

DIAMONDFACTS.ORG

TESTIMONIAL

Dr. G. K. T. Chiepe

Botswana diamonds are:

- a) The country's lifeblood,
- b) The country's economic backbone,
- c) The country's engine of growth and development,
- d) The direct or indirect property of all Botswana.

All mineral resources belong to the state and not any individual, community or tribe in whose land they are discovered. In other words minerals, including diamonds, discovered in somebody's agricultural land or cattle post do not belong to that individual, nor do they belong to the community that jointly owns the land. They belong to the whole nation of Botswana. The individual, family, community or tribe gives up its rights and is relocated elsewhere and compensated for whatever developments they may have made.

Revenue that accrues from mining diamonds goes into the national coffers. This forms the largest percentage of the national income. This money, together with taxes, sales of beef, tourism, etc., is dispensed nationally. Following are examples:

- i. When a rural health post is constructed most of the money spent comes from diamonds.
- ii. Money from the sale of diamonds has been used to construct tarmac roads to connect towns and villages.
- iii. When schools – at all levels – are built most of the money spent comes from diamonds.
- iv. When drought relief projects are embarked upon to assist the needy most of the money used comes from diamonds. This puts some cash into the hands of needy individuals, helps create jobs and contributes to national development efforts.
- v. When boreholes are drilled and village water supplies are reticulated to villagers' homes and special centres, most of the money comes from diamonds.
- vi. To pay all government salaries, pensions, old age pensions and for all services most of the money comes from diamonds.

All the above have benefited me personally directly and indirectly. Directly through salaries, pension and government services which the government provides to all Botswana. Indirectly through government services to my relatives whom I would have had to provide for.