A Report  
FIGSI Delegation to Africa

**Background:**

Time and again, FIGSI has been deliberating on the issue of shortage of raw materials for the processing industry of the country due to the absence of industry-friendly policies for quarrying operations in the various State Governments.

This issue was again deliberated in the month of October 2017 at the meeting held in FIGSI office with President and Office bearers. Being aware of the abundant unexplored natural stone deposits of Africa, the members were of the opinion that exploring the potential investment opportunities in the African natural stone industry would be beneficial to both the members and the Indian natural stone industry. Accordingly, Mr.K.Keshava Murthy, Chairman, Seminar & Conferences Sub-Committee, was directed by the President to explore the possibilities in the various African countries and the channels of reaching them in this regard.

In this context, Mr.K.Keshava Murthy after a comprehensive research, contacted Indo African Chamber of Commerce, Mumbai, who fortunately were organizing the “I For AFRIKA 2017 Summit”. I for AFRIKAls an event organized by Indo-Africa Chamber of Commerce & Industry, wherein a platform has been created for businessmen from India & Africa to improve and contribute to the growth of bilateral trade between both the countries. Mr.K.Keshava Murthy was able to interact with the organizers and received an invitation to the summit which was held from 13-15th November 2017 at Mumbai. The main objective of the visit was to connect with the representatives of the African Countries, to promote and invite them to STONA 2018 Fair. He was able to meet and personally invite the Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Exhibitors/Delegates of African Countries and the Office Bearers of Indo-Africa Chamber of Commerce & Industry, for STONA 2018.

Inaugural Function
His Excellency, Ambassador of Eritrea.

His Excellency, Ambassador of Gabon with Secretary General IACCII.
His Excellency, Ambassador of Benin Delegates.

His Excellency, High Commissioner of Namibia.
Following the invitation extended for STONA 2018 the Ambassadors / High Commissioners of the following countries NIGER, NAMIBIA, TANZANIA, MALAWI, GAMBIA, TOGO, BENIN, GHANA, KENYA, ZIMBABWE and ZAMBIA visited the STONA 2018 Fair. They were very much impressed by the huge participation of both Indian exhibitors and International pavilions like China, Italy, Turkey and the potential of the Indian Stone Industry and also by our hospitality. A ‘Trade Potential Meet-STONA 2018’ was also organised wherein all the Ambassadors and High Commissioners participated and gave a brief about their countries and the potential for business opportunities in their countries.
After the STONA 2018 Fair, letters of appreciation from various Embassies and High Commissions thanking the President and Chairman-STONA 2018 for the hospitality extended to them during their visit to the Fair were received and invitations were extended to visit their country for possible investment in African natural stone industry.

Accordingly, FIGSI decided to send a delegation of 10-15 members from quarrying, processing and manufacturing sectors of the country's Natural Stone Industry to the following African Countries, namely, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe and a circular was sent to FIGSI members inviting requests from interested members.

Meetings were held with the Ambassador / High Commissioners of Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe and also Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, seeking their co-operation and support to the delegation. They were requested to facilitate arrangement of Official Meeting on one day at one common forum/place and one more day for a site visit, which would give the delegation first-hand information on the natural stone deposits and minerals for exploring potential investment opportunities for a long term and sustainable mutual benefit.

His Excellences of all the above-mentioned countries assured to facilitate arrangement for the delegation to engage with the concerned Ministers, Investor Trade Centre, Directors, Associations, Chambers, Commissioners of Mines / Minerals, Foreign Affairs, Geological Survey team, etc., as also the Quarry/Site visits and meetings with the potential joint venture partners.

Smt. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India's help was sought to request the Indian Ambassadors / High Commissioners of the above mentioned countries to participate in the Official Meetings and Site Visits and also extend all help, guidance and all support to the delegation, which was assured by the Joint Secretary, MEA, GOI.
A delegation comprising Shri. Sunil Arora of M/s. Aro Granite Industries Ltd., Shri. Thangaraj of M/s. Srijay Minerals Pvt. Ltd., led by Shri. K. Keshava Murthy of M/s. KMARK, left for the African Countries on 08.07.2018. The visit was from 08.07.2018 to 21.08.2018 with about two days of scheduled stops in each country. The delegation had the following objectives:

1. As a first step, to explore possibilities available for purchase of Blocks,
2. Second step, to explore the potential for investing in Granite Quarry,
3. And finally potential for establishing Stone Processing Units for Value-addition.

