

**NATIONAL DAY OF HEALTH AND SAFETY IN MINING**  
**JAPIE FULLARD**  
**CHAIRMAN CEO ZERO HARM FORUM**  
**MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA**  
**17 AUGUST 2023**

Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr David Msiza and other senior government officials, leaders from organised labour, President of the Minerals Council, Ms Nolitha Fakude, Minerals Council office bearers, board members and CEOs, company representatives, members of the media, Minerals Council colleagues and other guests.

I welcome you today to this sixth annual National Day of Health and Safety in Mining as we discuss the most important issue in our industry, the health and safety of more than 470,000 employees.

This annual day marks a recommitment to our Khumbul'ekhaya health and safety strategy, which we initiated in 2019 and which has delivered significant step changes in safety and health.

The purpose of this national **commemorative** event is to give us time to reflect on the safety and health of mining employees, what we are doing that is making a positive difference and which areas need more work. Khumbul'ekhaya reminds us to strive for Zero Harm, ensuring that every one of us returns home healthy and safe.

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As an industry, when stakeholders assess our performance, we must understand and accept that the extent to which we meet our goal of Zero Harm is the only measure of our performance.

To date (17 August), 27 of our colleagues have lost their lives compared to 26 in the same period a year ago.

So far, 1,225 of our colleagues were injured compared to 1,273 a year ago, a four percent decline.

As our industry employs more women, we must consider safety statistics for women, who make up about 15% of total mining employees. In the year to date, 2 women have lost their lives and 133 have been injured. This compares to two fatalities and 217 injuries for the full year of 2022. The previous year, 2021, one woman died and 166 were injured. This is a major focus for us.

Through our work to modernise mining to make it safer, more productive, and more inclusive, we are confident we will see further reductions in fatalities among all employees.

The industry went through a difficult period in February, March and April when we reported 18 fatalities after a record performance in January in which there were no deaths. Our interventions after those terrible three months resulted in a sharp drop to 2 fatalities in May and 2 in June. Unfortunately, we have reported 3 fatalities in July and 2 so far in August.

I have made two direct appeals in recent months to our CEOs to stage interventions to ensure we have a safer year than last year. It is, however, critical to understand that interventions alone will not bring us to sustainable results, but it is the day-to-day safe practices, procedures and operating philosophy that will instil a culture of safe work and zero harm. This is, and remains, the responsibility of CEOs and Senior Management. Safety starts at the top.

The industry made a significant step change towards our vision of achieving zero fatalities. In 2022, 49 of our colleagues died in fatal incidents on our mines compared to 74 the year



before. It is the lowest number of fatalities and marked a welcome return to the steady progress we are making towards achieving our goal after two successive years of unacceptable and deeply disappointing regressions in safety during 2020 and 2021.

At the end of 2021, the Mineral Council Board developed eight interventions for its members to urgently implement to stop the bleeding and reverse the deterioration in safety. Those interventions bore results, showing that safety starts at the top and that responsibility sits with the CEOs to ensure their operations are safe. This is what we refer to as CEO-Ship.

We, as the industry through the Minerals Council, are focused on the leading causes of fatalities. Our Fall-of-Ground Action Plan (FOGAP) is one example. In 2022, we recorded 6 fatalities related to falls of ground -- the lowest number of deaths in this category -- compared to 22 fatalities the year before. Currently, we have reported 8, which is of major concern to us.

The number of FOG fatalities had fallen to an average of 24 a year in the 2016-2020 five-year period from an average of 111 a year in 2001-2005, a 78% improvement.

Since 2009, the key interventions were the implementation of entry examinations and actively making working areas safe every time it's entered. In 2012, netting and bolting of tunnel roofs and walls were introduced, and the use of steel nets has become a common feature in South Africa's deep-level mines.

Through FOGAP, which was adopted by the Minerals Council Board and CEO Zero Harm Forum in July 2021, we are bringing additional focus and global best practices in addressing falls of ground to eliminate them as a source of fatalities.

We have launched a study into reviewing our seismic hazard rating and warning systems to improve the way we understand and manage seismic risks. We are looking at what systems are used at South African underground mines and those used internationally, with the intention of adopting a global leading best practice to eliminate fatalities from rock bursts caused by seismic events.



We are working with original equipment manufacturers on collision avoidance systems for moving machinery to eliminate another major source of fatalities and injuries.

This year's theme of ***Always: Vigilance, Learning, Improving*** speaks to exactly what we are doing to eliminate fatalities. By being vigilant and keeping an unrelenting focus on safety, we can make a difference, but it's through learning from each other, from our peers, locally and abroad, and continually improving on safety interventions and initiatives, we will achieve our goal in a sustainable way.

At the Minerals Council, we hold an hour-long session on the first working day of each month where our members share their safety experiences, learnings and interventions, allowing the industry as a whole to adopt best practice and not repeat the mistakes of others in trying fresh ways to make our operations safer.

There are many examples of excellence in our industry, demonstrating our members are ***"Vigilant, Learning and Improving"***. During the course of this event, we will showcase just three examples of where our members are doing remarkable work, one which was already shown.

In these videos you will see the successes in our health and safety initiatives.

You will see we are #MakingMiningMatter

I would like to thank all our key stakeholders and partners for being here today. In respect of health and safety we have a common goal of achieving Zero Harm. There is no competition between companies or between our social partners. Today is an excellent example of this. It is only by working constructively together towards our goal that we will make our industry a safe, inclusive workplace.

After the following video highlighting the traffic management system at Thungela Resource's opencast collieries, I would like to invite the representatives from our four organised labour partners to address us.

