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Chamber of Mines supports NUM's concerns for improved safety in the mines

The Chamber of Mines today reached an agreement with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) with regard to initiatives to improve safety in the mining industry. In terms of the agreement, which was mediated by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), NUM members will embark on a national protest on 4 December 2007 on the mines that are members of the Chamber of Mines to highlight NUM's concerns regarding accidents and fatalities on South African mines. The protest will take place on a no work no pay basis.

Parties committed themselves to engage early in 2008 at senior level to develop pledges and actions that will, among others, strengthen and complement initiatives agreed at the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC), to respond to all areas of concern on health and safety on the mines.

Dr Frans Barker, Senior Executive: Chamber of Mines, commented that: "Health and safety is a matter that requires all role players, including government, employers and employees to take joint responsibility. In terms of this agreement, parties will work together to improve safety on mines".

The Department of Minerals and Energy will also be approached to participate at senior level in the stakeholder meetings planned for early 2008 and thereafter.

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