

A portrait of Tiguidanke Camara, a woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, smiling. She is wearing a white button-down shirt and a colorful beaded necklace. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

*Tiguidanke Camara, Chairman and CEO of Tigui Mining Group*

*Not just a*  
**PRETTY  
FACE**

A former model becomes  
an entrepreneur to be  
reckoned with

**T**iguidanke Mounir Camara, a former model turned mining entrepreneur, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tigui Mining Group (TMG) and Camara Diamond & Gold Trading Network (CDGTN). She founded the two companies in 2012 and 2009 respectively.

\*Ms. Camara is one of the youngest women mining executives on the continent. She is also one of the few female mine owners in Africa and the only one in Guinea\*. A visionary and proactive businesswoman, she uses her entrepreneurial background to pursue her objective of creating a conglomerate of natural resources and innovative technology companies.

Success SA had an opportunity to speak to her.

**Success SA: Woman entrepreneurs in the mining industry are scarce, making you some sort of a pioneer. We suspect that it can't always be easy.**

**Ms. Camara:** It's not, but as a role model, you have to be a pioneer in order to show others what is possible

if you have passion. Young women look up to me and this trust motivates me to achieve my goals while giving back to the community.

**Success SA: Does the fact that you have a modelling background complicate matters?**

**Ms. Camara:** Actually, my first contact with mining came through my work as a fashion model. I worked a lot with jewellery business owners who also owned mining licences across Africa. Many of these mines were in my native country of Guinea. This fact piqued my curiosity and interest in understanding how the mining sector works. Transitioning to the mining sector is just another way of following my passion; the difference being that my current work benefits my people more [than modelling].

**Success SA: Tell us more about Tigui Mining Group.**

**Ms. Camara:** Our mineral resource companies specialize in Africa, with a particular emphasis on West Africa. They develop ambitious projects through strategic partnerships and alliances to play a crucial role in shaping the future of the region.

TMG is a conglomerate of natural resources, precisely mining resources such as gold, diamond and iron ore. TMG staff are highly experienced and competent professionals with vast knowledge in relative fields and a strong local presence. They possess a strong understanding of government laws and local communities. TMG plays a strategic role in acquiring and developing enterprises that have economic value and potential for future growth.

Camara Diamond & Gold Trading Network (CDGTN), a subsidiary to Tigui Mining Group, is a junior mining company located in the Republic of Guinea, West Africa. CDGTN acquires and develops mining assets with a focus on gold, diamond and associated minerals. CDGTN's current mining assets include gold and diamond permits in Kerouane-Macenta and Siguiiri, both located in the Republic of Guinea.

**Success SA: You seem to be quite dedicated to giving back to the community.**

**Ms. Camara:** I firmly believe in growing mineral resources industry as a main driver of economic development, especially those of African countries. Being in the mining industry puts me in a unique position: \*I have relationships with local communities, governments, and investors which can be used to promote sustainable business ventures as well as the next generation of women in the mining industry\*.

**Success-SA: Anything you would like to say to other women considering a career in mining?**

**Ms. Camara:** Don't do this if you don't have a passion, a love for what you do. Secondly, and this relates to mining specifically, time is of the essence. Mining takes time.

It's a long process and you have to be very patient. Finally, learn as much as you can about the business because with that knowledge you can make the right decisions. However, never fear mistakes. Learn from them. Be professional. Be courageous. ●