

SPEECH BY ADELAIDE RUITERS: FOUNDER AND CEO OF ADELAIDE RUITERS MINING AND EXPLORATION PTY LTD SOUTH AFRICA

RECIPIENT WOMAN SUPER ACHIEVER AWARD INTERNATIONAL WORLD WOMEN LEADERSHIP CONGRESS MUMBAI INDIA 17 FEBRUARY 2017

Thank you very much Dr Bathia, Dr Parikh and the Organisers of this prestigious event for the Honours. My name is Adelaide Ruiters, I am from South Africa, and I am the Founder and CEO of Adelaide Ruiters Mining and Exploration Pty Ltd, a Phosphate and Industrial minerals company to produce and beneficiate fertilizers for the Agriculture industry.

May I ask, that all other delegates from the African continent also raise their hands?

I have started this mining company with very limited resources, in fact during a time when I was retrenched and just got divorced. It is a long story indeed, however, let me mention to you that I applied for and registered the rights on my ID at first, since I did not have a registered company as yet at the time. How did I do it? I did not have money to pay consultants, and I approached a university graduate to help me develop my project (the Environmental Aspects) as well as locating previous drilling data from our South African Council for Geoscience and I located the previous Geologist and Metallurgist who worked on this particular Phosphate Deposit (I gave them shares in my company). I am accepting this award on behalf of all the Women on the African Continent, and with this award I wish to inspire all women from the African Continent and Globally, to also start their own mining companies. It can be done. I have. It is a known fact, that the African Continent is well endowed with economically viable mineral resources, and I believe, that we as Africans should take charge and own, develop and beneficiate our mineral resources on our continent, so that our mineral resources can truly serve the people from our African Continent.

I do thank our South African Government the Department of Mineral Resources (Western Cape Regional Office), for creating an enabling environment allowing in particular women like myself to also own and develop mining rights in South Africa. I also thank my funders and partner, Anglo American Sefa Mining Fund who owns 13% equity in my company, for supporting my project since 2016 and enabling to bring me to where I am today, and to also assist with the much needed transformation in our South African Mining Industry. And lastly I do thank my family and God for giving me this opportunity to try and inspire other women to do the same. I thank you.