



A NAMIBIA DE BEERS PARTNERSHIP

## MEDIA RELEASE

14 JULY 2020

### NAMDEB COMMENCES COVID-19 PCR TESTING

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Given the risk of the spread of COVID-19, Namdeb has now introduced its own testing capacity for COVID-19 in Oranjemund. This is part of a comprehensive response plan for the company to safeguard the health and safety of its employees and to support the local community. As a responsible corporate citizen, and a long-term partner of the Namibian government, Namdeb is committed to support the efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Namdeb has also been instrumental in availing and setting up isolation units in Oranjemund and Lüderitz, as well as procuring essential medical equipment such as ventilators, new beds and testing equipment.

In addition to stringent precautionary measures, Namdeb's COVID-19 response plan also requires wide-spread testing of its employees and affected community members. With COVID-19 tests only administered through accredited laboratories, the company established its own fully-fledged testing facility in the town of Oranjemund which was approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 following rigorous assessment by a team of experts from both MOHSS and NIP. The laboratory facility was completed in record time and passed its validation test which was conducted by a reputable external service provider.

Upon receiving the approval from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Namdeb CEO, Riaan Burger said: "Whilst this facility is very important to ensure we manage the COVID-19 risk in our business, we are also honoured to be able to assist our community and the country at large in alleviating some of the pressure to conduct testing. This laboratory will play a vital role in the diagnostic testing process of COVID-19.

The establishment of the facility is timeous, given current surge of the COVID-19 cases within the country and the limited testing capacity. Dr. Jurgen Jacob, Namdeb COO said during the visit: "Moving swiftly to acquire all the medical equipment at a time when the world is facing shortages has been challenging but certainly a necessity with most of the equipment having multiple usages beyond COVID-19."

Along with other precautionary measures, Namdeb Hospital has put in place a policy framework that would serve as terms of reference in providing guidance to the hospital staff and Oranjemund community in dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases. All tests conducted will be reported to the relevant authorities in line with established protocols and will form part of the national statistics on COVID-19.

#### ISSUED BY NAMDEB CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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NAMDEB DIAMOND CORPORATION (PTY) LTD Namdeb is a wholly owned subsidiary of Namdeb (Proprietary Limited Holdings which is owned in equal shares (50:50) by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers. Namdeb performs land-based prospecting (exploration), mining and rehabilitation operation and services for Namdeb Holdings. Namdeb has eight mining licenses which cover 15 789 square kilometers. The heart of the operations is along the southwest coast of Namibia with the main land-based operations in Oranjemund and satellite mines near Lüderitz and along the Orange River. Several types of innovative mining techniques are employed to extract diamonds from alluvial deposits of ore bodies. Namdeb is proud to be a significant contributor to the Namibian economy. In line with Namdeb's efforts to mine to 2050 and beyond, avenues will continue to be explored to create a more sustainable impact in support of Namibia's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) which paves the way towards achieving the Vision 2030 goals. Namdeb remains committed to being the pride of Namibia's Mining.