



PRESS RELEASE

Coaltech Hosts Mine Closure Seminar to Shape a Sustainable Future for the Coal Sector

Johannesburg, 8 April 2025 — On Friday, 4 April 2025, Coaltech hosted the Mine Closure Seminar in Midrand, bringing together industry leaders, regulators, environmental experts, and community stakeholders to collaborate on the development of a comprehensive mine closure framework and explore sustainable rehabilitation strategies. This high-level engagement forms part of a broader effort to ensure that mine closure in the coal sector is managed responsibly, equitably, and with long-term sustainability at its core.

The seminar provided a platform for open and solution-driven dialogue, addressing the complex environmental, regulatory, and socio-economic challenges associated with mine closure. Discussions focused on building a practical framework that meets compliance requirements while also unlocking opportunities for post-mining land use, economic diversification, and community well-being.

Speaking at the event, Avhurengwi Nengovhela, CEO of Coaltech, said: “This seminar represents a turning point for the coal mining industry. Responsible mine closure is not just about compliance—it’s about creating lasting value for communities, the environment, and the broader economy. Through this initiative, we are laying the groundwork for a future where mine closure becomes a catalyst for sustainable development and meaningful socio-economic transition.”

Participants worked collaboratively to define the essential pillars of an effective mine closure strategy, identified key challenges in current practices—particularly in areas of funding, planning, and stakeholder alignment—and agreed on practical next steps to finalise and implement the framework. The importance of early planning, financial readiness, and integrated socio-economic development emerged as key themes throughout the sessions.

Marthinus W. van Wyk, Chairperson of Coaltech’s Surface Environment Steering Committee, added: “As we embark on this journey, it is crucial to understand the broader strategic context. The coal sector is undergoing significant transformations driven by environmental, social, and governance (ESG) imperatives, both locally and internationally. The transition to a low-carbon economy necessitates that we not only focus on operational efficiencies but also on the long-term impacts of our activities for the industry to remain competitive, sustainable, and safe.”

The outcomes of the seminar will feed into the finalisation of the Mine Closure and Post-Mining Transition Framework, which will serve as a practical guide for the coal industry—supporting responsible closure processes, enabling post-mining economic resilience, and ensuring that communities are supported well beyond the life of mine.

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About Coaltech Research Association

Coaltech Research Association is a voluntary collaborative non-profit organisation that addresses the research needs of South Africa's coal industry. Established with the primary goal of developing technologies and applying research findings, Coaltech aims to make the South African coal industry competitive, sustainable, and safe. The organisation brings together mining groups, researchers, academics, and government stakeholders to foster collaboration and innovation in the coal sector.