

MEDIA STATEMENT 3

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Statement from Vantage Goldfields on the collapse of ground at its Lily Mine near Barberton:

Search and rescue operations continue around-the-clock for three missing employees after Friday's collapse of ground at the Lily Gold Mine in Mpumalanga

Search and rescue teams are continuing with their efforts to find three missing Vantage Goldfields employees following the collapse of the crown pillar at the company's Lily Gold Mine near Barberton on Friday morning.

All 87 employees who had been working underground when a 100-metre long sinkhole caused a massive fall of ground into the mine, were safely brought to the surface without any injuries on Friday. Three employees who were working in the steel container-based lamp room above surface at the time of the disaster are, however, still missing as round-the-clock search and rescue efforts battle to move thousands of tons of rock that surround the buried structure.

Lily Mine has been fatality-free since operations started there 16 years ago.

The head of South Africa's Mine Rescue Services is on site and coordinating the search efforts of the multiple local rescue teams at the mine. Highly sophisticated drone technology and acoustic listening devices are being used in efforts to try and locate the trapped employees.

The Minister of Mineral Resources, Mr Mosebenzi Zwane, visited the disaster scene on Friday evening, together with other senior government officials and union leadership. All operations at Lily have been suspended in the aftermath of the tragedy, and ongoing trauma counselling is being provided for employees at the mine.

The families of the missing three Lily employees are being accommodated on-site at Lily while they maintain a vigil for their loved ones.

"Our number one priority remains focused on locating our three missing colleagues, and the rescue teams cannot be praised enough for their unrelenting efforts to clear the huge rock fall under very difficult and dangerous underground conditions," said Mike McChesney, CEO of Vantage Goldfields.

"We've also seen an incredible outpouring of support from the local community and other stakeholders during these extremely difficult past three days. Local retailers have donated food and refreshments for everyone on site, and there has been a constant presence from senior government and union officials, whose constructive engagement has been highly appreciated," said McChesney.

Further updates to follow as and when new information becomes available.