



**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY  
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DELIVERED AT THE  
AFRICA MINING INDABA**

**CREATING A FUTURE FOR MINING IN SOUTH AFRICA – OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

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Programme Director  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity with a great sense of honour and gratitude as I make my opening remarks. This is a very important conversation on ***creating a future for mining in South Africa with opportunities for young people in mind.***

Critical to today's conversation about creating the future of mining in South Africa is what becomes the actual steps that must be taken to advance youth development. We established the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to champion youth development. Since its formation, the NYDA has been engaged in ensuring that the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) leaves no stone unturned to advance the interests of young people in our country. I also know that we have other youth development organisations such as the South African Youth Economic Council (SAYEC), whom I believe in addition to representatives from the NYDA are also here in attendance.

The current conversation on mining hinges on several historical and current issues. Historically I will emphasise the importance of the MPRDA which vests all mineral resources beneath the soil into the custodianship of the State. This was implementation of the text and spirit of the Freedom Charter. Through the MPRDA the State can decisively empower the youth.

Other factors informing current mining issues pertain combating climate change. South Africa is firmly committed to the Just Energy Transition to combat climate change hence the submission of our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) at COP26. However, we strongly believe that our national interests must take centre stage in our transition from high carbon emissions to low carbon emissions.

The youth must feature prominently in this Just Energy Transition programmes and the new economic opportunities that are being created.

We are firmly committed to exploration of clean coal technologies through carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). Young people must equally take an interest in this, as any success in this regard would mean the country can continue exploiting

its coal reserves for the foreseeable future whilst achieving our net zero emission targets. Environmental problems are in fact economic opportunities as we seek to solve them.

Government is also engaged in the procurement of additional energy generation to address energy poverty and secure energy supply to society. Young people must participate in the procurement of new energy capacity. Part of the commitment made when entering into such procurement deals, is local participation which is where you can come in as the youth.

Government has further promulgated as law the generation of embedded electricity generation by private utilities for up to 100 MW without the need for a licence. Yet again, young people must seize the opportunity and foster partnerships.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy is further committed to support small scale mining and Junior Miners. It is important to note that applications for mining permits, and mining rights are open to all, irrespective of age, race, and gender. Young people must be supported to apply for such rights.

**I thank you.**