Contents

04  Our Firm
05  Our Presence in Africa
06  Our Mining Sector
07  Our Specialist Services
08  Our Signature Matters
10  Accolades
12  Key Contacts
Our Presence in Africa

Recognising the size and enormous diversity of Africa, our approach to providing legal services across the continent is intended to offer on-the-ground advice in the countries that matter for our clients. Our presence in Africa is always evolving to meet the changes that are shaping the future of this vast continent.

Currently, we have our own offices in six African countries: Kenya (Nairobi), Mauritius (Moka), South Africa (Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Uganda (Kampala) and Zambia (Lusaka).

We work closely with our Bowmans Alliance firms in Ethiopia (Aman Assefa & Associates Law Office) and Nigeria (Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie). These are two of the leading corporate and commercial law firms in their jurisdictions.

We have special relationships with competent practitioners in Malawi and Mozambique. We also have a non-exclusive co-operation agreement with French international law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel that provides our clients access to assistance in francophone west and north Africa and Gide’s. The arrangement provides complementary access for Gide’s clients and lawyers to markets in central, southern and eastern Africa.

We ensure that, whenever our clients need legal advice in other parts of Africa, we can assist them by tapping into our comprehensive database of contacts of the best firms and practitioners across the continent.

On the global front, Bowmans has long-standing and excellent relationships with a range of international law firms with whom we often work on Africa-focused client mandates. We are also a member firm of Lex Mundi, a global association of more than 160 independent law firms in all the major centres across the globe. Lex Mundi gives us the ability to connect our clients with the best law firms in each of the countries represented.
Our Mining Sector

As the long-term demand for Africa’s resources grows, we anticipate a growing demand for related legal services.

We have established ourselves as a leading legal adviser within the mining industry in Africa and offer a full complement of legal services in this sector.

We have a strong record of acting on the most significant mining-related mergers and acquisitions across the African continent. We support our clients through every aspect of mining and resource related transactions from the initial due diligence through regulatory compliance to negotiating and closing the deals. We have also advised on some of the largest and most innovative debt and equity capital market transactions on the continent.

We are able to co-ordinate our service through a single point of contact offering a seamless service and making the execution of cross-border transactions less cumbersome, time-consuming and costly.

Whether clients are negotiating offtakes, supply side contracts or require day-to-day commercial agreement support, we have the necessary depth of expertise and skills to assist.

We regularly advise clients on all matters relating to local mining legislation, including but not limited to compliance, mining title and other legal opinions, applications and acquisitions of rights, review applications, appeals and due diligences.

We have assisted numerous clients on the interaction of environmental and mining legislation, including licensing, appeals and court reviews of licensing decisions.

We have experience in successfully objecting to the grant of prospecting or mining right applications and pursuing appeals against decisions regarding the grant or refusal of mining and prospecting applications.

Our experience extends to mine incident and accident enquiries, dealing with notifications and assisting with legal compliance associated with health and safety.

Our clients include global mining and resources companies, investors, banks and financial institutions, state-owned enterprises and various government departments within the mining and resources sector.

We have established ourselves as a leading legal adviser within the mining industry in Africa and offer a full complement of legal services in this sector.

Our Specialist Services

Our Specialist Services

We regularly advise clients on all matters relating to local mining and resources and related legislation across the African continent, including but not limited to:

- senior and strategic local government and local regulator engagements in Africa;
- mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and joint operating agreements;
- capital markets transactions;
- advising borrowers in the mining and resources industry and financiers on mining finance transactions;
- drafting of commercial mining and resources contracts, such as contract mining, offtake and supply agreements;
- environmental, occupational health-and-safety and mining regulation issues in Africa;
- indigenisation and black economic empowerment in the mining and resources industry in Africa;
- various regulatory applications in Africa, including applications for the grant of mineral rights, applications for the Minister’s consent to transfer mineral rights and applications to amend mineral rights;
- appeal or review proceedings;
- collective bargaining and union reorganisation and retrenchment and general labour law procedures, processes and appearances; and
- drafting of mining title and transferability opinions and conducting due diligence investigations on mining titles.

“Bowmans has continued its emergence and now has a hugely impressive client base”.