The first country of visit was Namibia.

**Country : Namibia (Capital : Windhoek)**

On 09.07.2018 the delegation was received by Mr. Boni, Economic Geologist and was followed by a meeting with Commissioner of Ministry of Mines & Energy along with Namibia Investment Trade Centre at the Commissioner, Mines & Geology office. The delegation met the following officials of the Namibian Government: Mr. Abham Muymgo – Chief Geologist, Mr. Sebedeu Mbangu – Ministry of Investment Trade Centre, Mr. Oscar – Ministry of Investment Trade Centre, Mrs. Lilian Ntema – Chief Geoscientist, Mr. France – Geoscientist.

They briefed the delegation regarding the Namibia’s natural stone potential, available area details and mining opportunities.

The following samples from the present operating quarries were shown: viz. Granite - Desert Green, Tropical Sun, Namibian Pearlard Silver Canyon.

Marble – PotoroCeonardo (Black), Sagana Green, Rhino White etc.

At 12.30 pm on the same day Mr. Erasmus Shivolo, Mining Commissioner, Ministry of Mines & Energy met the delegation members and explained about their Country’s Mineral Policies, wherein there is no Import Tax, Tax holidays is given for EPZ and Quarrying can come under EPZ.

At 3.00 pm the delegation met Mr. Kumar Tuhin, High Commissioner of India, who gave a brief about Namibia’s stability, safety, investment opportunities and visa process, local labour force and their capability which is good, suggested to move forward cautiously and assured to extend full support.

The delegation visited the Geological Survey of Namibia Museum and collected the following Geological Mineral Maps & Books of Namibia, which is now available for FIGSI Member’s reference at FIGSI Office:

**MAPS OF NAMIBIA**

01. SIMPLIFIED GEOLOGICAL MAP OF NAMIBIA
02. MINERAL MAP OF NAMIBIA ECONOMIC GEOLOGY SERIES-1998.
03. CURRENT NAMIBIAN LICENCES (MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY: 01-03-2018)
On 10.07.2018 the delegation visited Walvis Bay, which is the Port City of Namibia, where the Best Cheer (China) Granite & Marble Cutting and Polishing Unit, is located very close to the Airport and the Sea port. They have 14 Gang saws for Marble cutting and 28 Multi cutter Circular saws for granite. Their average monthly export to China is about 225 - 250 containers in Marble and Granites. Their marble quarry is situated within 20 kms from the factory area.

The delegation then visited a Granite Quarry operated by Mr.Mark Freer of M/s.Bluebell Investments quarry at Swakopmund area. The Quality : Multicolor (Gneiss), Extent : 25.00 Acres.

The deposit is situated 80 kms away from North of Walvisbay Port. The deposit is found in the desert area. The formation of the deposit is ground level sheet rock, some of the outcrops are above the surface. The top portion of the deposit is about 10-15 feet is fully weathered due to hot & cold climatic conditions. Below 20 feet we can expect little better quality of blocks. The color of the blocks is Red feldspar, quartz, mica waves are present. Mineralogical feldspar, mica waves are fine to medium grains with quartz.

At present, the quarry is stopped due to marketing & quality problems. Mr.Mark has produced about 600 CBM of Gang saw size blocks are lying in the quarry. The blocks are having more defects like weathered, cracks, black lines and bands are present. If they operate after 20 feet, they may get better quality of blocks which are saleable in the international market and little improvement in recovery percentage. The monthly production is about 200-250 CBM of Gang saw size blocks.

The delegation’s next site visit was to M/s.African Range granite quarry in the same Swakopmund area. They are operating and exporting to India, Italy & China. Quality: Multicolor with Rose color, Extent: More than 100.00 Acres (3 quarries).

The area is located about 80 kms away from south of Walvisbay Port. The deposit is found in ground level sheet rock formation. Some of the portions the top area is covered with sandy soil due to desert. After 5 feet, the entire area is covered with huge sheet rock formation. The sheet rock is having uniform and good color. The minerals are quartz, feldspar, mica is predominant and the color is Rose with wavy pattern. The grains are medium to bigger grains. The defects are black lines and quartz bands. They are producing monthly about 300 CBM medium and gang saw size blocks and sending to South Africa, Europe etc., all the blocks dressed in all six sides by wire saw.

