



**SAIMM**  
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE  
OF MINING AND METALLURGY

# CRITICAL MINERALS 2026

FROM POTENTIAL TO PROSPERITY –  
BUILDING AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE CHAINS  
THROUGH COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE

**30–31 JULY 2026**

**VENUE: SOUTHERN SUN ROSEBANK, JOHANNESBURG**

**ECSA AND SACNASP VALIDATED CPD ACTIVITY CREDITS = 0.1 PER HOUR ATTENDED**

## BACKGROUND

The global shift to a low-carbon economy has created unprecedented demand for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, rare earths, manganese, and graphite. Southern Africa holds vast reserves, positioning the region as a strategic player in the green economy. Yet, challenges in policy alignment, infrastructure, beneficiation, and governance risk limiting value creation.

**The SAIMM Conference** will convene governments, industry leaders, financiers, researchers, and civil society to chart pathways from extraction to value addition, ensuring Africa captures prosperity across the full critical minerals value chain.

## OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen regional collaboration on policy, governance, and infrastructure.
- Showcase innovation and beneficiation strategies for local value creation.
- Explore infrastructure and corridor models enabling industrialisation.
- Promote ESG and inclusive development aligned with the energy transition.
- Bridge the gap between policy, investment, and implementation.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- Governments & Regional Bodies: Ministers, regulators, SADC, AU, AMDC.
- Industry & Private Sector: Mining houses, technology suppliers, financiers, logistics operators.
- Development Partners & DFIs: World Bank, AfDB, IFC, bilateral institutions.
- Research & Academia: Universities, CSIR, innovation hubs.
- Civil Society & NGOs: ESG specialists, community advocates.
- Investors & Trade Partners: OEMs, supply chain participants.
- Legal, Regulatory & Compliance Advisors
- Infrastructure, Energy & Logistics Providers
- Processing, Refining & Manufacturing Players
- Standards Bodies & Certification Agencies

## CONFERENCE STREAMS

- Governance, Policy & Regional Collaboration – Aligning frameworks, strengthening institutions, enabling cooperation.
- Infrastructure & Strategic Corridors – Unlocking logistics, energy, and industrial ecosystems.
- Innovation, Beneficiation & Value Addition – Advancing R&D, technology, and downstream industries.
- ESG, Energy Transition & Inclusive Development – Ensuring sustainability, resilience, and equitable growth.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Clear policy recommendations and regional collaboration frameworks.
- Models for infrastructure financing and corridor integration.
- Roadmap for innovation ecosystems and beneficiation capacity.
- Practical pathways for ESG and just transition.
- SAIMM Position Paper on Critical Minerals consolidating key findings.

## FORMAT

- Hybrid: In-person + live streaming
- Duration: 2 days
- Side Events: Ministerial Roundtable, CEO Dialogue, Innovation Showcase

## CONTACT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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## 2026

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## CALL FOR PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Prospective authors may choose to submit papers or presentations only. In person presentations will be preferred, although virtual presentations may be streamed live or pre-recorded.

Prospective authors are invited to submit titles and abstracts of their papers and/or presentations in English on the abstract portal.

Authors must note whether they wish to submit a peer reviewed paper or a standalone presentation. Authors must note whether they plan to attend in person or whether they would deliver a live-streamed or recorded virtual presentation.

**Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted via the abstract portal.**

***The complete Proceedings volume will be made available electronically.***

### KEY DATES

Abstract Submission: **27 April 2026**

Paper Submission: **1 June 2026**

### SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT



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