

New beneficiation body to be launched on Oct 7

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Published: 28th September 2010



JOHANNESBURG (miningweekly.com) – A new mineral value-adding organisation is to be launched on October 7 to take advantage of the government's new stance on the beneficiation of metals and minerals in South Africa.

This follows the announcement of Mineral Resource Minister **Susan Shabangu** that beneficiation can count as an offset for up to 11% of the Mining Charter's obligatory 26% black ownership by 2014 and also the pro-value-add joint declaration of the South African mining industry.

The fifth commitment of the mining industry's June 30 joint declaration recognises the importance of translating South Africa's comparative advantage in mineral resources endowment into a competitive advantage to spur further industrialisation and value addition to the country's minerals before they are exported.

That which resulted in the parties committing to supporting local beneficiation in order to unlock the intrinsic value of South Africa's minerals.

The new Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Industries Association (MPBIASA) is to be headed by president **Phones Mohlala**, who told the media in Johannesburg on Tuesday that the strategy of the association would be to obtain mineral and metal offtake for value-addition from new mining projects.

"The 21st century has come to be generally regarded as Africa's century in relation to the desired response to tackle the identifiable and raft of exigencies associated with the continent's socio-economic development needs including taking visionary and bold initiatives to, for example, utilise its known mineral resources to advance the goal of Africa's industrialization," MPBIASA said in a media release.