

Chibuluma South Mine's Chifupu Project achieved the "Early-Start Production" schedule

On 18 December 2016, with the aggressive underground long hole stoping, Chifupu Project (nearby Chibuluma South Mine) has achieved the target of "Early-Start Production" and stepped into a new phase of development.

Chifupu, a small neighboring copper deposit adjacent to Chibuluma South Mine, has undertaken a reserve replacement program, which is expected to supplement the productivity of Chibuluma South Mine and extend the overall life of mine. In this regard, at the beginning of the year, the technical personnel underwent meticulous assessment prior to execution and thought different ways to obtain external financing. On the other side, they focused on and prioritized the mine efficiency, and worked towards the "Early-Start Production" schedule, and conducted a number of investment benchmarking and optimized financial models. Eventually, Chifupu produced its first tonnage of ore at 87mL at an earlier time than the original design at 143mL. Meanwhile, in order to ensure continual mining activities, it will speed up 87mL below stope excavation. Having set up a clear target, Chifupu Project team intensively monitors and motivates the operational team to overcome the broken rock, gushing water and other objective factors. 58mL return air, drainage and power supply system were built in accordance to the established plans. 72 mL and 87 mL mining and crosscutting projects have also provided favorable conditions to the "Early-Start Production".

Up until end of December, 49,000 tonnage was mined at Chifupu, which has, to a certain extent, made up for the Chibuluma South Mine ore shortage, arrived steady production and extended the mine life of Chibuluma South Mine. Meanwhile, it has come to "Early-Start production" and cost reduction, increased the efficiency and provided favorable conditions for reducing loss and enhancing profitability.

