

Structuring Regulator Training: The Case for a Qualification in Governance and Regulation of Safety, Health, Environment and Stakeholder Engagement (SHEC) in Mining and Industry for Africa

May Hermanus

Africa is richly endowed with mineral resources however this has not benefited the majority of people or the environment. Translating mineral wealth into the engine for sustainable development is key. Underpinning this is the need for quality minerals sector governance, and in particular we believe, enhanced capacity of regulators.

Regulators and people with governance responsibilities play a fundamental role in proactively managing the complex terrain of sustainable development in mining and industry. The context demands that regulators no longer rely solely on tick box checklists and play a more multifaceted role involving enforcement and compliance, the development of policy and legislation, monitoring, research, reporting, advocacy and communication.

This paper presents commentary on the key issues in structuring regulator training in the African context, based on the history of mining in Africa. It comes on the back of an exercise by the Centre for Sustainability in Mining and Industry (CSMI) which is located in School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, to strengthen its current offering of regulator training. The centre offers courses on occupational safety and risk management, occupational health, the bio-physical environment, community and stakeholder engagement. The analysis is based on CSMI's experience in delivering training to the mining regulator in South Africa, targeted stakeholder consultation and literature review.