

Review of: "Customary Land Tenure, Mining, and the Development Question: Insights From a Transitional State"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is very commendable in giving a description of the local problematic. When assessing the complex dynamics between mining operations and local communities, especially those affected by external labor forces, including overseas workers, it is crucial to develop comprehensive strategies that go beyond just identifying issues. A key recommendation is to integrate employment quotas for local residents in both unskilled and skilled roles to foster local talent development. Furthermore, mining companies could be incentivized to offer apprenticeships and scholarships focused on mining operations to local students, nurturing a future workforce directly from the community. Beyond employment, a holistic approach to supporting local communities could include initiatives for health, education, and the cultivation of industries parallel to mining. Since farming is the locals' main livelihood, integrating them into the mining operations by assigning them the task of rehabilitating exhausted land for agriculture could be beneficial. This would ensure the sustainability and economic viability of these regions post-mining. Addressing the root causes of potential violence and dissatisfaction, such as land tenure regularizations and combating governmental corruption, could be pivotal. Novel solutions might involve leveraging technology for transparent operations and community engagement platforms, ensuring that local voices are heard and considered in mining operations. These comprehensive measures could significantly enhance the socio-economic fabric of mining-affected regions. I think that giving such recommendations as part of the article would be important to make a robust contribution to the academic discourse.

Additionally, you should consider naming case studies or examples where similar recommendations have been successfully implemented to demonstrate their feasibility and impact.