

JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS' DESK

Fact sheet



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA



 *Wesizwe Platinum, Bakubang Mine*

“The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk hopes to be a voice for the developing mining sector of South Africa.”

WHO ARE JUNIOR MINERS?

The term “junior mining”, internationally, generally refers to prospecting companies only involved in the early stages of mining development. This is particularly true for Canada where junior exploration companies are supported through the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. In Australia, junior mining usually refers to mid-tier producers. In South Africa, however, the term junior mining has taken on a wider meaning and includes, in addition to exploration companies, mid-tier producers. This is largely a result of the legislative environment, in particular the Mining Charter. Another significant difference between South Africa, Canada and Australia is the black economic empowerment (BEE) component of the regulatory environment. For this reason alone, junior and emerging mining in South Africa needs to be treated differently. Examples of junior producers operating in South Africa are Wesizwe in the platinum sector and Kuyasa in the coal sector. Orion Minerals is an example of a junior exploration company operating in the Northern Cape.

WHO ARE EMERGING MINERS?

A term indigenous to South Africa, “emerging miners” are typically smaller BEE companies. They can be either involved in the early phases of mining exploration or in the early developmental stage. Examples are the many smaller coal companies at development stage, such as Atha and Ledjadja Coal. The term emerging miners therefore covers a diverse group of mining and mining-related entities, including prospecting and smaller producing companies, and associated companies such as contractors. Since the advent of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) in 2002, there has been significant growth in smaller mining companies operating in South Africa.

WHAT IS THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS’ DESK?

The purpose of the Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk is to provide advice and support, and to act as a resource centre for smaller Minerals Council South Africa (Minerals Council) member companies.

While the Minerals Council, at policy level, presents a consolidated position on key policy areas, it is sensitive to the needs of its smaller members who often lack the capacity and resources to implement policy and legislation.

WHAT THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS’ DESK OFFERS

-  **01** Breakfast seminars
-  **02** Mentorship group
-  **03** Research
-  **04** Committee work
-  **05** Lobbying and recruitment
-  **06** Media
-  **07** Policy lobbying

In addition, there are a number of other areas where smaller companies require assistance: in the raising of finance for projects, in some of the technical aspects of mining, such as geology and engineering, in skills development and compliance with the Mining Charter, to list a few areas.

WHAT DOES THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS' DESK DO?

The Junior and Emerging Miners' Desk hopes to be a voice for the developing mining sector of South Africa. Its key role is in supporting junior and emerging mining through policy lobbying, providing advice, linking junior and emerging miners to networks, providing mentorship and disseminating relevant policy information.

The Junior and Emerging Miners' Desk also supports contracting companies and two mining associations representing over 200 smaller companies.

To provide strategic leadership, the inaugural Junior and Emerging Miners' Leadership Forum convened in March 2018. Membership is limited to chief executive officers with an allowance for the appointment of alternates. A chairperson and an alternate of the Junior and Emerging Miners' Leadership Forum are also members of the Minerals Council Board.

The Desk has engaged with both the Industrial Development Corporation and the Public Investment Corporation on setting up junior miners' funds. It has also discussed human resources and other issues with the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 2018, the Desk produced a research report on junior and emerging mining in South Africa, which was published at the 2019 Mining Indaba. Stage 2 of the project will incorporate a qualitative review of the sector.

Visit www.mineralscouncil.org.za/work/supporting-junior-and-emerging-miners for more information and resource documents or send an e-mail to emergingminers@mineralscouncil.org.za. In addition, a LinkedIn group serves as a platform for discussion and information dissemination.

	<p>BREAKFAST SEMINARS Breakfast seminars, held biannually, are open to all junior and emerging mining companies, and are not exclusive to Minerals Council members. In 2017, a workshop was held on mining and community development while the Desk held a skills development workshop in 2018.</p> <p>In addition, biannual seminars are held exclusively for junior and emerging miner members of the Minerals Council, covering topics of direct relevance to them.</p>		<p>RESEARCH The Junior and Emerging Miners' Desk has completed a survey of members to ascertain their needs in terms of raising finance, regulatory compliance, social and labour plans, skills development, industrial relations, company law and taxation, business effectiveness and dealing with mining contractors, to name a few areas. In addition, policy research in key areas is conducted on an ongoing basis.</p>
	<p>MENTORSHIP GROUP The Minerals Council has established a mentorship group to support junior and emerging miners. Mentors include current and former senior executives within the mining industry – they provide advice on all aspects of business operations as the need arises. Using their extensive network of contacts, the mentors will also connect junior and emerging miners with relevant people.</p>		<p>MEDIA The Junior and Emerging Miners' Desk reaches audiences through media, including the Minerals Council's website, by advertising its role. In this way, it also provides an interactive forum for junior and emerging miners seeking information and advice.</p>
	<p>COMMITTEE WORK The Chair of the Junior and Emerging Miners' Leadership Forum represents the committee on the Board of the Minerals Council.</p>		<p>POLICY LOBBYING In many cases, junior and emerging miners have particular needs, in terms of mining policy and regulations, which the Junior and Emerging Miners' Desk aims to address. In representing broader and collective policy positions for relevant stakeholders, the Minerals Council is sensitive to these requirements without compromising compliance and leading practice.</p>
	<p>LOBBYING AND RECRUITMENT Recruitment of new members takes place continuously, including at quarterly breakfast sessions where potential members are invited to join the Minerals Council.</p>		

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