

**ADDRESS BY CHRIS GRIFFITH IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CEO ZERO HARM FORUM, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SAFETY & HEALTH IN THE MINING INDUSTRY 2018 ON 17 AUGUST 2018**

The Chief Inspector of Mines, leaders from organised labour, company CEOs, office-bearers of the Minerals Council, distinguished guests, members from health and safety tri-partite structures and ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for this opportunity in my capacity as chairman of the CEO Zero Harm forum to briefly share with you the work we as leaders of the mining companies are doing to address safety and health at our operations.

As a CEO Forum, we firmly believe safety and health is a core value and that every person working at a mine has the right to return from work without harm. It is inherently about care and respect for people.

The role of the CEO Forum is to make living this core value a consistent reality. It is about leadership, it is about learning from each other, and it is about working together.

Why do we have a CEO Forum and what are our challenges and objectives?

As an industry, we understand the importance of safety and health and many of us have placed great emphasis on it as part of the way we work. Even though we have made significant progress in safety over the last two decades, we were still falling short of our milestones and know we're not where we want to be.

We know that our leadership needs to be visible to everybody involved in the mining industry in order to make a lasting impact. We have to set the example from the top-down to inspire our people and make it known that we as leaders only want safe and healthy production. It is not about production at all cost.

As far back as 2012, we as the CEOs agreed that collaboration is the key to a step-change in safety and health and so a decision was taken back then to lead by collaboration.

Through the Minerals Council we established the CEO Forum in July 2012, as the platform for this collaboration.

The CEO Forum provides that platform where we can openly share our experiences and determine challenges, as well as help each other deal with and solve these key challenges.

We are driven by action and set about delivering tangible outcomes and I will now share a few examples with you.

One of our key focus areas continues to be on 'fall-of-ground' aspects because this remains the mining sector's largest cause of fatalities. We have developed and adopted a number of FOG leading practices. Some of the successful changes we have made include:

- An industry wide adoption of the 'Early Entry Examination' method to ensure we reduce people's exposure when entering a workplace for the first time after it has been blasted.
- Introduction of bolts and nets on the face, which initially escalated the support costs, but has since saved many lives. These changes have made the most dangerous area, between the last line of support and the face, much much safer.
- The practise of 'ledging' was for many years one of the biggest areas where fatalities occurred. Through collaboratively changing our methods and practices, it has become a much safer activity.

Whilst it is acknowledged there has been an increase in the last two years in seismicity related 'rock burst' fatalities in the industry, there has in fact been a steady decline across the industry in rockfall related fatalities, declining from 24 in 2013 to 5 in 2018 year to date.

Our second focus area has been on 'transport and machinery'. Much work has been done on proximity detection systems and braking as another leading practice to deal with transport and machinery risks. Track bound equipment colliding was for many years a common cause of fatalities. Since the introduction of collision avoidance systems, this has become a very rare event to even hear of two underground trains colliding.

Our third focus area is to improve underlying health and safety cultural issues and much work has been done to understand the leading indicators, and work with our tri-partite partners to improve the overall health and safety culture across the industry. This includes creating a culture and an environment where employees know they have the right to withdraw from, or are able to stop unsafe work, without retribution.

Whilst the regression in safety performance is the immediate challenge, the scope of the Forum also includes occupational health aspects. We are working together on the implementation of a 'buy-quiet policy' to address noise induced hearing loss and have discussed leading practise programs to address HIV-AIDS and TB. With some significant

reductions of over 60% in TB related deaths being recorded at some Minerals Council member companies.

Reflecting on our performance to date, we have as a senior executive group learnt a lot and but we cannot afford to rest. What lessons have we learned?

- We have realised more than ever that leadership on safety and health is critical.
- A deep understanding of issues is crucial and my fellow CEOs continue to be encouraged to openly share good as well as bad experiences.
- We also learned that focus brings better results. The team continues to focus on a limited number of areas aligned with the material challenges and commitments in the industry
- We must continue to find engineering solutions to many of the challenges that have faced our industry.

In closing, the industry's performance shows that if we want to enhance our credibility as a caring industry, we must, more than ever, now step up to make a further difference.

I can assure you that zero harm is not a pipedream. In many of our operations across the sector, we go for extended periods without an injury. Sometimes even years on end. We ask ourselves why then can we not keep extending those periods, until one day, we are assured of sending all our colleagues from work unharmed?

As the CEO's of the mining industry in South Africa we remain committed to sharing and learning from each other and to rapidly deploy best practice – to ensure we can achieve our goal of sending all our employees safely home to their families at the end of each working day.

Thank you.

**[ENDS]**