

# MINING INDUSTRY STRATEGY FOR FUTURE IN PLACE

**INDUSTRY LEADERS COME TOGETHER TO PREPARE THE MINING INDUSTRY FOR POSITIVE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**



Leon Grobler

UASA's Acting CEO, Leon Grobler, addressed the Mining Summit held in Kwa-Zulu Natal at the end of March 2010. The outcome was

positive, as the various interest groups agreed on a wide range of issues aimed at promoting sustainable growth and meaningful transformation in this industry.

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In November 2009, the Minister announced that the South African Government had completed its review of the Mining Charter. She mentioned that the industry

had missed targets established in the 2004 legislation, which were meant to make amends for the past. However, much of the industry's time and efforts had recently gone into managing retrenchments over the crises period – up to 48 000!

Following the global recession, the industry leadership announced at the beginning of 2010 that the Mining Industry Growth, Development and Employment Task Team (MIGDETT) – representing all the industry's stakeholders – would embark on a process to ensure that the

Five months later, there is reason for optimism and UASA is proud to be associated with the stakeholder representatives involved in the process of delivering a viable strategy to move the industry forward. The very able guidance and wisdom of the MIGDETT leadership navigated the process through some sensitive issues in a very constructive manner to ensure the mistakes of the past do not repeat themselves.

The Mining Summit was the culmination of two months of intensive engagement during which stakehold-

It is now their joint responsibility (Government, Labour, employers) to implement the agreed-upon strategy in a way that will achieve the desired transformation results while being mindful of the economic growth of the industry, so it may reflect positively in the GDP of South Africa. In other words, do the right thing but don't kill the money in the process.

They are furthermore tasked with ensuring that sustainable job opportunities are created, as well as decent work and social conditions. The knowledge and under-

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industry is well-placed to take advantage of the inevitable economic upswing.

Leading up to the summit, it was with much trepidation that UASA participated in the initial consultation process with MIGDETT, as past attempts at collaboration had been less than successful. UASA's mission was to influence the process so that a healthy balance could be struck between transformation on the one hand and the economic viability sustainability and future growth of the industry on the other. To be the voice of reason, as it were.

ers worked around the clock to identify issues affecting the sector's global competitiveness as well as transformation of the industry, recognising that these two aspects are inseparable and mutually reinforcing.

Government, trade unions and employers eventually emerged with "a strategy for the sustainable growth and meaningful transformation of the South African Mining Industry for the future." Which is all good and well. The question, however, is: will there be as much doing as there has been talking and strategising...?

standing gained by the Task Team members in this process of delivering a strategy will no doubt come in handy.

In conclusion, Grobler said: "This is a good example of collaboration between social partners and even the shareholders of mining companies have cast their vote of confidence in favour of this summit. This is sufficient proof [for us] that investors are confident that ordinary South Africans can apply their minds to develop strategies that are economically viable and sustainable, yet balanced by much-needed transformation requirements."