The members can buy the blocks if they are interested. This kind of deposits are available in plenty with local and overseas people.
Apart from this, the following dimensional stones opportunities are available in Namibia:

**Granite:**
1) Tropical sun
2) Kalahari sand
3) Namibian pearl
4) Namib red
5) Goa's white
6) Omanje black
7) Jubrana

**Marbles:**
1) Dark Palisandro
2) Light Palisandro
3) African green
4) Namibian desert
5) Potoro Leonardo
6) Namib jade
7) White Rhino
8) Blue soda light

**NOTE:** Please attach all the Videos and Photographs of NAMIBIA already provided.

The delegation visited **Zimbabwe** next.

**Country : Zimbabwe (Capital : Harare)**

On 12.07.2018 the delegation met Mr. John Makandwa, Director Mining Promotion and Development, Ministry of Mines & Mining Development and held discussions about the mineral polices of Zimbabwe, its available natural stone potential and availability of countries mineral wealth. In this meeting Mr. Shaw Chimombe, Principal Economist and Mr. Thulani Makawure Sedze, Senior Economist of Ministry of Industries & Commerce were present and explained in detail about their countries investment, tax benefits and import & export policies and royalties for granite blocks are at 2% Adveloramand VAT at 15%.

Mr.R.Masakui, Indian Ambassador to Zimbabwe and Mr.S.Rajendran, Second Secretary met the delegation and discussed about Zimbabwe's stability, safety, investment opportunities and visa process, local labour force and their capability.

The Indian Ambassador invited the delegation members as special invitees to a Zimbabwe India Chamber of Commerce & Industry breakfast meeting on 13.07.2018 at Hotel Meikles. The meeting had been arranged by Mr. Nhau George Chitsinde, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Zimbabwe-India along with Mr. HarolChinogurei, President of Construction Industry Federation of Zimbabwe (CIFOZ). On-behalf of FIGSI Mr. Keshava Murthy was invited to speak on the occasion. In his speech Mr. Keshava Murthy mentioned about the purpose of their visit as being, initially to explore possibilities available for purchase of Blocks, Second step is to explore the potential for investing in Granite Quarry and finally for establishing Stone Processing Units for Value-addition. He also explained about FIGSI role in India and was looking forward to the trade relation with Zimbabwe with regard to the natural stones. Other invitees to the meeting were Mr. U.K. Bhattacharya, General Manager of NTPC, India, Mr. Vinay Ramabhai, Partner, Audit and Tax of KPMG, Harare, Zimbabwe, Mr. Sanjay, Mahindra Zimbabwe and Mr. Martin Chingaira, Company Secretary / Director of M/s. Conquenar (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe. All of them spoke about their investment interest in Zimbabwe.
The following maps and books were collected from Geological Survey of Zimbabwe, which is kept in FIGSI office for Members reference:

**Maps of Rhodesia**

01. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-1  
02. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-2  
03. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-3  
04. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-4  
05. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-5  
06. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-6  
07. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-7  
08. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-8  
09. Geological map of the great dyke Southern Rhodesia-9  
10. Geological map of Zimbabwe

**BOOKS**

1) Zimbabwe Geological Survey (The Economic Geology of the country around Bindura – By Kalbskopf)  
2) Industrial Minerals and Rock deposits of Zimbabwe

Later the delegation visited the following Black granite quarries situated in Motoko, 120kms away from North of Harare in Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe International Quarries (Pvt) Ltd., Harare.  
RED Granites, Italy.  
Quarrying Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., Harare.

1. Name of the Company: C.R.G. Quarries (Pvt) Ltd., Quarry owner: Mr. Tony Garden, Location: Motoko, Quality: Black granite

Geology of the area: The quarry is location in 120 kms away from Harare city. The deposit formed as a hillock structure, and height about 50-60 feet above from the surface and dyke width is 100-125 feet. The top portion of the dyke is having big boulders and bottom is sheet rock formation. The boulders size is very big and can recover 100-125 CBM easily. In some of the portion the quality of Black granite is having white flowers are spread uniformly. The minerals are present Pyroxene, Quartz, and Anorthoite with fine to medium grains. The color is medium to dark with brown background, the defects are white bands, un-uniform white flowers and black lines.

