

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **MINERALS COUNCIL SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ERADICATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE**

**Johannesburg, 4 February 2021:** The Minerals Council South Africa today attended the fundraising event hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa to secure the active participation and financial investment of the private and philanthropic sectors to address gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in South Africa.

In representing the Minerals Council, Nolitha Fakude, Vice President and Chair of the Women in Mining Forum pledged the mining industry's support for the GBVF Response Fund, noting that it will complement what many member companies are already doing.

"Last year we launched our Stop Abuse of Women initiative, building on the extensive work already undertaken under the banner of women in mining. Every one of our members has committed to putting in place measures to support women in the workplace, to prevent abuse of any form and to provide the means and support for women to safely escape and report abuse.

"We believe that it is our duty to inform, educate and act not only on incidents within our mines, but also beyond our mine gates into our host communities. Both men and women are a vital link in the chain to stop abuse.

"We will continue to encourage our members to step up as they have done in the past, to find ways to contribute to this worthy undertaking as we fight this second pandemic successfully as partners".

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