



Chamber of Mines of South Africa
Putting South Africa First



MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE MINING SECTOR NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM, SEFAKO MAKGATHO PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE

9 OCTOBER 2014

President Jacob Zuma convened the Mining Sector National Consultative Forum at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria today, 9 October 2014.

The main objective of the forum was to discuss the implementation of the Framework Agreement for a Sustainable Mining Industry, which was entered into by Government, organised business and organised labour in 2013.

In June this year, during his State of the Nation Address, President Zuma announced that he would now lead the government-labour-mining sector interface, and that the revitalisation and rebuilding of distressed mining towns and communities would be a priority during this term of government.

In his opening address to the forum, President Zuma said “We are here because we all believe in finding solutions and in strengthening the country’s mining sector.”

All parties who attended the forum recommitted themselves to the Framework Agreement for Sustainable Mining Industry and further recommitted themselves to finding lasting solutions to challenges facing the industry.

The Forum which was led by President Jacob Zuma and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa was attended by Government, Labour and Business. The deliberations of the forum reflect our collective commitment to the future of mining in South Africa, and to the creation and maintenance of an equitable balance between socio-economic imperatives and investment objectives.

The Forum received a progress report on the implementation of the Framework Agreement for a Sustainable Mining Industry.

Progress include the following:

1. Ensuring Rule of Law, Peace and Stability

Mine Crime Combating Forums (MCCF) have been established in all affected communities in the provinces of North West, Limpopo, Free State, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. To enhance management of cases emanating from affected communities, government has established a task team comprising senior representatives from police detectives, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services to monitor and review mining strike-related cases through the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security structures. Mine security structures are working closely with organised labour and the South African Police Service to improve the investigation of crimes on mines through the use of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) to assist in crime related investigations.

Visible policing in crime hotspots within affected communities has been significantly enhanced, with security patrols at villages and hostels. There has been a substantial reduction in illegal and violent protest actions, and an improvement in peace and stability. 47 cases were recorded and processed through the judicial system in relation to mining and unrest related incidents.

2. Strengthening Labour Relations

One of the pertinent issues in respect of labour relations was the principle of majoritarianism or “winner-takes-all”. The Labour Relations Amendment Bill has addressed this issue, minority unions can now approach the CCMA to request lowering of thresholds. The mines and the unions have conducted a series of training programmes for workers on labour relations issues and on financial literacy to address, amongst others, the indebtedness of employees. A general Labour Relations Indaba is planned for next month, November 2014, which will also address some of the other labour relations issues related to mining, including the issue of collective bargaining in the platinum sector.

3. Improved Living and Working Conditions of Mineworkers

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Revitalisation of Distressed Mining Communities has identified 14 mining towns to focus on to improve housing and living conditions.

A total of R2.1 billion over the MTEF period has been ring-fenced for housing project implementation in mining towns. A total of R290 million has been approved for Informal Settlement Upgrading for 2014/2015 period in the mining towns in Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Free State.

The Department of Human Settlements has reported significant progress with human settlements projects in identified areas.

4. Short to Medium Term Measures to Support Growth and Stability

International visits to the United Kingdom and North America were undertaken by the former Deputy President, supported by relevant Ministers, to meet with international investors, bankers and analysts to manage perceptions about South Africa broadly, and the mining industry in particular.

5. Long Term Measures to Support Growth and Stability

The review of the mining strategy and alignment of mining infrastructure requirements to the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC), constitute some of the critical long term interventions.

The meeting noted that a number of challenges remain and recommitted themselves to find lasting solutions to resolved them.

CONCLUSION

The Mining Sector National Consultative Forum is committed to South Africa's growth and development objectives and to securing growth, development and stability in a sector and in communities ravaged by longstanding imbalances and challenges.

The parties noted and appreciated progress that has been made and undertook to meet regularly to monitor progress.

Together we move South Africa forward!

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Issued by

The Presidency