

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE
CHAIRPERSON
HON GWEDE MANTASHE, MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM
RESOURCES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DELIVERED BY HON. HONOURABLE PHUMZILE MGCINA,
SADC (MINISTERIAL) HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC PRIVATE MINING FORUM AT THE
AFRICA MINING INDABA 2026
INVESTING IN AFRICAN MINING INDABA
“STRONGER TOGETHER: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS.”.

10 FEBRUARY 2026, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Salutations

Good morning.

1. At the outset, it would be remiss of me not to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the Republic of South Africa, in the beautiful City of Cape Town, our legislative Capital. I hope and do believe that you have found your stay to be enjoyable and homely.
2. I am deeply honoured to deliver these remarks to the SADC (Ministerial) high-level Public-Private Mining Forum, on the margins of the Africa Mining Indaba under the theme “**Stronger Together: Progress Through Partnerships**.”. This meeting would not have come at the right time (*lighter moment -not just because it is happening during the interim chairpersonship of South Africa*) but because this year’s theme resonates with the contribution that

SADC has 10% of Africa's mineral output and sits at the heart of global clean-energy supply chains, with countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC, Mozambique, and Tanzania driving production and processing. Mining, as many of you may be aware, is the cornerstone of Southern Africa's economic landscape as the sector accounts for over 10% of SADC's GDP, 25% of regional exports, about 7% of direct employment and 20% of national government revenues. These are not small numbers. But the question is always, are they enough?

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The mining sector today is standing at a crossroads. While the sector must increase production of what is being termed in some quarters as critical minerals to support the global energy transition, it must at the same time be expected and adequately address our socio-economic challenges whilst also attend to our environmental footprint. Globally, the mining industry is graduating from optimizing efficiency to a revolutionary phase that triggers significant changes on how resources are extracted, processed, and utilised. One can argue that in the present day and age mining is no longer judged by the tonnes extracted, but by the value created for people and planet.

4. Globally, we are witnessing a profound transformation in the mining industry that is mainly driven by three forces. First is the energy transition, which is reshaping demand for minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare earths, to mention but a few, which are important for the production of disruptive technologies such as electric vehicles, solar panels, and wind turbines.. Second is the

digital revolution, where automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and data analytics redefine efficiency, safety, and sustainability in mining operations. Third is the growing calls on responsible mining, where investors, communities, and governments are transparent in their dealings to ensure attainment of social equity.

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5. The SADC region's mineral endowments and the exploitation thereof, uniquely positions SADC to optimise the developmental impact of finite mineral extraction for sustainable growth, development, industrialisation and intergenerational equity.
6. This aspiration has the ripple effect on transforming the region from supplier of raw materials to a hub of value addition and innovation; ensuring that mining is a backbone for industrialization, powering regional manufacturing, energy security, and economic diversification.
7. These aspirations will however remain an illusion if we do not make deliberate efforts to realise them. Regionally, we should strengthen cooperation through policy harmonisation, optimisation of resource use and access, and speaking with one voice in global forums. Investment in infrastructure and skills is imperative. Priority should be given to transport corridors that enhance regional industrialisation, energy grids, technical training as well as research and innovation. We should have partnerships between governments, private sector, and communities that ensure that mining is for the

benefit of all. Our meeting today bears testimony to this fact and dare not miss the moment to make it count

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8. In conclusion, I would like us to seize this moment so that mining in SADC is not just about minerals beneath the ground, but about futures built above it. Our vision as espoused in the Regional Mining Vision is to have a future where the SADC region is not only rich in minerals, but rich in opportunity, equity, and resilience. Indeed, our advocacy for sustainability in mining is about a legacy that is built on stewardship, not depletion. We are all partners in this!

Thank you all for your attention.