

**ADDRESS BY ANDILE SANGQU, VICE PRESIDENT 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**

Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr David Msiza, Trade Unions, Mining Industry CEOs, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

The President of the Minerals Council Mr. Mxolisi Mgojo could not be with us today as he is out of the country and extends his sincere apologies, he however supports fully this event today and conveys his best wishes, support and endorsement of this important initiative. The President has asked me to represent him in today's proceedings.

I would like to begin by reminding ourselves of the journey that we have travelled in the last 20 years where we worked very hard as a collective to bring down the level of fatalities in the mining industry.

In the last 20 years we have seen an 88% improvements in the rate of fatalities and this trend continued unabated up to the end of 2016. In 2017 and 2018 we have started to see a reversal of the trend that has been improving and this is a matter that is of deep concern to the mining industry and to the Minerals Council in particular.

We deeply feel the loss of those families and we share the grief and the concern of all mining industry stakeholders and society at large and we remain resolute in our determination to work collaboratively to find the solution to this problem besetting our industry.

I would like to request all of us to pause and observe a minute of silence in memory and in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in the service of the mining industry.

As the Minerals Council we acknowledge our collective responsibility to do everything in our power to address the current crisis that is unacceptable. Roger will share with you in a short while some of the specific efforts that we are undertaking presently to address this problem and reverse this trend.

As the Minerals Council SA we take seriously the relationship we have with our regulator, our employees, the trade Unions and all other key stakeholders and we commit ourselves to work collectively and collaboratively in defeating this problem that is besetting us as an industry.

Through the work of the Mine Health and safety Council we have set for ourselves targets that need to be achieved by 2024 in relation to safety and health and we pledge our commitment to work tirelessly towards achieving these targets.

On this day 17 August 2018 as we launch the safety and health day campaign we publicly commit ourselves to our goal and to the goal of our tripartite partners of zero harm which is to say that all employees must go to work in the knowledge and expectation that they will return home, every day safely and unharmed to their families.

As the Minerals Council, we have asked all of our 66 member companies to convene and host Safety and Healthy days at each of their operations in the coming month to drive the message home and the importance of Zero Harm.

Whilst we recommit and reaffirm ourselves to the goal of Zero Harm we remain aware and fully cognizant of the fact that we do not only dedicate ourselves to this goal for one day only we want this day to serve as reminder for us to continuously strive and forge ahead tirelessly in underscoring the importance of safe behaviour to the companies, to every manager, every worker and to resist the temptation of working in unsafe conditions or finding short cuts that may save time whilst exposing our employees to harm with detrimental consequences.

We also would like to make it unequivocally clear that the Minerals Council is supportive and endorses the practice that workers who fear that they are working in unsafe conditions they have the right to withdraw from those localities or areas of work until such time it is safe to work there.

Honorable Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation for your attendance here today on this important day.

We trust and pray that you will share our commitment, determination and resolve to make formidable progress as we strive to achieve Zero Harm

Thank you

[ENDS]