

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SENEGAL

By Philip M. Mobbs

The production of phosphate rock and fertilizers and gold exploration dominated the mineral industry of the West African nation of Senegal. Phosphate-related operations accounted for approximately 2% of the nation's gross domestic product.

The dispute concerning the Sabodala gold mine continued during 1998. Paget Mining Ltd. of Australia initiated a claim with the International Chamber of Commerce concerning its option agreements for the Société Minière de Sabodala (SMS), the company that held the Sabodala gold concession (Africa Energy & Mining, 1998). Paget was to acquire the Bureau de Recherches Géologique et Minières of France's (subsequently, LaSource Compagnie Minière) 50.64% equity interest in SMS. Paget also was to acquire 25.2% of the Government's equity interest in SMS. In 1997, however, LaSource sold its interest in SMS to Société d'Etudes et d'Exploitation Industrielles de l'Or en Afrique (Eeximore) of Senegal. Late in 1998, the Government halted the heap leaching of the concession's oxide ore, claiming that Eeximore's mining permit had expired in 1997 (Mining Journal, 1999).

Multinational exploration companies with interest in Senegal included African Selection Mining Corp. of Canada; the joint venture of AngloGold Ltd. of South Africa and Barrick Gold Corp. of Canada; the partnership of Ashanti Goldfields Co. Ltd. of Ghana and IAMGOLD Corp. of Canada (formerly

International African Mining Gold Corp.); and Etruscan Resources Inc. of Canada.

In 1998, Tolsa S.A. of Spain acquired the Société Sénégalaise des Phosphates des Thiès, a producer of attapulgite and aluminum phosphate, from the Government and Rhône-Poulenc S.A. of France.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Senegal, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries Review of Africa and the Middle East, pages 111-112.

References Cited

- Africa Energy & Mining, 1998, Senegal—New clash on Sabodala: Africa Energy & Mining, no. 226, April 8, p. 7.
Mining Journal, 1999, Senegal confusion: Mining Journal [London], v. 332, no. 8520, February 26, p. 131.

Major Source of Information

Direction des Mines et de la Géologie
B.P. 1238
Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: (221) 32-07-261
Fax: (221) 32-08-52

TABLE 1
 SENEGAL: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	
Cement, hydraulic 3/	590 e/	694 r/	811 r/	854 r/	1,000 e/	
Clays, fuller's earth (attapulgitite)	119	120	100 r/	80 r/	80	
Petroleum:						
Natural gas	thousand cubic meters	110,000	110,000	56,600 r/	56,000 r/	56,000
Crude oil	thousand 42-gallon barrels	2	2	1 r/	1 r/	1
Refinery products	do.	6,200	2,500	2,500	7,000 r/	7,000
Phosphate rock and related products:						
Calcium phosphate-based fertilizers		160	160	160	160	160
Crude rock:						
Aluminum phosphate		29	30 r/	30 r/	20 r/	20
Calcium phosphate		1,587 3/	1,500	1,340	1,300	1,300
Phosphoric acid		274	274	300	300	300
Salt		117	120	120	120	120

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through September 1, 1999.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, Senegal produced clays, sand and gravel, and stone for local construction purposes, limestone for cement, and artisanal gold. Information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.