

MPBIASA 's Inaugural Launch Speech – October 07, 2010

1. I wish to start off by expressing MPBIASA's gratitude to the single one of you for having put aside your valuable engagements and chose to make effort to be part of the Association's **Inaugural Launch** today. We feel honoured and gratified by your presence.
- 1.1 MPBIASA's Inaugural Launch comes at the time when the country is increasingly grappling with the national question of how to go about effecting the absorptive integration and mainstreaming of the affirmable economic empowerment interests of the country's rural and township masses and also within a dynamic environment in which the SA government is increasingly focusing on the need for the restructuring and re-ordering of the country's economy to open up the economic space for the inclusion and benefit of all South Africans.
- 1.2 It is a fact that SA never had a comprehensive public policy on mineral beneficiation until recently when the Department of Mineral Resource published its BENEFICIATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN 2010/11-12/13 – which is identified as establishing and *pathing out* strategic direction for mineral beneficiation industrial development and which, we believe, needs to find practical expression in how, for example, organized industry interest sector such as MPBIASA takes advantage of the (new) enabling policy environment to work at and cultivate a pipeline of mix of project opportunities – and through which to originate and initiate the empowerment of the country 's various affirmable interest sector constituencies including, for example, organized industry sector formation, local mining communities in mineral-rich localities, organized labour, youth and women in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry sectors.

It is also noteworthy to point out that the affirmable multi-stakeholder interest sectors – i.e. in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry, 's desired entry into and meaningful participation in the emerging sunrise mineral beneficiation industry needs to come about through the transformation of the mineral industry to emerge and arise in tandem with, namely –

- the advancement of the co-operative ownership of industrial assets including, in particular, the affirmable local mining communities as key interest sector constituency.

For example, the revised mining charter, the *Stakeholders' Declaration on the Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Meaningful Transformation of SA 's Mining Industry*, 's **Declaration Commitment NO:5** needs to be actualized simultaneously with the **offset commitment (11%)** against the HDSA to yield the desired expansive portfolio of accessible project market opportunities through which to *impactfully* empower and advance the affirmable multi-stakeholder sector constituencies' integrative entry into and formative equity ownership participation in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry sectors.

- 1.3 SA 's known contemporary challenge in relation to government 's effort to build an *inclusive and equitable economic growth path* is identified as being inevitably instructive in how all of us go about and elect to participate in the mainstream economy.

For example, the desired industry transformation to cater for distributive allocation of economic empowerment opportunities to include and benefit the various affirmable interest sector constituencies requires some form of inculcating new entrepreneurial approaches away from exclusionary ownership and towards the mainstreaming of the *long-standing African form* of shared (equity) ownership participation.

That is, not only in terms of employment but also in relation to the cultivation of opportunities through which to facilitate the formative and emergence of shared equity ownership of, in particular, localized post-minerals extraction processing plants and downstream value-adding industrial facilities by various interest sector constituencies – i.e. including the poor rural and mineral-rich communities (*people-centred industrial society*).

- 1.4 This calls for new approaches of structuring equity participation models in terms of the patterns of ownership of productive industrial assets particularly such that the emerging sunrise mineral beneficiation industry is to arise in tandem with the formative equity ownership of such industrial assets. It is on the basis of such distributive equity ownership of localized productive assets to include and benefit the various interest sector constituencies that the development of the mineral beneficiation industry will emerge and arise with meaningful socio-economic impact on the lives of the masses in and around mineral-rich communities.

The conceptual origination of MPBIASA is primarily to serve as an **organized industry body entrepreneur** which is steeped into working through and in partnership with the various interest sector constituencies to advance equitable distributive allocation of industry opportunities – and thereby arise together as a bloc interest partners than antagonists.

- 1.5 May I dare to point out that ‘with the passing of time it is increasingly becoming incumbent that we, as a developing economy, learn from the experimentation with BEE and respond to any identifiable shortcomings by way of coming up with self-initiated programmes of actions to rectify and improve on public policy inadequacies. This calls for us all to confront such identifiable policy inadequacies with elementary focus on altruism because the success of each one of us is inextricably linked to the aspirations and interests of every one of us, as South African.

2. It is in this context that MPBIASA, as an organized industry interest sector constituency, was formed out of collective realization that on their individual and isolated entrepreneurial struggles and efforts, it was/is proving increasingly difficult, despite the transformative BBBEE requirements, for the affirmable aspirant and start-up industrialists to enter into and meaningfully participate in the mainstream post-minerals processing and beneficiation industry sectors. Furthermore, it is the collective and combined entrepreneurial energies and the embodiment of day-to-day struggles of ordinary affirmable entrepreneurs which notably represents a desirable form of self-initiated activity currency which needs to be harnessed and harvested particularly in a transforming economy, the post-1994 SA economy, faced with the need to balance out distribution of economic opportunities to include and benefit all multi-sector interest constituencies. Let me also point out that we are also very much aware of the challenge which lies ahead of MPBIASA but we are also of the view that the time for MPBIASA has arrived and therefore we are called upon, as an industry interest sector constituency, to break new grounds by taking full advantage of both government's enabling BENEFICIATION STRATEGY and mineral-rich communities' collective and combined aspirations for own economic upliftment and advancement. MPBIASA has identified and carved out a niche opportunity to enhance the achievement of government policy priorities and impactful community economic empowerment.

2.1 Accordingly and by definition, MPBIASA is more than just organized industry interest lobby and member-based Association but it continues to position itself as projects sourcing services organization to facilitate increased access to projects market opportunities in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry sectors.

- 2.2 It is the collective aspirations and interests of the various industry interest sector constituencies, in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry, which establishes the basis for self-initiated and self-reliant effort to compete for project opportunities in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry sectors – across minerals streams.
3. I wish to point out that today 's Inaugural Launch of MPBIASA represents a culmination of at least just under three years of work which included, in particular, several exploratory discussions, consultations and concept research study on the feasibility of coming up with an overarching industry body in the post-minerals extraction processing and beneficiation industry sectors –
- 3.1 Those some of us who participated in the early and formative stages of the conceptualization of MPBIASA and its resultant strategic industry positioning were/are driven by both the shared desire for and the passion to carve out a career path to become industrialists and contribute towards the origination and initiation of mix of industrial ventures and generate sustainable employment opportunities to the benefit of local communities.
4. It is MPBIASA 's view that the development of the country 's mineral beneficiation industry needs to be considered and worked at in tandem with the need for facilitated access to global export trade opportunities. It is in this context that MPBIASA is currently working on an *Integrated Global Mineral Beneficiation Strategy* – which its completion will be informed and guided by the activity processes of the various mineral-specific *Mineral Beneficiation Industry Roadmaps* – as noted below.

4.1 As part of MPBIASA's Transformative Value Proposition, the Association hereby tables its '**Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Industry Transformation, Growth and Development Charter** – which is already available on MPBIASA 'website.

- i) It is on the basis of this Charter that MPBIASA is poised and ready to work with local communities and industry to contribute towards both localized mining and manufacturing beneficiation industrial development and building a **people-centred industrial society**.

Lastly, MPBIASA's Industry Transformation, Growth and Development Charter is to serve as the basis of Programme of Action through which to work with government (the Dept. of Mineral Resources) in the implementation of the BENEFICIATION STRATEGY and establishes the basis for engagement with industry.

Thank You