At present, they are producing monthly about 250-300 CBM with gang saw size blocks. They are dressing the blocks with wire saw in all six sides. The quarry owner is local person and he is having joint venture with European company. All the blocks are being exported to Europe.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nero Absolute Zimbabwe Quarry CRG/ZA/MG/MGN/MGT/MGS/KA</th>
<th>Fine Grain</th>
<th>First Choice</th>
<th>Classic</th>
<th>Second Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-239X119</td>
<td>+240X120</td>
<td>+260+125</td>
<td>+270X150</td>
<td>+280X180</td>
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<td>975.00</td>
<td>1075.00</td>
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<td>660.00</td>
<td>660.00</td>
<td>690.00</td>
<td>720.00</td>
<td>750.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Terms: 
Prices are FOB Beira Port (Mozambique) in Break Bulk 
Surcharge for FOB Beira Port (Mozambique) in Container +50.00 USD/cbm 
NET 
Deduction for EX Quarry loaded free on truck – 300.00 USD/cbm NET

Payment: Before loading NET

2. Adjacent to this quarry about 2 kms away R.E.D. Italy is operating the Quarry. The formation of deposit is same and their monthly production is about 400 CBM.

3. Quarrying Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., quarry is situated about 2 kms away from North of R.E.D. quarry. Here also the formation is same and their monthly production is about 150-175 CBM.

4. Quarrying Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., is having factory at Harare, they are processing the above black granites and importing different varieties of granites from different countries. They have 2 gang saws and 6 multi cutters circular saw.

The delegation visited on 14.07.2018 the factory of Quarrying Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., Harare and found they are cutting Zimbabwe black granite and importing blocks from other countries like South Africa and Angola.

Discussions were held with the following Quarry owners Mr. Tony Garden of CRG Quarry Pvt. Ltd., Harare and collected the price list of Black granite, Mr. Elisha Chihambakwe, Managing Director of Zimbabwe International Quarries Pvt. Ltd, Harare, CRG Quarry Pvt. Ltd., Harare and discussed about the supply of Black granites. The delegation also met some local suppliers and C&F agents and discussed about the supply of granite blocks and transportation, shipping details.

**NOTE:** Please attach all the Videos and Photographs of ZIMBABWE already provided.
The delegation visited **Malawi** next.

**Country : Malawi (Capital : Lilongwe)**

On 15.07.2018 the delegation reached Malawi capital Lilongwe and were received at the Lilongwe airport by Mr. Tendai Banda and the next morning met Mr. Joshua Nthakomwa, Director, Investment Promotion & Facilitation of Malawi Investment and Trade Centre. Some of the other Government officials the delegation was able to meet were Mr. Jalf William Salima, Director for Ministry of Natural Resources Energy and Mining and Mr. Denson W. Makwela, Dy. Director of Malawi Government, Geological Survey Department, who facilitated the collection of the following geological books and maps by the delegation and is now available for the reference of FIGSI Members:

**BOOKS:**
The Geology of the Rumphi-Nkhata Bay Area – By Hopkins (with Maps).
The Geology of the Cape Maclear Peninsula and Lower Bwanje Valley - By A.L.Dawson&M.Kirkpatrick (with Maps)
The Geology of the Mchinji-Upper Bua Area – By E.C.Wilderspin and K.E.Wilderspin (with Maps).
The Geology of the Mangochi-Makanjila area – By A.W.KingandaA.L.Dawson (with Maps)
The Geology of the Chitipa-Karonga area – By G.E.Ray (with Maps)
Limestone Resources of Malawi – By T.J.Charsley.
The Geology of the Nyika area – By E.C.Thatcher.
The Geology of the Zomba area – By K.Bloomfield.
The Geology and Mineral Resources of Malawi.

