**Mine Closure- A Liability or an Opportunity-A South African Perspective**

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# **Abstract**

Mine closure is often regarded as a liability by regulators and mining companies, mainly due to a lack of incentives for mine closure and no post-operational revenue generation besides being responsible for prolonged latent impacts. In most instances, physical rehabilitation is prioritized, focusing on restoring the land close to its original state. Moreover, Social and labor plan (SLP) projects are often not aligned with the local government initiatives resulting in duplication of projects. Furthermore, financial provisions put aside for land rehabilitation do not talk to these programs. As a result, there is little coordination between different initiatives causing a depleted impact on mining communities.

Recently, the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR-formerly Department of Mineral Resources and Energy) with the help of the Council for Geoscience (CGS) developed a draft National Mine Closure Strategy (NMCS). Challenges outlined above, especially, issues around interconnected mines, concurrent economic diversification to promote post-mining economies, increased local stakeholder involvement, coordination of different funding streams to boost impact on local communities, etc. have been thoroughly discussed paving the way to change the landscape of mine closure for the better in South Africa and provide opportunities to sustain the economy.

Keywords:Mine closure, Financial provision, Rehabilitation, Post-mining economy.