In a bid to impart relevant knowledge and skills to entrepreneurs in the region, Geita Gold Mining Limited has funded a special capacity-building program for Geita entrepreneurs. The program, which is coordinated by the National Economic Empowerment Council of Tanzania (NEEC), is a result of an agreement signed between GGML and NEEC on 20 July 2020. It partly focuses on GGML's business procurement standards.

Speaking during the official launch of the training at the External Processing Zones Authority premises in Geita, the GGML Managing Director, Richard Jordinson said the Company aspires to improve competitiveness and participation of Geita vendors by building their capacity to understand and correctly comply with necessary criteria on eligibility for supplying goods and/or services to the mining and other sectors.

He added that the training was an affirmation of GGML's commitment to the sustainable development of the communities surrounding the mine.

“We have continuously demonstrated this by actively partnering with the Government in improving social services including education, health, water and roads as well as other economic activities for the community surrounding the mine,” said Jordinson.

On the other hand, the Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council of Tanzania (NEEC), Ms. Beng’i Issa commended GGML for the initiative, which aligns with the Geita Enterprise Development Program jointly executed by NEEC and GGML.

“This program will build the capacity and confidence of entrepreneurs in Geita to effectively compete with other suppliers from across the country in the mining supply chain and ultimately improve their income and livelihoods,” said Ms. Beng’i Issa.
With a budget of TZS 1.3 billion, the program targets 320 entrepreneurs with existing businesses in Geita region including youth, women and people with disabilities. Following amendment of the Mining Act in 2017, and introduction of Local Content regulations of the 2018, increased focus has been placed on providing more opportunities for Tanzanian owned businesses to supply goods and services to the Mining sector.

On a related note, Geita Gold Mining Limited through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative has collaborated with the Geita local authorities to execute community projects worth over TZS 30 billion in Geita region. Prior to the amendments of the Mining Act, GGML 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 as well as the Intergrated Mining Technical Training (IMTT) program in partnership with the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA), Moshi campus to mention just a few.