

Regulation of Mining Activities in South Africa: Prospects, Challenges and Pitfalls

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ABSTRACT Mining activities have pros and cons. While they contribute immensely to the wealth of a nation and can be relied upon for economic growth and development, they also create environmental challenges which might lead to potential pitfalls. Therefore, there is need to strike a balance on how to prospect for minerals and ensuring that the environment is protected from being destroyed. Regulatory interventions are the most potent means that can be used to achieve this. In South Africa, mineral resources are being controlled by the government; those who have the responsibility to ensure sustainable mining and clean environment need to stand up to the challenges posed by dangerous mining activities by using the control mechanisms in various regulations to sanitise the industry by making sure that the environment, land and the people where mining activities are taking place are well protected from land degradation, pollution and so on. This paper looks at the impact of regulatory frameworks and interventions in the sector for a sustainable environment and equal benefit of mining to all, especially, the historically disadvantaged people.