

MEDIA STATEMENT

THE MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA IS SHOCKED BY COLLAPSE OF THE HISTORIC JAGERSFONTEIN TAILINGS, INDICATES MEMBERS OF THE MCSA ARE MONITORING ALL TAILINGS FACILITIES, AND OFFERS TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT

Johannesburg, 11 September 2022. The Minerals Council South Africa is saddened by the tragedy unfolding at Jagersfontein in the Free State after the collapse of a historic deposition dam and it recommits its members to the highest standards of tailings and waste rock dump management.

The causes of the collapse of the dam at the Jagersfontein diamond mine, which was shut in the 1970s, are unknown at this stage. The loss of life and injuries sustained in the deluge from the collapsed dam as well as the damage to homes and infrastructure is a tragedy. The Minerals Council offers its heartfelt condolences to all those affected by these events.

The Minerals Council and its members also have offered assistance to government at this tragic time.

The Minerals Council notes that the Jagersfontein assets are not currently owned by any of its members and that it has no information about the ownership structure or the standard of management of the dumps is available at this stage.

The Minerals Council has engaged and contributed extensively to the review and update of the South Africa's South African National Standards (SANS) 10286 Code on Mine Residue Deposit Management in an effort to achieve alignment with International Council on Mining and Metals' Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management.

The Minerals Council continues to encourage its members to review their tailings management operational standards and ensure they are aligned with the ICMM's (ICMM) Global Standard on Tailings Management. The Minerals Council is a member of the ICMM, and it is an active member of the steering committee on tailings management.



In addition to the adoption of best practices that have been made in respect of management practices for tailings storage facilities, the Minerals Council believes that adherence to the ICMM standard will augment existing national standards and legislative requirements and practices to create a step change for the mining industry to address safety risks and the environmental sustainability of these facilities, and to further improve on the management and governance of tailings dams.

The Minerals Council believes that the ongoing compliance with the national regulatory requirements coupled with the implementation of the revised SANS10286 standard and continuous adoption of the ICMM standard will strengthen current management practices significantly by integrating social, environmental, and technical practices, covering the entire life cycle from site selection, design, construction, management, and monitoring to closure and post closure.

The Minerals Council has requested its members assess their tailings management practices in accordance with the standard to determine if these were aligned and to identify any possible gaps that needed to be addressed.

The Minerals Council has reached out to the South African authorities to offer whatever practical support and assistance that the industry can provide regarding the Jagersfontein tragedy at this trying time.

For further queries:

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