

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **#MININGMATTERS TO COMMUNITIES**

*Gold mining companies make a difference to the lives and livelihoods of communities in the Free State, Gauteng and the North West*

**Johannesburg, 20 June 2024.** Gold mining companies build schools, hospitals, clinics and roads for communities in which they operate in the Free State, Gauteng and the North West. They also support education by providing materials, internet access, scholarships at local schools, bursaries for tertiary studies and training and development for their employees.

To develop an understanding of the extent of why mining matters to communities and more broadly to the country, the Minerals Council South Africa commissioned a survey of social indicators contained in the public documents of four of its gold member companies, which account for about 86% of full-time jobs in the gold sector.

The four companies spent R570 million on socio-economic development projects in their communities during the financial year surveyed, with a focus on education, health and infrastructure.

Enterprise development programmes by three of the four companies have created 6,186 jobs. Based on the available data, two out of the four gold companies spent R98 million on enterprise development and one supported 106 small businesses.

The gold companies ensured that at least 398 learners received support through maths, science and accountancy programmes and helped 801 grade 10-12 learners and teachers to achieve excellent maths, science and English results.

Funding of R5 million was provided to schools, while two trusts invested a total of R106 million in community and education projects respectively since 2010. More than 600 grade 10, 11 and 12 learners were given the opportunity to enrol in a R7.5 million, three-year project, while 14 top matriculants from disadvantaged schools received full scholarships.

One company entered into a partnership with the Wits School of Chemical Metallurgical Engineering worth R6 million over five years.

The gold companies spent R1.3 billion on training and development of employees in the single year surveyed, representing R23,279 per full time employee.

About 18% of the workforces of the gold companies surveyed are women and 23% of management positions are held by women.

While the survey did not break down the categories of management, the 2018 Mining Charter has set targets of 30% of junior management roles held by women, 25% of middle and senior management, and 20% of executive management. The mining industry is committed to transformation to achieve these targets.

Programmes to encourage inclusivity and transformation of the South African industry have been underway since 1994. Until the 1990s, women were by law not allowed to work in core mining jobs. Mining companies are committed to increasing the number of women they employ to make their mining operations inclusive and equitable.

To achieve this, companies are making their operations more conducive to women working in the sector through specific policies and actions. Companies have policies of zero tolerance of gender-based violence, discrimination and bullying. The industry is adopting personal protective equipment and work clothing designed for women, while modernisation of mining operations is making it easier for women to enter the sector which has been dominated by men for more than a century.

The full survey of 12 Minerals Council member companies in coal, gold, platinum group metals, diamonds and iron ore represented 59% of total mining sector employment in 2023.

This survey of social indicators offers both a qualitative and a quantitative look at the issues. It does not - and does not claim to - provide a view of the entire industry.

However, it paints an informative picture of the breadth and depth of the social investments and transformation that have become the standard way of operating for most mining companies, and certainly for Minerals Council members, and show why #MiningMatters.

**Click here for more information on why mining matters to communities near gold mining operations**

<https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=2271>

Visit <https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/special-features/1396-miningmatters-to-south-africa-and-its-people> for more information about the mining industry's contribution to the country, to employees and to communities.

**For interviews with the Minerals Council on why #MiningMatters, contact:**

Allan Seccombe

Tel: 0646504636

email: [aseccombe@mineralscouncil.org.za](mailto:aseccombe@mineralscouncil.org.za)

Web: [www.mineralscouncil.org.za](http://www.mineralscouncil.org.za)