

Dr Milton Kataka's Radio Interview

The Workplace: Geo Physics By Dr Milton Kataka

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Life Background

Born at a small village, Western Parts of Kenya. Born in a big family with 3 brothers and 3 sisters. His father was a peasant farmer. He grew up helping his father in the fields and herding livestock. He did his primary education at an under resourced school which was 20km from his home. He excelled in his secondary and high school education where he did compulsory subjects such as Maths, English and Biology.

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He further went to study Maths, Physics and Chemistry. Dr Kataka is currently employed at CSIR(Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), at the NRE (Natural Resource Environment) Rock Engineering Division.

Key Points of the Interview

- Success of the Mining Industry
- Geophysics as a branch of Geology
- Geology the study of rocks and minerals
- Rock Samples
- Geology making use of physical properties of gravity
- Rock burst

Summary of Interview

- The mining industry has become one of the successful industries. Geophysics is a branch of Geology and it involves the study of rocks and minerals. The profession of Geology has become critical over the years to the economy of many countries. There are different fields of Geology, namely Exploration Geology, Economic Geology and Mining Geology. Geophysics makes use of physical properties of gravity, and it is evident by the fact that rocks vary from place to place

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CSIR with Dr Kataka focuses on the safety of mines and making the mining of these minerals cheaper. However the major problem currently is Rock Bursts. In Geology a rock burst is a spontaneous, violent fracture of rock that can occur in deep mines. It is a serious hazard in South Africa as it has claimed the lives of many miners. However Dr Kataka does discuss some of the measures and instruments that are used to monitor and keep track of these rock burst,

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As it is an activity that is unpredictable. Dr Kataka concludes the interview by encouraging young people especially from the central parts of Africa where there are mineral resources to show interest in Geophysics so that they understand the importance of resources around them. He also closed by heartening youngsters from the SADC countries to study Geophysics as it seems this group of people is under represented in the Geology industry.

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