



# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## CHAMBER OF MINES RECEIVES STUDENT MEMORANDUM

**Johannesburg, 28 September 2016.** Senior Chamber of Mines Executive, Vusi Mabena has today received a memorandum from students representing the #Feesmustfall initiative. The Chamber will review and respond to the document.

The Chamber of Mines shares the concerns of students and the wider community about the future of tertiary education in South Africa. The Chamber urges students and the authorities to do all they can to ensure the rapid normalisation of campuses across the country, and to secure and protect the resources of all institutions of higher learning.

As the largest private sector funder of training and development, the mining industry recognizes that there is a role to play for the private sector. The Chamber views education as absolutely key to South Africa's future, not only to grow the mining industry, but also to enhance opportunities for the citizens of the country.

In the 2015 financial year alone, the Chamber and its members invested more than R5 billion in skills development and education projects – including supporting some 6,000 students in tertiary institutions. Over the past five years, Chamber members have supported around 12,500 students by providing bursaries at a number of tertiary institutions. This is in addition to scholarships for the children of their own employees ranging from primary school to tertiary education. During the same period, 5,500 students and graduates participated in mining industry workplace experience programmes and were provided with internships in workplaces. In total, 18,000 students have been supported over a five year period - at a cost of more than R1.5 billion. Further, more than R180 million has been spent over five years supporting the salaries of lecturers in Mining Engineering related faculties at Universities. Without these funds, many lecturing positions would not exist.

This contribution is being made in the context of an increasingly tough time for the mining industry. In 2015, the South African mining industry was the only loss-making sector in the economy, making an accumulative loss of R37 billion.

For further information, take a look at our fact sheet on training and development in the mining sector:

<http://www.chamberofmines.org.za/industry-news/publications/fact-sheets/send/3-fact-sheets/206-skills-development>

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