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Chair

Minerals Council CEO Zero Harm Forum

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Investing in African Mining Indaba 2026

Good morning to our colleagues in the media. Thank you for joining us this morning as we discuss the mining sector's health and safety performance in 2025 and our actions at the Minerals Council and with our member companies to achieve our goal of Zero Harm.

We as mining CEOs believe that Zero Harm is possible. If you consider the significant reduction in fatalities, injuries and illnesses in the sector over the past three decades you will understand why we hold that belief.

The Minerals Council notes that the mining sector closed the year on 41 known fatalities. This is a new all-time low and compares to the previous year's 42.

We acknowledge that 41 families have lost their loved ones, as have friends and colleagues and extend our heartfelt condolences to them.

Please may we have a moment of silent reflection on those lost lives.

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We at the Minerals Council and CEOs remain committed to ensuring everyone returns home from our operations safely and in good health. It is our primary focus every day. The changes we are seeing in the sector's performance is because of CEO-led interventions and visible-felt leadership. Safety starts with us.

The number of fatalities in 2025 is marginally down on 2024, but if we consider serious injuries, where there was a 12% reduction to 1,693 from 1,925, we are encouraged that our interventions and programmes are working and delivering the outcomes we expect to see.

Our most important partnership is with the Mines Inspectorate in the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources and organised labour as we strive to achieve Zero Harm at South Africa's mines. This is the partnership we value most highly because of the significant interventions the sector has made in fatalities, injuries, and occupational diseases.

At the Minerals Council, we have a monthly Hour of Learning for all our member CEOs where companies share their learnings about safety incidents, the root causes and the actions they have implemented to ensure they don't happen again. It's only through sharing like this that we grow our knowledge base and not repeat the mistakes that have hurt or killed our colleagues. It is a very powerful platform and I'm encouraged by the seriousness with which these sessions are treated and the level of engagement we have. I have no doubt this a major contributor towards the advances we are making in health and safety in our sector.

The mining industry has reduced fatalities in three decades by 91% to 41 from 484 in 1994. Injuries have fallen by 80% from 8,347 thirty years ago.

In the past 15 years, TB and silicosis cases have reduced by more than 80%, with the incidence of TB cases falling to 220 per 100,000 employees, which is half the national average for South Africa. Cases of noise-induced hearing loss in mining have reduced by 55% in the past 15 years and is now coming under particular focus in the Minerals Council.



There is one disappointment for me, personally. I am the champion of the Fall of Ground initiative within the successful Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Learning Hub, which promotes the adoption of leading practices by our members.

There has been a sizeable regression in Fall of Ground (FOG) fatalities in 2025, with 15 of our colleagues losing their lives in these incidents, up from 12 the year before.

In 2022, the sector reported six FOG-related fatalities, the lowest ever. It is clear that our Fall of Ground Action Plan or FOGAP is contributing towards eliminating this agency as one of the major sources of incidents in the sector.

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

The key interventions were the implementation of entry examinations and actively making working areas safe daily from 2009. 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.

We must understand why the sector has regressed in 2025 and, as the MOSH team, provide the learnings and support to mining companies. The sector is engaged in leading practices of permanent netting underground, improved lighting in working areas and improved drilling and blasting practices, coupled with initiatives to make barring of loose rocks from tunnel ceilings and walls safer.

Dushen will talk in a few minutes in more detail about the sector's safety performance and the refreshed Khumbul'ekhaya initiative that will deliver the safety outcomes all of us want to see.



Like in safety, we have seen significant declines in occupational health issues. Where the mining sector was the epicentre of South Africa's tuberculosis and HIV-AIDs epidemics, concerted focus by the Minerals Council and its members have reduced the incidences of TB to below the national average, well ahead of the deadline set in the Health and Safety Milestones.

The total number of occupational diseases reported by the mines decreased by 7.6% from 1,864 in 2023 to 1,723 in 2024, according to data from the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources. The mining sector employs about 470,000 people to put that number into context.

Through MOSH we have developed, and continue to develop, leading practices to eliminate dust-related illnesses and noise-induced hearing loss at mining operations.

The mining sector's health and safety interventions are consistently delivering encouraging overall downward trends.

However, mining companies have not been, and cannot be, the only ones driving these initiatives. We work in close collaboration with the DMPR and organised labour in the Mine Health and Safety Council where we have a shared responsibility and vision of achieving Zero Harm.

During 2026, the focus will be on sustaining and strengthening this momentum through deeper embedding of critical control management, broader adoption of leading practices, enhanced learning and knowledge sharing, stronger leadership accountability, and continued industry collaboration through both the Minerals Council structures and the tripartite Mine Health and Safety Council.

Thank you.

ENDS//

