

MEDIA RELEASE
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Limpopo Among Top Three Mining Headquarters in South Africa - Mantashe

The Minister of Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe, has told delegates at the Limpopo Mining Investment Conference that Limpopo Province can be developed to be amongst the top three mining headquarters in the mining sector in South Africa. Minister Mantashe was delivering a keynote address at a two-day conference held in Polokwane from today, 28 September 2021.

“Here in South Africa we believe that three provinces can develop into massive mining headquarters in the country: Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape. We must be able to have headquarters of mining companies and processing plants in these provinces; not operate Limpopo from Gauteng. Limpopo must take its role in mining seriously,” said Minister Mantashe.

Minister Gwede Mantashe further added that: “Small-scale mining should be given space to grow. The problem that we have in many mining provinces is that instead of developing small-scale mining orderly, we want to organize a group of people to disrupt mining. When we do that we are not going to grow mining, but we are destroying it. Let us get small-scale mining organized and supported, then will discuss with the Small Business Ministry to say they have a role to play in small scale mining so that people establish themselves and build wealth.”

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, echoed the Minister’s sentiments in saying that Limpopo is one of the provinces with rich and limitless mineral deposits.

“Mining is the mainstay of the Limpopo economy and has on average contributed 25% to our economy in the last fifteen years. In the last five years, mining has contributed 90 000 direct jobs to Limpopo and a total of 1,2 million employed workforce. If one considers both the direct and indirect impact of the mining sector, then its employment contribution has in the period increased from 8% to about 15%”, said Premier Mathabatha.

“This conference will offer us an opportunity to interact directly and interface with the challenges in the mining sector. It will allow us to respond swiftly and in a more tailored fashion to challenges that may emerge from time to time. Most importantly, this conference will help to highlight the

many investment opportunities that are available in mining sector. I speak with authority when I say investment opportunities in our mining sector in this province are limitless. It is a known fact that Limpopo is rich in mineral deposits such as platinum, chrome, coal, and diamond,” said Premier Mathabatha.

The conference ended its first day after a number of presentations on the outlook of mining in Limpopo, the investment drive and strategy to grow Limpopo, mineral rights and investment opportunities that exist in the province. Of importance was how new role players would make it to the mining industry, government and private sector collaboration to unlock mining potential in Limpopo as well as the finance, logistics, market development and access to increase mining investment in the province.

The conference continues tomorrow.

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