– Legal 500, 2018
Our Signature Matters

Some of our notable experience in the mining and resources sector includes advising:

- **Africa Barrick Gold (now Acacia plc)** with respect to numerous regulatory, compliance, environmental and employment law matters affecting Acacia’s group of mines in Tanzania (including Bulyankulu Mine, Buzwagi Mine and North Mara Gold Mining Ltd);
- **African Rainbow Minerals Ltd (ARM) on the proposed restructuring of the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust. This involved a specific repurchase by a wholly owned subsidiary of ARM of 12 717 328 million shares in ARM from the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust and the refinancing of the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust. This transaction was valued at ZAR 1.9 billion;**
- **African Rainbow Minerals on its joint venture with Vale for mining assets in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia;**
- **AngloGold Ashanti Ltd in respect of its current portfolio of AngloGold Ashanti into mining assets in Western Australia to Gold Fields Ltd, where the consideration received was part cash and part shares in Gold Fields Ltd;**
- **BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc, CIBC World Markets Inc, Macquarie Capital Markets Canada Ltd, RBC Dominion Securities Inc, Merrill Lynch Canada Inc, GMP Securities LP, Raymond James Ltd in respect of a public offering of 95 834 100 units for an aggregate amount CAD 143 751 150 by Canadian mining company, Ivanhoe Mines Ltd;**
- **A major Canadian fund on its investment into mining assets in Burkina Faso and Mali. We conducted a full due diligence on both the Burkina Faso and Malian assets and provided detailed opinions;**
- **Credit Suisse AG and Standard Chartered Bank (jointly), as South African and English lead counsel, in the debt and equity restructuring of a South African mining company, Southgold, and its Canadian parent company;**
- **Dodsal Resources FZCO with respect to numerous regulatory, compliance, environmental and employment law matters affecting their two mining companies in Tanzania - Dodsal Resources Mining Itilima and Dodsal Resources Mining Tingi;**
- **ENRC NV in the sale of SI 732 782 ordinary shares held in Northam Platinum Ltd (constituting approximately 13.01% of Northam’s issued share capital), followed by a bookbuild in respect of such shares which resulted in the placement of all of the shares held by ENRC NV (deal value approximately ZAR 2.5 billion);**
- **South African counsel to the joint bookrunners in relation to Gold Fields Ltd’s recent accelerated bookbuild share placement valued at ZAR 2.3 billion;**
- **The Government of Guinea, (together with international counsel) on the USD 18 billion Simandou ore Project. We reviewed all aspects of the project, from corporate to environmental to employment law;**
- **Hulamin in respect of the establishment of the black economic empowerment entity, Izindla Aluminium (Pty) Ltd, and the subsequent acquisition of BHP Billiton’s Bayside casthouse in the Richard’s Bay industrial development zone;**
- **Competition counsel to Komatsu Ltd in its acquisition of indirect sole control of Joy Global, Inc. We attended to the merger filing in relation to this transaction. The deal is Komatsu’s largest deal ever and once it is completed, Komatsu and its closest competitor will account for at least a quarter of the world’s sales of mining equipment. The global transaction is valued at USD 2.9 billion;**
- **Mimetals on the Zambian and South African aspects of its approximately USD 1.3 billion offer for Anvil Mining;**
- **Northam Platinum in relation to the establishment of a broad based consortium of Historically Disadvantaged South Africans (HDSA), which will hold 31.4% of Northam’s issued shares, bringing Northam’s total effective HDSA ownership level to approximately 35.4% (deal value ZAR 6.6 billion);**
- **Rio Tinto on the South African aspects of its acquisition of Africa focused Riversdale Mining, listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, and (i) the subsequent sale of its coal assets in Mozambique to International Coal Ventures Pte Ltd and (ii) the disposal of 100% of its shares in Riversdale Holdings (Pty) Ltd to Galaxy BV (a subsidiary of Menar Holdings);**
- **Royal Bafokeng Platinum Ltd in relation to a combined offering of its shares (including a primary issue by the company, and a secondary issue by its shareholders);**
- **Shanduka Group (Pty) Ltd and the majority shareholders in relation to the restructuring of Shanduka Group (Pty) Ltd and merger with Pembani Group (Pty) Ltd, to create a new ZAR 13.5 billion black-controlled natural resources and industrial holding group;**
- **The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd in the disposal of its entire stake in Shanduka Gold (Pty) Ltd to Pan African Resources Ltd in a transaction valued at ZAR 176 million;**
- **Trans Hex Group Ltd, Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed diamond mining company, in relation to a mandatory offer by Cream Magenta 140 (Pty) Ltd, Metacap 14 (Pty) Ltd, and Royal Bafokeng Platinum Ltd;**
- **The Tanzanian National Development Corporation with respect to its Mchuchuma Coal Project as well as its joint venture with Sichuan Hongda Group Ltd on the LiGang Project;**
- **Wogen Pacific Ltd in respect of a pre-finance agreement in the amount of USD 2 million and off-take agreement which is estimated to have a net present value of USD 68.9 million.**
Accolades

