

Mining Developments in Vanua Levu

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Abstract

Mining has brought significant opportunities to countries around the world. Some major economies have grown from their mining industries and are highly dependent on mining for economic growth. The Pacific has had mixed experiences with mining. Australia's economic growth has largely been attributed to their mining sector and today is one of the largest extractors of minerals in the world. However, most Pacific Island Countries have had extremely bad experiences with mining. Examples of this include Papua New Guinea, Banaban Islands, Nauru and New Caledonia. The economic opportunities from the mining activities in these countries were largely repatriated back to foreign investors' countries or squandered by local landowners. The environmental impacts in these countries were also significant and even today are still being felt by local people. Fiji's mining industry is experiencing significant increase in activity with a number of foreign investors interested in exploring and extracting Fiji's mineral wealth. The northern region of Fiji is also attracting interest with bauxite mining in Bua and the proposed reopening of the gold mine in Mount Kasi. This presentation will discuss the economic implications of proposed mining activities in the northern region.

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