



CHAMBER OF MINES
of South Africa

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

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IMPALA PLATINUM'S 14 SHAFT DISASTER ACCIDENT OF 22 JANUARY 2016

Johannesburg, 26 January 2016:

It was with extreme sadness that we at the Chamber of Mines heard the news of the underground fire at Impala Platinum's 14 shaft on 22 January, which claimed the lives of four mine employees. All four employees had donned their Self-Contained Self-Rescue (SCSR) packs but failed to reach a refuge chamber in time due to the thick smoke and lack of visibility. The employees were overcome by noxious gases when the oxygen generated by the SCSR units was depleted.

This is a tragedy for all concerned. Our thoughts and condolences go to the families and friends of the deceased at this most difficult of times. This unfortunate loss of our colleagues occurred against the backdrop of improved industry safety performance over the years.

Any harm done to every mine employee runs counter to our paramount goal of Zero Harm and further reinforces our resolve to achieve this goal every day of the year.

We are grateful to the swift response from the Honourable Minister of Mineral Resources, Mr Mosebenzi Joseph Zwane, who visited the mine and families of the deceased miners on Sunday, 24 January 2016. We also commend Impala Platinum and the Mine Rescue Services Proto Teams for their expediency in the evacuation of 200 employees to safety.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the deceased miners at this sad time. We will continue to work hard with the industry, government and organised labour in reducing fatalities and achieving our goal of each mineworker returning from work safely every day.

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