**PRESS RELEASE**

KBC helps mines and contractors stay on their toes with fast-changing compliance requirements

**27 January 2021:** Mining represents a hazardous environment with increased potential for largescale environmental damage, loss of life and certain exposure that is potentially damaging to health and safety. In order to mitigate these associated risks for its mining clients, [KBC Health & Safety](http://www.kbcsa.co.za) focuses on short courses, compliance and virtual training, micro learning and onboarding solutions. “We ensure that people know and understand the rules and regulations of working in a healthy and safe environment,” comments KBC Onboarding Specialist **Dion Denton**.

“Fortunately, South African mines are safety-orientated to the extent that it forms part of their core values. In addition, the industry has to comply with all legal and regulatory requirements as stipulated by the Department of Mineral Resource and Energy (DMRE),” explains Denton. Here both the Mine Health and Safety Act 29 of 1996 (MHSA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHSA) provide a good framework for compliance in South Africa’s industrial landscape.

Mining houses have traditionally opted for in-house training. However, this is often not the ideal solution, especially given the current Covid-19 pandemic, which has seen an increase in the demand for specialised services from KBC such as virtual training and its Virtual Safety Officer (VSO) concept aimed at contractors in particular.

“As mining is such a high-risk environment, the greatest opportunities for improvement lies in managing the various contractors that work on a mine. This is because some may not be used to operating in such hazardous conditions, and hence may require more assistance in order to comply fully with all of the stringent health and safety requirements,” highlights KBC GM **Louise Woodburn**.

It is also important to bear in mind that the legal requirements for the mining industry are changing on a regular basis. Therefore, both contractors and mines have to stay up to date with such changes to ensure that their employees are protected at all times. Denton points out that South Africa’s legal requirements for the mining industry are among the best in the world.

“It is very comprehensive as it is based on actual incidents that have occurred, and it specifically requires mining houses and contractors working on the mine to ensure they partner with a specialist in the field to ensure they are able to interpret the various pieces of legalisation in terms of their employees’ health and safety,” adds Denton.

“Staying competitive in today’s global marketplace means that organisations need to be innovative, adaptive and ever-changing. For this to work, employees need to be able to challenge themselves to obtain new knowledge, ideas and skills. Learning needs to be on a flexible, on-demand and continual basis to contribute this kind of cutting-edge performance,” elaborates Woodburn.

“Critical learning also has its place and, in the form of lessons learnt, can make a huge difference on how things are handled in future. It can also be used to improve current processes, procedures and standards, and applied in improvement opportunities where ultimately lives can be saved and injuries prevented.”

In terms of future developments, Woodburn reveals that KBC is focusing on a ‘one-stop shop’ concept for its onboarding solutions. This will incorporate health and safety and induction training, as well as gap analyses to allow its clients to better understand their own processes, with the added benefit of external oversight, so that any improvements to streamline the process can be readily identified.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**
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KBC Health & Safety is a subsidiary of Workforce Holdings Ltd. We have a national footprint. We train, on average, 120 000 learners every year. Quality is key! From our facilitators to our course material, we are all about EXCELLENCE. Our technology-driven products position our clients to achieve a ‘No Harm’ culture. We customise our programmes and delivery for our clients’ target market.

**KBC Health & Safety Contact**
Lara Clarke
Marketing Specialist
Phone: (011) 080 0900
Email: lara@kbpassport.co.za
Web: [www.kbcsa.co.za](http://www.kbcsa.co.za)

**Media Contact**
Nomvelo Buthelezi
NGAGE Public Relations
Phone: (011) 867-7763
Fax: 086 512 3352
Cell: 083 4088 911
Email: [nomvelo@ngage.co.za](file://C:\..\..\AppData\Local\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Lesley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\nelk\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Microsoft\AppData\Local\Lesley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\AppData\Local\Microsoft\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Karabo\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\Z8I5POLT\nomvelo@ngage.co.za)
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