In its effort to boost higher learning education in the country, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has spent 100m/- in the construction of Geita Regional centre of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) through the company’s corporate social responsibility initiative.

Phase one of the project includes construction of administration block consisting a boardroom, library, computer lab conference hall and five office rooms. The amount of money allocated by the mining firm has been dedicated to procuring of construction materials and payment of labor charges.

The constructed facilities are expected to benefit 500 students drawn from 3 centres of Geita region including Chato, Nyang’wale and Geita town.

Shayo said the support will enable the university to producing competent graduates who will provide the much needed skills add value to the national economy.

Speaking about the project, GGML vice president for sustainability, Simon Shayo said the company as a corporate citizen decided to partner with the government to fund the project because it will not only enhance access to higher education but also bear a positive impact on the social welfare of Tanzania.
The Geita centre of the Open University of Tanzania, like many others, has been operating from rented facilities used as classrooms and administration block. The project makes Geita among the many beneficiaries of GGML CSR activities countrywide. “With this sponsorship, we are sure that the college will minimize operating costs and improve efficiency. Further it will create a good link between students from Geita and other 30 regional OUT Centers in Tanzania,” he said.

Shayo added that the project will directly help the government to achieve goal number 4 of the sustainable development (SDGs) that is ensuring access to quality education by 2030.

Commending GGML’s sustainable mining, the resident Director of the Open University, Ally Abdul appreciated the company’s support, saying it would provide a conducive learning environment and enable the university to accommodate a bigger number of students.

“The University’s vision is to provide relevant, quality, flexible, accessible, and affordable open online education, research and services to the community for the country’s social economic development,” he noted.

Abdul said through the GGML support, OUT will minimize its operating costs and improve quality of education offered at its Geita branch. Following amendment of the Mining Act in 2017, GGML through its CSR initiatives has partnered with the Geita local authorities to execute community projects worth 18.4bn/- in Geita Region.

Prior to the amendments the mining company had historically invested in strategic sustainable projects for the community including the state of art Nyankumbu girls secondary school, the Geita town clean water supply project and the Kilimanjaro challenge against HIV/ Aids which has grown to become the biggest private sector led HIV/ Aids initiative in Tanzania.