



MHSC
Mine Health and Safety Council

MHSC e-NEWS LETTER

December 2024

Every mine worker returning from work unharmed every day. Striving for zero harm in our lifetime.

2024 Mine Health and Safety Tripartite Summit – Highlights.

The Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) successfully hosted the 2024 Mine Health and Safety Tripartite Summit at Gallagher Convention Center in Johannesburg. The long-awaited Summit took place between the 16th and 18th of October 2024. Key stakeholders in the mining sector took the opportunity to review the health and safety milestones, which were agreed upon in 2014 to advance the zero harm mandate for mineworkers. The event drew high profile speakers and thought leaders from array of sectors across the Southern African region.



Above, Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi

Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi presented both international and national perspectives of HIV/AIDS and TB infections rate and overall performance of the mining sector in relation to the national average.

While HIV/AIDS and TB infection rate remains high nationally, the Minister congratulated the mining sector's interventions, such as introducing programs geared at eliminating possible health related harm to mine workers, consistent health screening including testing for HIV/AIDS and TB.



Tripartite stakeholders at the signing of the pledge and new milestones during the summit 2024

The Deputy Minister of Minerals and Petroleum Resources, Ms Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala delivered a keynote address focusing on improving mineworkers' health and safety as agreed by the tripartite Mine Health and Safety Council in 2014, to deliver step-change improvements in the working environment for the entire mining industry.

Since 2014, incidents of occupational diseases in the mining industry have decreased by 72%.

The number of fatalities related to safety incidents have declined by 35% between 2014 and 2023. The industry came close to meeting – and in some instances surpassed -- the milestones set for 2024. The milestones included eliminating fatalities and serious injuries, reducing occupational lung diseases caused by inhalation of silica, coal and platinum group metal dust, reducing noise-induced hearing loss, reducing the tuberculosis incidence rate below the national average, and providing counselling, testing and treatment of mineworkers living with HIV.

The three stakeholders have agreed on the next set of milestones to be achieved by December 2034, including mental health screening and interventions to improve safety of women in mining including personal protective equipment specifically designed for women, as well as reducing gender-based violence and femicide in the workplace. “We commit ourselves to achieving the new milestones that we have collectively set to accelerate our quest for Zero Harm in our industry,” says Dr Nombasa Tsengwa, President of the Minerals Council.

Below: Tripartite principals signing a pledge and commitment to achieving new health and Safety milestones in the SAMI.



		Summary of the 2024 Milestones		
HEALTH	<p>Elimination of occupational lung diseases through: Reduction of over exposure to dust</p> <p>By December 2034, 95% of all exposure measurement results will be below the following limits for the respective respirable dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.03mg/m³ for respirable crystalline silica dust • 1.25mg/m³ for respirable coal dust • 1.0mg/m³ for respirable platinum mine dust <p>[these results are individual readings and not average results, and the milestones will be reviewed in 2029 (after 5 years)]</p> <p>Elimination of occupational lung diseases/ pneumoconiosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 2034, using current diagnostic techniques, no novice pneumoconiosis cases of: silicosis, coal worker's pneumoconiosis, and pneumoconiosis as a result of respirable platinum mine dust will occur amongst previously unexposed individuals. ("Previously unexposed individual" are those unexposed to mining dust prior to December 2024 i.e. Equivalent to a new person who entered the industry in January 2025") 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elimination of fatalities 2. Elimination of reportable accidents 3. Review of the effectiveness of initiatives around elimination of fatalities and reportable accidents 4. Elimination of occupational lung diseases 5. Elimination of noise induced hearing loss 6. Mental health awareness in SAMI 7. Prevention and reduction of TB and HIV in SAMI 8. Implementation of the MHC's Centre of Excellence 9. Implementation of Culture Transformation Pillars 10. Health of Women in Mining 11. Safety and Security of Women in Mining 		
	<p>Elimination of noise induced hearing loss through quietening of equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 2034, the noise emitted by individual pieces of equipment operated by employees and individual process equipment should not exceed a milestone sound pressure level of 104 dB(A) 		<p>CULTURE TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Implementation of Culture Transformation Pillars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% implementation of the Leadership Pillar by December 2026 • 100% implementation of the Risk Management Pillar by December 2026 • 100% implementation of the Bonus and Incentives Pillar by December 2026 • 100% implementation of the Diversity Management Pillar by December 2026 • 100% implementation of the Leading Practices and Technology Pillar 	
	<p>Elimination noise induced hearing loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using current diagnostic methods, by December 2034, there should be no novice cases of noise induced hearing loss amongst previously unexposed individuals. ("Previously unexposed individual" are those unexposed to occupational noise prior to December 2024 i.e. Equivalent to a new person who entered the industry in January 2025) 			
	<p>Mental Health Awareness in SAMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of employees should be screened annually for mental health • 100% of screened employees with mental health challenges to be linked to care annually (this includes in-house or referral) 		<p>WOMEN IN MINING</p> <p>Safety and security of women in mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of GBVF incidents in the SAMI. <p>Personal Hygiene of women in mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of lactation facilities for nursing female employees • Provide adequate and well-maintained ablution facilities for WIM 	
	<p>Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Awareness in the SAMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of employees presenting during medical surveillance programme should be screened for NCD metabolic risk factors 			
	<p>Reduction and prevention of TB, HIV and AIDS in the SAMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 2034, the TB incidence rate of all commodities in the SAMI should be at or below the national TB incident rate • 95% of employees should be offered HIV counselling and testing (HCT) annually with all eligible employees linked and retained to an antiretroviral therapy treatment (ART) programme as per the national strategic plan (NSP) <p>(This covers both in house and outsourced testing)</p>		<p>SAFETY</p> <p>Elimination of fatalities and reportable accidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every fatality is one too many. The mining industry aspires to reach the goal of eliminating all fatalities • Every mining company must have a target of zero fatalities. • Reduction of falls of ground (FOG) related reportable accidents by 20% per annum • Reduction of reportable transportation and mining, machinery and conveyance reportable accidents by 20% per annum 	
	<p>CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE</p> <p>Implementation of the Centre of Excellence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Phase 2 of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) by December 2030 			

