

From Uncertainty to Purpose: A First-Year Student's Journey into Land, Tech, and Sustainability

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SUMMARY

I'm a first-year Mine Surveying student at the University of Johannesburg, and when I started this course, I had no idea the field even existed. Now, I can't imagine doing anything else. This abstract reflects my early journey into land governance and geospatial intelligence—areas I'm still learning about but already deeply interested in. A recent mine visit helped me see how land, data, and technology come together in real-world settings, and how important these tools are for managing resources and planning sustainably. I also had the opportunity to work on a group presentation titled Critical Minerals Reshaping the Mining Industry, which opened my eyes to how global demand for minerals is influencing land use, innovation, and policy. I'm curious about how technologies like digital mapping and satellite data can be made more accessible to everyday people, and how they might support sustainable development and resilience beyond 2030. This is not an expert's view—it's a beginner's perspective, driven by curiosity, growing awareness, and a genuine passion for the future of this field.

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