

Possible impact of adequate organizational structure on the bottom line of artisanal and small-scale mineral business: case of sandstone processing.

Antoine F. Mulaba – Bafubiandi and Beejo Blessing Chauke

Mineral Processing and Technology Research Centre, Department of Metallurgy, School of Mining, Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and The Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, P.O Box 17911, Doornfontein, Johannesburg 2028, South Africa; amulaba@uj.ac.za; antoinemulaba1@gmail.com

Abstract

Existing literature has shown an absence of organizational structure in the case of artisanal and small-scale mineral related businesses. Artisanal operators, and small-scale processors have run their businesses without any formal procedure, systems or mechanisms of implementing business attributes. Due to the above reasons, small-scale entrepreneurial mineral businesses are often short-lived. This paper reports on the current situation of organizational structure in the case of artisanal clinker production, small-scale processing of sandstone and small-scale processing of slate. A model business organizational structure will be discussed as it will be leveraging on the application of engineering management skills. Its recommended implementation, at least to sandstone small scale processors, is expected to contribute to an improved productivity, hence a wealthy and attractive bottom line. While being pushed for use by existing operators, it will then serve as a reference to uprising minerals businesses entrepreneurs.

Keywords

Organizational structure, small-scale processing, artisanal processing, sandstone, mineral industry