

**ADDRESS BY MINERALS COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT, NEAL FRONEMAN,
AT THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMIT
18 OCTOBER 2018**

Minister Gwede Mantashe, the chairman of the PPC Mr David Luzipo, Chief Inspector David Msiza, all other honoured guests, all protocol observed, ladies and gentlemen.

Due to time constraints, I have cut out parts of my speech.

I am also cognisant of the fact that I am in the precarious position of standing between you and your lunch, so I will aim to be brief.

The Minerals Council and its members acknowledge our responsibility to do all we can to continue, and indeed speed up, the journey to zero harm. The safety and health day in mining 2018 campaign that we launched on 17 August, and in terms of which every mine of every member is obliged to observe a safety and health day, is a sincere and concerted attempt to reverse the trend of the last 21 months. It is designed as a public recommitment to our goal, and the goal of our tripartite partners, of zero harm, that all employees must go to work in the knowledge that they will return home, every day, unharmed.

This recommitment and reaffirmation is more than the dedication of a single day to health and safety. It is intended to remind each and every company, manager and employee, of the importance of safe behaviour, of the importance of resisting any temptation to cut corners in a way that may compromise their or their colleagues' safety and health.

It is intended to reinforce and build on the work the Minerals Council has been doing, often in partnership with other stakeholders represented here today.

In 2009, the Minerals Council established the MOSH (Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health) Learning Hub, to help companies learn improved occupational health and safety methods from one another. This has, among other things, led to various improvements in

underground support methods that have resulted in fewer fatalities attributable to rockfall incidents and in line with the Culture Transformation Framework developed by the MHSC, the industry is improving its accident investigation methods, modifying bonus systems to further prioritise safety and is intensifying visible leadership approaches which have already had positive impacts. It is indeed encouraging that during the breakaway sessions of this Summit programme, we will be reflecting on the progress and challenges relating to falls of ground, seismicity, culture transformation framework pillars, noise-induced hearing and fires. We are hopeful that the outcomes of our deliberations on these initiatives will stand us in good stead to improving our industry's occupational health and safety.

Since 2017, there has been an increase in the number of disasters related to seismic activity, falls of ground and fire incidents. At the Minerals Council, we have intensified our focus on critical engineering controls to effectively address the causes of these catastrophic events. To better understand and address certain of these concerns, the MOSH Falls of Ground task team has been established. Leading practices on rock bursts in particular are being developed and will be shared across the industry. The Minerals Council, through the MOSH Falls of Ground task team is collaborating with the Mine Health and Safety Council and Council for Geological Sciences to address the challenge of seismicity and to respond to the regression in the fall of ground fatalities.

Addressing fall of ground incidents, particularly at deep-level mines, is an area that joint industry efforts have focused on most intensively over the past several years.

Through the Mine Health and Safety Council, more than R250 million has been spent on research into the seismicity associated with our deep-level mines. Various improvements in mine design and underground support methods have resulted in fewer fatalities attributable to fall of ground incidents.

As a result of the interventions by companies, the DMR and organised labour, the number of fatalities associated with seismicity fell from 48 in 2003 to 12 in 2017.

In 2012, the Minerals Council established the CEO Zero Harm Forum to acknowledge the value of leading by example, and through which learnings are shared at the very top level of our member companies. Among the technical improvements driven by the forum are those related to early entry examinations, the introduction of roof bolts and netting on the face,

improvements in ledging practices, transport and machinery safety measures, and health and safety culture issues.

The most serious accidents of 2018 – in which we have experienced multiple fatality incidents - have been very different in nature. These range from falls of ground following a seismic event, to employees entering areas that were off limits, and an underground fire. Intensive investigations are being undertaken around each accident and incident, and these take time. Their outcomes will provide greater insight and guidance to all on the way forward. All this work shows that there is no single solution to mine health and safety. We have to keep working on a broad range of issues and levels, and more importantly, all stakeholders have a responsibility to work together if the goal of zero harm is to be achieved.

We also know the importance of the relationship between our operations and the regulator, our employees and the trade unions that represent them. And we reiterate our appreciation of the presence of key stakeholders at the safety and health day in mining launch in August. The honourable Minister Aaron Motsaoleli spoke about the importance of TB. Most of our improvements on TB and HIV can be attributed to Masoyise iTB, a multi-stakeholder initiative that was established by the Minerals Council in 2015. The project was to assist the industry in achieving the 2014 MHSC commitments on TB and HIV. Through the project, there have been increases in the number of employees screened for TB and HIV in the sector, leading to early diagnosis and treatment.

Our work on Masoyise has been recognised internationally, including at the United Nations High Level Meeting on TB held in New York in September this year. The Minerals Council supported the language adopted by the UN High Level Meeting on prevention of TB in work places through the control of silica exposure.

All stakeholders have a common interest in eliminating fatalities and serious injuries because of the tragic impact that they have on our employees and their loved ones. It is also the case that companies' performance is negatively affected by poor health and safety performance. Working collaboratively with other stakeholders to achieve zero harm is the primary focus of the Minerals Council and its members.

In addition, we need to make it clear that the Minerals Council is strongly supportive of the practice that workers who fear they are working in unsafe conditions have the right to withdraw from those localities until they are safe to work in. The Minerals Council CEO Zero Harm Forum has decided at its last meeting that its next meeting early next year will be

dedicated to Heartfelt Visible-Felt Leadership on Occupational Health and Safety. At this workshop, the Minerals Council member CEOs will reflect on the outcome of this Summit and determine the role each CEO has to play to effectively achieve the 2024 milestones and improve the industry's occupational health and safety performance. We believe we already have good initiatives in place as agreed in the 2014 and 2016 Summits. In that vein, we recommend that the Summit should focus on improving the existing initiatives and emphasise the prevention of injuries and diseases. Let's be effective in the manner in which we implement the current 2014 milestones and the various initiatives we have in the industry.

Our industry cannot rest until the goal of zero harm becomes a reality. We, at the Minerals Council, commit to playing our part.