



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All media
Date: 14 April 2023

DMRE EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED MINEWORKERS IN BALFOUR, MPUMALANGA

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) is saddened by the loss of lives at Sibanye Stillwater's Burnstone Gold Mine in Balfour, Mpumalanga.

It was reported that on Thursday, 13 April 2023, an incident occurred at the mine during the installation of a pulley for the waist rock conveyor belt. The incident involved the use of a 140-ton crane to lift the pulley from the ground and place it in position. As the pulley was being aligned, the conveyor belt structure collapsed and injured multiple employees, four of whom have since succumbed to their injuries.

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and colleagues of the workers who have sadly lost their lives. One life lost is one too many. No one deserves to lose their life in the line of duty. We wish the injured workers speedy recovery.

The Department's Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate, which visited the mine yesterday, has commenced a full investigation in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act, to determine the cause of the incident that took place.

The health and safety of mineworkers remain a priority for government. Employers are urged to be vigilant on the management of health and safety of mine workers. We must all work tirelessly work towards achieving Zero Harm in South African mines, thereby ensuring that each employee returns home unharmed every day.

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