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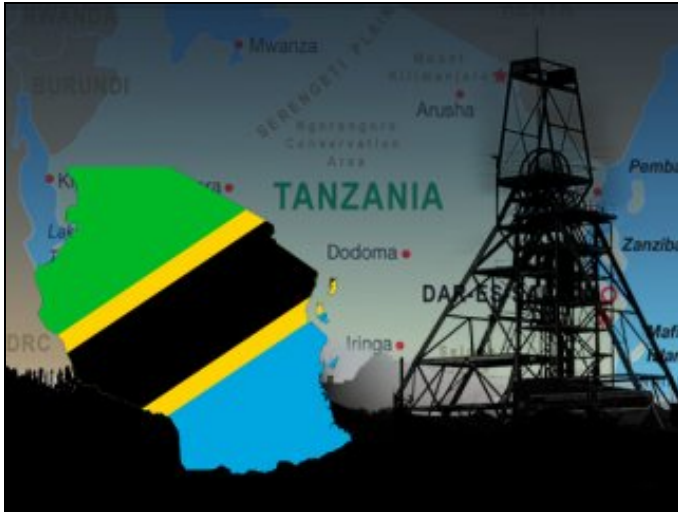
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Midlands may spin out Tanzania properties – CEO

By: Liezel Hill

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TORONTO (miningweekly.com) – Explorer Midlands Minerals will look at either spinning out certain properties in Tanzania or bringing in a joint-venture partner, CEO **Kim Harris** said on Thursday.

Midlands' most advanced asset is its Sian/Praso gold project in Ghana, located 30 km from Newmont Mining's Akyem project.

The past-producing Sian mine operated for just three years before it was closed in 2004, and most of the infrastructure, including a processing plant, is still in place.

The company also has a gold and diamonds prospects in Tanzania, and is in discussions about a potential spin-out or partnership, especially for the Itilima

diamonds project, Harris said.

"We do not have diamond expertise in Midlands and we don't want to become a diamond company," she said.

"It would be better to spin it out, because then it would have a life of its own."

The company is probably about 12 months from defining an initial gold resource at Itilima, which is on trend with African Barrick Gold's Bulyanhulu mine, she said.

There are also diamondiferous kimberlites on the project and Midlands has identified ten priority kimberlites.

The company owns 75% of the Itilima project, which is located 25 km south of Petra Diamonds' Williamson diamond mine.

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