

Emerging Landscapes of Consultative Conversations: Towards the shaping and coming up with a SA Minerals Beneficiation Industry Growth Roadmap –

The South African Government's approved '*A Beneficiation Strategy for the Minerals Industry of South Africa*', which was approved on June 02, 2011, and the currently work-in-progress formulation and development of the selected and prioritized mineral value chain (MVA) Programmes and the ongoing work on coming up with Minerals Beneficiation Implementation Plan are collectively indicative of the public sector's initiated work stream and cumulative performance.

The recent holding of the 'Experts Consultation on Minerals Beneficiation' - ECMB, which organized through the partnership of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA-SA), and took place on October 16, 2012 at the IDC is considered to have formalized the beginning phase of mobilizing the various stakeholder sector constituencies in and across the SA mining and post-minerals extraction value chain industries. The initiated ECMB engagement activity process is of fundamental significance particularly as it brought together various SA government departments, industry, professional and academic sector constituencies in the collective quest to mobilize and harness the multiple perspectives and insights of the ECMB participants – towards the shaping and coming up with a canvassed and all-inclusive 'SA Minerals Beneficiation Industry (SAMBI) Growth Roadmap'.

SA's known collective and combined in-situ mineral reserve holding represents strategic economic asset as comparative advantage on which to construct globally competitive value proposition to give expression to the envisaged 'SAMBI Growth Roadmap'. Such industry-wide growth roadmap needs to be industry-driven and led as composite value proposition to partner with government – Economic Cluster Departments (ECDs) delivery sector. It is MPBIASA's view that there is a need for the various industry sectors across the SA minerals and metal value chain sectors to be mobilized around the need to come up with industry sector-specific growth roadmaps as value chain sector development propositions as constituent components of the overall make-up of the envisaged 'SAMBI Roadmap'.

In its developed and circulated Consultative Industry-wide Discussion Paper, which was submitted to almost all the industry sector representative bodies across the SA minerals and metal value chain beneficiation industries, the Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Industries Association of Southern Africa – MPBIASA, envisages the establishment of an institutionalized SA Minerals Beneficiation Industry Development (SAMBID) Council – i.e. to serve as an overarching industry body to partner with SA government in the implementation roll-out of the envisaged 'SA Integrated Minerals Beneficiation Industry Growth Roadmap. The recent ECMB conversation came few weeks after two other important meetings, namely, Centre For Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Development (NAM S&T Centre) 's inaugural *International Work On Minerals Processing and Beneficiation 2012* which was hosted by SA Government – Department of Science & Technology from 25-27 September 2012 and adopted the *Johannesburg Resolutions 2012* on one hand and the Black Business Summit 2012 which was held under the theme '*Re industrialization and its Role to create black industrialists*'. The NAM S&T – International Workshop on Minerals Processing and Beneficiation 2012, in SA, was, by all accounts, about the gathering of experts and engagement in exploring possibilities of the development of minerals processing and beneficiation industries across the NAM S&T Member and Other Developing countries.

Taken together, these discrete and collective engagement activities are indicative of the increasingly discernible engendering of a seminal possibility and exploitable opportunity in terms of SA's formative emergence to arise as the key driver of multi-tier minerals value-adding and job-creating industrial development linkages to benefit the minerals-rich Africa. That is, it is particularly in the light of the commonly established consensual commitments, visionary outlook and missionary quest of both Black Business Council Summit 2012 and ECMB conversations that engaging with the emergent dynamism, which is generated by the various stakeholder constituencies' input contributions, towards shaping and coming up with, in particular, the envisaged SAMBI Growth Roadmap.

The initiated and beginning phase of the ECMB engagement and the post ECMB conversations between and amongst various industry sector formations and constituencies are identified and considered as open up the space to invigorate constructive engagement towards shaping up the construction of the envisaged SAMBI Growth Roadmap. MPBIASA's submitted Consultative Industry-wide Discussion Paper, which was submitted to almost all and across the SA minerals and metal value chain industry sectors during February 2012, and coupled with other purpose-specific Proposal Papers to organized SA corporate and mining industry bodies is regarded as encapsulating the value proposition to come up with an all inclusive industry-driven input contributions – by coming up with sector-specific growth roadmaps – for the configuration and construction of an integrated SA Minerals Beneficiation Industry Growth Roadmap and institutionalized SA Minerals Beneficiation Industry Development (SAMBID) Council.

This is the overarching and premier industry structure which is envisioned to facilitate transformation, growth and development of the SA minerals and metal value chain industry sectors – including the fostering of the optimization of the value-adding and job-creating industrialization compact growth linkages economics.

Issued by MPBIASA Office - based on the industry lobby, advocacy and entrepreneurial network alliance body's work-in-progress Integrated Action Programme (IAP) Platforms Framework, October 18, 2012.