

**WELCOME: THE STATE OF THE MINING NATION MEDIA BRIEFING  
PAUL DUNNE  
CARETAKER PRESIDENT, MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA**

**3 FEBRUARY 2025  
07:00 - 08:30**

**CTICC 2 MEDIA LOUNGE  
INVESTING IN AFRICAN MINING INDABA 2025**

Good morning and welcome to the Minerals Council South Africa's State of the Mining Nation media briefing at this, the 30<sup>th</sup> Investing in African Mining Indaba.

I am Paul Dunne, caretaker President of the Minerals Council. We are an advocacy body whose members account for 90% of annual South African mined production by value.

Today we will hear from Mzila Mthenjane, CEO of the Minerals Council, as he takes us through the State of the Mining Nation and the year our industry had in 2024 and what we expect this year. There can be no doubt last year was a difficult one for the mining industry, but we are starting to see some green shoots in energy and transport logistics as a result of our collaborative work with the Government of National Unity, Eskom and Transnet.

Joining Mzila is Hugo Pienaar, chief economist at the Minerals Council, who will guide us through our latest Facts and Figures publication which we are launching today. This booklet provides a unique snapshot of the contribution the mining industry has made as a whole and by individual commodity to South Africa last year.

I must just note that some of the data in the book is provisional. Please note that the industry reported 42 fatalities last year. We published Facts and Figures based on our provisional safety data before the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources issued their data showing the record safety performance last year. On the Minerals Council website, we have a fully updated Facts and Figures document reflecting the regulator's safety data.

We are encouraged by the 24% reduction in fatalities last year to a new record low of 42, down from 55 the previous year, and substantially below the previous record of 49 in 2022.

However, this is no cause for celebration. There are 42 families without their loved ones and we send them our heartfelt condolences.

Please may we stand and acknowledge their loss and reflect on those they've left behind.

Thank you.

Injuries in 2024 declined by 16% to 1,841 in 2024 from 2,181 the year before.

Occupational diseases declined by 17% to 1,864 cases in 2024 from 2,233 the previous year.

We are hosting a media briefing tomorrow morning at 7:30 to 8:30am in this same venue on the industry's healthy and safety performance to explore in greater depth why we are on this downwards trajectory in fatalities, injuries and occupational diseases.

Please join Japie Fullard, who chairs the Minerals Council's CEO Zero Harm Forum as a tireless champion of health and safety across the mining industry. He will be joined by Dr Thuthula Balfour, our Head of Health, and Dushen Naidoo, Head of Safety and Sustainability.

As CEOs, we believe Zero Harm can be achieved and that every mine worker can return home safely and in good health. We are unrelenting in our efforts to achieve this target. We are constantly evolving the way we work, introducing leading practices in health and safety, modern mining methods, innovation and technology. I must stress that improving health and safety on our mines starts with our CEOs.

At the Minerals Council, we have monthly meetings of CEOs in an hour of learning where we share our safety and health incidents and the measures put in place to ensure they don't happen again. These meetings are honest appraisals of what we're doing wrong, why particular safety and health systems did not work as planned, and to share leading practices on the subsequent interventions

The Minerals Council has reviewed its CEO-led Khumbul'ekhaya health and safety initiative after a Heartfelt Conversation amongst CEOs last year. We will roll out the second iteration of Khumbul'ekhaya this year to meet the new milestone targets set at the tripartite Mine Health and Safety Summit last year.

It is only through collaboration with the DMPR and organised labour that we can jointly realise our ambition of Zero Harm.

The Minerals Council implemented its Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health Hub, more commonly known as MOSH, in 2003 to focus on the adoption of leading practices to address health and safety concerns and accelerate the progress towards achieving zero harm.

MOSH focuses on falls of ground, transport and machinery to reduce mine fatalities and injuries, dust reduction, and noise-induced hearing loss. We are seeing the encouraging results from their untiring work, particularly in the lower number of fatalities and injuries arising from falls of ground and transport and machinery. Dust and noise remain an ongoing challenge that we are actively addressing.

Our Masoyise health programme, initially focusing on tuberculosis and HIV with great success, has broadened into a wellness approach that incorporates non-communicable diseases and occupational lung diseases. These are key initiatives that will assist us achieving the new health milestones agreed last year.

Japie, Thuthula and Dushen will give you more details on these initiatives tomorrow morning and they will take your questions about our journey to Zero Harm.

With those few words, may I invite Mzila to give us the State of the Mining Nation address.

I wish you a successful and fruitful Mining Indaba.  
Thank you.

**PAUL DUNNE**  
**CARETAKER PRESIDENT**  
**MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA**