



# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## **MIKE TEKE: LIP SERVICE SIMPLY NOT AN OPTION** *Industry committed to transformation*

**Johannesburg, 14 September 2016.** Chamber of Mines President, Mike Teke today reaffirmed the industry's commitment to transformation at the Electra Mining Innovation in Mining Workshop hosted by Women in Mining South Africa (WiMSA).

The representation of women in the mining sector has improved significantly from around 11,400 in 2002 to around 53,000 women working in the mining industry in 2015 with women now representing more than 10% of people employed in mining activities.

Mr Teke noted that in a transforming country, mining is continually challenged to deliver on its transformation objectives and that the empowerment of women is critical. While the industry acknowledges the significant increase in the number of women in the sector since the laws preventing them from working underground were scrapped, more needs to be done to ensure that yet more women feel that the mining industry is one in which they have a career and a future.

"We have to be able to work in a world where skin colour and gender are not an impediment to people's dreams and aspirations. Until we get there, we are going to have to create a level playing field. And that means transformation programmes must be put in place, and must work.

"Lip service is simply not an option.

"Let it make way for lipstick," he concluded on a lighter note.

Mike Teke's full keynote address may be found on the [Presentations and Speeches page](#) of the Chamber's website.

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