

Abstract

It is the responsibility of every government to ensure that its people derive the maximum benefit possible from that country's mineral resources. Encouraging foreign investment, however, is one of the essential drivers for realizing this maximum benefit.

The critical issue is how best to achieve this maximum benefit for local people without alienating and driving away essential foreign investment. Strident resource nationalism often leads to sub-optimal foreign investment that means mineral resources are left unexplored and undeveloped to the ultimate disadvantage of the local people.