



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

Date: 08 December 2020

MINISTER MANTASHE ENCOURAGED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF MINING IN THE THIRD QUARTER

The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe (MP) is encouraged by the performance of the mining sector in the third quarter of 2020. Despite the difficult conditions which have been imposed on us by the merciless coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown restrictions, the mining sector recorded an impressive growth in this quarter.


The sector increased at an annualised rate of 288,3% compared to the second quarter of 2020, contributing 11,8% to the annualised 66,1% Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in the third quarter. We welcome the increased production of the PGMs, iron ore, gold and manganese ore which led to the positive performance of the sector. Furthermore, we appreciate the 58,0% recorded growth in Electricity, gas and water contributing 1,3% to the annualised GDP growth rate.


Minister Mantashe noted that "These are the results of the dynamic engagements we had with all stakeholders in the sector as the country went into a nationwide lockdown in March this year. We came up with a programme to save the industry together, whilst saving lives and protecting livelihoods". "We set stringent health protocols, insisted on screening and testing of mineworkers as we opened up the sector and allowed full production at alert level 3 of the lockdown" added Minister Mantashe.

"We must continue working together as stakeholders for the sector to do even better and take a step closer to an ambitious target of the sector contributing 12% to the GDP and attract 5% of exploration investment. If we can stay focused, we can turn things around. "More important is to appreciate that safe production is key to profitable and sustainable production. We must prioritise the health and safety of all persons at mines at all times. Workers must be able to go underground and be assured of coming back alive" concluded Minister Mantashe.

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Email: mediadesk@dmre.gov.za

For enquiries:


*Mr Nathi Shabangu
Media Liaison Office
Ministry
073 852 1922*


Natie.shabangu@dmre.gov.za


mediadesk@energy.gov.za / media@dmr.gov.za

Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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