

## **MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIA-AFRICA MINING INDUSTRY GROUP**

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

### **AAMIG Welcomes The Turnbull Bishop Government**

The Australian Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) welcomes the news that Hon Julie Bishop MP is set to continue in her position as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the new Malcolm Turnbull-led Government.

Over the course of two years in office, Minister Bishop has built a strong understanding of issues facing Australian miners in Africa and AAMIG has enjoyed a constructive working relationship with the Minister, her office and the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

AAMIG's discussions with the Minister during Africa Down Under (ADU) earlier in September highlighted the ongoing need for Australian industry, government agencies and civil society groups to work together proactively to assist development in resource-rich African countries.

There is an enormous opportunity for Australia to partner with the 54 sovereign states in Africa as they embark on a rapid economic and social transformation over the next two decades.

As Minister Bishop said during her speech at ADU "Africa is undoubtedly a continent on the rise. It is home to many of the world's fastest growing economies and a genuine middle class is emerging. As African nations urbanise and economies take off, there's a belt of prosperity across the middle of the continent that is driving economic growth."

Over the next twenty years, it is anticipated that many millions of people will be lifted out of poverty in Africa by economic growth. Australia's mining industry can play a key role in this process. The Australian mining industry can also help African policymakers meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be launched New York later this month.

More than 200 Australian resources companies and 700 service and supply firms are involved in exploration, extraction and processing activities in Africa. There are more than 1,100 projects in various stages of development across 38 countries in Africa.

In-ground discoveries made by Australian companies in Africa amount to A\$687 billion, and it is this mineral wealth that Australia can help unlock and translate into socio-economic growth, benefitting Africa's people.

The predicted investment by Australian companies in mining, and the resulting jobs growth, training, tax revenue and infrastructure development – including roads, rail and electricity – will be vital in efforts to permanently lift millions of people out of poverty. In this sense, the Australian resources industry's future investment in Africa is a potential game changer.

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## **ABOUT AAMIG**

Founded in May 2011, the Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) is the leading member association supporting the Australian extractive industry operating in Africa. AAMIG facilitates the sharing of knowledge and experience to create better outcomes on the ground. We partner with Australian and African Governments to encourage productive engagement and promote the value of responsible corporate citizenship.

AAMIG aims to support member companies and enhance their social licence to operate, with a key focus on stakeholder engagement, sustainable community development, human rights and governance.

AAMIG is committed to supporting a “Team Australia” approach in regard to Australia’s engagement with Africa, which includes building meaningful relationships between the resources and extractives industry and governments as well as not-for-profits and academia.

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*This Media Release has been issued through Field Public Relations*