

GGML's Toto Cup champion is Mgusu Machinjioni.



GGML Managing Director Terry Strong (center) celebrating the victory of the Mgusu Machinjioni young football team, winners of the Toto Cup competition.

The Mgusu Machinjioni young football team won the Toto Cup after defeating the Elimu Uwangani team 2-0 in the event's final at Nyakabale and was proclaimed champions of the youth football tournament held on 20th October 2022.

Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) held tournaments in the Mtakuja and Nyankumbu wards of Geita Urban to educate children, guardians, and parents about the consequences of exploiting young children in mining occupations and depriving them educational chances.

Terry Strong, managing director of GGML, expressed his pleasure at attending the last day of the football tournament for youngsters from the surrounding area of the mine. He noted that since the commencement of their operations in Geita, the intrusion of minors has been a challenge. He stated that children are an integral part of their business.

"As part of our commitment to the community, we have made substantial investments in schools, hospitals, and other care-providing facilities. In 2018, GGML constructed more than 600 classrooms. Children are the generation of the future, and they are the first to gain from our commitment," stated Strong.

He noted that the company adheres to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) (UNGP). *"Therefore, we have promised to protect minors from any risks associated with our business practices,"* he said.



The Mgusu Machinjioni young football team, winners of Toto Cup competition in a group photo with GGML staff.

According to Strong, the number of children entering their concession is alarmingly high. “We typically use the word “rescuing kids” as opposed to “trespassing” because minors are protected by national and international law. However, it has come to our attention that the vast majority of minors rescued in our concession are located either within or outside of our concession.”

In 2021, 346 youngsters were rescued inside and outside the GGML operational area, according to statistics. To combat this, GGML has partnered with local government to start a number of awareness programs, including direct contacts with secondary and primary schools.

Strong stated, “In an effort to keep the children active and engaged during the holiday break and to promote healthy lifestyle choices, we have chosen to sponsor a local football tournament for the youngsters in and around the mine.”

“We believe that at the conclusion of each competition, talented footballers will emerge and be selected by professional clubs like Geita Gold Football Club (Sponsored by GGML) to compete in the Magogo stadium (also sponsored by GGML). The objective is to save these children and aid with their skill development,” he said.