



Media release

20 October 2021

RE: DEBSWANA TO COMMISSION NEW ORAPA SOUTH GATE AND HANDOVER SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM BLOCK

Debswana- Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) will on Saturday, the 22nd of October 2022 officially open the new Orapa South Gate and hand over Tsienyane Special Education Block. The two projects will be officiated by his Honour, the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana Mr. Slumber Tsogwane.

Orapa South Gate is a new access gate to Orapa Lease area and it has been constructed at a cost of P58 million. The main aim of this new facility is to provide a southbound access into Orapa Township and exit from Orapa in order to enable the rehabilitation of decommissioned slurry dam walls and improve the dams' structural stability.

This initiative is also part of Debswana's efforts to ensure the continued safety of employees and general public, thus, demonstrating the Company's commitment to promoting and maintaining a safe work environment and the protection of the natural environment.

Following the opening of the South Gate, the East Gate will be closed permanently to allow for unhindered rehabilitation of the slurry dams. The South Gate facility is fully powered by a 93 KWp solar system, another demonstration of Debswana's efforts towards adopting clean energy systems and to contribute towards the fight against climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

OLDM will on the same day officially handover Tsienyane Special Education Block in Rakops to the Ministry of Education and Skills Development. The facility was constructed at a cost of P5.2 million, which is made up of funds raised from the annual OLDLM GM's Charity Walk of over P1.2 million, and P4 million from the Debswana Corporate Social Investment fund. .

This facility will be the first facility in the region to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities. It comprises of fit for purpose three classes and a workshop. The investment is in-line with Debswana's Building Forever Strategy under the pillar "standing with women, girls and people with disabilities". Through this strategic pillar, Debswana aims to empower marginalised members of the community.



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About Debswana

Debswana Diamond Company was established in 1969, and it is owned in equal shares by the Government of the Republic of Botswana and De Beers Group. It is one of the world's leading diamond producers by value and volume. Debswana operates four diamond mines in Orapa, Letlhakane, Damtshaa and Jwaneng. The company is a major contributor to the national economy of Botswana – contributing significantly to the gross domestic product, foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. Debswana is one of the largest private sector employers, with over 5500 employees and over 6000 contractors. Debswana is also the largest contributor to the De Beers Group rough diamond production. The company is committed to mining safely, optimally and responsibly, as well as making a meaningful contribution to the development of communities around its mines and the nation at large, thus making life brilliant. For further information visit www.debswana.com.