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Eurasian Resources Group in Africa

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PRESS RELEASE

ERG Africa, active in the mining sector, organises a workshop to support entrepreneurship as a lever for growth in the Lualaba Province

On Thursday, August 29, 2024, in Kolwezi, Eurasian Resources Group in Africa, a major player in the mining sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through its exploitation of the copper and cobalt sectors via its four main subsidiaries – Metalkol SA, COMIDE SARL, Boss Mining SAS, and Frontier SA – organised a multi-sectoral workshop to promote local entrepreneurship.

This event attracted significant participation from local entrepreneurs and key players across various economic sectors, with active participation from Her Excellency, Mrs Fifi Masuka Saini, Governor of Lualaba Province. The diversity of represented sectors facilitated fruitful exchanges on the challenges and opportunities for regional socio-economic development.

In her opening speech, Her Excellency, Governor of Lualaba, stated, *“I thank and congratulate the organisers of this entrepreneurship workshop in Kolwezi, especially the CEO of ERG Africa, as this is an indication of awareness regarding the collective benefits of entrepreneurship in a mining region like ours. Entrepreneurship is the driving force behind growth and the promotion of the local economic fabric, constituting a tangible indicator of development for any country.”*

The interactive workshop alternated between inspiring speeches, sharing of experiences, and panel discussions. ERG Africa highlighted its role in fostering synergies among various stakeholders.

Speaking at the event, Nicolas Treand, CEO of ERG Africa, stated: *“Our vision is to support entrepreneurship by creating a conducive environment. We operate within an ecosystem and are committed to supporting provincial government initiatives for sustainable and inclusive development.”* He also shared his experience by encouraging entrepreneurs to create synergies to promote promising projects, emphasising ERG Africa’s commitment to enhancing entrepreneurial capacities, particularly through

initiatives aimed at optimising procurement processes and encouraging greater diversity within the value chain.

Emphasising the importance of these exchanges, Mr. Germain Pungwe, President of the Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC) Lualaba, affirmed: *“I wish to encourage the organisation of these exchanges, from which I believe will emerge suitable and practical solutions and avenues to further promote entrepreneurship and job creation in the province. While reiterating our thanks to ERG Africa, I wish these endeavours every success and assure you of FEC Lualaba’s unwavering commitment to collaborate with all entrepreneurs in Lualaba.”*

In her remarks to the entrepreneurs present, Her Excellency, Governor of Lualaba added: *“To entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship is not just for large companies; it can also be pursued by micro-enterprises. You must demonstrate creativity, ambition, determination, rigor, and humility. Training and skill acquisition are essential to excel in this field.”*

The presence of organisations such as FEC, the Regulatory Authority for Subcontracting in the Private Sector (ARSP), as well as leading banks with informative booths on services and financing, enriched the discussions on strengthening entrepreneurial skills and exploring solutions for accessing financing.

Through this initiative aimed at sustainability, ERG Africa reaffirms its commitment to the economic and social development of the DRC, focusing on youth and local entrepreneurship as drivers of sustainable transformation and prosperity.

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About Eurasian Resources Group:

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group headquartered in Luxembourg, with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group is a major employer in the industry with more than 80,000 people working for it globally, present in more than 15 countries and selling products to more than 40 countries.

ERG is one of the world’s largest producers of cobalt and ferrochrome and is a large international supplier of copper and iron ore. In Eurasia, it is a leading supplier of alumina and is the only producer of high-grade aluminium in Kazakhstan.

Overall, in Kazakhstan, ERG represents one third of the metals and mining sector. The Group operates many of the country’s leading production entities, including Kazchrome, SSGPO, Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter, Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, and others. The Group is also a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia.

In Africa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ERG's Frontier SA is the cornerstone of the Group's copper business, and Metalkol SA, a major tailings reprocessing operation, has become one of the world's largest producers of cobalt and a major producer of copper. The Group has its own supply chain on the continent through its logistics company SABOT as well as development projects which are focused on other minerals and products across the African continent, including South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In Brazil, ERG is developing BAMIN, an integrated mining and logistics project in the State of Bahia, which comprises the Pedra de Ferro iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated stretch of the new FIOLE broad-gauge railway.

ERG is a founding member of the Global Battery Alliance (GBA), which includes more than 180 leading businesses, international organisations, NGOs and research institutes.

