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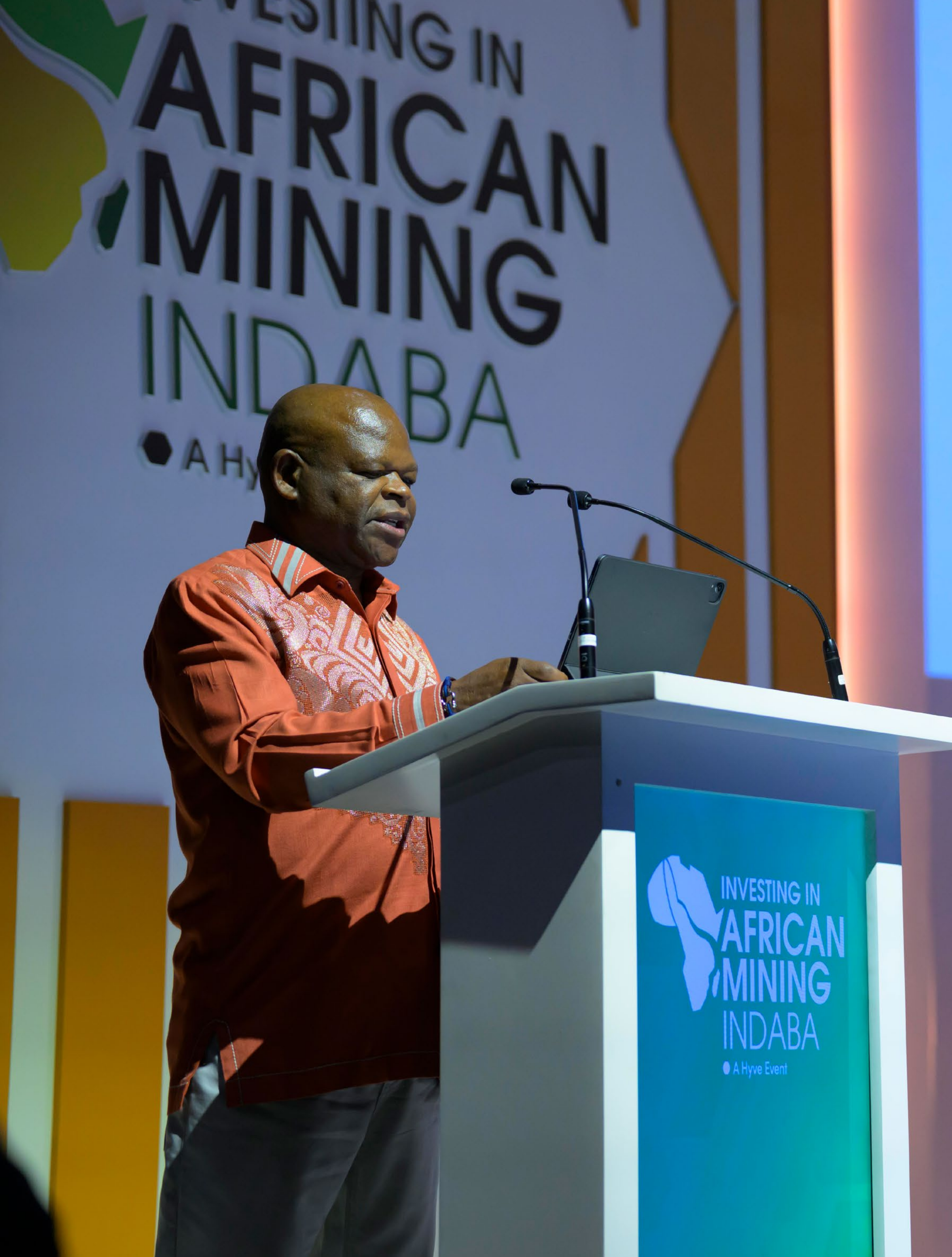
INVESTING IN AFRICAN MINING INDABA

