



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

# MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Australia supports mining-related training, education and employment opportunities for Mozambicans**

Today, the Australian High Commissioner to Mozambique, HE Mr Graeme Wilson, and the Mozambique Deputy Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Arlindo Chilundo, signed an Exchange of Letters for the development of a training package for the mining, oil and gas sectors.

Speaking in Maputo at the signing ceremony, the Australian High Commissioner noted that the work will help deliver on a key area of focus under the Memorandum of Understanding for a Mining for Development Partnership between the Australian and Mozambique Governments.

‘This work will help to maximize extractives-related training, education and employment opportunities for Mozambicans and build the capacity of local businesses to diversify their enterprises beyond the extractives sector and the local region’, Mr Wilson said.

The support is being delivered through a partnership between SkillsDMC (Australia’s national skills council for the resources and infrastructure sectors) and its Mozambique counterpart area within the Ministry of Education (SE-COREP). It is part of the Australian Government’s focus on supporting economic growth as the most sustainable way to reduce poverty and lift living standards.

Over the last three years, Australia has supported the Mozambique Government’s management of the extractives sector in a range of ways. For example, more than 560 Mozambicans have participated in study tours, scholarships, workshops and other training opportunities on extractives sector management and regulation. Australia has also supported research involving Australian and Mozambican institutions as well as the Columbia Centre for Sustainable Investment to examine how mining infrastructure can be leveraged to improve regional economic development and diversification, including in the agriculture sector. And Australia is exploring further ways it can support partnerships between industry, government and communities to take advantage of the opportunities from the extractives sector.

‘Sustainable extractives sector development offers Mozambique an unparalleled opportunity to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty’, Mr Wilson said. ‘But the extent to which the economic growth benefits of the extractives sector is achieved depends upon the availability of an adequately skilled local workforce; and linkages with other productive sectors and businesses. Australia is proud to be able to support Mozambique’s efforts to deliver tangible benefits to its people from the extractives sector.’

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