



# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## CHAMBER STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AT AND NEAR NORTHAM

*Chamber president calls for leaders to restore calm, and ensure adherence to the law*

**Johannesburg, 7 June 2016:** The Chamber of Mines notes with concern the incidents of violence on Sunday and Monday in which two employees of Northam Platinum's Zondereinde Mine were killed.

Neither of the incidents took place on mine. The SAPS has launched a full investigation.

The Chamber of Mines is concerned that these violent acts have sparked incidents of protest at the mine, as well as vocal and inflammatory comments by some parties. Though the public discourse has assumed that the violence was triggered by a bout of inter-union rivalry, there is in fact no firm evidence of this. It is unhelpful to propagate this idea without good reason. With the tragedy on the platinum belt of four years ago still fresh in our minds, we call on all parties involved to act with wisdom and with restraint.

We call on the leadership of all employee representatives at Northam to ask members to use only peaceful methods to pursue the interests of their respective organisations, and to uphold the law at all times.

We note and commend the decision of Northam management to temporarily suspend underground operations in the interests of safety, and call on all parties to act responsibly when operations resume.

We also call on the SAPS to leave no stone unturned in their investigation of the two murders, but also to act in accordance with the precept of minimum force in its efforts to prevent further violence and to establish and maintain peace in the area.

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