

**ADDRESS BY ROGER BAXTER, CEO OF THE MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA,  
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SAFETY & HEALTH IN THE MINING  
INDUSTRY 2018 ON 17 AUGUST 2018**

Ensuring that all our colleagues return home safely and unharmed at the end of every day is and must be our industry's top priority.

This year the industry has experienced 58 deaths due to accidents, compared with 51 at the same date in 2017 which, in turn was a deterioration on 2016. This deterioration in our safety performance is unacceptable.

Through Minerals Council structures, and also in partnership with other stakeholders at the Mine Health and Safety Council, a broad range of work is being done to address the most serious risks.

In 2009, the Minerals Council established the MOSH (Mine Occupational Safety and Health) Learning Hub, to help companies learn improved safety methods from one another. Among the success stories of this work are:

- Various improvements in underground support methods that have resulted in fewer fatalities attributable to fall of ground incidents.
- 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.

Since 2017, there has been an increase in the number of disaster accidents related to seismic activity, fall of ground and fire incidents. The multiple fatalities from disasters have compounded the industry safety performance. Hence our focus on critical engineering controls to effectively address these catastrophic events.

To better understand and address certain of these concerns, the Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Fall of Ground task team has been established. Leading practices on rockbursts in particular are being developed and the findings will be shared across the industry.

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 designs and underground support methods that 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 MCSA established the CEO Zero Harm Forum to acknowledge the value of leading by example. Chris Griffith will elaborate on this body's work shortly. All this work, including that which Chris will speak about, shows that there is no single solution to mine safety.

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 should have been off limits to 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 stakeholders have a common interest in eliminating fatalities and serious injuries because of the tragic impact that they have on all employees and their loved ones. It is also the case

that companies' performance is negatively affected by poor safety performance. Working collaboratively with other stakeholders to achieve zero harm is the primary focus of the Minerals Council and its members.

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

**[ENDS]**