

## Lubambe Mine in US\$20m water pump upgrade

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Lubambe Copper Mine has started constructing a water pump station and upgrading two old ones at a cost of US\$20 million.

Speaking during the commemoration of the company's safety achievements yesterday in Chililabombwe, Mine Chief Executive Officer Nick Bowen said when the project is completed, the pumping capacity will increase to 40, 000 cubic metres of water from the current 20, 000 cubic metres.

Mr. Bowen said the construction of a new pump station is aimed at de-watering the underground mine.

He said the exercise will improve operations of the mine and contribute to increased copper production.

Mr. Bowen said works on the new pump station are expected to be completed in March next year, while the up grading of two pumps will finish in August this year.

"We want to ensure that ground water is pumped out of the mine, hence our resolve to upgrade two water pumps and build a pumping station," he said.

Mr. Bowen said the mine has been experiencing ground water challenges because the current pumps cannot hold water for more than 30 minutes, thus making water to overflow.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bowen is happy that the company has not recorded any fatal accidents over the past six months.

He said this is a milestone achievement for the company because it prioritises the safety of miners and that it will always ensure that workers adhere to safety standards.

Mr Bowen said this will enable the company to increase copper production other than having to close the site due to accidents.

And Company General Manager Operations Tony Davis said the mine has maintained its good safety record for a long time. Mr. Davis urged workers to be cautious of their work environments and always avoid putting themselves at risk while on duty.

The company also awarded two workers and teams from two departments for their contribution to maintaining a good safety record at the mine.