



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY
HON. TOM K. ALWEENDO,
MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**

ON

**THE 6th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ADPA COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS**

**09 JULY 2019, WINDHOEK,
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



- Honourable Abdoulaye Magassouba, Minister of Minerals and Geology of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of ADPA;
- Honourable Kornelia Shilunga, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy of Namibia
- Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers of ADPA Member States;
- ADPA Executive Secretary, Eng. Edgar De Carvalho;
- Honourable Ambassadors present here today;
- Executive Director, of the Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Officials from ADPA Member States and Observers
- Officials from the ADPA Secretariat;
- Invited Guests;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning,

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you today to our beautiful City of Windhoek, the City of many faces.

It is my gratitude to welcome you all to the 6th Ordinary Meeting of ADPA Council of Ministers.

In 2006, African diamond producing countries convened in Luanda, Angola having realised that diamond resources are one of the main contributors to their socio-economic development; and recognised the need to establish a forum to harmonise policies and legislations governing diamonds resources among others.

The Luanda meeting resolved to establish a permanent consultative forum to ensure the promotion of strategic interests on the global arena. The Association of the Diamond Producing Countries (ADPA) was then established in accordance with the Luanda Declaration of 2006 and the ADPA Statute.

Since its establishment, the Ordinary meetings of ADPA's Council of Ministers have been held under the Chairmanships of the Republic Angola, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Guinea, with the Republic of Namibia taking over the Chairmanship for the year 2019.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ADPA has played a significant role particularly in consolidating views of African producing countries.

For example, ADPA has been instrumental in the restoration of the Republic of Zimbabwe back into the Kimberly Process after economic sanctions were imposed against their exportation of rough diamonds. The same support has been extended to the Central African Republic (CAR) and is ongoing.

In June 2018, ADPA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Antwerp World Diamond Center, which will benefit ADPA member states throughout

the entire diamond value chain, by provision of necessary support towards ADPA's implementation of its strategies and work plan just to mention a few. This MoU is due for adoption and implementation.

ADPA has also formulated the concept document on the 'Establishment of the Diamond Bourse' to serve as a centre of rough diamond trading and to assist Alluvial Artisanal and Small Scale miners in getting fair value for their produce, which are currently undervalued.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2012, the African Development Bank reported that the mining industry prospects in Africa showed that mineral production represents only about 8% of the world mineral production. These are broken down into bauxite 7%; cobalt 60%, copper 9%, gold 20%, iron ore 2%; lead 2%; manganese 38%; diamonds 56%; coal and petroleum 12%;

and uranium 18%. Most of these minerals are however, exported in raw form as concentrated ore without significant value-addition.

It is therefore important for ADPA member states to explore ways to add value to minerals that are economically viable including diamonds, in order to industrialise their economies.

According to the Kimberley process Certification Scheme, African countries such as Botswana, DRC, Angola, RSA, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Sierra Leone ranks in the top ten-diamond producing countries in volume and value globally. In addition, the most expensive diamonds are produced by Cameroon, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Lesotho, with a value ranging from US\$300 to more than US\$500 per carat, in comparison to the global average value of US\$315 per carat. This indicates that

Africa has the opportunity and potential to capitalise on its diamond resources if exploited in a responsible and sustainable manner.

That way, we will ensure that diamond generated income is channelled towards building of educational and health institutions, improving road and network infrastructure and meeting other pressing social-economic needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Mining Vision calls for promotion of downstream value addition, with a view to establish beneficiation industries that could provide stock for local manufacturing and industrialisation. This is to promote more fiscal space and responsive taxation to allow countries better capture revenue gains and encourage the use of revenues for value addition and linkages.

Despite Africa's potential in optimising its benefits from its mineral resources, diamond production and diamond producing countries still face dynamic threats and challenges. Some of these include; the introduction of synthetic diamonds into the market, which are competing with natural diamonds; increased mechanisation of mining processes that negatively impact employment and consequently the livelihood of mining dependent communities; inadequate management of diamond related revenue; weak regulatory and institutional frameworks in particular law enforcement, lack of sufficient technical capacity; lack of transparency and accountability to combat illicit activities, the list continues.

Therefore, the future role of ADPA should aim at driving the beneficiation agenda by developing the diamond downstream industry through exchange of relevant information and expertise in the area of beneficiation and

mainstreaming of alluvial artisanal and small-scale miners into the formal economies to mention a few.

In order to achieve the afore-mentioned role, ADPA needs to have adequate and appropriate resources, assist member states whose diamond production depends on under developed alluvial artisanal and small-scale sectors to put in place and harmonise appropriate legislations, as well as, replicate best practices among member states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ADPA has a long journey ahead. It is critical that we all pull together to unlock the potentials we have towards the success of ADPA and its people.

I therefore call upon ADPA member states to fulfil our obligations so that ADPA can be an institution that brings about change in our economies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a great task ahead of us. Therefore, let us dedicate the time remaining, to provide the necessary guidance and direction on the way forward.

Finally, I welcome you once more and trust that we will have a productive session.

I thank you.