

## Press release

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### **Murowa Diamonds wins ZNCC Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award**

**Harare, August 18, 2010** - Rio Tinto is delighted to announce that Murowa Diamonds has won the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) Best Corporate Social Responsibility Programs award for 2009. Murowa Diamonds was awarded this honour on the basis of its community programs with a special focus on employee welfare and HIV/AIDS programs.

The Murowa Diamonds mine, which is situated near Zvishavane in the south western part of Zimbabwe, is 78% owned by Rio Tinto and began operations in 2004. The surrounding area is dry, relatively underdeveloped and has a number of communities that live mainly a traditional subsistence lifestyle.

“This is a great achievement for us,” said Niels Kristensen, Managing Director of Murowa Diamonds. “We congratulate our team at Murowa and all those who have partnered with us, within the community and beyond.”

Murowa Diamonds' community initiatives cover education, health, agriculture and business development. Murowa has built classroom blocks at schools in the district, provided text books and built and refurbished health clinics. The company has helped upgrade local cattle stock, provided training for farmers and spearheaded a number of initiatives that enabled households to survive a period of prolonged drought. Further, with Zimbabwe experiencing one of the harshest AIDS epidemics in the world, Murowa Diamonds has facilitated voluntary testing and counselling facilities for employees and community members to encourage people to know their AIDS status.

Niels Kristensen went on to say, “Effective management of our community relationships is as important to our commercial success as is the management of our business operations,” he said. “During its six years of existence Murowa has worked with local partners and communities to ensure we played a significant role in the continued improvement of the local communities.”

Josh Sachikonye, the Managing Director of Riozim Limited, the 22% local shareholder in Murowa Diamonds, acknowledged the company's contribution to Zimbabwe's developmental and economic goals.

"Here we have international partners who put their money and their hearts where their mouth is. We are extremely proud to be associated with the award; and more so with the achievements on the ground that benefit the people of Zimbabwe."

Murowa Diamonds community programmes reach more than 50,000 people in five wards, namely Murowa, Mhototi and Mutambi in the Zvishavane District, Davira ward 14 in the Chivi district, and the Shashe resettlement area in Masvingo. Olivia Dzawo, Murowa Diamonds Health and Safety Manager accepted the award from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on behalf of the company at a dinner held in Gweru recently.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Rio Tinto's diamonds business**

- Rio Tinto has a global diamond exploration portfolio encompassing six continents and including projects in Canada, India, southern and western Africa, Brazil, Russia and Australia.
- Currently, Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada, a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Zimbabwe and a 100% ownership of the Bunder Project in India.
- The sorting, valuation, sales and marketing of all diamonds from Rio Tinto's mines is located in Antwerp, Belgium, with representative offices in Mumbai and New York and a niche polished pink diamond business in Perth, Western Australia.
- Rio Tinto is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices.

Website: [www.riotintodiamonds.com](http://www.riotintodiamonds.com)

**About Rio Tinto**

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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