MINING INDABA
MINISTERIAL SYMPOSIUM

Mining Indaba 2025
Ministerial Symposium
Summary Report


INVESTING IN
AFRICAN
MINING
INDABA
A Hyve Event



Welcome address

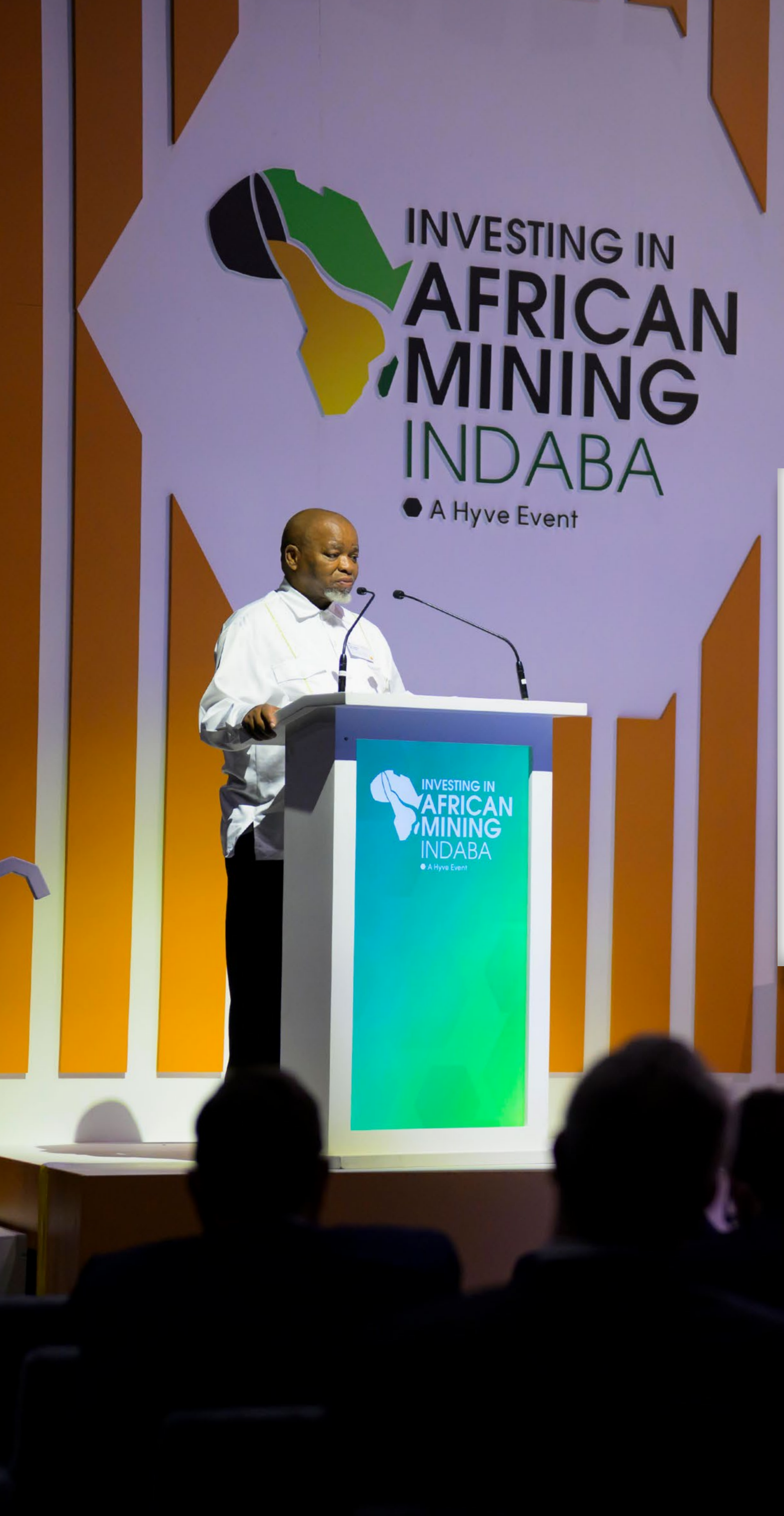
The 2025 Ministerial Symposium brought together 200 government leaders, industry decision-makers and key stakeholders to set the tone for the 31st edition of the Investing in African Mining Indaba.

Under this year's theme of ***Building Unified African Mining Value Chain – Enhancing Best Practice,*** this premier industry platform aims to continue its mission to promote long-term economic growth and sustainability through networking, deal-making and sustainable mining prospects.

To ensure the industry's long-term viability, this year's focus is on the future-proofing of mining in Africa. This includes defining which minerals Africa requires for the development of its own industries, infrastructure and transition agenda.

Future-proofing Africa's mining also includes reevaluating the continent's role of being a primary material supplier and exploring the expansion of beneficiation capacity, launching new downstream industries, and connecting investors with opportunities that unlock intra-African integration. It also includes engagements between various stakeholders in the mining ecosystem to help shape the industry, while building a sustainable future for communities across the continent.

Frans Baleni
Chair, Mining Indaba Advisory Board



Hon. Gwede Mantashe
Minister of Mineral Resources & Energy, Republic of South Africa

National address by the Republic of South Africa

The *Investing in African Mining Indaba* this year is convened for the first time since the formation of the South African Government of National Unity (GNU). 2025 also coincides with South Africa hosting the G20 – the first such summit on African soil.

This presents an opportune time to put Africa on the world stage, specifically focusing on transforming the continent's mineral deposits by building mining value chains and leveraging Africa's mineral wealth for its own economic development. African mining ministers have a critical role to play in this regard.

A key pillar for investment is in exploration, which is the lifeblood of the mining industry. Exploration funding and the emergence of junior mining enterprises are starting to bear results. Already, there is increased geoscience mapping and a focus on sharing information, sharing experiences, and learning from one another.

Other key investments are in the development of mines and then the actual mining of commodities. In Africa's case, mined commodities have traditionally been exported and not transformed or beneficiated. Instead of exporting raw commodities to help third markets build their industries and economies, Africa should define its own needs, identifying which minerals are critical to the national development goals of its economies (beyond the needs of the green economy), and how to address growing demand of key 'critical' minerals in third markets. This should be done to create the enabling environment to add value to minerals closer to source.

