

MEDIA STATEMENT

#MININGMATTERS TO COMMUNITIES

An iron-clad pursuit of transformation

Johannesburg, 20 June 2024. Iron ore mining in the Northern Cape is generating benefits for communities, with investments in communities to stimulate jobs and business opportunities while improving education and health.

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 12 of its member companies. In iron ore specifically, there was one company which accounts for 47% of employment in the iron ore sector. A number of companies operating in this sector produce a range of commodities and do not differentiate data between their iron ore and other interests.

The assessed iron ore company spent R400 million on socio-economic development projects during the surveyed financial year.

In spending R164.3 million on enterprise development, this company helped develop 221 enterprises, of which 46 were suppliers.

The company has provided wide-ranging and quality education for an estimated 16,000 learners. It has provided 500 teachers at 25 early childhood development institutions as well as 25 primary and secondary schools. Another 19 schools will benefit from a second phase of this project. In 2022, these schools had an 81.9% matric pass rate, compared to the Northern Cape average of 74.2%.

The company has a community health programme that includes improvements to health infrastructure in local municipalities and providing training for healthcare professionals, as

well as educating on tuberculosis (TB) control, alcohol and drugs, diabetes and hypertension, and sexual and reproductive health.

Ahead of the mining industry average of 19%, women account for 26% of the workforce at the company and women occupy 30% of its management roles.

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 company spent R244 million on training and development of its full-time employees, equating to R38,125 each.

The company spent R7.7 million on supporting 259 bursars, 94% of whom were historically disadvantaged South Africans. There were 624 people on learnerships.

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 iron ore mining matters to communities

<https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/component/jdownloads/?task=download.send&id=2280&catid=3&m=0&itemid=118>

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:

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