



**MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY**

**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HON. KORNELIA SHILUNGA, MP**

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF**

**AFRICAN DIAMOND PRODUCERS**

**ASSOCIATION (ADPA) 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**ORDINARY EXPERTS MEETING**

**ON 8 JULY 2019, WINDHOEK**

- **Eng. Edgar De Carvalho,  
Executive Secretary for ADPA**
- **Honourable Ambassadors**
- **Mr. Simeon Negumbo,  
Executive Director for Ministry  
of Mines and Energy**
- **Officials from ADPA Member  
States and Observers**
- **Officials from ADPA Secretariat**
- **Distinguished invited guests in  
your various capacities**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning**

It is my great honour to welcome you all to this very important occasion, marking the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting of ADPA Experts. Namibia welcomes you and we hope you will enjoy your stay here with us.

ADPA was established in 2006, with the core objective to improve diamond mining in African countries by fostering cooperation and technical assistance among member states, as well as coordinating members to strengthen their legislations, review their internal control systems and understand the marketing value of their precious resources by promoting cooperation and technical assistance between

member states. By doing so, ADPA enables development to take place in an environment of peace and stability.

This meeting precedes the Ordinary Meeting of Council of Ministers scheduled for tomorrow morning and as experts, you are the technical organ and backbone of this association and we rely on your technical expertise and know-how to guide us in making informed decisions in safeguarding our minerals to the best interest of people. We therefore have to find the appropriate modalities to leverage the potentials we have.

ADPA is well-positioned and creates a consultative platform, which diamond-producing countries can capitalise on to make a difference in economies that are heavily dependent on diamond resources but where the diamond industry has not yet met its developmental potential.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I took note that diamond production for majority of the member states represented here today come from the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining (ASM) sectors. ASM represents nearly 25 percent of the world's rough diamond trade.

Furthermore, the ASM operates under an informal system and is presented with challenges that escape internal controls of the Kimberly Process. This necessitates the need for integrating the alluvial, artisanal and small-scale diamond sectors into formal economies in order to optimise benefits accruing from this sector.

In addition, I would also like to emphasise that the African Mining Vision is advocating for mineral beneficiation, to contribute towards industrialisation in order to benefit local economies.

Namibia is currently developing the National Minerals Beneficiation Strategy, which we hope to finalise in August 2019.

It is our sincere expectation that this 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of ADPA Experts will bring more value to all the issues and recommendations I reflected on as well as those to be discussed at this platform during this meeting.

It is also evident that Africa has a pool of expertise necessary to address these challenges when pulled together and towards a common goal.

Today our goal is to put our skills and expertise together to interrogate those strategies and proposals put before us and come up with common recommendations.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let us therefore make use of this platform to come up with proposals, recommendations and strategies geared towards common initiatives to ensure that benefits accrued from our precious minerals sustain our current and future generations.

**I wish you all a productive session ahead and I thank you.**