However, this requires resolving several key pain points. Among the most important is addressing persistent energy problems across the continent, including disrupted or generally lacking energy supply, as well as the affordability of energy. Another key issue is the need to review licensing regimes. Progress on the latter is well underway in a number of countries.

By solving for these issues while creating a stable policy and legal environment, and focusing on developing African value chains based on mined commodities, Africa will benefit through boosted job creation, greater local value addition and economic transformation across the continent.

Opening remarks

The *Investing in African Mining Indaba* is entering a new era. With the backdrop of South Africa's Presidency of the G20, there is great dynamism and strategy around Africa's role in providing critical, green and other strategic minerals to the world, while looking at adding value to these at, or close to, source.

At a policy and programme level, the continent has various visions and strategies in place, including the ***Africa Mining Vision***, the ***Africa Commodity Strategy*** and the ***Africa Green Minerals Strategy***, with an overarching focus on value addition at source. By exporting raw materials, Africa is in fact "importing poverty".

To alleviate poverty and create value locally, investment in human capital development is required for the necessary skills to transform minerals into greater value-added goods. It also requires putting in place systems to make sure that minerals are not exported illegally.

Furthermore, greater collaboration between mining industry players and countries, while leveraging regional integration initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, will help access new markets amid a young population of new consumers that is expected to grow well into the 21st Century.

As such, this new era has the potential to be an invaluable platform for building a trajectory for prosperity for Africa.

H.E. Albert Muchanga
Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism,Industry and Minerals (ETTIM), African Union

Speakers

- **Hon. Gwede Mantashe,** Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Republic of South Africa
- **Hon. Kizito Pakabomba Kapinga Mulume**, Minister of Mines, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Hon. Paul Kabuswe**, Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, Republic of Zambia
- **H.E. Eng. Karim Badawi**, Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Moderated by Dr. Marit Y. Kitaw,** Interim Director, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC-AU)

Ministerial Panel Discussion: Forging a *unified* African mining front: *collaboration* for sustainable development

There is a need for greater continental harmonisation in order to forge a unified African mining front. This includes the need for a unified continental mineral policy, regional economic integration and economies of scale, attracting investment that promotes value chain development, and effectively harnessing Africa's mineral resources. The detrimental effects of countries competing with 'race to the bottom policies', by lowering standards to attract investment, may result in valuable minerals exported for minimal returns.

Regional cooperation will need to include strong and robust infrastructure, including energy and transport infrastructure, to support local processing and value creation. This is a key foundation stone for attracting investment into manufacturing, including the development of smelters and refineries.

Yet infrastructure development may require innovative financing models and strategic partnerships, including cross-border special economic zones, to maximise the strengths of different countries. Similarly, mineral transformation requires investment in human capital and developing the necessary skillsets and environment for innovation.

Regional cooperation and cross-border value chain creation may promote the development of a sophisticated downstream industry. Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the DRC) have paved the way for such cooperation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a battery development project. By attracting value adding investment, this will not only create jobs and prosperity, but also ensure that Africa benefits more significantly from its mineral wealth.

Pursuing regional integration and cooperation could also maximise collective bargaining power in global markets. This includes the importance of sustainability and ethical sourcing, with a focus on creating a transparent and trustworthy environment for investors, ranging from juniors that explore to companies that will beneficiate and add value to commodities.

Ultimately, more practical actions, rather than just discussions, emphasising the need for tangible outcomes are key, including fostering an environment that is conducive to investment by updating regulatory frameworks and adopting global best practices, while supporting companies and partners to succeed. Together, collaboration and strategic partnerships that balance national interests with broader collaboration will ultimately benefit Africa and its people.

Guest Speech

Africa currently accounts for 4% of the US$1.7 trillion global mining revenue. To build economic resilience, Africa must not only be a supplier of raw materials, but also a producer of high-value-added products. This requires bold, coordinated action and significant investment in refining, smelting, and advanced manufacturing.

