

MINISTERE DES MINES ET DE LA GEOLOGIE

DIRECTION DE CABINET

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PRESS RELEASE

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC APPEALS TO INTERNATIONAL MINING COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE IN RESPONSIBLE SOURCING IN THE COUNTRY

Ministry of Mines and Geology, Honourable Leopold Mboli Fatran, appeals to international diamond mining companies and international diamond trading companies to engage together with CAR to come to responsible sourcing in the country.

BANGUI, 11 November 2018: It is the intent of the CAR government to look for partners for structural reform of its artisanal mining sector to revive the normalization of its diamond trade and to combat the illicit activities and smuggling. At the same time, these partners for the future should engage in capacity building projects for the benefit of CAR's youth.

“From the CAR government’s side, tax incentives will be considered. By the end of 2018, it is the intention of the CAR Government to announce a new policy to ensure the return of responsible diamond mining to the country,” said Hon. Leopold Mboli Fatran, Minister of Mines and Geology of the Central African Republic.

To allow this to happen in a transparent and responsible way, the CAR Government at the same time asks the Kimberley Process family to

approve the compliance of 9 additional zones in the Western part of the country.

All zones which CAR asks to acknowledge compliance are fulfilling the procedures as per the administrative decision and the Operational Framework. In particular, the following conditions are met:

- The CAR Government has established and implemented the appropriate monitoring mechanisms;
- The overall security situation enables free movement of goods and persons;
- The zones are under appropriate and sufficient CAR Government control, in particular by the territorial administration, mining administration, USAF, Gendarmes and Police;
- There is no evidence of systematic, rebel-based armed group activity impacting internal controls in the diamond production or trade.

The decision taken at the KP Intersessional in June to reduce export timings to 7 days was very welcome. At the same time it has not yet resulted in an increase in production as the months of July and August are the peak of the rainy season and artisanal activity is at its lowest point.

Peter Meeus, Special Advisor (Diamonds) to His Excellency the President Faustin-Archange Touadéra and the Honourable Leopold Mboli Fatran, Minister of Mines and Geology, said: *“CAR would welcome a formal Administrative decision on the 7-day approval process by the CAR MT, as agreed upon at the KP Intersessional in June as we believe a formalization of this decision is essential for the way forward and to get good international companies engaging in artisanal and alluvial mining in the country.*

“Actors in the field have also brought up that in the competition with the illicit trade, they are facing several disadvantages. More specifically, the fact that they can only export once a month is a big burden. They have requested that the 7-day approval process be formalized and that they could export every fifteen (15) days a certain volume of diamonds from the CAR.”

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- The Kimberley Process Plenary 2018 is being held from the 12th till the 16th of November in Brussels, Belgium under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mrs. Hilde Hardeman, Head of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI).
- 11 November 2018, Bangui, Central African Republic
- For more information, please contact Peter Meeus, Special Advisor Diamonds (peter@pmeconsulting.org, +971 52 924 7667, +32 472 690 376).