

160224PC MINERALS (PHUMCATI)

Department of Mineral Resources

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**BRIEFING OF PARLIAMENTARY
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LILY
GOLD MINE ACCIDENT**



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24 FEBRUARY 2016



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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MINE

- Lily Mine is a subsidiary of Vantage Goldfields Pty (Ltd).
- The Mine is situated in the Mjindi Local municipality in Mpumalanga province.
- The mine employs 647 workers.
- The mine began as an open pit mine in 2 000 and later developed as a shallow underground operation.

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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- On Friday, the 05th of February 2016 it was reported that at around 08H10 the shipment container that was used as a lamproom (on surface) sunk underground with 3 workers inside who are employed as lamproom personnel. The names of the trapped miners are:
 - Mr. Solomon Nyerende (Lampsmen).
 - Ms. Yvonne Mnisi (Lamp-room assistant).
 - Ms. Pretty Nkambule (Lamp-room assistant).
- It is alleged that the container sunk following the crown pillar failure at above 4 level underground.



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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (Cont.)

- 75 other workers were underground at the time of the collapse.
 - Immediately, the mines emergency procedure was implemented.
 - All underground workers were rescued through the mine ventilation shaft which served a second escape route.
 - The mine also solicited the assistance of the Mine Rescue Services (MRS) to support the rescue operations.
 - The Honourable Minister of Mineral Resources Mr M Zwane visited the Lily Gold Mine on the same day.
- The Minister engaged with the families, organised labour and mine management on the accident and rescue operations.



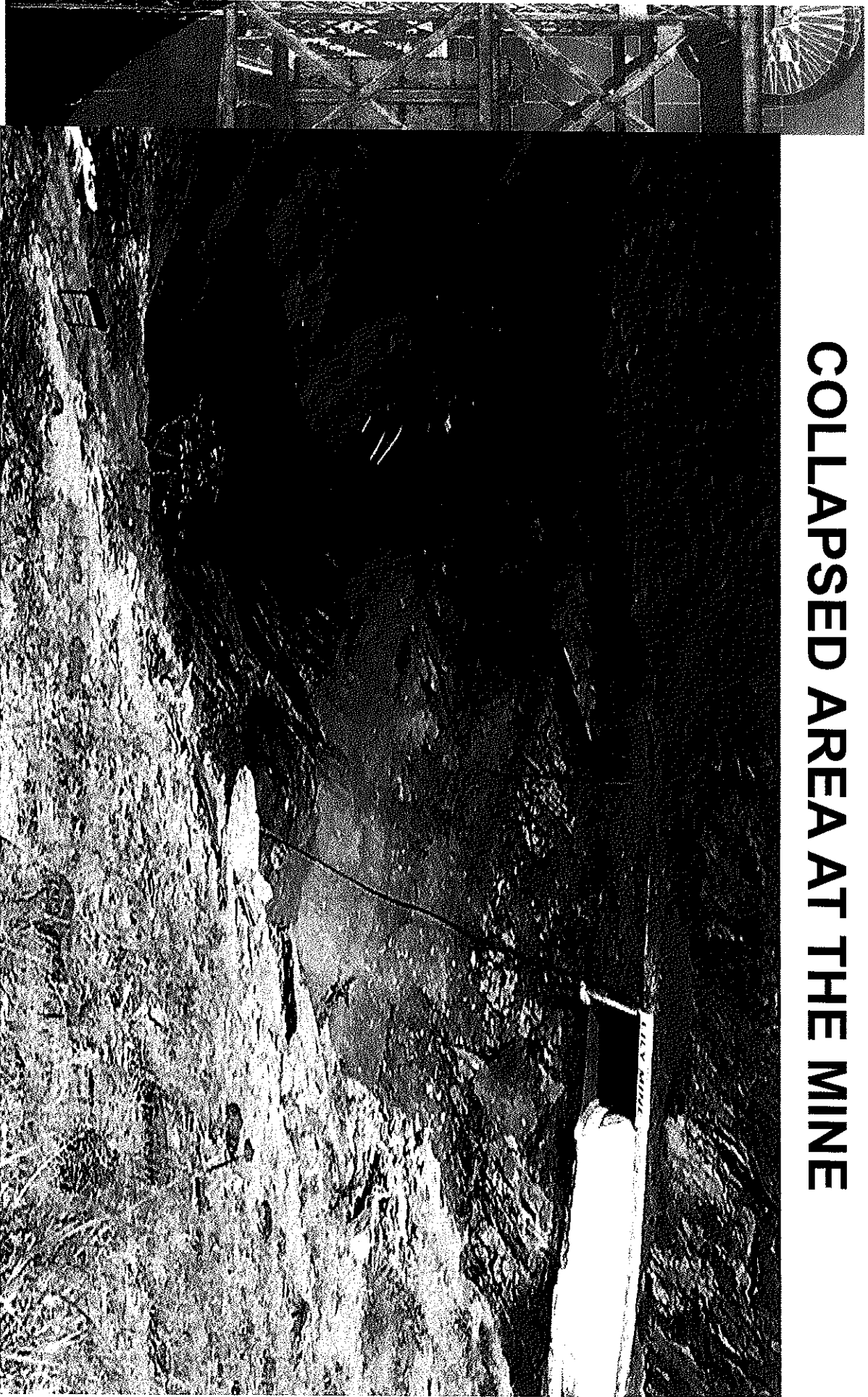
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COLLAPSED AREA AT THE MINE



