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Attention: All Editors

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

- Breaking New Frontiers in a Post-Pandemic Era-

WINDHOEK – After two years of surviving the Covid-19 Pandemic, there is no greater news than the realisation that the world is finally returning to normal. The 9th Namibian Mining Expo and Conference, scheduled for 31st August and 1st September 2022, will be the first in-person event for the mining industry after the Covid-19 Pandemic. “The whole Chamber team is gearing up and preparing for what promises to be an exciting and successful Mining Expo & Conference at the Windhoek Showgrounds,” said CEO Veston Malango.

Mr. Malango indicated that this year’s event coincides with an improving outlook for the mining industry supported by a buoyant mineral commodity market, and a fast-paced operating environment that is evolving with rapid technological advancements being made in the mining sector. “The current landscape most certainly augurs well for a valuable event that will see business ventures catalyse from these dynamic opportunities,” said Mr. Malango. “The outlook for mining remains as favourable as ever and we are eagerly following a sustained recovery in the price of uranium, and a continued surge in mineral commodity prices as the world transitions to green energy solutions,” said Mr. Malango.

The mining sector is involved in exploring new frontiers such as using natural resources like gas or solar power to produce (green) hydrogen which has applications in mining operations, for instance using hydrogen fuel cells to power haul trucks and ammonium nitrate being a product from ammonia, has a wide application as a major component for explosives (ANFO). “The Chamber is at the forefront of the discussion around a green hydrogen industry in Namibia and linkages with other sectors of the economy and chairs one of the Private Sector Green Hydrogen Working Groups,” explains Mr. Malango.

The CEO attributes the enduring success of the mining sector to a collaborative approach between government and the industry. The Chamber has remained firm in its commitment to support government in fighting the Covid-19 Pandemic. “Chamber members stepped up, in partnership with other key private sector players under the NCCI led Business Namibia COVID-19 Response Initiative to address the countrywide oxygen shortfall by donating and distributing oxygen and other medical supplies to state medical hospitals,” said Mr Malango. The Chamber as the voice of the industry continuously engages stakeholders on topics like sustainability, value addition, local procurement, environmental standards, taxation and health and safety.

Even though it has been a grim time for Namibia, such collaborative partnerships demonstrate the industry’s commitment to operate safely to overcome this pandemic together.

Some concrete examples of the post COVID-19 recovery are AfriTin securing a finance deal with Standard Bank for expansion of operations and completing a dual listing on Namibia’s Stock Exchange and the Rössing mine which recorded its best safety performance in the history of the operation. Meanwhile, Paladin Energy announced it will restart operations by Q1 of 2024 at its Langer Heinrich mine which was placed on care and maintenance in 2018. Subsequently, the Chamber is confident the industry will continue to explore new frontiers with inventive and innovative solutions that promote growth and resilience.

The 2022 Mining Expo also offers exhibitors new avenues to market their products and engage with the sector. “This year, we will introduce a dedicated Suppliers Platform and the Business 2 Business feature, which enables exhibitors to arrange direct meetings with players in the mining sector,” said Mr. Malango.

The Chamber is also excited to announce that RMB is the official sponsor of the Mining Conference, the cocktail event and the Expo marketing channels that include the B2B and the Supplier’s Platform. We are most grateful for their continued support to this event over the last few years.

The conference programme will feature speakers from a variety of industry players who are excited to share innovative ways on Breaking New Frontiers in a Post-Pandemic Era covering topics on the resurgence of Namibia's uranium sector, the re-opening of historic mines, new frontiers of resilience, transitioning Namibia's mining sector into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, green hydrogen and the catalyst for establishing a sustainable and environmentally responsible phosphate-based industry, among others.

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