



CHAMBER OF MINES
of South Africa

MEDIA STATEMENT

CHAMBER OF MINES FULLY SUPPORTS PREMISE OF WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK

Johannesburg, 7 October 2015: The Chamber of Mines fully supports the premise of the World Day for Decent Work, being observed by COSATU and its affiliates today. Notwithstanding the challenges facing the sector, especially in difficult economic times, decent work is a non-negotiable.

We are committed to ensuring that all employees in the mining sector are in a position where they do not simply have “work” but rather “decent work”. Abusive and exploitative practices have no place in the mining sector, and the process of modernisation that our industry has embarked on has started to deliver more highly skilled and better-paid jobs.

The Chamber and its members are engaging directly and on an on-going basis with employees, with unions and with the regulatory authorities on day-to-day aspects of mining work, from health and safety to skills development, including ensuring that our employees retire with dignity.

We share a concern with all stakeholders in respect of the loss of jobs in the mining sector. The Chamber is currently working with its MIGDETT social partners to explore measures that will ameliorate the negative impact of potential job losses in the sector.

The mining industry is currently facing significant challenges including low commodity prices and high cost pressures. Under these circumstances, the industry and its stakeholders need to work together to ensure the sustainability of the sector.

Mining has the ability to make a positive impact in some of the most remote and poorest areas in southern Africa. While jobs in the mining sector decreased by around 3% over the past three years, over the past decade employment in this sector has actually grown by 10%.

Together we have the ability to reverse the negative trend.





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