



# SARW

Southern Africa Resource Watch

## SARW SPEECH

Vice-Governor of the Province of Lualaba

"Transparency and accountability are fundamental pillars for a just energy transition."

Honourable Deputies;

His Excellency, Governor of the Lualaba Province represented by the Deputy Governor;

His Excellency, Bishop Fulgence Muteba, President of CENCO represented here by Jean (Zhan) Marie Abanda;

His Excellency, the Provincial Minister of Mining;

Business Leaders;

Members of Civil Society Organizations;

Distinguished guests and dear participants, all protocols observed.

I have the great honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of the Executive Director of SARW, who is unable to attend this event. My simple task, on behalf of the Executive Director and SARW, is to welcome you to this 8th edition of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Alternative Mining Indaba.

As you well know, the AMI/DRC is a growing platform for dialogue among stakeholders of the Congolese mining sector designed to discuss important issues related to national public interest, in particular the shared governance of the sector.

As a civil society organization, our duty is to contribute to the improvement of governance and accountability in DRC's mining sector. We do so by making evidence-based and constructive recommendations to all stakeholders.

It is primarily the constitutional duty of the Government and the responsibility of mining companies to improve the governance of the mining sector to ensure that mining becomes a blessing, not a curse, for the Congolese people.

Distinguished guests and dear participants;

Each edition of the AMI has been held based on a specific theme. This year's theme is "Critical Minerals and the Energy Transition: Amplifying the Voice and Power of the People for a Just Energy Transition."



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This theme is particularly significant given the global events shaped by climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, the international community has committed to moving away from fossil fuels towards green and clean energy – that is renewable energy. As we will hear in this Indaba, as DRC, we have a golden opportunity to play an important role in this energy transition and the broader climate change agenda. This is because, in our ground, here in Kolwezi, and through-out our country, we have the mineral wealth required to power this energy transition. Electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines and battery storage system – all these green or clean technologies require our copper, our cobalt and many more green minerals.

Our discussions in this edition of the AMI must therefore help the government and companies to rethink, to reimagine the prudent use and management of our God given natural resources. This calls our government and the mining sector to establish effective and inclusive governance principles that consider the need for the DRC to pursue an equitable industrialization and development path through our resources - we must manufacture batteries here, and trade in processed and finished goods – more jobs and integration of Artisanal Miners must result in socio-economic and structural transformation; the need to respect the environment and, indeed, the need for a shared vision – in short, we need a Social Contract among all social partners that Leaves No One Behind – especially women and children - as committed by our government Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I will not pre-empt the discussions that are following today until Friday.

In concluding, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank all our partners who have made significant contributions to the organization of this event, namely the GIZ (DISM project), Norwegian Church Aid, Resource Matters, and the Carter Center. All our staff and technical teams.

Please accept our sincere thanks.

We once again thank you your excellencies. I welcome all participants and wish you great success.

On behalf of Dr. Claude Kabemba, Executive Director

I thank you.