



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Release

To: All media

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DMRE TO MONITOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT MINES DURING THE REMAINING PERIOD OF 2020

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) continues to monitor health and safety at all the mines. As we approach the end of the year all mine employers, employees, managers and supervisors are alerted of the historical high number of fatalities and injuries that occur during the last quarter of the year. This period is traditionally very difficult for health and safety at mines.


Historic data on mine accidents reveals that more fatalities reported occur during the last quarter of the calendar year. It is for this reason that mine employers need to put more focus on the health and safety of mineworkers during this period. In this respect, the DMRE will ensure that mines put in place shift fatigue management systems that are continuously monitored. While drug and alcohol tests will be done frequently during afternoon and night shifts.


In cases where arrangements are in place for workers to work overtime, managers must ensure that proper supervision is carried out by all responsible mine personnel and measures are put in place to prevent accidents. All mining operations must continue to prioritise the health and safety of mineworkers and other persons who may be directly affected by the operations at mines.

The increase in the number of fatalities and injuries reported during this period is attributed to a variety of issues, including but not limited to poor supervision;

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anxiety associated with the festive season; production pressures and associated incentives; and lack focus and complacency. In many instances this results in workers taking short cuts and fail to comply with the applicable standards and procedures.

The matters referred to above re-emphasize the need for a vigorous approach to non-compliance and risky behavior. All employees and employers are encouraged to place safety first in all work areas, and to apply zero tolerance on sub-standard work and conditions. Health and safety campaigns, visible leadership, zero tolerance to unsafe behavior, and extra vigilance by all workers are exceptionally vital during this period. All employees are encouraged to collaborate with the Inspectorate and organized labour during the health and safety days and or campaigns.


The DMRE inspectorate will intensify the monitoring and evaluation of the mine health and safety management systems through inspections and audits during the remaining period of the year. All mineworkers and supervisors are reminded that unsafe work practices can be fatal and may lead to undesirable circumstances. Wherever there is non-compliance to the regulations and a threat to the health and safety of any persons at mines, the Department will not hesitate to issue instructions as guided by the Mine Health and Safety Act.


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Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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