



**MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND
ENERGY**

DR NOBUHLE NKABANE

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNCIL FOR GEOSCIENCE
SUMMIT,**

DURBAN ICC,

**27 OCTOBER 2022. DELIVERED BY Mr ZIZAMELE MBAMBO
(DDG: NUCLEAR) ON BEHALF OF DEPUTY MINISTER.**

Programme Director,

Chairperson of the Council for Geoscience Board, Dr Humphrey Mathe and team CGS

Heads of Geoscience Schools at South African Universities,

Vice President of the Organisation of African Geological Surveys,
Mr Ceasar Jules

Head of the Federal Agency for Mineral Resources of the Russian Federation, Dr Evgeli Petrov

Traditional Leaders here present

Members of the media

Esteemed delegates

It is with a high sense of honour and gratitude that we are gathered here today on this occasion of the Council for Geoscience Summit on the occasion of its 110th anniversary. We do believe that with the kind of leadership exercised by the Board Chairperson and the CEO, this institution will have solid springboard for the next 110 years!

Unfortunately due to concurrent events including the amongst others the three line whip attendance in parliament I could not be with you until now. But I am happy that I am

finally here amongst these very esteemed members of the geoscience community!

I endeavoured to be here because this gathering of highly esteemed experts in the field of geoscience requires the full support of all of us in government, academic institutions, research institutions, the private sector, NGO's and the community at large. We are grateful to the CGS and all the summit participants for enabling a conversation in this regard.

On this very occasion when the Council for Geoscience celebrates a 110 year anniversary, we are indeed very happy that this happens at a time when the institution has re-discovered its footing and beginning to show its remarkable footprint in the geoscience challenges facing our country. But unlike in this distant past, the CGS now serves all our people inspired by our Constitution.

Your discussions here since the beginning of this summit on Tuesday will go a long way towards consolidating our collective efforts at building the kind of society, economy and country that we want.

As you are in the forefront of exploration of all sorts of minerals, none is better placed the geoscientists in formulating the policy trajectory that will help uplift our

economy and by extension transform the lives of all our people. You are best positioned to tell us what are the most economic and effective exploration methods, and when discovered, whether or not extraction of those minerals would make economic sense and by whom in the scale of big miners, junior miners and artisanal miners.

As geoscientists you are therefore better placed than anyone else to speak on the prospects of energy transition, what minerals are best suited for what form of energy generation and whether such can be effected whilst simultaneously embracing the ethos of sustainable development. Geologists sees things we cannot see, empowered by their skills and instruments, and ours is to ensure we take along our people so that they understand that such works are in their best interests as employees, entrepreneurs and as beneficiaries of development through taxation.

The whole debate on Just Energy Transition is essentially your field of domain, to articulate from the best perspective that as a nation we can garner, informed by our commonly shared sense of patriotism.

As government we are not oblivious that the Just Energy Transition is not just an objective scientific debate but that it is highly informed by geopolitical interests. As a country and as continent, we have endured years of colonialism and in

our national context also apartheid. Therefore, we fully know how economics and other social sciences including religion itself, could be used as instruments of domination.

What is as apparent as the rising sun, is the fact that whilst some countries give us finance to transition from coal to renewable energy, they are in fact asking us to sell to them our coal in order to generate their own power. That such hypocrisy has not received public ridicule in the public discourse say something about whether or not we are in charge of instruments of propaganda. We must find creative ways to propagate our views on the balance of contestation around the exploration, extraction and use of our mineral resources.

But ours in the post 1994 democratic dispensation, is equality informed amongst others by the Freedom Charter stipulations on mineral resources that in turn inspired the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act Of 2002 (MPRDA 2002) which stipulates that all minerals beneath the soil are under the custodianship of the State which is on behalf of the people as a whole.

I understand very informative presentation were delivered here with very dynamic panel discussions. The resolutions that you are making in this Summit will enrich our various understanding of the geoscience particularly in the context of

resolving the socio-economic challenges that we face as a nation, including critically energy security for our country.

I therefore plead with all geoscientists to appreciate the fact that geoscience is at the heart of our economy as it has been since the discovery of gold and diamonds more than a century ago. The importance of working together as geoscientists across the spectrum of the Council of Geoscience, government, independent geoscience institutions and the private sector can only bode well for our national interests.

I believe you have tackled the challenges of baseload power supply and the attendant aspect of energy availability factor which have bearings on loadshedding. You are better placed to inform our green energy trajectory and what targets are feasible and how such can be balanced with national economic interests.

As we adopt policies as government, we do not wish them to be thumb sucked but to be backed by scientific evidence and none can provide such better than yourselves.

Amongst our policies is beneficiation, so that we derive maximum benefit from our minerals such as the Platinum Group of Metals. You therefore need to work closely with other engineers in the mineral value chain such as

metallurgists and so forth, in the further industrial processing of our minerals to support our manufacturing industries.

I believe you have also tackled the critical aspect of geoscience skills and have resolved to abet the decline in student recruitment in the geosciences. In this regard you have our full support and we must share notes on how to further grow the geosciences field including how to promote linkages with various industries for economic activities.

I am not here to be exhaustive on the issues you have raised, which are very important and best known by yourselves because of their scientific intensity, but to give support that we are in this journey together.

Once again I want to thank the CGS Board Chairperson and his entire board as well as the CEO and his entire staff compliment for the great strides that the CGS is making amongst our communities including hosting this very important summit.

I thank you!