

**REMARKS**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**AT**

**THE AFRICAN DIAMOND PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION 8<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS MEETING**

**VICTORIA FALLS  
23 MARCH 2023**

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care  
Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G.D. N. Chiwenga;

National Chairman of ZANU PF and Minister of Defence  
and War Veterans Affairs, Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-  
Kashiri;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution.  
Matabeleland North Province, Hon. R. Moyo;

Minister of Mines and Mining Development Hon. W. Chitande;

Other Ministers responsible for Mines from the Continent;

The Incoming Director General of African Diamond  
Producers Association, Ms Ella Muchemwa;

Mayor of the City of Victoria Falls, His Worship  
Councillor S. Dhlamini;

Senior Government Officials;

Stakeholders and Captains of the Mining Industry;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be addressing you all at this 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the African Diamond Producers Association Committee of Experts and Council of Ministers. I welcome those who are here physically to the City of Vitoria Falls as well as those joining us virtually from across Africa.

This meeting is being held at an opportune time when Africa is sharpening its multi-pronged strategies to accelerate the industrialisation, modernisation and development of the Continent, leveraging on our rich human and natural resource base. Since your last meeting, it is noteworthy that the mining sector in Africa and Zimbabwe in particular continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

As a country, we are privileged to be a founding member of the African Diamond Producers Association. We remain confident that this Association is the panacea to the intricate challenges faced by member states in their respective diamond sectors.

Allow me to commend the Republic of Tanzania for steering the Association during the tenure of their chairmanship of the African Diamond Producers Association in 2021 and 2022. You, the various member states are also applauded for the positive strides made in the diamond sector, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is our expectation that diamond mining and processing sectors significantly contribute to sustainable economic growth of our African economies. As the incoming Chair Association Diamond Producers Association, Zimbabwe is determined to effectively coordinate and consolidate the work of the Secretariat of this important organisation.

Furthermore, increasing the capabilities along the entire diamond value chain should be a key focus area. On your part as diamond producing countries, you are challenged to prioritise and scale up value addition and beneficiation going into the future. Deliberate - policies aimed at broadening beneficiation in the mining sector in general, must be facilitated, towards realising maximum benefits from our Continent's rich natural resource endowment.

The citizenry within African Diamond Producing countries must be empowered and facilitated to play a greater role in the diamond value chain. To date, Zimbabwe is strengthening capabilities in the diamond sector with the recent establishment of a Gemmology Centre.

Our people, especially the youth and women, should not be mere spectators but active participants in aspects of this strategic mining sub-sector.

Meanwhile, African States are encouraged to leverage on Zimbabwe's Chairmanship of the Kimberley Process in 2023 to accelerate developments within the diamond industry on the

Continent. The African Diamond Producers Association must be heard louder and clearly within the Kimberley Process, speaking with a united voice on the unique concerns of diamond producers in Africa.

I am confident that with your collective support Zimbabwe's tenure as Chairman of both the African Diamond Producers Association and Kimberley Process will be a success and benefit our Continent as a whole.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Zimbabwe is on course to be an Upper Middle-Income Economy by 2030 and realising a US\$12 billion mining industry by year end. The performance of the mining sector, including the diamond industry will play a central role in the attainment of these targets,

This is the time to push for the growth of the African diamond sector together as one. Let us therefore, use the contribution of the diamond sub-sector towards the attainment of the aspirations set out in the African Union Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals. The net effect of the growth of the diamond mining sector must result in us becoming both producers and consumers of diamond products. We must equally ensure that the success of the industry is reflected in our economies in the present and indeed for the future. As Zimbabwe, we made a bold and deliberate decision to require mining houses to pay a percentage of their taxes and royalties in actual minerals.

I exhort us, as African stakeholders in the mining sector, to reject the negative narratives which seek to perpetuate retrogressive stereo-types about our mining sector and economies in general. Guided by the AU Agenda 2063 we must remain committed to define and chart the course of Africa's modernisation, industrialisation and development. Ultimately, it is us the peoples of this Continent who have the responsibility to develop all sectors of our economies and improve the quality of life for the citizenry of Africa.

Moves to allow the involvement of observers, stakeholders and members of the civil society within the African Diamond Producers Association is a welcome development. However, I exhort them to complement the respective visions, plans and national interests of our jurisdictions as well as the objectives of this organisation. As we grow the mining sector in our country and contribute towards the Continent's mining sector aspirations, we continue to call for the removal of the illegal economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by some western countries.

### **Distinguished Participants;**

Policies which entrench sound mining practices that enable co-existence of mining houses and communities are critical for sustainable and beneficial mining activities on the Continent. Innovative strategies by mining houses should be deployed to improve the welfare of employees, local communities and society at large, over and above the traditional contribution to our national economic growth and development.

The sector is further urged to equally adapt to the emerging global best practices in the mining sector related to Environmental, Social and Governance reporting. This must result in sustainable businesses as well as valuable impacts within the mining sector in general communities in which you operate and the planet as a whole.

In conclusion, I encourage you the Members of the African Diamond Producers Association as regulatory authorities, industry players and communities, to continue to work with unity of purpose for the realisation of the mandate of this important organisation. Together we can indeed achieve Africa's Mining Vision of a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources for sustainable growth and socio-economic development.

With these remarks, it is now my honour to declare this 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the African Diamond Producers Association Committee of Experts and Council of officials open. I wish you fruitful deliberations. Those who are here physically are invited to find time to enjoy one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the majestic Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-Tunya, the Smoke that Thunders. Virtual participants are also invited to visit Zimbabwe and sample our scenic tourist attractions.

**God bless you all**  
**I thank you.**