

100514PCM4N



Department of Mineral Resources

**DMR Implementation Plan for Derelict and Ownerless
Mines.**

14th May 2010



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Background**
 - Mining legacy
 - Legislation
- **Implementation of Minerals Act 50 of 1991**
- **Introduction of the MPRDA**
- **DMR Programmes on rehabilitation of D& O mines**
- **Current Status**
- **Implementation Plan**
- **Concluding remarks**



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Background

Mining Heritage and Evolution of Legislation

- Formalised mining coincided with the discovery of gold mineralised conglomerates in the Wits basin and alluvial diamonds along the Vaal river near Kimberley in the late 1800's
- Mining rights structure - Private ownership of minerals
- Focus on certain commodities and economic gain – neglecting social and environmental issues
- Fragmented Legislation (federal state & commodity based)
 - Transvaal Gold and Base Metals Act 35 of 1908
 - Mining Rights Act of 1967
 - Precious Stone Act of 1964
 - Natal Mines Act



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Mining Heritage and Evolution of Legislation Cont'

- The different legislation that were applicable per region created problems
- SA unified in 1961 –
- Sustainable Development became most prominent issue during Mining & Environment summit (Rio De Janeiro, 1991)
- Transition to democracy



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Implementation of the Minerals Act 50 of 1991

- All asbestos mines closed down prior to promulgation of Minerals Act
- Provided basis for environmental management
- Evolution of EMPs and financial provision for rehabilitation
- Introduced the requirements for authorization
- Introduced consultation with interested &



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Introduction of MPRDA

- Introduced the sustainable development approach to mining – seeking the balance among the three spheres, viz.:
 - Social license to operate
 - Economic growth
 - Stringent environmental requirements
 - Detailed EMP and EIA
 - Public participation
 - Determination of the quantum of the financial provision
 - Mine closure plan
 - Monitoring of EMP performance
- Tensions between environment and development



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DMR Programmes on Environmental Management

- Early 2000, initiation of Research Programme on D&O
- Piloting of Programmes & Capacity constraints
- Pilot projects informed by asbestos risk
- Development of database of D&O
- Baseline estimate of R30 billion
- Initiate Government Task Team (DST, DWE & DMR)
- Pumping of extraneous mine water



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CURRENT STATUS

- National strategy on Derelict & Ownerless Mines approved in Dec 2009
- Establishment of Rehabilitation Oversight Committee
 - Transitional structure
 - Inter-Branch
 - Mandate to develop and implement



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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Establishment of permanent structure being finalized
- R & D continuing
- Constant monitoring & evaluation – 6 500 sites
- Ranking based on health, safety and environmental impact
- Criteria used to prioritised
 - Proximity to communities
 - Residual deposits
 - Acid mine drainage
 - Subsidence (coal)
 - Spontaneous combustion
 - Environmental Impacts



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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (cont')

- Risk Ranking of abandoned mines initiated
 - 154 high priority sites identified
 - 54 asbestos mines
 - 100 gold, coal and other
- Trace original owners where applicable
- Evaluate legislative provision to complement mitigation against scourge of D&O mines
- Identification of funding mechanisms
- Seek partnership with key stakeholders to find collaborative solutions, including identification of inherent mineral potential



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CONCLUSION

- We recognise the magnitude of the challenge
- Requires collaborative action
- Requires innovation
- Rehabilitation of D&O mines presents job creation opportunities



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