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Emerging Contextual Landscapes: Towards stimulatory development of African minerals value-adding and job-creating industrialization compact growth linkages –

The South African Government – through the Department of Science & Technology, is hosting the inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Workshop 2012 of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) to be held from 25-27 September 2012 in Ekurhuleni – Africa 's high concentration of manufacturing industries . This inaugural international workshop on the minerals-rich African continent, in SA, represents a major opportunity for strategic and high level dialogue ever held in relation to minerals value-adding and job-creating industrialization within and across the NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries. The African region is represented by fourteen countries which collectively add up to make the continent to be better positioned to use this inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Workshop 2012 to arise as the African founding milestone from and cornerstone on which to lay out formidable groundwork for the strategic positioning of the bloc. That is, particularly in the collective effort and undertaking of the bloc to stake out share of the (preferred) locations of the post-minerals extraction value chain industrial plant infrastructure including, in particular, the 4th tier metal fabrication manufacturing and globally competitive export industries. This is about seeking to find equitable balance of inclusive spread of the locations of productive multi-tier minerals value-adding industrial plant infrastructure at the level of amongst the NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries to use their comparative advantage in in-situ mineral reserves on one hand and with both the established powerful global capital interests and integrative entry into and meaningful participation in the mainstream global trade flow networks on the other. Existing and new technological innovations are considered to arise as key focus area in the global competition for the (preferred) locations of the industrial minerals value chain beneficiation plant infrastructure.

NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries' collective and combined comparative advantages - in diverse and extractable in-situ mineral reserves, to advance minerals value-adding and job-creating industrialization compact growth linkages is considered as representing the (seminal) possibility to influence and drive the structural transformation of the economic power relations across the global minerals beneficiation industries and with the potential for the emergent spread of new locations of formative minerals value chain beneficiation industrial growth poles – including, in particular, across the minerals-rich and currently under-industrialized African mining economies. This inaugural international workshop 2012 in SA needs to enthuse and sustain the stimulatory emergence of equitable balance of global spread of formative post-minerals extraction value-adding industrial plant infrastructure and capacity development.

It is the overall exploratory conversations and (robustness of) the emancipating perspectives which are hoped to herald a major opportunity to harness such input contributions – insights and perspectives – and come up with an all-inclusive and compelling value proposition particularly based on common vision, strategy, institutional framework and Integrated Action Programme (IAP) Model – work streams and delivery targets - to build on and give practical expression to the established founding ethos of the inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Workshop 2012 – going forward. This is crucially vital particularly in the current global economic context in which *mineral flows analysis and accounting (MFA)* instrument – tracking and profiling of the country origin of minerals extraction, environmental production impact and trade in final value-added metal products distinguishes itself as the defining dynamism of our time and encapsulates the hope to establish inclusive and equitable exposure to uptake of economic opportunities to mainstream and escalate Africa/NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries' participation in and across global minerals processing and beneficiation industry sector landscapes.

More interestingly, the NAM S&T Centre 's inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Workshop 2012 takes place at time when there is growing global focus on and interest in Africa as having the potential to arise as the world economy 's next and future resource-based industrialization growth pole. It is also note-worthy to point out that the development and growth of the minerals processing and beneficiation across the Africa/NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries is comparatively and largely about arising from comparative low base and inevitably straitjacketed to simultaneously contend with both the catching-up process of industrialization on hand and grapple with the realities of established global trade connectivity networks. Taking advantage of NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries' comparatively broader multilateral power base to arise and enhance the prospect of the minerals-rich Africa 's desired take-off of the multi-tier minerals value-adding industrialization is identified as an exploitable possibility particularly in the context of the African Union (AU)-approved Council of African Ministers of Industry 's African Framework For Beneficiation programme and also coupled with SA Cabinet-approved Beneficiation Strategy 2011. SA 's leading public metallurgical research institution sector on the African continent puts the country in a competitive position to play pivotal role in the contextual (stimulatory) development and sustainable growth landscapes of the post-minerals extraction value-adding industrialization economics with regard to across both the minerals-rich African region and the NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries. Lastly, SA's growing participation profile in various international policy platforms such as, in particular, BRICS, IBSA, G20 and G77 and of course the African Union (AU) and garnered economic diplomacy experience continues to put this country in a comparatively unique position - particularly in the increasingly transforming world economic power relations, the discernible potential for the shifting of global value chain industries and the emergence of new industrialization growth poles, in the interest of playing catalytic role to champion what is envisioned and hoped to arise as inextricably linked post-minerals extraction value-adding industrialization linkages between Africa and NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries. For Africa to be in a competitive position to maximize its share of the desired intra-Africa multi-tier minerals value-adding and job-creating industrialization there continent requires the stimulatory development and formative emergence of an *African industrialist entrepreneurialism* as motive force to arise out of taking advantage of the African governments sector's collective policy undertaking to push for localization (intra-Africa) multi-tier minerals value chain beneficiation. Can SA Inc. emerge out of this inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation 2012 as the engine to catalyze the emergence of multi-tier minerals value-adding and job-creating industrialization compact growth linkages across both the minerals-rich Africa and NAM S&T Centre member and other developing countries? The hosting of this inaugural workshop 2012 dialogue on minerals-rich Africa elevates SA/Africa to potentially emerge to catalyze the emergence of inclusive and equitable spread of new minerals value chain beneficiation industrial formations and growth poles.

Phineas Mohlala is the Founding President of the Minerals Processing & Beneficiation Industries Association of Southern Africa – MPBIASA, which is the industry sector partner to SA Government – Department of Science & Technology for the hosting of NAM S&T Centre 's inaugural International Minerals Processing and Beneficiation Workshop 2012. More about Workshop, visit MPBIASA's website – www.mpbiasa.com