AFRICAN LEGAL AWARDS 2021
Bowmans won awards in five categories, more than any other single firm. The firm was named Capital Markets Team of the Year, Environmental and Renewables Team of the Year, Restructuring Team of the Year, and won the Crisis Management Initiative of the Year Award.

DEALMAKERS AFRICA AWARDS 2020
Bowmans was DealMakers top dealmaker in East Africa for 2020 by number of M&A transactions worked on. The firm had more than 26% market share and advised on the deal named Deal of the Year.

DEALMAKERS SOUTH AFRICA AWARDS 2020
Bowmans was among South Africa’s leading dealmakers for 2020, placing third for both transaction value and transaction volume in the General Corporate Finance Category and fourth for both deal value and deal volume in the M&A Category.

IFLR AFRICA AWARDS 2021
Bowmans received three awards including the awards for National Law Firm of the Year in both South Africa and Zambia. The firm was also named National Law Firm of the Year: South Africa (Project Finance) for its work on various project finance matters including the Beitbridge Border Post Modernisation Project, which was named Project Finance Deal of the Year.

MERGERMARKET’S AFRICAN & MIDDLE EAST LEAGUE TABLES 2020
Bowmans was identified as the top ranked legal firm by number of completed deals in 2020.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2021 RANKED US IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

BAND 1

KENYA
Banking & Finance
Corporate/M&A
Employment
FinTech
Legal
Intellectual Property
Real Estate

SOUTH AFRICA
Capital Markets: Debt
Capital Markets: Equity
Competition/Antitrust
Corporate Investigations
Corporate/M&A
Employment
Environment
IT & Telecommunications
Projects & Energy
Public Procurement
Shipping
Tax

TANZANIA
General Business Law

UGANDA
General Business Law

BAND 2

AFRICA WIDE
TMT

KENYA
Private Wealth Law
Projects & Energy

SOUTH AFRICA
Administrative & Public Law
Banking & Finance
Dispute Resolution
FinTech
Media & Broadcasting
Restructuring/Insolvency

TIER 1

KENYA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development: Mining

SOUTH AFRICA
Capital Markets: Debt
Capital Markets: Equity
Project Development: Energy/Power
M&A

UGANDA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development

TIER 2

KENYA
Project Development: Energy/Power
Project Development: Infrastructure

SOUTH AFRICA
Banking
Project Development: Infrastructure
Project Development: Mining
Project Finance

TANZANIA
Financial & Corporate

OTHER NOTABLE

MAURITIUS
Financial & Corporate

ZAMBIA
Financial & Corporate
Project Development

IFLR1000 2021/2022 RANKED US IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

TIER 1

KENYA
Banking, Finance & Capital Markets
Commercial, Corporate & M&A
Employment
Real Estate & Construction

SOUTH AFRICA
Commercial, Corporate & M&A
Competition
Employment
Projects & Infrastructure
Shipping & Transport

TANZANIA
Leading Firm

UGANDA
Leading Firm

TIER 2

KENYA
Dispute Resolution
Privatisation & Projects

SOUTH AFRICA
Banking & Finance
Dispute Resolution
Investment Funds
Tax

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2021 RANKED US IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

71 Recognised Lawyers

40 Recognised Lawyers

66 Recognised Lawyers
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