

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chamber of Mines announces a major study on seismicity and rockburst management**

The Chamber of Mines of South Africa has announced that it is initiating a further major study on seismicity and rockburst management. The announcement was made at the recent Mine Health and Safety Council Mini-Indaba by Mr Robbie Lazare, Chairperson of the Chamber of Mines' Gold Producers Committee. Lazare said the study was initiated to provide employers with insights that would assist them to better exercise their role in rockburst risk management as well as to provide them with more informed input into tripartite processes needed to improve intervention in the event of seismic and rockbursts occurrences.

“Our intention is to ensure that the outcomes of this initiative will contribute towards improved management of seismic events and rockbursts to protect human life and safeguard property”. Lazare also announced that the outgoing CEO of AngloGold Ashanti, Mr Bobby Godsell, had agreed to assist in the management of the study process as chairman of the study panel of national and international experts.

Lazare said opinions of all stakeholders would be solicited but noted that the study would focus on what employers could do better in the management of these events to enable practical interventions as, “the key focus areas of the study would be biased towards people and management systems to implement knowledge and technology to prevent rockburst accidents”.

During his presentation, Lazare emphasised that: “employers fully share with other stakeholders the concern at the unacceptably high level of seismic and rockburst-related accidents” and that whilst “South Africa is an acknowledged world leader in ultra deep underground mining technology, we need to become a world leader in underground safe mining as well”.

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