

PRESS RELEASE

RWANDA TO HOST 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TANTALUM-NIOBIUM

Kigali 13, October, Rwanda will host the 59th Annual General Assembly of the Tantalum-Niobium due to take place from tomorrow Sunday October 14th to 17th, 2018, in Kigali.

The conference will explore different tantalum issues such as technological developments in tantalum and niobium applications, key factors affecting tantalum and niobium consumption in its core markets, due diligence essentials ahead of the EU's conflict mineral regulation coming into force in January 2020.

This year's event will be attended by all relevant global players and among the highlights will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Technical Sessions for technical presentations, a visit to a working artisanal tantalite mine, site seeing tours and the welcome cocktails.

Commenting on the conference, the RMB Chief Executive Officer Hon. Francis Gatare said *“We are delighted to have this conference in Rwanda. It comes in the time we are carrying out transformational change in the mining sector. It is an opportunity to show investors in the mining sector that Rwanda is open to investments that would lead to professional exploration and mining to boost productivity of tantalum and other minerals in the country.”*

Rwanda is among the top producers of tantalum ore producing more than 60% of the needed quantity onto the global market.

Tantalum products are used in electronics including; cell phones, computers, automotive electronics, jet engine components, and nuclear reactors.

Rwanda's tantalum ore is exported to external buyers, over 2,000 tons were produced and exported for the period of July 2017 to June 2018. Most of the Rwanda's tantalum is mined in a mixture form with cassiterite-a tin ore. However, most of this tantalum is obtained after carrying out separation of coltan from cassiterite (tin). In 2018, tantalum production is expected to exceed 2,500 tons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE T.I.C GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The T.I.C General Assembly convenes delegates from every sector of the global tantalum and niobium industries and it is also expected that this event will send a powerful message to the world about the long-term sustainability and reliability of conflict-free tantalum from central Africa.

The TIC is the trade association for the global tantalum and niobium industries. It was founded in 1974, and members cover all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain. The General Assembly is comprised of around 150 members from over 25 countries involved with all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain (mining, trading, processing, metal fabrication, capacitor manufacturing, recycling, other end-users such as medical, aerospace, etc.).

ABOUT RWANDA MINES, PETROLEUM AND GAS BOARD (RMB)

Established in February 2017, Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) is the Government of Rwanda body responsible for implementing and advising the government on issues related national policies, laws and strategies related to mines, petroleum and gas. It is also mandated to monitor and coordinate the implementation of strategies related to mines, petroleum and gas. In addition to monitoring, it is supposed to carryout research & exploration in geology, mining and petroleum and do disseminate the findings. Further, the RMB is supposed to supervise and monitor private or public entities conducting mining, trade and value addition of mineral operations. It is to assist the government in valuing mining and quarry concessions. Lastly, RMB is to cooperate and collaborate with other regional and international institutions carrying out similar mission.