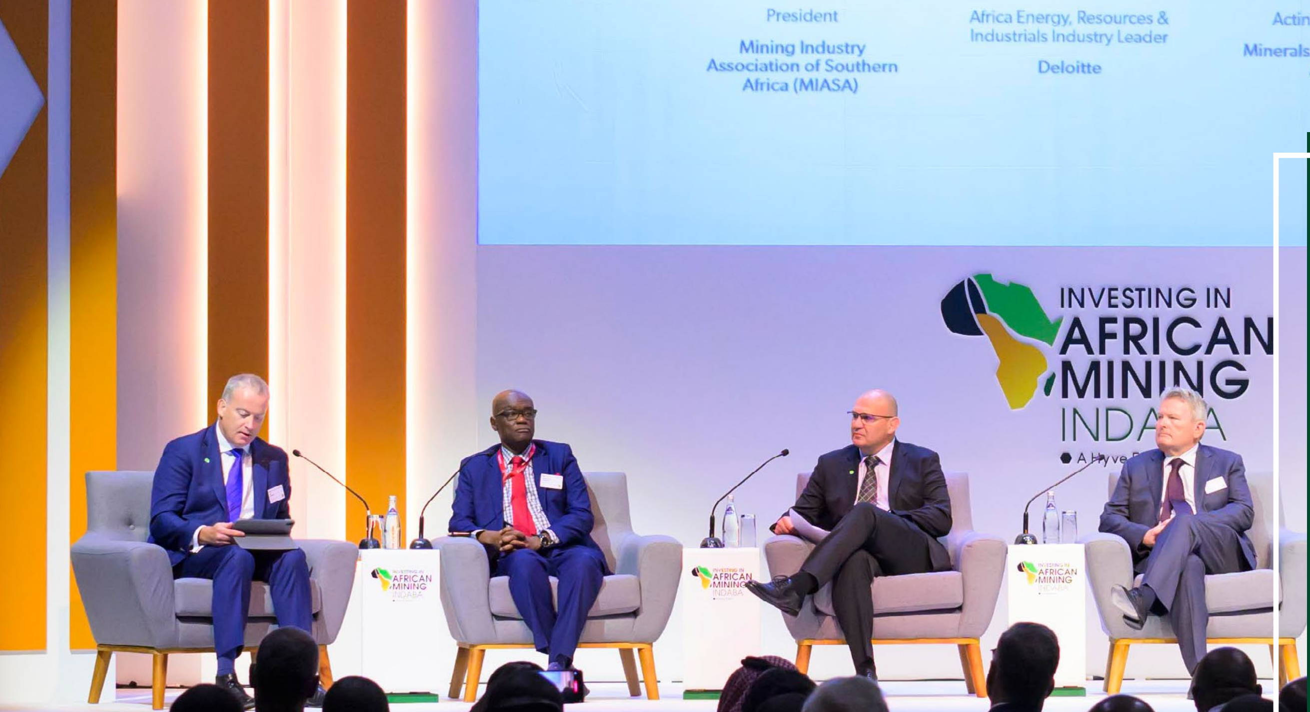
Already, several countries are set to expand mineral processing and refining through value addition and cross-border initiatives. For example, Ghana and Guinea are seeking to increase their bauxite resources for aluminium production, while Egypt is boosting local aluminium production. Countries like Algeria, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Morocco are investing in steel production plants and expanding existing capabilities.

The responsibility to bring Africa's vision of a competitive mining industry and mining value chain development to reality lies with both government and private sector leaders. The AfCFTA, which aims to strengthen cross-border collaboration and create intra-Africa mineral value chains, will be pivotal to unlock value creation in the industry.

Afreximbank's various funds and programmes are supporting Africa's industrial initiatives and value-added projects, ranging from investing in mining sector projects such as the battery value chain in the DRC and Zambia, to providing project preparation facilities, investment guarantees and helping to de-risk projects. The bank's US$10 billion adjustment fund and other initiatives aim to support countries to trade under the AfCFTA, harmonising regulations, and reducing bottlenecks. By leveraging the AfCFTA, these initiatives will shift the mining sector, drive the creation of regional value chains, and facilitate seamless trade of mineral products across borders.

Africa has the potential to create millions of jobs, reduce reliance on volatile markets, and strengthen intra-Africa trade by creating an enabling environment for building sustainable economies based on its natural resource wealth. Attracting capital for mining-related infrastructure is critical, as is the transfer of technology and skills development, all while prioritising environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria to ensure that mining communities benefit and are not left behind.

Denys Denya
Senior Executive Vice President, Afreximbank



Discussion – African mining status update: Achievements made in 2024

Collaborative efforts have led to advancements in Africa's mining industry. One such topic is safety. Despite the challenging legacy of safety and health issues, there have been continued improvements across sectors. However, the industry is still striving to achieve zero fatalities. Emphasis is on driving safety on both technical and human levels, with significant strides made in addressing health issues such as TB, HIV, and other community health issues.

Investment attractiveness has been a key theme at various editions of the Ministerial Symposium. Downstream actors are becoming more actively involved in financing and constructing new mines, demonstrating a growing interest in the African mining sector. The symposium previously has provided insights that informed investor moves, highlighting the need to be forward-looking to capitalise on these opportunities. Similarly, organisations such as MIASA have played an important role, sharing best practices and experiences in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Investment in exploration discussions at previous symposiums have also resulted in progress in this area. There has been an increase in demand for minerals due to the global energy transition, although greenfields exploration remains focused on copper and gold. The importance of a stable regulatory environment, zero tolerance for corruption, and transparent geological databases remains.

There has also been progress with the advancement in infrastructure development and the fostering of downstream value addition. Regional integration, value chain development, and infrastructure are crucial for the mining sector's success. There is a need to incorporate various energy sources, to ensure competitive outcomes in terms of energy costs. The early progress made by Transnet in South Africa and the significant investments in renewable energy projects by mining companies (90 renewable projects at about 15GW, in various stages of development) were also noted.

However, progress made needs to be contextualised globally: i.e., competition with global value chains will require cost competitiveness, infrastructure reliability, and competitive electricity and rail infrastructure.

