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**MINERALS COUNCIL PRESIDENT NOLITHA FAKUDE OUTLINES MINING'S**  
**CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA**

South Africa's mining industry remains a critical contributor to South Africa's economy in a record year for safety, says Minerals Council South Africa President Nolitha Fakude.

Please find below Ms Fakude's speech at a Minerals Council media briefing on the first day of the Investing in African Mining Indaba 2023:

This is a long-running Minerals Council event where we spell out the contribution of the mining industry to the South African economy and its citizens and, once again, I'm pleased to say that the sector has remained a leading contributor to the fiscus, employment and wages, and improved the safety for its employees.

In 2022, the mining industry had its safest year on record, with 49 fatalities, which was a significant reduction from our 74 colleagues who died in the previous year. May their souls rest in peace. While we are encouraged by the safety performance, particularly in the reduction of falls-of-ground -related fatalities, we commiserate with the family and friends of 49 of our colleagues who died at work last year. While we are making notable progress in our journey towards zero harm by working closely with our colleagues in the DMRE and organised labour, we still have a long way to go to make sure everyone returns home safely every day.

We reported last week that we had our first-ever fatality free January and a full calendar month without a fatality. Our safety initiatives are gaining traction and we are redoubling our efforts to ensure we stay on track. The Minerals Council Board will meet monthly to assess our safety performance and CEOs will share their learnings around successes and challenges. These milestones should not be seen as achievements, but rather serve as motivation to inspire us all to focus on fatality elimination strategies and that zero harm can be realised.

Before I hand over to Roger and the team to unpack the State of the Mining Nation, allow me a few minutes to highlight the mining industry's performance during 2022.

Henk Langenhoven, our chief economist will give fuller insights and analysis a little later. Our mining industry continues to be a true economic champion. Production value grew to R1.18 trillion during 2022 from R1.1 trillion the year before, which was the first time it was higher than a trillion rand.

The mining industry grew employment by more than 15,500 jobs during 2022 to reach 475,561 employees. Employee earnings increased by 5% year-on-year to R175 billion. Let's not forget all the broader socio-economic contributions that our member companies are making directly. We are one of the few economic sectors growing employment at a time when the economy is experiencing extreme difficulties with electricity shortages, water cuts and constrained logistics and burgeoning crime.

The mining industry's contribution to South Africa's GDP was 4% higher at R494 billion. Direct payments into the fiscus included company taxes of R73.6 billion, and royalties rising to R14.2 billion. While these numbers reflect the economic and social importance of mining to South Africa, there is an alarming deterioration in production due to infrastructural constraints in electricity supply and transport logistics, most notably rail. Roger and Henk will give you more insights into this data and what solutions the Minerals Council has proposed to government.

During 2023, we shall continue working closely with our business peers and other stakeholders to ensure there are sustainable and pragmatic solutions to the energy and transport constraints as well as progress addressing the deteriorating crime and security environment for not only the mining industry but the entire economy.

If these blockages are resolved, which can largely be addressed by including the private sector, the mining industry's role as a key contributor to the wellbeing of the South African economy will be fully unlocked to the benefit of all citizens. We will ensure we continue **#MakingMiningMatter.**