



SPEECH

BY

MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

MR LEFOKO MAXWELL MOAGI

AT THE OCCASION OF

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KP INTERSESSIONAL 2022

Time: 1400HRS

Date: 20th JUNE 2022

Venue: CRESTA MOWANA RESORT - KASANE





KIMBERLEY PROCESS

BOTSWANA KP CHAIRMANSHIP 2022

Thank You Director of Ceremonies,

Honorable Ministers here present

KP Chair Mr. Jacob Thamage

President World Diamond Council – Mr. Edward Asscher

Coordinator – Civil Society Coalition – Dr. Michel Yoboue

Russian Federation Ambassador to Botswana, Ambassador

District Commissioner

Captains of Industry

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings to you all,

- 1.** Let me start by welcoming you all including those joining us virtually. It is a great honour for me to officiate at this auspicious occasion marking the official opening of this year's Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting. I thank you for honoring our invitation to not only be part of the discussions in this intersessional meeting, but to those of you who managed to travel and be here in person, thank you for making it to Kasane, which is one of our pristine tourist destinations. If it were not for the work before you, I would have invited you to take time to visit our parks to appreciate nature's beauty in the form of our wildlife. This area, along with



neighbouring Zimbabwe hosts the highest concentration of elephants in the world.

- 2.** Intersessional meetings are significant events in our calendar as it brings together the global diamond industry under one roof to discuss and ensure the KP continues to deal with issues relevant to the trade in rough diamonds and to ensuring rough diamonds are not used to fuel conflicts.
- 3.** The history of the Kimberley Process is well known to all of us here and I need not bore you with the details. However, I want to take this moment to appreciate those who came before us, especially the Ministers and the representatives of the World's leading diamond exporting, processing and importing states, who met in Pretoria on the 21st September 2000, to agree on what could and should be done to break the link between illicit trade in rough diamonds and armed conflicts.
- 4.** Their efforts have not gone to waste as we collectively continue to implement their vision. A vision which has ensured that we continue to trade in rough diamonds in a manner that ensures transparency, and that follows due process through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.
- 5.** Through the Kimberley Process, in spite of its challenges and known shorting comings, we continue to give our many stakeholders reasonable assurance that as an industry we value peace and security. Moreover, we equally recognise the need to ensure that the rough diamond trade



optimally contributes to sustainable development. Peace, security and sustainable development should be unnegotiable principles within our mist.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 6.** The significance of the Kimberley Process cannot, thus, be overemphasized. Its growth over the years having started with 36 representatives of governments, the European Commission and the World Diamond Council, to today's 59 participants, with more countries indicating desire to join, demonstrates that we are on the right path and therefore should be proud of our efforts.
- 7.** As Botswana, we feel honored and privileged to have been present in this journey and to chair this family at these challenging times when the world's economies and industries are still grappling with recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.** Excellencies as a United Nations General Assembly established entity as well as some of the members of the KP being UN member states, the KP has become an important source of inspiration for conflict prevention as it points out the value of commodity certification to promote clean trade.
- 9.** The KP has undeniably made it harder for rebel groups to finance their wars through diamond trading. Transparency and good governance in natural resource management are now widely recognized as important



tools for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, mostly due to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. We need to build this recognition of the good that the Kimberley Process has done. There is no time to rest or allow complacency to set in the KP.

- 10.** Also important to note is that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme has made significant contributions to many governments' accountability systems on resource revenues by publishing statistics on, among other things, diamond exports and imports per Participant. This we believe contributes to building customers confidence that the goods they purchase are KP compliant.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 11.** I am hopeful that this Intercessional meeting will implore you to delve into these rough diamond related matters, engage and discuss even the most uncomfortable Kimberley Process issues with the sole objective of ensuring that the Kimberley Process remains fit for purpose in these evolving times, whilst, maintaining the original mandate of this entity as espoused in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/56.
- 12.** Your participation at this event gives me the assurance and sense of confidence that the Kimberley Process will forever remain the cornerstone



of rough diamonds trade into the future. Let us therefore build onto our achievements so far for that better future.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

13. In concluding, let me express my gratitude to you all for entrusting Botswana to lead the KP this year. Leading the KP has never and will never be an easy undertaking, however it has to be done for our collective and society's benefit.

14. When we took over the Chairmanship, we pointed out that one of our priorities is to restart the review visits. As a way of putting our money where our mouth is, we will be inviting a review visit in August/September this year.

15. Once again, I would like to welcome the entire KP family, those here and those joining in from across the world. I wish you a productive week and thank you for your kind attention.