Speakers

- **Paul Dunne,** Acting President, Minerals Council South Africa
- **Louis Kruger,** Africa Energy, Resources & Industrials Industry Leader, Deloitte
- **Chilembo Sokwani,** President, Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA)
- **Moderated by Ian Sanders,** Global Mining & Metals Leader, Deloitte

Ministerial & CEO roundtables

Topic 1

The issuance of permits (and increased exploration)

Permitting efficiency and transparency is paramount to exploration spend and the growth of the mining industry. The ability to get a licence via a transparent process, and start exploration in a timely fashion, can be a key driver or prohibitor of exploration activity and future mining industry investment in Africa. In turn, slow and opaque permitting processes are materially impacting the ability to deploy capital in the region.

The primary **challenges** in reducing timelines for issuing permits include:

- ***Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:*** While legal and regulatory frameworks and provisions exist, the implementation of these may be a challenge. A strong legal framework is essential to protect investors.
- ***Manual and Human Factors:*** Many countries have not yet migrated to electronic cadastral systems, and human factors play a significant role, including a lack of the necessary skills, as well as a lack of standardisation and centralisation, overlapping concessions, lost files and simultaneous applications for the same licences.
- ***Speculators:*** Speculators who do not have the resources to explore and hold permits without developing projects, and possibly also renewing such permits, hinder serious companies from accessing them.
- ***Lack of Transparency and Data:*** Transparency and openness of data are critical areas that need improvement.

The identified **solutions** to address these challenges include:

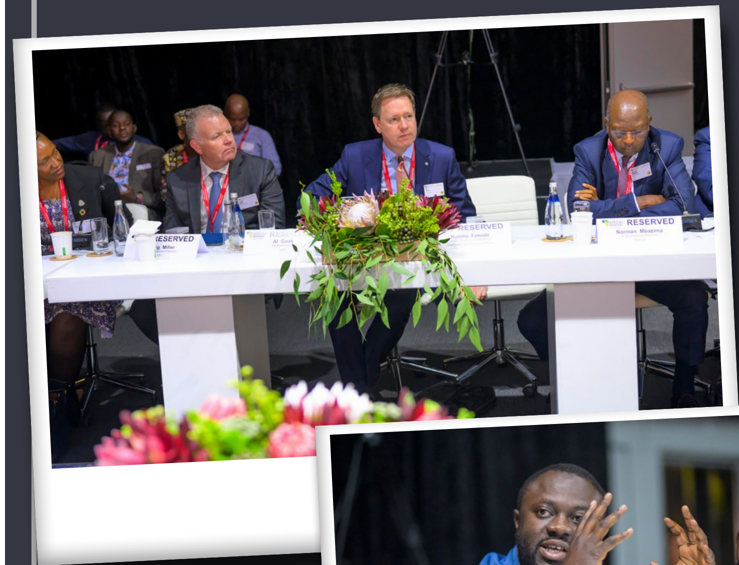
- ***Strong Legal Framework:*** Countries need to ensure that the legal framework is robust enough to protect investors and attract more investment, including juniors.
- ***Digital Cadastral Systems:*** Countries that have adopted digital cadastral systems are better able to address the challenge of transparency.
- ***Transparency and Data Availability:*** Making structured data available and transparent is crucial for attracting exploration spend and mining capital.
- ***Streamlined Processes:*** Streamlining permitting processes by having one government department (with key KPIs) handle multiple aspects, while building in elements across ESG through a holistic approach, significantly reduces time required to issue permits. Separating the licensing regimes for small-scale and large-scale mining companies could also be a solution.
- ***Permitting vs mining licences:*** Fast-tracking permits that boost exploration provides good insight into what lies in the ground. There should be a differentiation between exploration permits and mining licences, with the latter being fast-tracked with minimal requirements. Mining licences should have additional requirements accompanied by legislative certainty.

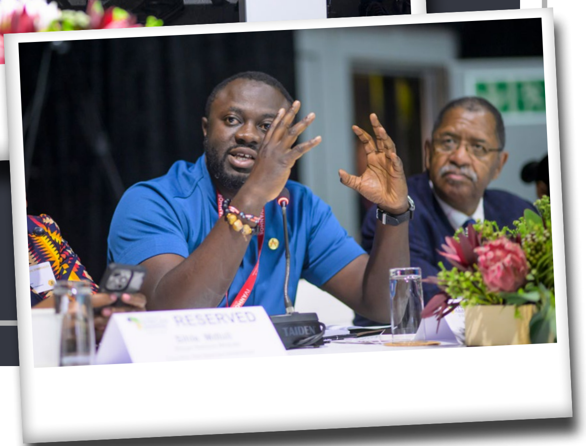
Some **best practices** that can be learned from include:

- ***Digital Cadastral Systems:*** Countries like Zambia and the DRC have successfully implemented digital cadastral systems, which have improved transparency and efficiency, with Zambia also having implemented a One-Stop-Shop. Botswana has also digitised the minerals and permitting process.
- ***Streamlined Government Processes:*** Australia and Canada have adopted practices where one government department handles multiple aspects of the permitting process, reducing permitting timelines significantly. Similarly, Ghana and Saudi Arabia have reduced timelines for issuance of permits using a coordinated agency approach. Saudi Arabia has focused on the turnaround of applications and clear legal framework. Lessons should also be drawn from the FAST41 programme in the United States (US).
- ***Data Transparency:*** Regions like Quebec (Canada), Finland, and Western Australia have made data available, which is crucial for attracting investment.