**MAPS:**
01. Malawi Mineral Resources and Occurrences– 1990
03. Map of Zomba
04. Map of Nyika

As informed by Mr. Denson W. Makwela, Dy. Director, Geological Survey Department, Malawi is having huge potential for dimensional stones like Black granite, Color granites, different verities of marbles and sand stones. Industrial minerals like Copper, Nickel, and Cobalt are also present and huge coal deposits are available. There is great potential which still remains to be explored.

Mr. DinaLongwe of M/s. Bwanje Cement Company Ltd., has informed that they have huge potential of marble, granites, and lime stone deposits. He is also the President of Malawi Chamber of Energy and Mines. Mr. Alaa Jawad, Executive Manager of M/s. Master Stone Breakers Ltd., Malawi, is operating building stone material like jelly crusher and supplying to the capital city of Lilongwe. They are producing building material from charnockite rock. They are producing 300 tons per day with fully mechanized mining operation.

Mr. Suresh Kumar Menon, High Commissioner of India invited the delegation members for an official dinner at his residence along with some Indian Investors in Malawi, namely, Mr. Gurulingaswamy K S, Director of M/s. Kasikizi Coal Mines Pvt. Ltd., Mr.
Lohit Sangali Pannagesh, Director of M/s. Kasikizi Coal Mines Pvt. Ltd., Mr. T.C. Babu Reddy, Chairman & Managing Director of M/s. Riteway Projects Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Santhosh Menon of M/s. Continental Expo Ltd. The High Commissioner briefed the delegation about the country's safety, investment, mining activities, process etc.

On 17.07.2018 the delegation met Hon’ble Minister Mr. Aggrey Charles Masi, Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining and Mr. Patrick C.R. Matanda, Secretary for Natural Resources, Energy and Mining and discussed about the investment opportunity in natural stones and mining sector. They are very positive and welcome our investment in their country and are ready to extend all kind of support.

NOTE: Please attach all the Videos and Photographs of MALAWI already provided.

The last country the delegation visited before returning to India was Dar E Salaam, capital of Tanzania.

**Country : Tanzania (Capital : Dar E Salaam)**

The delegation on 18.07.2018 met Mrs. Angellah Jasmine Kairuki (MP), Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Minerals, The United Republic of Tanzania and discussed about the natural stones and mining potential in the country and investment opportunities and tax benefits. She was very welcoming and positive and extended full support to Indian investors to invest in mining sector at Tanzania. Other officials present at the meeting included: Mr. Issa D. Lunda, Trade Officer, Dept. of Minerals, Secretary of Mineral Economics and Trade, Mr. TibendaNjoki J, Research Manager for Tanzania Investment Centre, Mr. Abeid S. Kidindi, Engineer of Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

The delegation also met Mr. Sandeep Arya, High Commissioner of India and Mr. Robert Shetkintong, Dy. High Commissioner of India and discussed about the country's stability, safety of investment and visa process, labour force etc.,

The delegation left to Dodoma the Official New Capital of Tanzania situated at a distance of more than 1000 Kms on 19.07.2018. The delegation visited the Geological Survey of Tanzania and met the following members: Professor A.H. Mruma, Director General of Geological Survey of Tanzania, Mr. Yokbeth Myumbilwa, Principal Geologist of Geological Survey of Tanzania, Mr. Maruvuko Msechu, Principal Geologist of Geological Survey of Tanzania. The delegation discussed with them regarding the potential of natural stones and other minerals and based on their information collected the books and maps as detailed below:

**BOOKS:**

**BOOK OF TANZANIA:-**

01. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF TANZANIA THE COALFIELD AND THE COAL RESOURCES OF TANZANIA- By A.C.M. Mckinlay (WITH MAPS).
02. INDUSTRIAL MINERALS IN TANZANIA – An Investro’s Guide.
03. TANZANIAN JOURNAL OF EARTH SCIENCES- Volume -1 (December 2009)
04. TANZANIAN JOURNAL EARTH SCIENCES – Volume -2 (January 2013)
The delegation attended a meeting with Mr. Haroun A. Kinega, Chief Executive Officer of Federation of Miners Associations of Tanzania along with Professor A.H. Mruma, Director General of Geological Survey of Tanzania. Other members present in the meeting were: Mr. Ally Maganga, Engineer, Mr. Charles Gombe, Mr. Jhon Kiswaga, Mr. Sweekar Nayak of Udbhav International Ltd., and Geologists from Geological Survey of Tanzania.

