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Mining for Change: Natural resources and industry in Africa

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ABSTRACT

In this presentation we will tease the key insights from the book “Mining for change”, highlighting the chapters that focus on Mozambique. The book addresses three key themes: managing the boom, the construction sector, and linking industry to the resource. They are at the centre of the debate on how to use natural resources for structural change. Resource-rich economies face a shift in relative prices that place challenges to their diversification into tradable activities. On the other hand, natural resources can generate public revenues, offering governments the opportunity to make (critical) investment choices towards a successful structural change.

The construction sector, in particular, can determine the extent to which the public investment effort can generate developmental outcomes. High construction costs reduce the scope and width of physical capital that can be obtained from this investment and can bias project selection away from the most impactful investments. In addition, high construction costs reduce the number of projects carried out in a given sector, lowering the ability of construction firms in the sector to expand.

Many African governments envision a diversification strategy built through the lens of local content, often requiring resource investors to create national employment opportunities, procure from local suppliers, open equity to local partners, and encourage technology transfer. However, success in these processes requires an institutional framework that forges successful public–private partnerships involving government, local firms, and the extractive industry.

In this presentation we expand on these questions in the Mozambican context.

ACESSO PÚBLICO



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