

## **CHAMBER OF MINES COMMENTS ON BUDGET VOTE 32 OF THE MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES**

The Vice President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Mike Teke, congratulated the Minister of Mineral Resources on her progressive Budget Vote speech in Parliament today. “The Chamber wishes to join the Minister in wishing the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Minerals, Mr. Fred Gona, a speedy recovery from his illness and further thanks Honourable Ms Faith Bikani for standing in to act as the Chairperson especially in these challenging times of the mining sector. The Chamber and its members are as equally concerned about all the miners who could not return home because of death including those who passed away in the never to be repeated and unfortunate tragedy at Marikana. The Mining Industry will continue towards the elimination of fatalities and the progress made in reduction of fatalities as mentioned by the Minister is welcome,” said Mr. Teke

In support of the Minister’s optimism about the medium-term future of the Mining Industry, Mr. Teke mentioned that the mining industry will continue to work towards a productive and competitive sector that can take advantage of the boom as the global market moves out of the current recession. Mr. Teke was encouraged by the Minister’s recognition of the long-standing culture of partnership by saying, “We are committed to working closely with Government in finding common solutions to challenges facing the mining industry locally and internationally. The Leadership of the Mining Industry is committed to the “Friday Meeting” agreement that seeks to address the current challenges in the sector, especially the difficulties faced by Platinum and Gold companies in South Africa. More than two thirds of the Platinum companies are operating at a loss and the decline in gold price has also put pressure on the gold companies who are also not making profit at this point in time.”

“We are committed to a peaceful and stable mining sector for the future growth of the South African economy. As signatories of the recently signed “Stability Accord” we are committed to creating safe and secure working conditions for all our employees and we would like to implore all Labour Unions and workers to work in partnership with management at company level to ensure that there is peace and stability in the workplace. We look forward to the adherence of this accord as we enter into the crucial wage negotiations period,” said Mr Teke.

In response to the Minister’s concerns about the achievement of the Mining Charter obligations and her wish for the industry to develop a ten year strategy without disrupting the current transformation programme, Mr. Teke said, “The Mining Industry remains committed achieving the charter objectives and we hope that the government will assist those companies that face challenges in meeting their transformation objectives. We are encouraged by the recognition that Beneficiation is not the core function of mining companies, however, the mining sector will cooperate within its capability to support the industrialization strategy through beneficiation.”

Mr. Teke concluded his comments by congratulating the Minister by seeing to it that there is progress and improvement of the electronic system of applying for mining licenses. Such progress will go a long way to reduce red tape and encourage more investors to invest in the South African Mining sector.

Released on behalf of the Chamber of Mines by:

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