

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINERALS COUNCIL WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGINEERING TASK TEAM TO ASSESS CHALLENGES AT ESKOM POWER STATIONS

Johannesburg, 5 March 2019. The Minerals Council South Africa welcomes the establishment of an engineering task team to assess challenges at Eskom's power stations. The Minerals Council's support for the task team follows a number of engagements between key stakeholders aimed at addressing the challenges being faced by the national power utility.

On 15 February, Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan met with the Minister of Mineral Resources, Gwede Mantashe, the CEO and senior executives of the Minerals Council, and the CEOs of coal producing mining companies. The engagement was aimed at addressing the issues currently being experienced, and to set Eskom and the mining industry on a new trajectory. At this meeting both the Minerals Council and the EIUG extended an offer to establish an expert engineering task team to assist in addressing the challenges faced by Eskom at its power stations.

Minister Pravin Gordhan accepted the offer and within a week, a list of 18 engineers assembled by the Minerals Council and EIUG, was submitted to the Minister. In addition, the Minister had also received nominations from the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the foremost South African engineering universities.

Subsequently, a small coordinating team has been established under the leadership of Dr Tsakani Mthombeni and Mr Ian Morison, who has been seconded by Anglo American. The group, which will also include industry and Minerals Council representatives, will be responsible for planning and monitoring the process over the next few months and the process will be co-owned by Minister Pravin Gordhan and the chairman of Eskom, Mr Jabu Mabuza.

Over the coming weeks, the task team will conduct technical reviews at some of Eskom's power stations with a view to identify problems and solutions. Interim reports of the findings



and recommendations will be submitted to Eskom and the Department of Energy. Eskom will ultimately be responsible for implementing the recommendations.

Minerals Council CEO, Roger Baxter notes: “This is a tangible demonstration of leadership and a manifestation of real commitment to the future welfare of our country and our industry at a time when South Africa needs it most.”

For further information, please contact:

Charmane Russell

Tel: +27 (0)11 880 3924 or Mobile: +27 (0)82 372 5816

Email: charmane@rasc.co.za

Web: www.mineralscouncil.org.za