



IDMA
INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

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IDMA President Moti Ganz praises Botswana for holding Presidents' Meeting, Botswana vice president pledges support for diamond industry

Gaborone, Botswana, – April 7 2011: The 2011 Presidents' Meeting of the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA) was held in Botswana due to the crucial role Botswana plays as a global diamond producer and in recognition of the need for the creation of a sustainable diamond value chain in Botswana, IDMA president Moti Ganz said at the event's Gala dinner in Gaborone, Botswana on Wednesday. The Botswana Diamond Manufacturers Association, together with the Botswana government, invited IDMA to hold its Presidents Meeting in Gaborone.

Meanwhile, Botswana's Acting Vice President, Dr. P.H.K. Kedikilwe, who is also the Minister of Minerals Energy and Water Resources, said that his government would take solid and constructive steps to advance the establishment of a profitable and sustainable diamond manufacturing centre in Botswana.

"The issues raised at the [Pitso](#) were very interesting and many of them touched on the very core of our aspirations for the development of a diamond center in Botswana. I want to applaud you for focusing on issues that count. While Botswana is a key player in the diamond industry, the diamond industry is not about Botswana: we are conscious that we are part of the picture, albeit a big picture," Dr. Kedikilwe said.

"Our actions and/or inactions will thus, wittingly and unwittingly always have some influence on the diamond industry. Our desire is for our actions always to have a positive impact on the diamond market because there is no other country that I know of that is as dependent on the health of the diamond industry as Botswana. We regard everyone involved in the diamond industry as our partner with common goals for the industry. To build a sustainable Botswana diamond centre [we need] to address many of the challenges such as the cost of doing

About IDMA

IDMA was founded and convened for the first time in 1946, in Antwerp. It is committed to fostering and promoting the highest ideals of honesty and best practice principles throughout the global diamond industry, as well as full compliance with all relevant national and international laws. The organization has developed and adopted a Code of Conduct, which is binding on all 15 member associations. IDMA also works to encourage fair and honorable practices and decent working conditions for industry employees; and to preserve, protect and promote consumer trust and confidence in diamonds. It encourages and supports social responsibility by the industry in respect to all citizens of the world. The Association has played an active role in establishing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and is a co-founder of the World Diamond Council.

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business in Botswana, skills, funding of the industry and so on. We are continuing to look at a number of initiatives," he added.

The Vice President said projects in establishing several independent, local power plants were in full swing. At the same time, efforts to improve skills, as well as improved telecommunications, including high-speed internet, are in progress.

The Vice President pointed out that one of Botswana's greatest challenges is unemployment and that the country needs the diamond manufacturers to help reduce it. At the same time, he recognized that "the balance between driving both employment creation and business profitability will always remain delicate, but I believe business people are better placed to find that balance. As I have said many times before, we know you are not in business for charity, for business to survive and thrive there must be returns to the investor. Our mandate is to create an enabling environment and we are committed to continue working until we get it right, and get it right we shall," the Hon. Dr. Kedikilwe concluded.

Jacob A.R. Thamage, coordinator of the Diamond Hub of the Botswana Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources, who played an instrumental role in the organization of the Diamond Beneficiation Pitso, said he was extremely pleased with the Presidents' Meeting. "It not only met my expectations, but exceeded them by a wide margin," he said.

IDMA president Moti Ganz said that he and his fellow association presidents were greatly encouraged by the views and exchanges they had experienced during the three day meeting.

"We are coming away from this meeting with the knowledge that the Botswana people, the government and the diamond manufacturing community now agree where the goalposts are placed on the diamond industry's playing field. We now need to continue to talk about the rules of the game, to assure that in the end, it will be a win-win for all parties involved," Ganz stated.

Ganz emphasized that the openness and hospitality of the Botswana people had been fantastic and he thanked the government, the Botswana Diamond Manufacturers Association and the numerous sponsors for an unforgettable event and experience.

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