



DMR 5

MINISTRY  
MINERAL RESOURCES  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**The Director**  
**Center for Environmental Rights**  
8A Sussex Road  
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7925

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002: SUBMISSION BY 13 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF PROSPECTING, RECONNAISSANCE, EXPLORATION AND MINING.**

Receipt of your correspondence dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 reference the abovementioned matter is acknowledged herewith.


It is humbling to note the interest as demonstrated by the Centre for Environmental Rights as well as thirteen non-governmental organizations, and Civil Society on the review process of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA).

Your correspondence is appreciated by the DMR as it reflects the call to enhance the spirit of working together between civil society, private and public sector, which can only yield good results so dearly missed for the advancement of the minerals and mining sector in South Africa.

By way of a caveat, although the review process of the MPRDA is at an advanced stage, such a process is by no means an end in itself as there is a parliamentary process which allows for stakeholder consultations as well as public participation. In other words, the parliamentary process will in the main involve noting of a draft review by Cabinet, and subsequently allow the Department to solicit public comments through broad consultative public engagements with stakeholders and communities (including civil society organizations).

Forthwith, as much as it is welcomed to have inputs into this review process – your contribution is not necessarily refuted. Instead, a more suitable occasion for your consideration will be afforded during the Parliamentary due processes. As the DMR your comments raised in your correspondence have been magnanimously viewed within the context of building an environmentally friendly mining industry in South Africa. We look forward to a continued interaction.

Kind Regards,

  
**MS S SHABANGU, MP**  
**MINISTER**  
**DATE: 15/04/2011**