

# Titanium firm eyes more revenue after shift to new mine

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A worker at a Base Titanium Mining site in Kwale. PHOTO | KEVIN ODIT | NMG



Australian mining firm Base Resources has completed the migration of its titanium mining activities to a new site (South Dune) in Kwale.

This, the company said, will allow it to extract an additional 171 million in resource estimates.

The shift comes after the company exhausted titanium minerals at Central Dune where it started mining.

“Following a successful and on-schedule transition, mining rates are now back to nameplate capacity with all three hydraulic mining units fully operational. The Kwale operations mineral separation plant operated on stockpiled heavy mineral concentrate throughout the transition period to ensure uninterrupted production.”

Preparations for the transition to the South Dune primarily involved the installation of 7,400m of slurry and water piping, an 8,500m 11kV power line, a bridge across the Mukurumudzi Dam spillway, a 1.25MW slurry booster pump and a 1MW process water booster pump.

The migration is expected to extend the company’s local operations beyond 2024, benefiting employees and the government which earns royalties at a rate of 2.5 percent of the value of export sales.

“On the basis of current ore reserves, Kwale operations will continue until mid-2022, which will be extended to mid-2024 subject to approval of the South Dune mining lease variation currently before the Kenyan government,” Base Resources said in an earlier trading update.

The company added that it will also commence a concept study to confirm a business case, followed by a pre-feasibility study to determine the economics, and therefore viability, of any mine life extensions based on the North Dune mineral resource estimates.

The company will continue drilling on the North Dune this year with an aim of increasing and further understanding the mineral reserves.

Base Resources recorded a 31.2 percent decline in the value of titanium exports from its Kwale mine in the quarter ended March on the back of reduced production.