

## **The Mineral-Based Research Model for South Africa**

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South Africa is blessed with mineral endowment, producing approximately 53 different minerals from nine provinces. It is estimated that the value of South African in-situ mineral resources is worth US\$2.5 trillion, making the mining industry one of the important sectors in the economy for growth going forward. In retrospect the mining industry has been the cornerstone of South Africa's economy for more than 150 years because of its connectedness despite direct contribution of less than 10% to the GDP in the last five years. The connectedness of mining in the economy places it in an ideal position to contribute towards the effort of reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality in South Africa. To achieve this ideal, the author proposes the use of Resource-based Research and Enterprise Development Model or the Linkage Model as a plausible solution. The Linkage Model is based on the economic linkage theory and it comprises of six pillars, namely government support, research funding, functional research institutions, continuous research skill supply, resource-based research output and commercialisation of research findings. The ultimate goal of the Linkage Model is to create quality employment opportunities within the mineral sector and other industries due to mining multipliers.