

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINERALS COUNCIL AND LABOUR UNIONS SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION TO SAVE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

***Urge employees to choose to get vaccinated as soon as they have the
opportunity to do so***

Johannesburg, 26 July 2021: The Minerals Council South Africa and labour unions, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Solidarity and UASA have reaffirmed their support for South Africa's national vaccination programme, especially recognising the increasing role that the private sector plays in administering vaccines, and have urged all industry employees to choose to get vaccinated as soon as they have the opportunity to do so.

The industry supports the national #IChooseVacciNation campaign, noting that vaccination is voluntary, and that no employee will be coerced to vaccinate, or discriminated against if they do not vaccinate.

The industry's vaccination programme is being undertaken under the National Department of Health's (NDoH) Occupational Health Site programme. Currently, 14 primary sites and 18 permanent and temporary outreach sites are operational. To date, around 34,000 employees and contractors have been vaccinated (including health care workers vaccinated under the Sisonke programme). A further 15 primary sites and five permanent and temporary outreach sites have received their requisite permits from the DoH and are expecting to be operational in the next two weeks. A further 27 primary sites have applied for registration.

The industry's vaccination process is fully aligned with the national priorities (that is, vaccinations currently open to 35-year olds and above), with the only difference being the companies' ability to bulk upload employee information onto the national Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS), and to schedule appointments at mine-based sites.



The Minerals Council has confirmed the industry's desire to support the vaccination of employee dependants and community members, either through industry vaccination centres or in-kind support, and discussions with the NDOH on how this can be achieved are continuing.

The Minerals Council continues to collaborate with unions in running communications and educational campaigns to encourage employees to register, and to assist their family and community members to get vaccinated. The continuation of non-medical interventions – wearing masks, sanitising, social distancing – remains a priority.

For further queries:

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