



**Welcome and Introductory Remarks of
H.E Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President
of the Republic of South Africa
by the Acting Minister of Mineral Resources and
Energy
Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane (MP) at the
27th Investing in African Mining Indaba,
February 2, 2021**

Programme Director

His Excellency Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the
Republic of South Africa

His Excellency Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of
Botswana

His Excellency Mr. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic
Republic of Congo

His Excellency Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of
Sierra Leone

Chairman of the Mining Indaba Advisory Board, Mr Mpho Mokwana

Managing Director of the Mining Indaba, Mr Alex Grose

Ministers and Deputy Ministers from across the continent and across the
globe

Leaders of organised labour

Industry leaders and investors

Representatives of civil society and communities

Members of the diplomatic corps

Delegates and participants

Ladies and gentlemen

Greetings to you all.

For the first time since its inception 27 years ago, it is my pleasure to
welcome you all to this virtual engagement of the 'Investing in African
Mining Indaba 2021' edition. Indeed the global pandemic, that is the novel

Coronavirus, has exacerbated socio-economic challenges that we have been grappling with as a continent. However these challenges also offer us the opportunities to rethink, reshape, as well as to ensure that the African economy is catalysed to recover as quickly as possible, thereby saving lives and protecting livelihoods.

I am certain that as we gather here today we are joint together by a common goal of ensuring that Africa has improved geological and mining information systems, strengthened human and institutional capacity for the optimal management of mineral resources. It is the strengthening of these elements that will lead to an improved investment climate. This is in considering the fact that Africa is home to a vast majority of the world's mineral wealth and with many parts of our land still remain an untapped market.

South Africa has identified several interventions, as part of the economic recovery and reconstruction plan, to ensure that our economy recovers as quickly as possible following the devastating effects of Covid-19. One such intervention is identifying and recognizing the crucial role that exploration plays in the development and sustainability of the sector.

We must also work together to ensure that we resolve the electricity challenges. It is becoming increasingly clear that mining and many other industries cannot optimally operate without reliable electricity.

Regional and international partnerships should be strengthened to ensuring that economic growth and development continue underpin long-term sustainable prosperity for our people. Working together we can improve intra-African trade as we still need to step-up integration mechanisms between our regions, so as to further boost economic growth and job creation.

As we engage each other through this platform and various others, let us also pay particular attention to the local processing of our mineral resources. Let us prioritize the mining value chain, which includes mineral beneficiation. This will not only increase the revenue gained from the exploitation of our resources but, also significantly increase the job creation capacity of the industry and ultimately the continent.

Programme Director, ladies and gentlemen

My role today is to welcome and introduce my President, H.E Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa to this Indaba.

President Ramaphosa has a deep hands-on understanding of the South African mining industry. He is the founding General-Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa, and was Executive Chairman of Shanduka Group, which had interests in mining companies, including coal, platinum and gold.

Since becoming President of the Republic in February 2018, he has been describing mining as a ‘sunrise industry’. He continued to promote the potential of the mining industry towards achieving growth and job creation.

Allow me to now welcome H.E Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa to officially open the 2021 edition of Investing in African Mining Indaba.

Thank you.