

MEDIA RELEASE



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MINISTERIAL MINING STUDY TOUR ‘DOWN UNDER’

A mining study tour to Queensland, Australia led by Hon Jeffrey Radebe, Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation draws to a close today after a productive week of discussions and site visits.

The 26-member South African delegation also included the Hon Mildred Oliphant MP, Minister of Labour, and Hon Godfrey Oliphant MP, Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources.

The delegation met with Australian federal and state politicians as well as senior representatives from the mining industry, unions and community organisations to discuss issues such as workplace health and safety and the socio-economic development of mine-impacted communities.

The study tour, organised by the University of Queensland and funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is part of a package of Australian support to the Department of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation, which includes a benchmarking study of mining policy and regulation in Australia, Chile, South Africa and Zambia.

“The mining industry has a deep footprint in South Africa’s history and it is now facing massive economic transformation challenges which have profound implications for South Africa” said Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, Adam McCarthy.

“South Africa is a G20 member and Australia’s most important export market in Africa. There is significant two-way investment between our countries, including in the resources sector, as evidenced by Anglo American operations in Australia and Rio Tinto in South Africa. This study tour is a great example of economic cooperation that benefits both our countries. It is economic diplomacy in action” Mr McCarthy said.

During the study tour, Minister Radebe and the Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Investment, Hon Steven Ciobo MP, presented the inaugural *Graeme Wilson Leadership Award* to Ms Mapaseka Tshuwa. Ms Tshuwa is studying a Master of Agricultural Science at the University of Queensland under the prestigious Australia Awards Scholarships. The award honours the former Australian High Commissioner to South Africa who passed away in 2014. It will provide support to Ms Tshuwa to undertake additional leadership development activities during her scholarship.

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