



LIMPOPO MINING OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

Limpopo is well endowed with a wide variety of minerals, some of the more important of which are mentioned below. The Minerals Bureau has records of just over 70 operating mines in the province, 50 of which are small to medium scale mines. The larger mining operations in the province include the Venetia diamond mine (De Beers), Tshikondeni collieries, the Amandelbult, Northam, Potgietersrust, Messina, Marula and Modikwa platinum mines and the copper and phosphate operations at Phalaborwa (Foskor). Between them, these deposits accounted for some 80% of the provinces mineral revenue.

2. MINING'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GDP OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PROVINCE

2.1 Nationally

Mining's contribution to the GDP at current prices is R119,3 billion or 7,7% at current prices for the year 2006. This can be expanded further to account for individual metal areas, which are:

- Coal R21.26 billion or 1.4%
 - Gold R25.9 billion or 1.7%
 - Platinum Group Metals R32.6 billion or 2.1%
 - Other metal ores R26.1 billion or 1.7% and
 - Other mining and quarrying R31.3 billion or 0.9%
- (Source: StatsSA)

2.2 Provincially

On a provincial level, mining and quarrying contributed R27,2 billion or 22,7% of the GDP-R (GDP Regional) for the year 2006. (Source: Global Insight)

3. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE SECTOR

The mining sector formally employed 443 300 number of people nationally while Limpopo is the fourth highest employer at 63 217 employees in the mining sector. (Source: DME 2005)

4. LIMPOPO'S MINERALS

The province boasts the widest diversity of minerals in the country. The spectrum of more than 70 minerals includes precious metals and stones, industrial minerals and coal, which has both energy and chemical properties.

The prominent districts or regions where minerals occur within the Limpopo Province are Sekhukhune and Waterberg. These districts contain the world-renowned Merensky and UG2 platinum reefs, which also include chrome and other associated minerals. Diamonds are extracted in the Vhembe district and copper in the Mopani district. Some of the minerals found in the province include:

- Platinum
- Coal
- Diamonds
- Silicon
- Granite
- Copper
- Vermiculite
- Dolomite
- Iron Ore





6. OPPORTUNITIES

Initiatives such as beneficiation and transformation of platinum and other metals into:

- Catalytic converters
- Metal oxides
- Jewellery making
- Fuel cells
- Tools, dies and moulds

Also:

- Mining input supply parks can broaden the scope of economic activities around this sector and enhance the participation of various stakeholders in the value chain
- Small scale mining
- Refineries
- Smelters
- Diamond Cutting

7. MAJOR INVESTORS

Some of the mining houses with major investments in the province include:

- Anglo Platinum
- Silicon Smelters
- Foskor
- De Beers (Venetia)
- Exxaro
- Impala Platinum
- Xstrata
- Rio Tinto

8. ASSOCIATIONS AND RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

Nationally:

- Chamber of Mines of South Africa: www.bullion.org.za
- Geological Society of South Africa: www.gssa.org.za
- Mining Qualifications Authority: www.mqa.org.za
- Department of Minerals and Energy: www.dme.gov.za
- Department of Trade and Industry: www.thedti.gov.za

Provincially:

- Trade and Investment Limpopo: www.til.co.za
- Limpopo Economic Development Enterprise: www.limdev.co.za
- Limpopo Business Support Agency: www.libsa.org
- Department of Local Economic Development, Environment and Tourism: www.ledet.gov.za

