

NEW RELEASE

The commissioned report from Institute for African Alternatives, titled **South Africa's industrial outreach in Africa - Infrastructure, Industrialisation and Community Development** has been posted to the intranet

ABSTRACT

Infrastructure is key to leveraging the mining sector for broader economic transformation. This multi-use and multi-purpose infrastructure can facilitate spatial linkages from the mining operation as well as facilitate downstream and upstream linkages too. This will be a major theme of this research report. This research is conducted within the minerals based industrialisation agenda and provides the rationale for investing in infrastructure for broader social and economic transformation in Africa. The concept of “shared-use” mining infrastructure is promoted to that end. After arguing for the value of supporting mining-related infrastructure initiatives, we finally highlight the importance of considering mining operations impact on community development industrialisation.

“Quote”

‘Crucial, however, is to ensure that infrastructure related to the mining industry operates on an “open access” or “shared-use” platform in which other stakeholders in the economy benefit.’

MAIN FINDINGS:

- Developmental mining related infrastructure development will require a shift from the “enclave” approach to an “open access” agenda. The DBSA should assist in the conceptualization and development of “shared-use” financing models for mining related infrastructure.
- Seek to finance potential “shared-use” projects infrastructure in mining related activities. This will stimulate industrialisation and development
- Assist in capacity building at policy formulation at regional and national level in a manner that would allow governments to develop and enforce “shared-use” infrastructure plans.

This would involve sponsoring research activity related to uncovering the region's and countries' infrastructural landscape and development of models that would enhance developmental and not extractive infrastructure projects.

- Seek closer ties with South African industrial business so as to advance a South African Inc. approach to continent that would be mutually beneficial for African counterparts and fall in line with the broader continental industrialisation agenda. This requires having an understanding of commercial strategy of South African industrial firms in Africa and their experiences and challenges.