Topic 2
Resource stewardship

Successful resource stewardship requires that countries,and governments derive maximum value from their resources, while ensuring that local communities benefit from resource extraction in a fair way through job creation and infrastructure development. The ***Africa Green Mineral Strategy*** looks to harness the continent's mineral wealth to foster sustainable development, economic diversification and improve the livelihoods of people.





The greatest **challenges** in implementing effective resource management include:

- ***Policy Construction:*** Many policies are not properly constructed, leading to ineffective resource management.
- ***Ownership and skills:*** Effective resource management requires a strong legal framework and a clear understanding of what resources are being managed. This requires technical, financial and human resources skills.
- ***Transparency and Governance:*** Lack of transparency and governance can lead to mismanagement and exploitation of resources.

The identified **solutions** to address these challenges include:

- ***Local Transformation:*** Resources should be transformed within the country to add value before export, thereby enhancing stewardship of minerals. This could be supported by creating a national master plan or local content for value addition, bringing together various industry stakeholders on how mining activities may affect other areas including infrastructure, financing and the environment. It could also include a local development fund that supports communities.
- ***Strong Legal Framework:*** Establishing a strong legal framework helps to control and manage resources and rent allocation effectively, while emphasising more transparency and governance in resource management.
- ***Dialogue and Partnerships:*** Dialogue is required to meet expectations, achieve alignment between stakeholders and to build trust. Partnering with the private sector and sharing technology, as well as planning for the skills required for the future can improve resource management. So too effective stakeholder collaboration, such as engaging with community and governments to set, manage and balance expectations from the onset of a project and/or mining production.

Some best **practices** that can be learned from include:

- ***Best practice examples:*** Australia is a leader in land rehabilitation. Chile's copper utilisation fund focuses on countercyclical investing to maintain progress in human development indices. Indonesia has a trade and investment quota for share of minerals that needs to be processed locally, limiting raw material exports. Saudi Arabia has successfully integrated the entire phosphate value chain, from raw material to end product. Scandinavian companies show mining revenue without having mining activities, based on the sale of equipment and servicing mining companies.
- ***Airbus model:*** The model could serve as a template of how African countries could promote value addition in the mining sector. Built on industrial partnerships, collaboration and risk-sharing, it could bring together various countries in the mining value chain addition on the continent, depending on which country has the best conditions for a particular element in the supply chain (e.g. refining, processing, chemical input production).
- ***Consistency in Policy:*** Countries like Chile, Peru, Botswana, and Namibia have shown multi-decade policy consistency, leading to steady progress in human development indicators (HDI) and GDP per capita.

Ministerial & CEO roundtables

Topic 3

Downstream value addition

Adding value to minerals locally can create jobs, enhance technological capabilities, and stimulate economic growth. Encouraging local beneficiation and manufacturing can lead to the development of robust supply chains, fostering industrialisation and sustainable development across the continent.

The greatest **challenges** in enabling downstream value addition and local manufacturing opportunities include:

- ***Energy:*** The biggest challenge highlighted is the need for energy to support resource transformation processes, and the availability of reliable and affordable electricity.
- ***Infrastructure and Local Capacity:*** There is a lack of infrastructure and local capacity, which hinders the ability to add value locally while making countries unable to compete globally.
- ***Collaboration & Complementarity:*** There is insufficient collaboration among resource producers to establish corridors for value addition and the creation of value chains. Frameworks for collaboration are required, which need to be designed in the context of understanding global value chains, local competitiveness and how countries may complement each other to build competition downstream and leverage strengths.
- ***Skills Gap:*** The local labour force may be unable to contribute due to existing skills gaps and a lack of the understanding of the life cycle of a mine and value chain of a mineral or end product. The right expertise in certain processes (e.g. furnace), are often lacking.

The identified **solutions** to address these challenges include:

- ***Policy environment:*** Constructive policies to attract investment in the energy sector and develop production infrastructure, while also attracting the right investors to transform the minerals. For example, mining companies are experts in mining but might not be in downstream value addition.
- ***Regional Cooperation:*** Working together with neighbouring countries to unlock and develop projects collaboratively. The AfCFTA aims to break down barriers and promote regional cooperation, making it cheaper to move minerals within Africa while leveraging synergies between countries to add value.
- ***Creating Local Demand:*** By leveraging the AfCFTA and integration with regional markets to build scale, this could also include creating local demand for products and services.
- ***Developing Local Expertise:*** Develop local expertise and relevant talent at tertiary level institutions.
- ***Financial Institutions' Role:*** Financial institutions can stimulate growth by providing various initiatives and facilities to unlock value addition in countries, including innovative financial instruments to help de-risk investments and reduce negative perceptions.

