



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY

**THE OCCASION OF THE SKY INVESTMENT
CUTTING AND POLISHING FACTORY OPENING**

13 APRIL 2018

- **Director of Ceremonies,**
- Members of the Kothari Family,
- Mr. Kumar Tuhin, the Indian High Commissioner to Namibia,
- Simeon Negumbo, The Permanent Secretary,
- Ms. Miina Auene-Gahutu, The Acting Diamond Commissioner
- Mr. Shihaleni Ndjaba, CEO of NDTC,
- Employees of Sky Investments factory,
- Captains of Industry,
- Members of the Media,
- Distinguished Invited Guests.

Firstly, allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity granted to me, to officiate the official opening of the SKY Investment factory.

I am particularly delighted to welcome the Kothari family to Namibia and I hope that you are enjoying our world-renowned hospitality.

Today's opening of the Sky Investment factory is a major milestone for the cutting and polishing industry in Namibia, in the sense that it speaks directly to the benefits that the Government of the Republic of Namibia envisaged with the signing of the new Sorting, Valuing, Sales and Marketing Agreement in May 2016.

We strongly believe that the improved terms of the new Agreement would result in increased opportunities for job creation, skills transfer,

investment in infrastructure and technology, and a further integration and empowerment of Namibian citizens at all stages of the diamond value chain. All of which we are witnessing here today.

It is my understanding that the KGK Group is an accomplished rough diamond beneficiator in the Southern African region, having actively manufactured rough diamonds in South Africa for over 20 years and more recently in Botswana.

We are pleased that you have chosen to extend your operations to Namibia and we welcome you wholeheartedly.

I think I speak on behalf of everyone present here when I say that what we are seeing today is indeed a compliment to those that have and continue to

advocate Namibia as an investment destination. A country whose peace and stability, sound infrastructure and people can offer so much for investors such as the KGK Group.

Director of Ceremonies,

It was pleasing to see, during the tour of the facility this afternoon, that despite being operational for less than a year, the factory has already started processing Namibian Diamonds.

It is also encouraging to see that young Namibians are undergoing training that will ultimately empower them with the requisite skills to add value to Namibian rough diamonds in the future.

Whilst this is commendable, I would like to urge you to create more skills transfer opportunities for

Namibian women and the youth by exposing them to other parts of the KGK Group.

It is my firm believe that this will not only enhance the worker's contribution to the overall performance of SKY Investment but more importantly, will lay a strong foundation for integrating previously disadvantaged Namibians into the mainstream diamond industry, which is a key objective of the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Distinguished Invited Guest,

The Namibian Government remains committed to the vision of downstream diamond beneficiation, which is, aimed at boosting employment creation and local value addition activities by creating a

healthy investment climate for our esteemed investors and Sight holders.

To this end, please be assured of the Ministry`s support, in your quest to making the Sky Investment operations a resounding success.

We look forward to a long and fruitful business relationship with SKY Investment and the entire Sight holder community as we vigorously pursue the realisation of the Namibian beneficiation dream.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate everyone at the KGK Group and Sky Investment for your contribution in making this factory a reality. I look forward to witnessing the growth of the Sky Investment operations over the next months and years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my distinct pleasure and honour to formally open the Sky Investment factory and I wish you every success in the future.

I thank you!