

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINERALS COUNCIL CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND THUGGERY BEING EXPERIENCED BY MINING COMPANIES AND COMMUNITIES

Calls on authorities to protect people and assets

Johannesburg, 7 May 2021. The Minerals Council South Africa condemns the violence and thuggery that is being experienced at and around various operations and in various communities across the country, and calls on the authorities – and especially the SAPS - to act swiftly and impartially to protect the safety of communities, employees and private property. Recent events include the death of a motorist caught up in protests in Mpumalanga in February, and the violent and damaging protests around Prieska in the Northern Cape last week.

In almost all cases the protests are led by a small group of individuals who are able to organise and intimidate with impunity. Very often, they are equipped with weapons. While some protests appear to stem from a lack of municipal service delivery, there is worrying evidence of a culture of corrupt 'tenderpreneurs' having been allowed to disrupt legitimate operations, and who are seeking to subvert legitimate procurement practices.

These events are at odds with the attempts by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and the industry to attract exploration and development investment into the country and the region. This must stop if there is to be any hope of attracting new and lasting investment into the country.

The Mineral Council expresses its support for and solidarity with members such as Orion Minerals who have taken a firm public stance against corruption and illegitimate demands from failed suppliers at its Prieska Copper-Zinc Mine.

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