



A NAMIBIA DE BEERS PARTNERSHIP

## ENVIRONMENTAL STAKEHOLDER BREAKFAST – 25 JULY 2019

Welcoming Remarks

By Dr Michael Humavindu, Chairperson of the Board of Debmarmine Namibia

Minister of Mines and Energy

Honourable Tom Alweendo

Minister of Tourism and Environment

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Honourable Bernard Esau

Executive Directors representing various Ministries

Directors of the Debmarmine Namibia Board

Chief Executive Officer of Debmarmine Namibia

Otto Shikongo

Executives of Debmarmine Namibia

De Beers Senior Environmental Manager

Dr Patti Wickens

Members of the Marine Scientific Advisory Committee

Captains of Industries present here today

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

This year, marks Debmarmine Namibia's 17th year of operation. There is no doubt that a lot has changed since the Company first commenced operations in 2002, but one thing has not - we are still recovering marine diamonds, the future of diamonds lies below the Atlantic Ocean

and we continue to research and develop new technologies for both operations and environmental management, thereby driving human progress.

We are equally proud of our contribution to our fiscus through dividends, royalties, Pay As You Earn (PAYEE) and income tax. Over the years, we have grown the business and have increased our workforce to 1000 employees of which 86% are Namibians and create business opportunities through local procurement.

Put Safety First is one of Debmarine Namibia's core values, because nothing is more important than eliminating fatalities and we strongly believe that 'no diamond is worth a life'.

While our safety performance has improved this year compared to last year, there is still more work to do. We are not yet where we would like to be when it comes to safety but we have put in place the necessary mechanisms to drive a behavioral culture change. We continuously learn from past incidents, make the necessary changes and investments, and drive the STOP-WORK-AUTHORITY throughout the operations.

When it comes to the safety and health of our employees, we know that we can and must always strive to do the best. Our shareholders and stakeholders, have high expectations of Debmarine Namibia. We welcome those high expectations, and we will continue to provide them with the confidence that Debmarine Namibia can indeed recover marine diamonds responsibly.

Debmarine Namibia is committed to protecting the marine environment and we aim to be a leader in marine environment stewardship and maintain Debmarine Namibia's reputation as a responsible corporate citizen.

To put all this into perspective, Debmarine Namibia, employs a number of full time environmental staff and contracts independent marine specialists. Marine Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC) that was established in 2012 and comprises of independent marine scientists of whom some are present here this morning from academia and industry.

We manage impacts on the environment with guidance from, among others, Namibian legislation through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, where we submit our

Environmental Management Plan for approval, the ISO 14001 Environmental Management and international best practices.

Through this engagement, we hope to provide you - our stakeholder with the assurance that our environmental impacts are monitored and the necessary mitigation measures are in place to keep our impacts minimal.

I thank you.