



**SAIMM**  
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE  
OF MINING AND METALLURGY  
WESTERN CAPE BRANCH



The SAIMM Western Cape Branch have rescheduled the South African Academy of Engineering’s Open Lecture on “Challenges Facing the South African Mining Industry” to be presented by Prof Cyril O’Connor.

It has been estimated that South Africa has the largest mineral reserves in the world with a value of between US\$2.5 and \$4.7 trillion. The country’s mineral deposits are dominated by platinum-group metals (88% of global reserves), manganese (80%), chrome (72%), vanadium (32%) and gold (30%).

On the other hand the mining industry in South Africa faces significant challenges and pressures:

- To reduce the utilisation of key resources such as energy and water,
- To manage health and safety risks,
- To improve productivity through a greater degree of automation,
- To reduce the environmental impacts of the operations and of waste production,
- To ensure that the industry earns licenses to operate from indigenous communities and
- To ensure safe and secure mine closure processes.

These challenges must be addressed in the context of diminishing ore grades and in recent years, in particular, depressed commodity prices. Yet it is common cause that modern economies, especially those in the developing world, are greatly dependent on mining. Hence it is critical for South Africa to develop a strong and sustainable mining industry that contributes meaningfully to the economic growth of the country and to the enhancement of the quality of life of all its citizens.

This lecture is open to the public, and will be followed by light refreshments (courtesy of the South African Academy of Engineering - SAAE)

Date: 1 December 2016

Time: 17h00

Venue: Palmyra Room at Kelvin Grove Club, 144 Campground Road, Newlands

<http://kelvingrove.co.za/contact/>

**Please RSVP for catering purposes to Ms Heleen Duffey by 25 November 2016:  
office@saae.co.za**