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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (Cont.)

- On Saturday the 13th February 2016 a second collapse occurred at the mine, resulting in a decision to suspend rescue operations, in the interests of safety. Further collapse occurred on Sunday in the afternoon.
- Subsequently, the Minister of Mineral Resources directed that the rescue efforts be reinforced.
- A team of rock engineering experts assembled and went underground to assess the conditions at the time. Based on the underground assessment, the experts concurred with the decision to temporarily suspend operations due to significant ground movement on surface.
- A geotechnical report has since been produced, with a key recommendation being to re-establish a second outlet for safety reasons. In terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act as administered by the Department of Mineral Resources, each mine is required to have at least two safety outlets.



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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (Cont.)

- A Mines Rescue Drill rig has arrived at the mine on Thursday the 18th February 2016 afternoon
 - The rig is similar to the drill used in the Chilean rescue operation in 2010.
- This machine is capable of drilling a 600mm diameter hole, which will reach 5 level at depth of about 80 metres.
- Drilling commenced on Saturday 20th February 2016. It is envisaged drilling will take two to three weeks.
- Other alternatives to rescue the trapped workers are being considered and assessed whilst drilling is in progress.



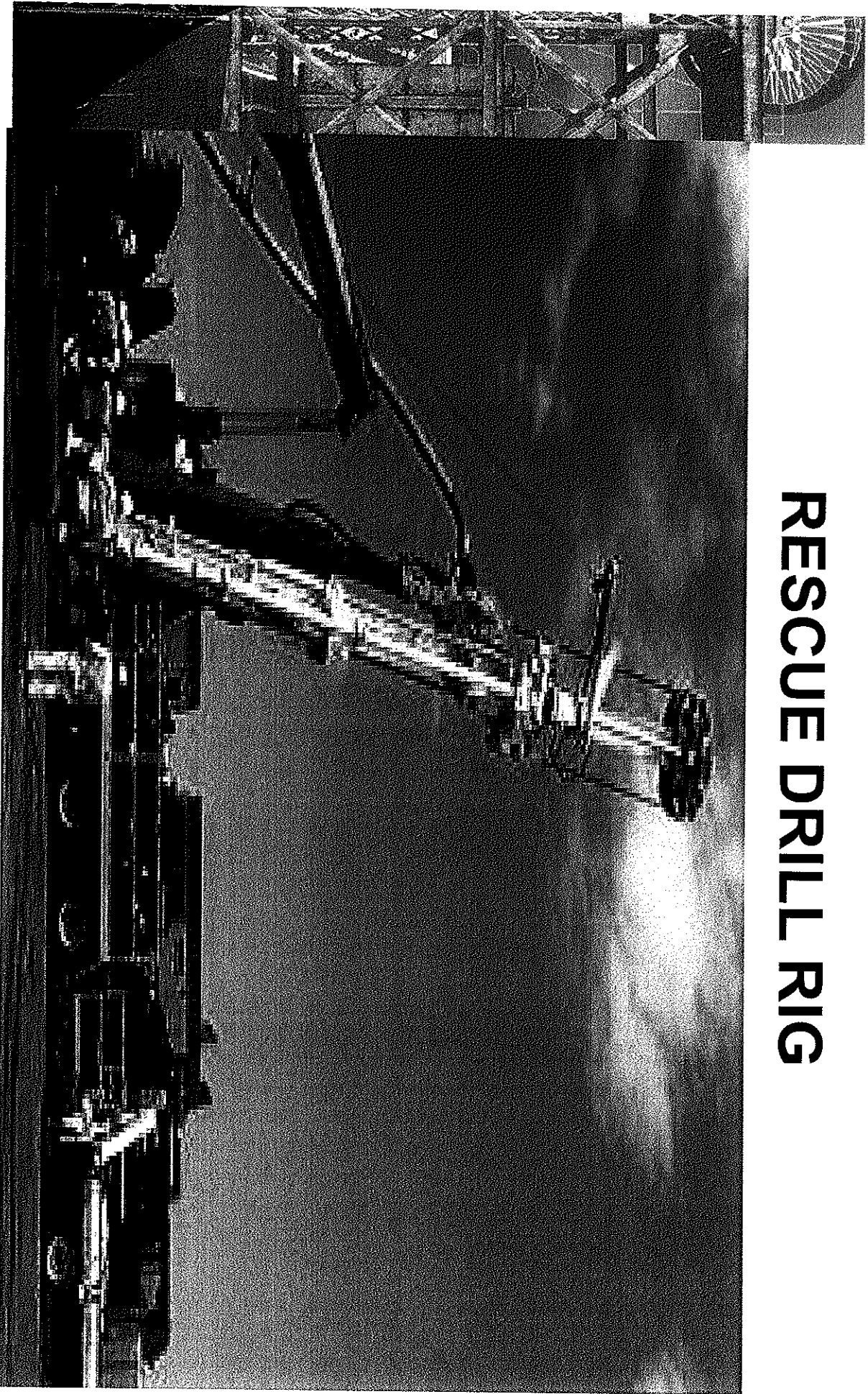
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RESCUE DRILL RIG



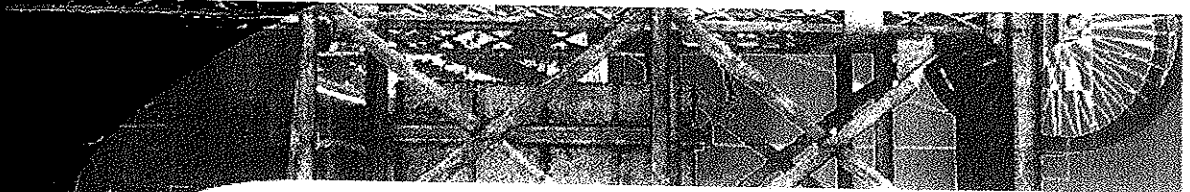
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GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

- The Minister of Mineral Resources visited the mine on the day of the accident.
- The Premier of Mpumalanga visited the mine on Saturday, 13 February 2016.
- The MEC of Social Development also visited the mine.
- The Minister of Social Development Honourable Bathabile Dlamini, Minister in the Presidency Honourable Susan Shabangu together with the Minister of Resources visited the mine on Monday, 15 February 2016.



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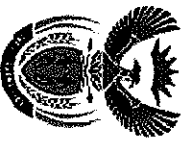
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION (Cont.)

- Following this joint Ministerial visit to the mine, a Joint Operations Committee (JOC) that includes Departments of Mineral Resources, Social Development and Women and Children as well as other government agencies, the union and mine representatives was formed.
- Through the JOC humanitarian and psycho-social support is offered to the families, mineworkers and the mining community at large.

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CONCLUSION

- The major objective at this stage is to continue to collaborate with the stakeholders in respect of the rescue operations.
- Once the trapped workers have been rescued, an investigation will be initiated in-terms of the legal provisions.

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THANK YOU.

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