



# Imelda Patricia Nasubo

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Please introduce yourself and tell us what ‘I am mining and I belong’ in mining means to you

I am an adaptable young mining engineer with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering from Taita Taveta University, Kenya; I graduated top of my class with First Class Honors. I am passionate about sustainable natural resource management and aim to develop innovative practices that promote responsible mining, improve the well-being of mining communities, and mitigate environmental impacts. I currently work as a Shift Supervisor Trainee at Base Titanium Limited, leading mining processes with an emphasis on mine safety procedures and effective team management.

In addition, I volunteer as the Capacity Building Co-team Lead at the Centre for Sustainable Mining, Environment, and Climate Change (CESMECC), where I lead the team in designing and implementing capacity building programmes for artisanal and small-scale mining communities.

I am also an accomplished leader and innovator, having been a finalist in the 2022 Google Developers Solution Challenge and a top performer in the East Africa Geogek MApp challenge organised by ESRI Eastern Africa on 17th November 2021 by using GIS technology to outline the effects of artisanal gemstone mining on the Tsavo National Park. I am committed to promoting sustainable mining practices that enhance community livelihoods and environmental health.

For me, “I am mining and I belong” is a phrase that represents my passion and commitment to the mining profession. It signifies that as a woman in mining, I am not just a passive participant in the mining industry, but someone who is integral to its development of sustainable practices and fostering positive impact on communities and the environment. This phrase also embodies my pride in belonging to a field that aligns with my values of innovation, inclusive leadership, and social responsibility, giving me an opportunity to make meaningful contributions within the society.

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**What was happening and what were you thinking when you took the winning photo? Why was it the one you submitted?**

We took the winning photo after successfully setting up one of our hydraulic mining units earlier this year. We had completed all the necessary pipework, positioned the mining equipment, and erected the hopper bin that housed the slurry pump. The unit was ready for commissioning, and we were thrilled because it was a major project during our Graduate Trainee program at Base Titanium Limited. Our superintendent had given us the honour of contributing our knowledge and skills throughout the process.

We chose to take the photo in the bucket of a parked CAT 330 GC Excavator because we were impressed by its versatility and strength, which were crucial for handling the extreme boggy conditions at the new unit. The excavator made the assembly of the new unit faster and exciting!

I submitted this photo because it enunciates the core of our accomplishment—successfully completing projects with a great team and relying on solid, versatile machinery. It symbolizes the core elements of mining: the minerals, the people, and the technology.

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**You won an online course from Edumine. Which one did you choose and why? How is/was the process of studying?**

I chose the “Groundwater in Mining” course from Edumine because groundwater management has been a significant challenge in my mining experience.

While setting up the new unit as described earlier, we faced substantial difficulties related to groundwater, which persisted even after commissioning. This issue is prevalent in both underground and open-pit mining operations. By taking this course, I aim to gain valuable skills and knowledge to effectively manage groundwater challenges even in future projects. The process of studying has been insightful and directly relevant to my work, enhancing my ability to address and overcome these critical issues.

#### 4 In your own words, how does a campaign like the International Day of Women in Mining enrich the sector?

The International Day of Women in Mining campaign enriches the mining sector by celebrating the contributions of women in mining, and promoting diversity and inclusion. It helps in highlighting the valuable perspectives and skills women bring to the industry, which lead to more innovative solutions and improved team dynamics. Also, by showcasing successful women role models, it encourages more young women to pursue careers in mining, helping to create a more balanced workforce. Additionally, it encourages women in mining to build supportive networks and communities around them, enabling them to overcome the barriers within the sector.

#### 5 What is your next or ultimate career goal? What would you love to do one day?

As a young girl in high school, my fascination with geography, especially the topics on rocks, minerals and mining, ignited a passion that ultimately led me to become a mining engineer deeply interested in sustainable natural resource management. Having worked in the field for two years in both industrial and artisanal mining, I have witnessed first-hand the intricate relationship between mining, environmental sustainability, and governance. Kenya's renaissance in mining, especially on formalisation of artisanal and small-scale mining sector, which employs at least 1 million people, presents a needy case to offer my future expertise in the sector. Artisanal mining faces significant challenges such as environmental degradation, unsafe working conditions, mine wastewater management as well as lack of proper tailing disposal plans, and my ultimate career goal is to delve into research to develop innovative and sustainable mining practices in this sector.

I aspire to address real-life sustainability challenges which can promote livelihoods for mining communities and to achieve this, I would first like to pursue a masters' program that will give me invaluable exposure to the practical aspects of the mining sector, support me in research work and provide me with robust knowledge, skills, and network to positively impact our mining sector.

If given an opportunity to choose, I would go for University of British Columbia in Canada, Colorado school of mines or University of Queensland in Australia for their renowned cutting-edge research facilities in the mining engineering field.