

Is sustainable development the sector's biggest knowledge gap?

Did you know that 93% of mining company CEOs think that sustainability is important for their organisation's development, but are unsure of how to embed this idea into their organisation.

In actual fact, sustainability is becoming more of a prominent topic across all industries not just mining, as they work to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, along with those set out in the Paris Accord. These goals are not designed solely to benefit the environment, but also to tackle poverty and inequality.

Defining a common strategy for sustainable development is vital for Africa's mining industry, but as that statistic shows, there is still a long way to go. As rising commodity prices helps stabilise the sector, now is the perfect time to engage with all the key stakeholders to explore and address the challenges

that have been preventing the successful implementation of a long term vision.

- What should that vision look like?
- What are the next steps to ensure its successful implementation?
- How should the current deficit of trust between mining house, communities and governments be addressed?

South Africa's Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) has encourage the mining industry to "adopt a shared value strategy by building a competitive advantage and playing a part in resolving mine community challenges, identifying and prioritizing opportunities aimed at delivering a positive social impact at scale while creating economic value."

They have promoted the idea of a Social License to Operate (SLO) which they define as "a metaphor that has been

developed to capture the principles, ideals and activities companies need to adhere to, to gain acceptance and support from society."

They explain that to maintain a SLO the mining company is expected to engage with its immediate community and devise a plan on how it will meet the community's expectations. Once a community's expectations plan has been devised and agreed upon, the mining company is expected to live up to its commitment and the expectations of the community. The community then grants the mining company a right to conduct its operations. The right or trust bestowed to the mining company by the community is the SLO. The community withdraws the right when it perceives the mining company no longer meets the community's expectations.

Mining Indaba's intergovernmental summit will address the sustainability issue by aiming to increase collaboration and discussion between African and international governments. This year 18 African mining ministers will be in attendance from countries including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Sudan and Mali, among others, alongside a total delegation of 30 African ministers expected at the event.

They will be gathering to discuss how they can help build a successful future for African mining by aiming to enhance transparency, learn from successful case studies, partner with western governments to invest in new projects and use the mining industry as a tool for social and economic transformation across the continent.

AFRICA MINING VISION

MAKING AFRICAN MINERALS WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPARENT
EQUITABLE
OPTIMAL
TRANSFORMATIVE



Enabling mineral resources play a greater transformative role in the development of the continent

