

SADC-MI26
10 February 2026



**Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Elias M. Magosi
Executive Secretary of SADC at the
SADC (Ministerial) High-Level Public Private Mining Forum at Mining
Indaba 2026**

Theme: “Stronger Together: Progress Through Partnerships”

10 February 2026,

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

- Honourable Phumzile Mgcina, Deputy Minister (Honourable Gwede Mantashe), Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the Committee of SADC Ministers responsible for Mining
- Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Mr. Vusi Mabena, President of the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA)
- Chief Executives from the Private Sector
- Captains of Industry
- Representatives of the Development Finance Institutions
- Senior Officials from the SADC Member States
- SADC Secretariat Staff
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is a distinct honour to address this SADC - High-Level Public-Private Dialogue convened here on the margins of the Africa Mining Indaba 2026, under the theme “Stronger Together: Progress Through Partnerships.” This auspicious gathering indeed presents an opportune time for SADC, and the African continent at large to build strong partnerships and collaboration, not only to survive as a mining region, but also to achieve lasting success in the exploitation of our immense mineral wealth.

Allow me, therefore, first to thank Honourable Gwede Mantashe for his exemplary leadership in convening this Forum, despite his busy work schedule, and especially the demanding program at this year’s Indaba. Hon Mantashe, this clearly demonstrates your commitment to the advancement of the SADC regional mining agenda as a catalyst for regional integration and development. I also extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the Ministers and Deputy Ministers from SADC Member States, Senior

Policymakers, Private Sector leaders, Captains of Industry, and Development Partners for taking the time off your packed schedules to attend this High-Level Dialogue.

Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet at a critical time in our history when the global energy transition reshapes investment and supply chains, while the region's critical-mineral endowment and value chains position us as a key supplier of feedstock for industrial growth across sectors and potentially true industrialisation that benefit us more in the continent. This underscores the importance of this Dialogue as a practical delivery platform, to work as a collective to align implementation choices, unlock partnerships, and accelerate cross-border investment, develop enabling policies, infrastructure and energy solutions, beneficiation, and responsible mining.

SADC's position on minerals is anchored in a regional approach to the exploitation of minerals such that the developmental impact of finite mineral extraction is optimised for sustainable growth, industrialisation, and inter-generational equity. This approach is underpinned by our regional instruments, including the SADC Mining Protocol and the Regional Mining Vision, SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063), among other policy and strategic blueprints.

Our value proposition to investors and partners is that SADC can be packaged and presented as a coordinated, competitive, and investment-ready mining region, where policy alignment, regional infrastructure corridors, and scalable markets support beneficiation, downstream manufacturing, and participation in global supply chains.

The Secretariat's mandate is, amongst others, to convene and coordinate Member States and stakeholders on the agreed regional frameworks, facilitate harmonisation, and mobilise partnerships and resources to advance implementation. This is precisely why the SADC Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat, working closely with the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA) to convene this High-Level Public–Private Forum. Whilst we recognize that much progress has been made by member states over time, more remains to be done in this area. In collaboration with key partners, the Secretariat has taken several concrete steps to strengthen regional mining value chains in line with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and the Regional Mining Vision. Allow me to highlight three of the steps taken.

First, the Secretariat profiled regional mineral beneficiation value chains in 2015–2016 under the SADC–UNECA Mineral Economic Linkages initiative to support evidence-based and data-driven regional action. This exercise established an analytical foundation that informed the cascading of the African Mining Vision into the SADC Regional Mining Vision and its Action Plan, primarily to maximise the developmental impact of mineral extraction and align it with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063). The Regional Mining Vision, which was approved by the SADC Council in August 2019, presents strategies on how to deepen beneficiation through forward, backward, side-stream and spatial linkages.

Second, the Secretariat, with the support of the African Development Bank, undertook a regional pre-feasibility assessment, identifying 20 investment projects in energy storage, copper and mining inputs aimed at translating strategy into an investable pipeline. The identified projects have an import-replacement potential of about US\$2.26 billion annually. More importantly, their assessments have demonstrated that these projects would remain feasible by relying on the regional and continental markets.

Third, recognising the need for an enabling framework, the Secretariat initiated the review of the SADC Protocol on Mining, which has been in force since February 2000, to align it to current regional priorities, the Regional Mining Vision objectives, and the global energy transition. This review has now culminated in amendments to the Protocol which should be finalized in the next 6 months.

Even as the region undertakes these reforms through harmonisation of the policy and regulatory environment, the regional mining sector remains confronted by challenges that may not be adequately addressed by those reforms alone. The region must continue to address infrastructure quality and deficits, costly border logistics, and limited cross-border finance all of which contribute to slow value addition and investment. It is our belief that this Dialogue will lock in bankable corridors, and blended finance/risk instruments.

It is indeed our expectation that this Dialogue will strengthen regional investment narrative, identify priority areas for harmonisation, renew public–private partnerships, enhance our collective commitment to infrastructure and energy corridors, and increase visibility of SADC as a cohesive and investment-ready region.

These outcomes require deliberate decisions and follow-through. Member States should therefore prioritise specific cross-border projects and align policies to enable investment and beneficiation. The private sector, through MIASA and industry leaders, should present bankable propositions, partnership models, and address the constraints that delay delivery and raise costs. Our Development Finance Institutions, investors and partners ought to align blended finance, risk mitigation and technical support to the agreed priorities, to translate SADC frameworks into tangible and long-lasting results.

For our part as the SADC Secretariat, we will continue to coordinate and facilitate the translation of this Dialogue's outcomes into reality, including tracking and reporting on priority areas for cooperation and supporting the development of investable pipelines consistent with our regional objectives and priorities.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude, I wish to reiterate that our region's abundant mineral wealth must be a catalyst for inclusive growth, and not a source of inequality or instability. It must present a critical opportunity for renewed growth and development, and not catastrophe and pain. Therefore, we call upon our partners, governments, development agencies, private sector actors, and civil society, to invest in value chains that generate employment, improve livelihoods, and uphold human dignity.

We urge you all to support initiatives and investments that prioritise the welfare of our citizens and contribute to sustainable development. These initiatives and investments must show that we care enough for our people, as we position ourselves to do the right thing. Let history judge all players favourably this time around.

Let us therefore use this Dialogue to consolidate commitments that are specific, implementable, impactful and partnership-driven, and to position the region's mining future as one shaped by cooperation, value addition, and shared prosperity.

In closing, I wish to express our gratitude to thank the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA) for tirelessly working with the Secretariat and the Private Sector to make this Dialogue possible. This is one of the many engagements that we will have in the years ahead as we endeavour to transform our mining sector into a sustainable, well-governed

industry that drives regional industrialisation and adds value to our raw minerals for the prosperity of our peoples, including future generations.

With these remarks, I wish you a productive Dialogue.

I thank you for your kind attention!

Merci Beaucoup! Muito Obrigado! Asante Sana! Ke a leboga!