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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 1577 OF 2005**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY****NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF BILLS INTO PARLIAMENT**

The Minister of Minerals and Energy intends introducing the Bills listed below into Parliament during August 2005.

DIAMONDS AMENDMENT BILL, 2005

To amend the Diamonds Act, 1986, so as to define certain words and expressions and to amend and delete certain definitions; to establish the South African Diamond and Precious Metals Regulator; to provide for its objectives and functions; to provide for the constitution of its Board and the management of the Regulator by the Board; to provide for the chief executive officer and other staff of the Regulator; to provide for the finances of the Regulator; to empower the Regulator to establish a Diamond Exchange and Export Centre to facilitate buying, selling, export and importation of diamonds; to establish the State Diamond Trader; to provide for its objectives and functions; to provide for the constitution of its Board and the management of the Trader by the Board; to provide for the chief executive officer and other staff of the Trader; to provide for the finances of the Trader; to prohibit assistance to licencees by non-licencees persons at any place where unpolished diamonds are offered for sale; to provide anew for the kinds of licencees that may be issued by the Regulator; to provide for the issue of temporary diamond buyer's permits and certificates which entitle holders thereof to be in possession of unpolished diamonds under certain circumstances; to make fresh provision for the premises on which unpolished diamonds may be dealt in; to require diamond producers to offer a percentage of all diamonds produced in a production cycle to the State Diamond Trader; to require that unpolished diamonds intended for export purposes must first be offered at a Diamond Exchange and Export Centre; to do away with the requirement that licencees have to display their names and other particulars at their business premises; to require a licencee to retain a note of receipt of purchase in respect of unpolished diamonds for five years and not only two years; to require a licencee to retain a register in respect of unpolished diamonds for five years and not only two years; to provide that only synthetic diamonds are exempted from export duty; to repeal the provision providing for the deferment of payment of export duty; to make it obligatory that the registering officer examine unpolished diamonds registered for export and verify particulars furnished in respect thereof; to adjust the amount of the fine payable if the value of an unpolished diamond as assessed on behalf of the Regulator exceeds the value of the diamond as specified by the exporter; to provide anew for the release of unpolished diamonds for export; to require an exporter to, within three months from the date on which an unpolished diamond has been released for export, submit proof that the proceeds of the transaction has been repatriated to the Republic; to make it obligatory that the registering officer examine polished diamonds registered for export and verify particulars furnished in respect thereof; to make it an offence to sell synthetic diamonds without disclosing that they are synthetic diamonds; to replace certain obsolete provisions and to delete others; and to empower the Minister to make regulations regarding guidelines for, and the implementation of, broad based socio-economic empowerment; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

PRECIOUS METALS BILL, 2005

To provide for the acquisition, possession, smelting, refining, beneficiation, use and disposal of precious metals; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

As soon as the Bills are introduced in Parliament, copies can be obtained from—

(a) Government Printers (Cape Town and Pretoria)

(b) Adv M M Mononela
Department of Minerals and Energy
Mineralia Centre
234 Visagie Street
PRETORIA
0001

Telephone: (012) 317-9685
Fax: (012) 317-9604/320-1955

e-mail: Martin.Mononela@dme.gov.za