Mintek educates miners on legal aspects of small scale mining

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Mintek’s Small-Scale Mining and Beneficiation (SSMB) division continues to work with small scale miners, around South Africa, with the intention to incubate and educate miners with regards to legal and technical aspects of small scale mining.

According to Dr Anna Mampe Soares, Head of Technology Development and Training at SSMB, small-scale mining is one way of enriching and empowering disadvantaged groups in South Africa, especially when considering its comparatively low investment costs to set up and short lead of time from discovery to extraction.

“Small scale mining produces minerals from deposits which are not economic viable to large mining companies, thus making it easy for rural communities to tap into small scale deposits around the vicinities of big operations,” she said.

“With that being said, it remains legally binding for small scale operations to formalise their operations as well as to have requisite mining skills and technology to sustainable mine and rehabilitate after mining.”

Unfortunately, the majority of the people venturing into small scale mining do not have the skill and experience like their big operators’ counterparts to optimally mine even those small reserves. As a result, Mintek’s initiatives concerning skills development for small scale mining have been recognised by the Department of Mineral Resources and are largely financially supported by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA).

Mampe Soares added that the MQA recently awarded a tender to Mintek to train 125 people in the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

“These participants will be trained on the legal aspects, extraction methods and technologies for small scale mining,” she said. “While some of the participants are already mining, most will be assisted to set up their own businesses and obtain mining permits.”

“We hope that this initiative goes a long way in ensuring that South Africa achieves its objectives of creating economic opportunities for all, through small business development and job creation as explained on the National Development Plan.”

ENDS.

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