Some best **practices** that can be learned from include:

- ***Partnerships and Cooperation:*** Good partnerships and cooperation, especially for landlocked countries, to create networks and strategic commercial relationships. This includes establishing cross-border economic zones to attract investment and create regional value chains.
- ***Initiatives of Financial Institutions:*** Some of the initiatives include facilities such as the African Commodity Finance Facility as well as project preparation funds including early-stage project preparation facilities to enhance project development, as well as the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund. These funds can assist to facilitate cross-border trade.

Ministerial & CEO roundtables

The ministerial and CEO roundtables were moderated by co-chairs and supported by co-facilitators for each of the topics in separate breakout rooms. A panel of speakers from each breakout room provided feedback on the topics of the roundtable discussions.

Speakers

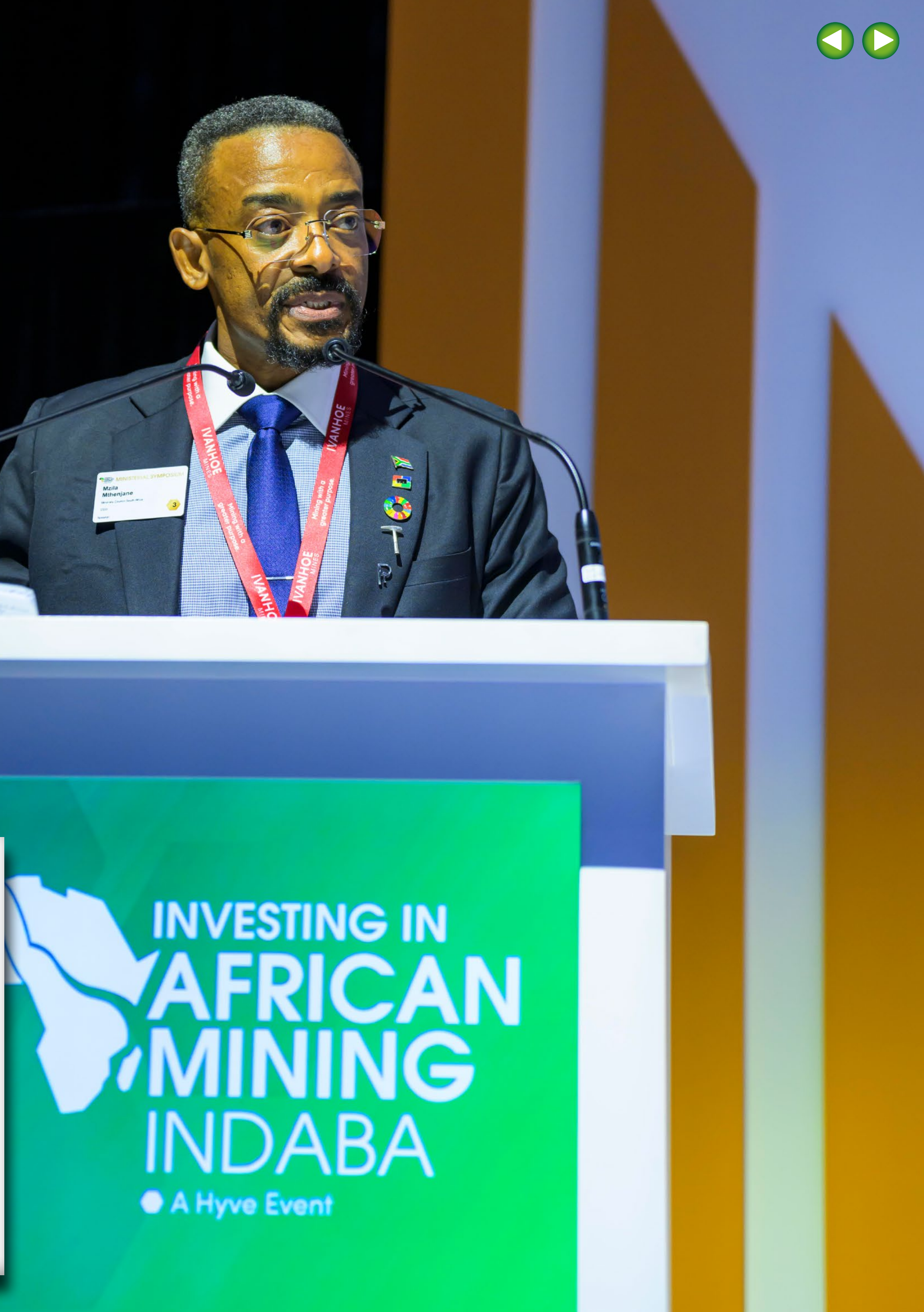
- **Fatai Folarin,** CEO, Deloitte West Africa
- **Anne Muraya,** CEO, Deloitte East Africa
- **Olebogang Ramatlhodi,** Tax Director, Deloitte
- **Yaw Lartey,** West Africa ER&I Leader, Deloitte Africa
- **Moderated by Louis Kruger**, Africa Energy, Resources & Industrials Industry Leader, Deloitte

Closing remarks

Africa will continue to export raw commodities in the near term. However, focus needs to be on how to capture more of the value, and increase the ratio of processed and value-added materials to raw commodities. Focus also needs to be placed on how the rents from commodity exports, intermediate and final goods is channelled to the right stakeholders, initiatives, infrastructure, and socio-economic programmes. Rents need to be well utilised.

