

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minerals Council South Africa's Annual Review Highlights Mining Sector Progress on Safety, Investment and Sustainability at its 136th AGM

Johannesburg, 27 May 2026. The Minerals Council South Africa's role in supporting its members during a volatile and uncertain domestic and international environment to ensure mining remained the backbone of South Africa's economy was emphasised in its Integrated Annual Review for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Integrated Annual Review and Annual Financial Statements were released at the 136th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Minerals Council, whose members account for 90% of annual mined production by value.

The review presented an accurate and relevant picture of the significant role the mining sector plays in South Africa's economy, and its contribution to society, as well as the activities of the Minerals Council in advocating for, supporting and promoting its members and the sector. It further underpinned the urgent need for policy certainty, infrastructure reform and reliable energy and water systems to sustain investment and growth in the sector.

During the AGM, Minerals Council President, Paul Dunne, and CEO, Mzila Mthenjane, reflected on 2025, a year in which fundamental changes were proposed to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (the Act) and significant structural reforms were rolled out by the Government in the energy and logistics sectors.

"We are living through one of the most important moments in recent years for the South African mining sector. A fundamental sea change is underway as the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) is revising the Act, which was gazetted 22 years ago," said Mr Dunne.

In the past, the Minerals Council and the DMPR have approached the courts to resolve impasses on elements of the Mining Charter and an Amendment Bill in 2013 took more than 2,000 days in various proceedings before it was scrapped, causing regulatory uncertainty.

"A repetition of drawn-out wrangling, because of an ill-considered Amendment Bill, which does not reflect our engagements with the DMPR, must be avoided at all costs," Mr Dunne said.

Mr Dunne and Mr Mthenjane both noted that the talks held with officials in the DMPR have been constructive and encouraging. The Minerals Council expects the nature of those engagements to be reflected in the revised Mineral Resources Development (MRD) Bill, which should be published in coming months.



“With disciplined policy reform, modernisation and partnerships, mining can anchor and elevate South Africa’s economic development, industrial capability, and social progress for decades to come,” said Mr Mthenjane.

The mining sector employed 470,457 people in 2025 and paid R200 billion in wages. The sector paid a total of R124 billion in taxes to the fiscus and contributed R477 billion to gross domestic product, accounting for 6.2% of GDP.

The mining sector is a significant contributor to employment, the economy and the global minerals market, having exported R816 billion worth of minerals.

The Minerals Council played a constructive role in intervening in South Africa’s energy and logistics crises. During 2025, it welcomed the structural reforms that will fundamentally change energy, rail and ports services, loosening the grip of state-owned companies on the key areas that will contribute to a growing economy and expanded job opportunities.

Mining companies are among the leading implementers of renewable energy projects to ease the burden on the national grid, reduce their carbon footprint and lower electricity costs, and to secure sustainable energy sources.

The Minerals Council has actively lobbied for lower electricity tariffs, for ferroalloy smelters and its members, that are globally uncompetitive because of the more than 900% increase in electricity prices since 2008.

The interventions and partnerships the Minerals Council engaged in during 2025 aligned with its purpose of supporting and promoting the mining sector, and its vision of repositioning the sector as South Africa’s foremost industrial sector through the creation of a conducive operating and regulatory environment to attract and sustain investment and growth.

“Sustained growth and competitiveness remain central to the long-term viability of South Africa’s mining industry. In 2025, the operating environment reinforced the reality that geological endowment alone is insufficient to attract and retain capital,” said Mr Mthenjane.

An emerging risk for the mining sector demanding immediate attention is water security. Bulk water supply in several mining regions was interrupted during 2025, highlighting the vulnerabilities in municipal and regional infrastructure systems.

“Water is essential to both communities and operations, and strengthening maintenance capacity, governance and investment in water infrastructure must become a national priority,” said Mr Dunne.

For 2026, the Minerals Council entered the year on a stronger footing and with clear intent. Its priorities for the year include:

- Embedding predictive safety systems to eliminate critical risks
- Strengthening inclusive transformation through sustainable skills pipelines
- Securing pragmatic policy certainty under the MRD Bill
- Restoring infrastructure reliability to unlock production growth and exports

- Accelerating people-centred modernisation and innovation

The 2025 Integrated Annual Review and Financial Statements are available on the Minerals Council website. Read the reports [here](#).

Read Paul Dunne's speech [here](#).

Read Mzila Mthenjane's speech [here](#).

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