

FACTSHEET: MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT BILL 2025 (MRDB)

The South African government is reforming mining laws to boost the country's economy and create new opportunities. The [Mineral Resources Development Amendment Bill](#) ("MRDB/Bill") will mainly impact rural and mining-affected communities in South Africa. The public commenting period on the Bill is open.



What is the MRD Bill about?

The MRDB introduces many changes to South Africa's mining laws. Once the MRDB becomes law, it will amend the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2002 (**MPRDA**). Petroleum resources will now fall under the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2024 (**UPRDA**). The Bill aims to introduce artisanal and small-scale mining permits, change the definition of community and meaningful consultation, introduces the definition of interested and affected parties, and give effect to Section 24 of the Constitution (the right to a healthy environment). The Bill aims to speed up mining projects and ensure that more minerals are processed in South Africa instead of being sold raw to other countries. The government also promises that it will unlock our South Africa's mineral wealth, like the minerals needed for clean energy.

Why this matters

Rural and mining-affected communities will be impacted by this Bill in many ways, such as:



The Environment: the quality and availability of water, healthy soil and clean air in mining communities may be affected by mining activities;



People's Livelihoods: new mining projects in rural areas may impact job opportunities and local economies, positively and negatively;



Land Rights: many communities still do not have secure rights to the land where they stay, and new mining projects can impact their land rights;



Free, Prior and Informed Consent: The Bill requires meaningful consultation only, but communities should be given an opportunity to give free, prior and informed consent to mining projects that will affect them.

You have chance to comment on this Bill.

COMMENT AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Submit comments by **Wednesday, 13 August 2025**.

How?



Email: Attention for Ms Stella Mamogale, representations@dmre.gov.za



Post: The Director-General, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

Private Bag X59, Arcadia, 0007

OR

70 Mentjies Street, Sunnyside, 0001

What should you include?



Your name, community and contact details.



Be specific about your concerns. For example, "Section 10 reduces consultation time".



Include your stories about how mining affects your life.



Your right to consent or deny consent to any proposed mining activities that might impact your land rights.

Note: Comments after the deadline may be ignored. If you need help you can contact:

- Natural Justice 021-4261633;
email: info@naturaljustice.org
- Mining Affected Communities Unite in Action 010 007 2137;
email: info@macua.org.za
- GroundWork 033 342 5662; email: bathoko@groundwork.org.za
- Centre for Environmental Rights 021 447 1647;
email: info@cer.org.za