WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE MINING INDABA 2026

Mining Indaba 2026 is shaping up as a pivotal moment for Africa's precious metals story, with gold and PGMs threaded through leadership panels, commodity spotlights and dealmaking forums over four intensive days in Cape Town. For bullion, jewellery and refining stakeholders, the programme signals a shift from price watching to value chain building, where gold, silver and PGMs are framed as strategic enablers of African industrialisation, green energy and capital flows.

Theme and framing: partnerships around gold and PGMs

The overarching 2026 theme, "Stronger together: Progress through partnerships", sets the tone for how precious metals will be discussed: less as isolated commodities, more as anchors for collaborative investment, infrastructure and beneficiation. Plenaries and ministerial sessions are expected to connect gold and PGMs to rail, power, smelting and refining strategies, with African governments pitching integrated precious metals value chains rather than pure ore exports.

Across the four days, the main stage content is positioned as a "world class content programme" blending strategic outlooks, policy updates and investor oriented analysis, which will naturally include gold and PGMs given their importance to African export revenues and fiscal stability. Expect repeated references to how high gold prices, platinum group metals' role in hydrogen and autocatalysts, and Africa's reserve base can be leveraged for broader economic diversification.

Day by day: where precious metals will feature

While the full granular agenda is still being populated, the 2026 conference schedule highlights several streams and sessions where precious metals will be in focus over roughly four days (9-12 February).

Opening and leadership days

- Heads of state and ministerial keynotes are likely to spotlight gold and PGMs as "critical" to both fiscal resilience and energy transition, especially from South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania and other gold and PGM heavy jurisdictions.
- A leadership session flagged in the draft agenda around "leadership that saves lives" and safer mining will almost certainly pull in deep level gold and PGM operations, where safety, mechanisation and social performance are under intense scrutiny.

Commodity and investor focused sessions

- Dedicated commodity slots, including a "commodity focus - PGMs" style session, will offer open dialogue discussions on demand trends, price outlooks and project pipelines in platinum, palladium and rhodium, with implications for mine life, closures and new shafts.
- Investor facing panels are expected to feature gold, silver and PGMs in the context of portfolio diversification, jurisdictional risk and ESG performance, with African producers pitching de risked growth stories to global funds.

Technical and sustainability streams

- Technical breakouts will likely explore decarbonisation of energy intensive gold and PGM mines, water management, and tailings innovation, reflecting Indaba's emphasis on "sustainable growth" and ESG linked financing.
- Sessions on "from extraction to innovation" and "resource wealth for diversification" will examine how refining, jewellery manufacturing and PGM based industrial uses (fuel cells, catalysts) can be scaled in country rather than offshored.

Deal rooms, showcases and who will be talking precious metals

- Mining Indaba 2026 will again lean heavily on structured platforms that are particularly relevant to the precious metals community.

Country Showcases

- Gold and PGM rich countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Ghana are expected to use Country Showcases to pitch new licences, expansions and downstream opportunities in refining, jewellery and autocatalyst manufacturing.
- These sessions typically combine ministerial presentations with geological overviews and case studies from flagship gold and PGM mines, providing a pipeline view to investors and offtakers.

Explorers and Junior Mining Showcases

- Early stage gold and PGM explorers will use these platforms to raise visibility and capital for greenfield and brownfield projects, with a strong focus on under explored belts and extensions to existing camps.
- For bullion market readers, this is where tomorrow's ounces are being shaped: resource delineation, metallurgy and infrastructure assumptions that will dictate future cost curves and supply security.

Investment Lounge and one on one meetings

- The Investment Lounge will host targeted meetings between gold and PGM companies, private equity, streaming/royalty firms and banks, where conversations increasingly integrate ESG covenants and local content requirements into deal terms.
- Downstream buyers - refiners, fabricators, auto and hydrogen OEMs - are being courted more explicitly in 2026, creating space for discussions on long term offtake and price risk management in PGMs and gold.

ESG, communities and licence to operate

A notable trend in the 2026 framing is the prominence of community stakeholders, indigenous representatives and downstream buyers, which will inevitably touch precious metals given their social footprint and artisanal dimensions. Panels on "inclusive, equitable progress" and "local benefit" will dissect how gold and PGM projects share value via jobs, procurement, revenue sharing and community infrastructure, moving beyond compliance box ticking.

Sessions on policy and regulation will also probe royalty regimes, beneficiation mandates and local content rules that disproportionately affect gold and PGM operations, particularly in South Africa and neighbouring jurisdictions. Expect robust debate around how to balance competitiveness, fiscal take and demands for in country value addition in refining, fabrication and recycling of precious metals.