



Water for Growth and Development – Perspectives from the Mining Sector

**Nikisi Lesufi
Chamber of Mines
26 March 2009
MIDRAND**



Overview of Presentation

- **Mining: An essential component of RSA's developmental needs**
- **Comments on the WfGD Framework *ver 7***
- **Challenges Identified by the Sector**
- **Recommendations**
- **Concluding remarks**



The Chamber of Mines

- **Voluntary private sector organisation – an employer organisation (LRA)**
- **Represent 90% of the mining sector by value**
- **Transformation of the mining sector**
- **The collective voice of the mining sector – an essential partner for Government and Civil Society**
- **Leadership of the Chamber**



Mining : An essential component of RSA's developmental needs

- **Important player in RSA's economic development**
- **Major earner of foreign exchange, but price taker**
- **Major supplier of raw materials to RSA's strategic industries – siting and location determined by ore-body**
- **Historical lapses in environmental and social stewardship**
- **Critical impacts on water resources - AMD**



Comments on the WfGD Framework

- **General Comments:**
 - Enthusiastic mining sector support for the initiative;
 - Aesthetics – spelling errors, lack of consistency of style and repetitions;
 - Recognise limitation of space, but doc must still provide sufficient information to develop sustainable options
- **Specific Comments**
 - Mining not homogeneous – complexity under-explored;
 - Acid mine drainage – too much emphasis on one case study (Witwatersrand basin - but highly relevant case study);
 - Highly irregular to recommend an unsustainable option – sustainable and innovative options must still be explored
 - Recognise and prioritise the implementation of the BPG's in preventing future negative impacts

Challenges identified by the sector

- Abandoned mines & inter-mine flows
- Framework for partnerships
- Identification of win-win approaches
- Capacity constraints

Recommendations

- **Enhance and Regularise Strategic DWAF/Mining Sector liaison**
- **Enhance regulatory capacity to eliminate non-compliance**
- **Develop flexible regulatory mechanisms to enhance regional water treatment approaches**
- **Prioritise the implementation of the BPG's to prevention of future impacts and liabilities**

Final Thought

