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**MINISTRY OF MINERALS AND ENERGY**

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**Ref:** CMME 7/3/56 I (2)

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

The Managing Director  
Gcwihaba Resources Pty Ltd  
P O Box 3726  
Gaborone

Dear Mr. James M. Bruchs,

**RE: PROPOSAL FOR RESOLUTION OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF  
PROSPECTING LICENCE NO. 020/2018 – ENCROACHMENT INTO OKAVANGO  
DELTA WORLD HERITAGE SITE BUFFER ZONE**

1. Reference is made to your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, in which you are making a proposal for resolution of the application for renewal of Prospecting Licence No. 020/2018 which encroaches into the buffer zone of Okavango Delta World Heritage Site.
2. I note the resolution by Gcwihaba Resources (Pty) Ltd ("Gcwihaba") to drop off a portion of the area applied for, which falls within the buffer zone of the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site, subject to some conditions.
3. I wish to reiterate my willingness to consider a renewal application as long as the area applied for falls outside the Okavango Delta buffer zone. However, I am not amenable to the conditions attached to your resolution, save for the one that requires that Gcwihaba be given a right of first refusal in the event Government decides to allow exploration or mining within the buffer or core zone anytime in future. I wish to clarify that Government has no intention of allowing those activities in the Okavango Delta, anytime in future.
4. I am not inclined to agree with conditions 1 and 2 in Gcwihaba's letter as the conditions are unreasonable and not supported by law. It will be unreasonable to tie the decision of investment into Gcwihaba's project by Minerals Development Company Botswana ("MDCB") to the renewal of the prospecting licence. This is so because any investment decision is taken after a bankable feasibility study has been



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completed and a competent person's report detailing the mineral resource statement issued to the Ministry. This has not happened with the area in question.

5. Furthermore, the request to renew Prospecting Licence No. 020/2018 held by Gcwihaba for a period three (3) years is not supported by any law therefore rejected. It may be worth pointing out that the Ministry is not responsible for any delays in the carrying out of the programme of prospecting for any licence held by Gcwihaba Resources as claimed in your letter. Rather, Gcwihaba Resources has been responsible for delays in the renewal of its Prospecting Licences due to the insistence of licences being granted over a World Heritage Site.
6. In light of the above, I will be willing to consider the renewal application for Prospecting Licence No. 020/2018 provided:
  - Gcwihaba drops off conditions 1 and 2 in their letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
  - Gcwihaba submit within 21days from the date of this letter, a revised application for renewal of the Prospecting Licence in question, with boundary coordinates falling entirely outside the Okavango Delta core and buffer zone.
7. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

.....  
Lefoko M. Moagi

**MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY**

**Cc: Director of Mines**

