

Media Release

Date: 3 June 2021

MINISTER GWEDE MANTASHE MEETS WITH EXECUTIVES OF RICHARDS BAY MINERALS

The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe today, 3 June 2021, convened a meeting with senior Executives of Richards Bay Minerals at the Mhlathuze Local Municipality Civic Centre, in Richards Bay. The meeting follows the shooting and killing of the mine's General Manager, Mr Nico Swart, a week ago.

“We are here to convey our condolences to the mine, family, workers and the community following the assassination of Mr Swart” said Minister Mantashe.

The Minister was joined by members of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive led by Premier Sihle Zikalala, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Z. Luziphohle, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner, and senior officials of the DMRE, SAPS and KZN Provincial government.

Since 2015, three employees of the mine have been killed. The Minister cautioned against the killings of mining executives across the country. Such killings taint the image of mining in South Africa.

“We must appreciate that crime is not a mining activity. Hence, we invited the Police to help us deal with crime in mining. We can only decisively deal with crime and the killings by arresting, prosecuting, and convicting the perpetrators” added Minister Mantashe.

The Minister further called for investment into the South African economy.

“If there is a view out there that it is dangerous to invest in South Africa, we will not see investment. There may be problems, however, if we work together, we can resolve our problems. South Africa is open for investment, and we reassure the investor community that it is safe to invest in South Africa” concluded Minister Mantashe.

Issued by the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy

Enquiries: mediadesk@dmre.gov.za / mediadesk@energy.gov.za