

JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS' DESK

Fact sheet

January 2020



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA



 *Wesizwe Platinum - Bakubang Mine*

“The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk hopes to be a voice for the developing mining sector of South Africa.”

WHO ARE JUNIOR MINERS?

The term “junior mining”, internationally, generally refers to prospecting companies only involved in the early stages of mining development. This is particularly true for Canada where junior exploration companies are supported through the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. In Australia, junior mining usually refers to mid-tier producers. In South Africa, however, the term junior mining has taken on a wider meaning and includes, in addition to exploration companies, mid-tier producers. Examples of junior producers operating in South Africa are Wesizwe in the platinum sector and Kuyasa in the coal sector. Orion Minerals is an example of a junior exploration company operating in the Northern Cape.

WHO ARE EMERGING MINERS?

“Emerging miners”, a term indigenous to South Africa, typically refers to smaller companies. They can be either involved in the early phases of mining exploration or in the early developmental stage. Examples include smaller coal companies at development stage, such as MC Mining and Ledjadja Coal. The term emerging miners therefore covers a diverse group of mining and mining-related entities, including prospecting and smaller producing companies, and associated companies such as contractors. Since the advent of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) in 2002, there has been significant growth in smaller mining companies operating in South Africa.

WHAT IS THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS’ DESK?

The purpose of the Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk is to provide advice and support, and to act as a resource centre for smaller Minerals Council member companies.

WHAT THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS’ DESK OFFERS

-  **01** Breakfast seminars
-  **02** Mentorship group
-  **03** Research
-  **04** Committee work
-  **05** Lobbying and recruitment
-  **06** Media
-  **07** Policy lobbying

While the Minerals Council, at policy level, presents a consolidated position on key policy areas, it is sensitive to the needs of its smaller members who often lack the capacity and resources to implement policy and legislation.

In addition, there are a number of other areas where smaller companies require assistance: in the raising of finance for projects, in some of the technical aspects of mining, such as geology and engineering, in skills development and compliance with the Mining Charter, to list a few areas.

	<p>BREAKFAST SEMINARS</p> <p>Breakfast seminars, held biannually, are open to all junior and emerging mining companies, and are not exclusive to Minerals Council members. Seminars have been held on Mine Community Development, Finance for Junior Miners, Water Management, the Mining Charter and Junior Mining as a few examples.</p> <p>In addition, bi-annual seminars are held exclusively for junior and emerging miner members of the Minerals Council, covering topics of direct relevance to them.</p>
	<p>MENTORSHIP GROUP</p> <p>The Minerals Council has established a mentorship group to support junior and emerging miners. Mentors include current and former senior executives within the mining industry – they have provided advice on all aspects of business operations as the need arises. Using their extensive network of contacts, the mentors will also connect junior and emerging miners with relevant people.</p>
	<p>COMMITTEE WORK</p> <p>The Chair of the Junior and Emerging Miners’ Leadership Forum represents the committee on the Board of the Minerals Council. Junior miners also sit on various policy committees within the Minerals Council such as the Mining Charter reference group.</p>
	<p>RESEARCH</p> <p>Various research exercises are undertaken into policy related issues. In 2019 a major research report was released which examined the economic impact of the Junior mining sector in South Africa.</p>
	<p>RECRUITMENT</p> <p>Recruitment of new members takes place continuously, including at quarterly breakfast sessions where potential members are invited to join the Minerals Council.</p>
	<p>MEDIA</p> <p>The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk reaches audiences through media, including the Minerals Council’s website, by advertising its role. In this way, it also provides an interactive forum for junior and emerging miners seeking information and advice.</p>
	<p>POLICY LOBBYING</p> <p>In many cases, junior and emerging miners have particular needs, in terms of mining policy and regulations, which the Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk aims to address. In representing broader and collective policy positions for relevant stakeholders, the Minerals Council is sensitive to these requirements without compromising compliance and leading practice. The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Leadership Forum successfully lobbied for concessions in the Mining Charter pertaining to smaller companies. The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Leadership Forum also held a meeting with the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy in 2019 and follow up meetings are planned for 2020.</p>

WHAT DOES THE JUNIOR AND EMERGING MINERS’ DESK DO?

The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk hopes to be a voice for the developing mining sector of South Africa. Its key role is in supporting junior and emerging mining through policy lobbying, providing advice, linking junior and emerging miners to networks, providing mentorship and disseminating relevant policy information.

The Junior and Emerging Miners’ Desk also supports contracting companies and two mining associations representing over 200 smaller companies.

To provide strategic leadership, the inaugural Junior and Emerging Miners’ Leadership Forum convened in March 2018. Membership is limited to chief executive officers with an allowance for the appointment of alternates. A chairperson and an alternate of the Junior and Emerging Miners’ Leadership Forum are also members of the Minerals Council Board.

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