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MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATE OF THE NATION GIVES CLEAR DIRECTION ON MINING SECTOR

The Chamber of Mines is encouraged by the President's State of the Nation Address pronouncements on government's commitment to escalating its interventions in the mining sector.

The acknowledgement of the global market conditions by the President is an indication that government fully comprehends that South Africa is not immune to the negative sentiments of the markets on its economy. The Chamber of Mines looks forward to working with government in promoting foreign investment in South Africa especially in mining.

The highlighting of the labour relations environment as an area that requires all social partners to work together give the sector confidence that indeed the discussion at NEDLAC on the Labour Relations Act will be resuscitated, and in this regard the Chamber welcomes the effort to be led by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

We note with much enthusiasm that President Zuma will be leading the process previously led by former Deputy President Motlanthe. The Chamber will continue its co-operation with both the Mining Consultative Forum and the Presidential Housing Package which sought to look into the living and working conditions of mineworkers. There is significant work that needs to be done to improve the lives of workers and people living in mining communities and to address the negative legacies of the migrant labour system. There is much needed local government co-operation to realise housing needs in mining and labour sending communities.

We thank the President for raising the profile of the mining sector and for his commitment on the behalf of government to work with the mining sector leadership and the leadership of organised labour to engender a stable industrial relations environment, to promote more effective community development, to deal with the legacies of the migrant labour system and to help restore investor confidence in the mining sector. The Chamber of Mines looks forward to engaging with his Excellency.

The Sector has during the years demonstrated its commitment to the Mining Charter and all Chamber member companies have been co-operating with the review process as led by the Department of Mineral Resources.

The Chamber fully supports the President and government in achieving the key objectives of the NDP through higher, more balanced and more inclusive growth. For the mining sector to play its part, it is critically important that the trust based collaborative partnership for growth and development between business, government and labour is built. Furthermore the sector is fully committed to working with government and organised labour to realise the NDP objectives as a blueprint to ensuring South Africa's economic growth and development.

This will require significant collaborative partnership between all stakeholders. The work to improve the investment attractiveness of the mining sector, via a focus on improving the competitiveness of the sector, will also require joint problem solving collaborative partnerships.

Issued by
The Chamber of Mines of South Africa

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