.

It is worth noting that, among all eagle species in the region only tawny, snake eagles are known to occur outside the protected areas, and Geita Gold Mine inhabits them in large numbers. Therefore, it is in our best interest to ensure the survival of these birds for the sake of ecological and in-service of humankind.

This can be achieved by improving our electrical infrastructure as well as using anti-collision window glasses in our buildings.

Further, we need to teach our children to have respect for raptors, wildlife and the natural world. This goes hand in hand with halting the practice of poisoning mice, feral cats, dogs or anything that can potentially be eaten and eventually kill raptors.
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