WE THE PRINCIPALS OF THE TRIPARTITE STAKHOLDERS IN THE SAMI COMMIT TO ACHIEVING THE 2024 MINE HEALTH AND SAFET SUMMIT MILESTONES

SIGNED BY		DATE: 16 OCTOBER 2024
<p>On behalf of the State</p> <p>Name: <i>Judith Momoziya-Khabakala</i> Organisation: <i>Department of Mineral Resources</i> Signature: <i>Judith Momoziya-Khabakala</i></p>	<p>On behalf of Organised Labour</p> <p>Name: <i>Zweli Mkhize</i> Organisation: <i>AMCU</i> Signature: <i>Zweli Mkhize</i></p> <p>Name: <i>Zweli Mkhize</i> Organisation: <i>NUMSA</i> Signature: <i>Zweli Mkhize</i></p> <p>Name: <i>Gideon du Plessis</i> Organisation: <i>Solidarity</i> Signature: <i>Gideon du Plessis</i></p> <p>Name: <i>David Bhebe</i> Organisation: <i>NUM</i> Signature: <i>David Bhebe</i></p>	<p>On Behalf of Employers</p> <p>Name: <i>John Dumez</i> Organisation: <i>Mine Workers' Council of South Africa</i> Signature: <i>John Dumez</i></p> <p>Name: <i>John Dumez</i> Organisation: <i>CEO 2000 Mine Forum - Minerals Council</i> Signature: <i>John Dumez</i></p> <p>Name: <i>John Dumez</i> Organisation: <i>Association of Mining and Allied Professions (AMAP) South African Mine Association</i> Signature: <i>John Dumez</i></p>

The MHSC Commemorates World Aids Day

UNAIDS estimates that globally, 39.9 million people were living with HIV in 2023 and 70% of those were accessing treatment. This represents a 7.7 million improvement (of people accessing treatment) from 2010. It is also encouraging to note that globally, new infections and AIDS related deaths have decreased from the year 2010. Against the global testing and treatment targets (95-95-95), this has been the global progress in 2023: **86%** of all people living with HIV knew their HIV status.

Among people who knew their status, **89%** were accessing treatment, and among people accessing treatment, **93%** were virally suppressed. In South Africa, the overall HIV prevalence rate is approximately 12.7% in 2024, with approximately 8 million people living with HIV. Coverage of people receiving Anti-Retro Viral Treatment has also increased over the years, since its roll-out in the country 20 years ago.

The South African Mining Industry (SAMI)'s own HIV targets are as follows: 100% of employees are currently receiving HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) annually & all eligible employees linked to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Programme. In 2023, the industry attained 96.7% HIV Counselling, but fell short in testing, at 66.2%.



The MHSC commemorated the World Aids Day in Mpumalanga on the 05th and the 09th of December 2024. The joint commemoration was held at Canyon coal mine in Bronkhorspruit and Exxaro's Leeuwan coal mine respectively. Both mines availed employees for HIV testing and campaign messages from the MHSC, DMPR and regional Ministry of Health including nonprofit organisation in the area.