Driving increased value addition will require a combination of focused policy, a strong legal environment, competitive electricity, and greater mining and beneficiation capacity. It requires the development of human capital and investment in skills to transform minerals, and skills that will help uplift the next generation.

Africa needs to be unified and bold relating to where it intends to be, including infrastructure financing, regional policy harmonisation, regional value addition and development of value chains that marry the continent's comparative advantage in energy, infrastructure and people, and ultimately its long-term success. This not only needs a focus on how value is added to resources, but how mineral rents are allocated and how this will ensure that Africa's people are better off.



Mzila Mthenjane,
CEO, Minerals Council South Africa

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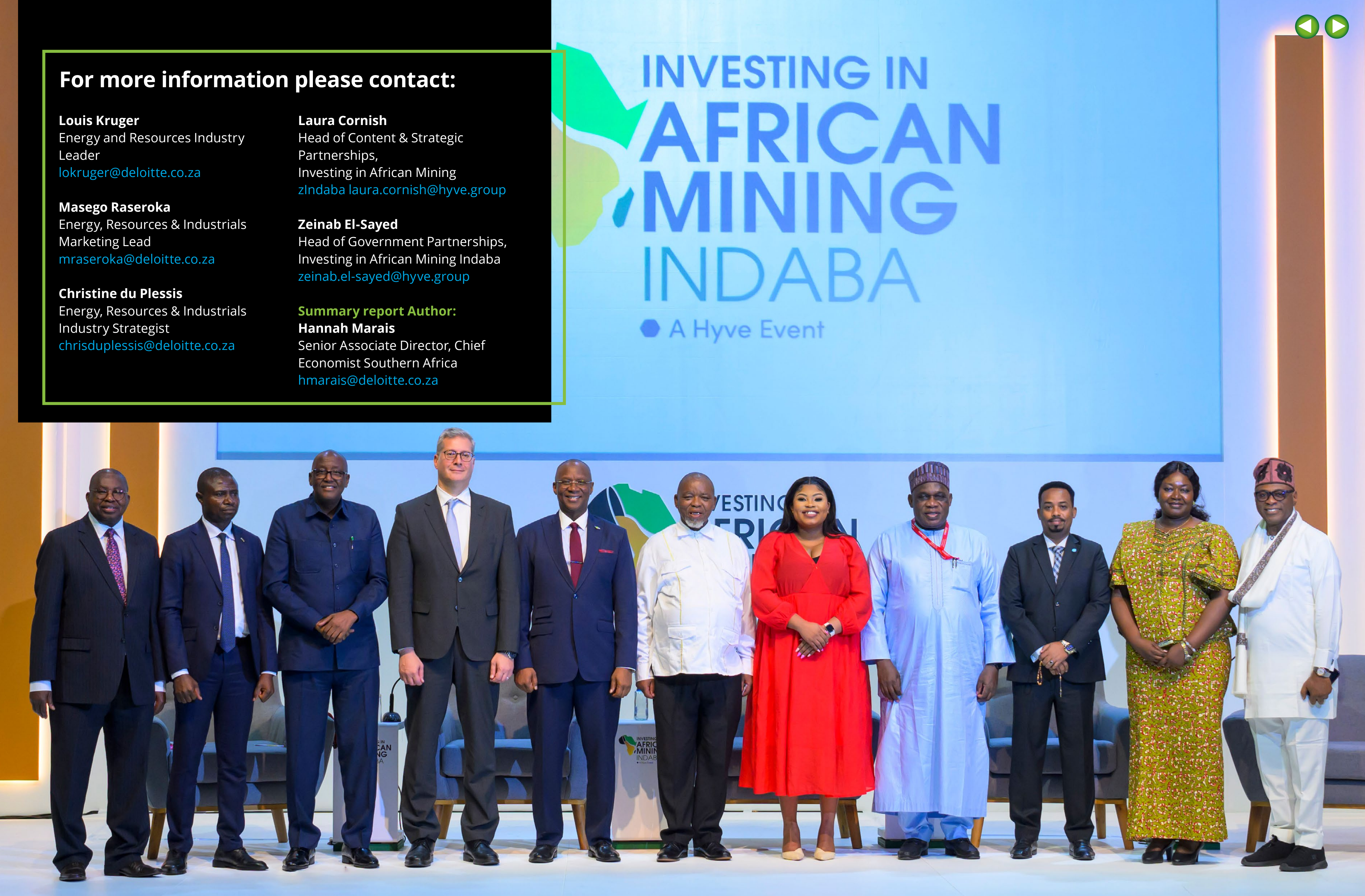

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