



Director, Minerals Economics  
Minerals Bureau  
Department of Minerals and Energy  
Mineralia Centre  
234, Visagie Street  
Pretoria, South Africa

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Dear Sir

## COAL - A MAJOR NATIONAL COMMODITY

This letter comes to highlight the importance of, and support for, the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), Mineral Economics Directorate with specific emphasis on the *Coal Sector*.

In this regard, the role played by Mr Xavier Prevost in providing this nation and its numerous coal-related industrial organisations, including producers of coal, users, traders and engineering manufacturers as well as the many academic, media and consulting personnel, with information on the coal industry has been of the utmost importance to one and all. The further importance of this role and the information imparted has also been extended to many overseas organisations including the World Coal Institute, International Energy Agency branches, European, American, Australian and Far Eastern organisations – and those are only a few to my knowledge. There may be many more. These matters are well known to me and my organisation, given that I (as Director), and my Board of Trustees and Council, are well informed and keep continually abreast of all these issues and, indeed, continually benefit ourselves from the services offered by Mr Prevost and the DME's Mineral Economics Directorate – Coal and related fossil fuels.

In addition, Mr Prevost must be commended for his many hours of lecturing on courses held on coal, both those run by this organisation and by the University of the Witwatersrand "Leadership in Fuel and Energy Technology.

Given that (i) coal is of vital importance to this country (as it is to the rest of the energy-hungry world), (ii) the statistics, data and general information acquired and imparted by the DME through the Mineral Economics Directorate is critical to future skills development in coal-related issues, to the resources, reserves, mining and export sectors, and most of all to the future development and use of coal in South Africa and (iii) that, to handle such important data, the position of such critical relevance must be occupied by a person of high intelligence and experience, such as Mr Prevost. To have anything less, would jeopardise this country's position not only within the local communities dependant on this information but also with respect to the rest of the highly advanced coal and energy-related countries of the world.

I trust that this information will lend support to the continuing excellent services currently provided by the DME's Mineral Economics Directorate.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Falcon (Prof)  
Director

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