

MINING AND BENEFICIATION OVERVIEW



The Somkhele coal mine on the border of the Hlulhuwe-iMfolozi game reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. (Photo: GroundUp / Roy Symons)

Taken from daily maverick: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-26-coal-mines-bid-for-kzn-land-puts-compensation-criteria-to-test/>

Mining and mineral beneficiation contributes some 6,5% of South Africa's GDP and is the country's single largest private employer (500 000 people), with small-scale mining operations also making a significant contribution to employment creation. Despite the hard times, mining still employs nearly 5% of South Africa's employed workforce, makes a significant direct contribution to GDP, sits on extensive reserves, and remains a world leader in the production of many minerals.

Mineral beneficiation has become a major driver in advancing the empowerment of historically disadvantaged communities in this country. It also presents opportunities for the development of new entrepreneurs in both large and small mining industries.

KwaZulu-Natal is endowed with a host of minerals and metals including lime, slate, titanium, granite, and sand and stone quarries for construction materials. There are also production facilities for ferro-silicon, ferro-manganese, aluminium, titanium, zircon and rutile. The province's coalfields produce largely metallurgical anthracite coal, as well as semi-coking coal products used as a replacement for hard-coking coal, for the steel mills found in KwaZulu-Natal.

The province also boasts mineral and sand mining operations along the north coast, as well as quarrying (limestone, stone and aggregate) activities across the province, inclusive of, especially, the South Coast.

The province is home to one of the leading coal export terminals in the world the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (Proprietary) Limited (RBCT). Positioned at one of the world's deep seaports, RBCT is able to handle large ships and subsequent large volumes.



Taken from mining weekly : https://www.miningweekly.com/article/rbct-coal-exports-decline-2019-01-24/rep_id:3650

In 2019, Rio Tinto and RBM invested \$463 million through the construction of the Zulti South project. The investment will sustain RBM's current capacity and extend the life of the mine. RBM currently operates four mines in the Zulti North lease area, a mineral separation plant and smelting facility. The Zulti South mine will underpin RBM's supply of zircon and ilmenite over the life of mine.
