



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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13 June 2022

For immediate release

**SUBJECT: DEBSWANA SPONSORS BOTSWANA ALBINISM COMMUNITY WITH P 100 000**

As part of several efforts to drive our broader diversity and inclusion programme, Debswana has pledged a total of P 100 000 towards the International Albinism Awareness Day activities. The International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) is celebrated annually on June 13<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide.

More than 200 people living with albinism across Botswana will today ( June 13<sup>th</sup>) convene at Gaborone Technical College to commemorate the day under the theme, “United in making our voice heard”. As part of the day’s activities, the albinism community will be offered free eye tests, skin screening, HIV tests, diabetes, cholesterol tests etc with entertainment and motivational/educational talks throughout the day.

According to United Nations, people with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide as albinism is still profoundly misunderstood, socially, and medically. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization, discrimination and in some instances, put their security at risk.

“Debswana has decided to support the albinism community because we are committed to developing and fostering an inclusive and diverse culture both at organisational and national level. Just as a diamond has many facets, Debswana sees the diversity of people as the facets of a brilliance of a diamond,” said Agatha Sejo, Corporate Affairs Manager for External Communication.

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For more information, please contact:

**Agatha Sejo**  
Corporate Affairs Manager – External Communication  
Debswana Diamond Company



+ 267 71301453

#### **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](http://www.debswana.com).