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Orion Minerals readies local community for Prieska Zinc Copper Project Development

Johannesburg (06 May 2019) – In line with Orion Minerals Limited's, firm commitment to ensuring local communities' benefit from its ventures, Orion has commissioned introductory mining familiarisation short courses within the Siyathemba Municipality, in South Africa's Northern Cape province. The program is aimed at raising public awareness of the mining industry and the opportunities the industry creates, ahead of the planned development by Orion of the Prieska Zinc Copper Project.

The courses, on offer to members of the public, free-of-charge, have been running since April 2019 and will continue until June 2019. Participants are being provided with:

- an overview of minerals mined in South Africa;
- an insight into how mining operations are conducted;
- an understanding of the career options available within the mining industry; and
- visit the Prieska Zinc Copper Project, where they get to witness first-hand the early phases of a mine development project.

Orion is in the advanced stages of completing a bankable feasibility (BFS) on the Prieska Project, located within the Siyathemba Municipal area. A recently completed scoping study indicates that the planned Prieska operations could be in production by 2022, processing at 2.4Mtpa of run-of-mine material and having a skilled workforce numbering 850 persons.

"While we advance our bankable feasibility study and put funding in place for project development, we wanted to start preparing the community to be able to leverage off the numerous opportunities mining ventures can bring. The Siyathemba community has considerable interest in the Prieska Project and are eager to understand our business and how best we can collaborate for mutual benefit. We have thus initiated week-long training courses centred at Prieska, Marydale and Niekerkshoop, for those residents who have completed their grade 12 and have an interest in mining," says Walter Shamu, COO of Orion.



The program has, to date, been successfully completed by 158 participants, with the total number registered for the first program being 400. Participants also earn accreditation towards industry-recognised mining-related qualifications.

"This is one of many initiatives we have commenced in our effort to prepare the Siyathemba community for impending developments. We have already signed a collaboration agreement with the local municipality and are thus looking to promote more pre-emptive development projects with the support of local government, residents and businesses. We are very grateful for the support shown for the familiarisation program and believe that together with these communities, we can create a brighter future for the Northern Cape," says Shamu.

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About Orion Minerals

In South Africa, the Company's projects include the exploration and evaluation of the Areachap Projects (in the Northern Cape), including the Prieska Project (Zinc and Copper) and the Marydale Project (Gold and Copper). Additionally, and further north, Orion Minerals is exploring the Masiqhame Project (Zinc and Copper) and the Jacomynspan Project (Nickel, Copper, Cobalt and PGE).

In Australia, Orion maintains a sizeable tenement package in the Fraser Range Province (Western Australia), which Independence Group NL (ASX: IGO) is currently earning in to via a joint venture (JVA, refer ASX release 10 March 2017). The world class Tropicana gold deposit, as well as the Nova-Bollinger nickel-copper deposit are located in the Fraser Range Province. Importantly, the Company is free carried through to pre-feasibility study on any of the ground acquired under the JVA while retaining between 10% and 35% interest in the JVA. The Company also holds mineral rights across a number of tenements within the Walhalla Project area (Victoria), which are prospective for gold, copper-nickel and platinum group elements.

For more information, please visit www.orionminerals.com.au

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