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Foreign firms poach mining skills

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Johannesburg - South Africa is a poaching ground for Australian and Canadian mining companies, a mining industry survey released on Tuesday revealed.

"SA is renowned for its mining expertise and the industry is competing for skills in the global resourcing market," said CEO of Landelahni Business Leaders, Sandra Burmeister.

Research carried out by the human resources company showed that the SA mining industry had met many of the employment equity and skills development challenges it had faced over the past few years and far exceeded other industries in training.

"The mining industry has been sorely challenged and it has responded positively," Burmeister said.

The survey showed that black representation in the mining industry at top management level more than doubled from 12.5% in 2001 to 30.6% in 2006, ahead of the all industry average of 22%.

The biggest single shift took place at non-executive director level - from 0.5% to 37%.

However, according to the survey, in management, professional, skilled and semi-skilled categories, mining lagged behind the all industry average.

