



**FINAL REMARKS**  
**BY**  
**HON. TOM. K. ALWEENDO**  
**MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF MINES**  
**AT THE**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF AFRICAN DIAMOND**  
**PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (ADPA) COUNCIL**  
**OF MINISTERS,**  
**09 JULY 2019,**  
**WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.**

On this most auspicious occasion, I would like to acknowledge the presence of our esteemed guests:

1. Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, MP, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy;
2. Eng. Edgar de Carvalho ADPA Executive Secretary;
3. ADPA members and observers;
4. Distinguished guests from the diamond industry;
5. Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Esteemed Guests,

On behalf of the Republic of Namibia, a member of the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) and as a host for the 6<sup>th</sup> Council of Minister's meeting, I would like to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude for getting the opportunity to host this momentous event.

For centuries diamonds have been regarded all over the world as symbols of everlasting love, beauty and accomplishment.

To ADPA member countries, rough diamonds are a special, unique strategic mineral that not only generates revenue for the diamond producing countries but more importantly has the potential to contribute significantly towards efforts to improve the lives of our citizens through job creation, skills development, value addition, technology transfer and intellectual property transfer.

Having reflected on the various meanings of diamonds, I want to use this juncture to point out that by coming together as member countries of the ADPA, we have acknowledged the value of using this platform to promote our common interests, which are:

- (a) to fully understand and appreciate our place in the global diamond industry as African diamond producers;

- (b) how to use the ADPA platform to drive the common interest of ADPA members for the ultimate benefit of all our citizens;
- (c) to assess potential threats to the industry such as lab grown diamonds, dwindling margins across the diamond value chain etc.;
- (d) to share the good that diamonds do in each of our countries and deliberate on how we can leverage this in supporting efforts to promote and keep natural diamonds front of mind with global consumers;
- (e) for member countries to cooperate in continuing to unlock the benefits from the industry as well as to strive to do so in a manner that promotes the sustainability of the industry; and
- (f) share best practice across the ADPA member countries with particular focus on legislation and policies that will enable us to unlock further value

addition/beneficiation opportunities across the African diamond industry

Esteemed guests, I take this opportunity thank you all for your inputs and contributions that were made in a mutual effort to maximize the potential of diamond producers under the ADPA.

We appreciate the sharing of best practices from individual countries and it has indeed been a day of intense reflection and dialogue.

Your presence has indeed contributed to the success of the meeting and I hope to see you again tomorrow for the further presentations and adoption of what we have deliberated here today.

As a country, Namibia is inviting you to witness the official handover of the Chairmanship of the ADPA from the successfully ended reign of the Republic of Guinea.

I want to give a heartfelt thanks to the outgoing chairman of the ADPA, Hon. Abdoulaye Magassouba, the Minister of Mines and Geology of Guinea, for his successful efforts and tireless commitment towards achieving the objectives of the ADPA during his tenure.

In closing, permit me to express my gratitude to the organizing committee, stakeholders and partners for your support and contributions that made this meeting a reality and a success.

Thank you.