

SHARED BENEFITS IN THE AFRICAN MINING VISION

The African Mining Vision envisages a future where the continent's natural resources are used productively and sustainably to its benefit and that of its people. This is an excerpt from **Fatima Haram Acyl**'s speech to leaders of Africa's private-sector mining industry at the 2015 Mining Indaba in Cape Town on 9 February.

The African Union (AU) heads of state and government adopted the African Mining Vision (AMV) in 2009 to make the mining sector more responsive to African economic and social development needs. In 2013, the African Minerals Development Centre was established to provide strategic operational and co-ordination support to AU member states. The AMV envisages a future where the continent's natural resources are used productively and sustainably to its benefit and that of its people. It covers the need for downstream linkages into mineral beneficiation and manufacturing; upstream linkages into mining capital goods, consumables and services; linkages into infrastructure and skills and technology development; mutually beneficial partnerships between the state, the private sector, civil society, local communities and other stakeholders; and a comprehensive knowledge of its mineral endowment as well as improved governance.

Working together to implement the AMV is good business. Its implementation will produce concrete benefits for the private sector, including longer-term predictability and stability in an enabling socio-political and regulatory environment. Cost savings and competitiveness would result from workforce planning and local skills development, which helps businesses reduce the need for hiring from abroad. Similarly, the development of local linkages and supply chains will facilitate local production, thus improving business competitiveness and cost structures.

These are just a few examples that



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illustrate the business imperative for the private sector to actively engage in a compact on implementing the AMV.

I'm sure you will agree that this engagement is neither about charity nor handouts. It responds to a clear need for the private sector to adapt to changing times as African governments assert their

resolve for our people to obtain a more equitable share of our mineral wealth. It is no longer a question of "if" or "when", but of how to best proceed in a manner that is mutually beneficial to us all. **NA**

The author is the commissioner for trade and industry in the African Union Commission.