As per the recent Mineral Policy of Tanzania for any mineral exploited in their country there has to be value addition. Mr. Keshava Murthy explained very clearly that for natural stone it is not possible to process in Tanzania because, one, the market was not established and two, the required quality processing units were not available in Tanzania. So, initially they have to promote their products in the International market, and then only they can think about the value addition. He also mentioned the natural stone business in developed countries like Italy, Brazil, and India do not insist on conditions like value addition and Natural Stone should be treated differently from other major and rare earth minerals as it is used mainly for ornamental purpose. The same was also briefed to the Hon’ble Minister. Mr. Haroun A. Kinaga, Chief Executive Officer of Federation of Miners Associations of Tanzania has also agreed to explain the matter to the concerned Minister and the officials and try to change the policy for natural stone.

The delegation visited China Dragon International Co. Ltd., which is Operating Black granite quarry 120 kms away from North of Dodoma (the administrative capital city of Tanzania) in a joint venture with local person. The same company is operating the black granite mine situated in Southern Part of Dodoma about 86 kms. The formation of the black dyke is below ground level with small boulders and sheet rock formation. The dyke starts from 10 feet below surface. The dyke length is about 300 meters and the width is about 50-75 feet. The quality of granite is fine grains medium to dark. The blocks sizes are small, the mineral grains are fine to medium grains with light brownish background. The color is medium to mark. They are producing monthly about 50-60 CBM for monumental purpose.

As per the Tanzania mineral policy i.e. any mineral can be exported after its value addition, for this purpose they have put circular saw machines in the quarry itself and cutting the slabs and exporting to China.

Mr. Sweekar Nayak of M/s. Udbhav International Ltd., operating Black granite quarry 10 kms away from South of Dodoma city. He is operating about 3.00 Acres. The quarry is very small below the ground level with boulder type deposit. The deposit is formed as ground level, boulders and below sheet rock formations. From surface to 30 feet below the formation is weathered with small boulders, after 30 feet the boulders sizes are increasing and possible to get sheet rock formation. The mineral grains are fine to medium with Pyroxene, Quartz and Hornblende minerals are present. The back ground of the Black granite is Greenish. The monthly production is about 40 Cbm. Due to
Government policy i.e. value addition, he is holding all the blocks in the quarry and waiting for Government clearances.

The delegation met one Mr. Ariff A Avadip of M/s. Ecostar Mining & Agro Service Ltd., Dubai, who is operating Black granite quarry and has stopped due to mineral policy problem in the country.

Finally on 20.07.2018 the delegation also met Col. Sylvester Damien Ghuliku, Ag. Managing Director of State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), Mr. Alex Rutagwelela, Ag. Director of Exploration & Drilling (Ag. DED) of State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) and Mr. Deusdedith Magala, Director of Human Resource of Administration (DHRA) of State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) and discussed about the natural stone deposits and other possibilities of JVs etc.,

**NOTE:** Please attach all the Videos and Photographs of **TANZANIA** already provided.

**Conclusion:**

In the four African Countries the delegation visited, namely, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania, it can definitely be concluded that the opportunity to buy Blocks is very much available in Namibia and Zimbabwe, though the number of quarries in operation are very few. Besides, most of the material which is currently being exported is mainly controlled by Italians, Spanish and Chinese, with very few Indians in the reckoning.

Following from this it may be said that since most of the deposits in the above mentioned countries remain unexplored the opportunity for investment in quarrying is huge. For India with its expertise in quarrying and mining this can be very prospective and provide the necessary break for Indians.

The Governments in the countries visited want value-addition and greatly encourage the setting up of Stone Processing Units. As such the opportunity for investment in this segment coupled with investments in quarrying can provide the right break for the Indian Natural Stone Industry.

Incidentally, the **Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi** in his recent three-nation tour of Africa has unveiled a set of 10 guiding principles that will dictate India’s engagement with Africa. The third guiding point he outlined in his speech was, “We will keep our markets open and make it easier and more attractive to trade with India. We will support our industry to invest in Africa.”

The delegation returned to India on 21.07.2018 after a successful information gathering visit with firsthand knowledge of the potential of some of the African countries for Natural Stone.