Tanzania: Geological Survey Gives New Prospects for Gold Discovery

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THE Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) has embarked on a high resolution airborne geophysical survey and data processing in Lupa goldfield and Singida Handeni corridor to delineate targets for new discoveries of mineral deposits.

GST Senior Trade Officer Priscus Benard, speaking at the 37th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, said the survey will lead to unearthing of deposits that would attract exploration investments in the mineral sector.

Mr Benard said acquisition of survey data commenced in the middle of 2012 and all data, maps and results would be completed by early 2014.

"From the survey, among other things we are going to collect, process and interpret geophysical data essential in getting a better understanding of the potential mineral resources in the country. The data and information will also contribute to better understanding of the geological environment of the country," Mr Benard explained.

The survey, which is conducted by two multinational companies--Geotech Airborne Ltd and Sander Geophysics Ltd--comprises a 460,000 line Kilometres fixed wing magnetic and radiometric survey utilising a 250 metre line spacing. The earmarked areas, Lupa goldfield and Singida Handeni corridor are known gold and base metal mineralization.

Since its inception in 2005 as a custodian of national geoscientific data and information, GST has spearheaded the discovery of various significant deposits including Geita and Kahama gold mines which are now world class mines.

"Among other things GST has been dealing with industrial and refractory minerals researches, improvement of recovery in mineral processing and researches on agro minerals," he noted.

One of the examples of the GST research results is establishment of Minjingu phosphate fertilizer industry, where over 165,000 metric tonnes of phosphate are extracted per year.

According to the available statistics, since establishment of GST, 89 per cent of the whole country has been geologically mapped while 100 per cent of the whole country has been covered by low resolution airborne geophysical surveys with 60 per cent of the geo-maps in digital form.