



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

DEBSWANA PARTNERS WITH BITC TO HOST THE 'INVEST IN BOTSWANA' BUSINESS FORUM IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Debswana has partnered with Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and the Embassy of Botswana in the United States of America to sponsor the “Invest in Botswana’ Business Forum at the ongoing U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Marrakech, Morocco. Invest in Botswana Business Forum titled, “*Doing Business in Botswana,*” is scheduled for today, Thursday 21st July 2022, and is intended to market and promote Botswana’s investment climate and value proposition to the U.S market to attract foreign direct investment.

The US-Africa Business Summit is organised and ran by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), a U.S business association that focuses on promoting trade and investment between the U.S and African countries and companies. The Summit has been held annually since 1997. This year’s Summit themed, “*Building Forward Together*” is intended to provide businesses and governments with a platform to renew their commitment to build stronger U.S.-Africa trade, investment and commercial ties as the world emerges from unprecedented health and economic challenges.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K Masisi, has led Botswana’s participation at the Summit and yesterday spoke at the High-Level Dialogue themed, “*Narrowing Africa’s Digital Divide in a post COVID-19 World.*”

Debswana Managing Director, Andrew Motsomi, will today present on, “*The Future Mining: Leveraging Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Mining.*” Yesterday, Lynette Armstrong, Senior Mining Executive at Debswana, participated in a panel discussion focused on, “*From Made in Africa to Made with Africa.*” While today, she will take part in a panel discussion titled, “*From Mining to Manufacturing, Africa in the Driver's Seat.*”

Commenting on Debswana’s participation, Mr. Andrew Motsomi said, “We are privileged as an organisation to be a part of this important platform where we are able to leverage Debswana’s strong corporate brand to showcase to the US market Botswana’s competitive business environment that enables investors from various sectors to invest in Botswana. Debswana supports Government’s economic diversification drive and efforts to get foreign direct investment into the country. As part of our Citizen Economic Empowerment aspirations, we are hopeful that the potential foreign investors will find citizen partners to build their businesses with.



BITC has also enabled citizen-owned companies to participate at the Summit. BITC CEO Mr. Keletsositse Olebile, said, “this platform is an opportunity for Botswana to advocate for increased investment and commercial presence in Botswana by the American private sector, and we have had encouraging engagements with different stakeholders who we wish to court to Botswana. This Summit also helps Botswana to promote, by way of exhibition, the locally manufactured goods and services that are marketable in the U.S and Africa markets.”

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For more information, please contact:

Debswana Diamond Company
Rachel Mothibatsela
Head of Corporate Affairs
Contact number: +267 71305346

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.