

MEDIA STATEMENT

RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON RESUMPTION OF MINING OPERATIONS

Johannesburg, 14 April 2020: The Minerals Council and its members recognise the principles underlying the government's decision to extend the lock-down by two weeks. Certain companies and operations continue to operate on a limited basis under exemptions granted by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). Any applications for these exemptions are made directly by the companies and not through the Minerals Council.

As indicated last week, the Minerals Council has been engaging with the DMRE and unions to establish a way forward on how to work safely under the constraints of COVID-19. These engagements are ongoing. We noted the following in the President's address: "We will use the coming days to evaluate how we will embark on risk-adjusted measures that can enable a phased recovery of the economy, allowing the return to operation of certain sectors under strictly controlled conditions."

The Minerals Council has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which provides guidelines for the management of healthcare workers and employees returning to work at the end of the lock-down period. The guidelines address possible exposure to COVID-19 and subsequent illness, isolation and quarantine, in addition to the usual return to work procedures of the industry. The aim is to ensure good health and safety of employees on return to work while taking into account the Guiding Principles on Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in SAMI published by the DMRE on 26 March 2020.

The SOP may be accessed at <https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/downloads/send/68-covid-19/943-sop-following-covid-19-lockdown> .

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