

MONTEPUEZ RUBY MINING LTD

A GEMFIELDS Group Company

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WITH PICTURE
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MRM EMPOWERS LOCAL FARMERS WITH SECOND CHICKEN FARM LAUNCH

MONTEPUEZ, MOZAMBIQUE – Women farmers in Namanhumbir have a new source of income to support their families, thanks to a chicken farm set up with support from Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM).

The new facility, which will be run by the Associacao Agro-Pecuria Ikuro Shatiana, comes just months after the inauguration of a similar project by the company in the neighbouring village of Nanune.

The MRM chicken farming projects are aimed at empowering local farmers, particularly women, with sustainable agriculture practices and promoting chicken farming as an income generating activity that will contribute towards improving livelihoods and help address food insecurity in the area.

The Nanune project is now in its fourth breeding cycle, successfully producing 2,000 chicks per cycle and acts as a model for the Namanhumbir association, which has two separate chicken pens of 1,000 birds each to enable breeding cycles to be spread more evenly.

District Administrator (DA) of Montepuez Mrs Etelvina Rita Joaquim Fevereiro inaugurated the Namanhumbir chicken farm project on 7th March 2017. The proceedings started with a ribbon cutting ceremony, accompanied by 12 other District Government officials.

“Working in partnership with local government and communities, MRM is committed to ensuring that the local communities in the areas in which it operates are empowered to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner,” said MRM General Manager Mr Gopal Kumar.

The District Administrator echoed Mr Kumar’s sentiments and appealed to the association to take full ownership of the project to ensure its long-term sustainable growth.

“Farming is a tradition that is deeply embedded in the Mozambican culture. The chicken farm project not only allows farmers to continue practicing their craft but also provides a sustainable source of income to improve their livelihoods,” said Head Sustainability Mr Isaac Muchenje.

The project is a part of MRM’s on-going Community Development Strategy that is focused on enhancing the socio-economic development of the surrounding communities by engaging and co-operating with the community at the grassroots for long-term sustainable solutions.

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About Montepuez Ruby Mining Lda and Gemfields plc

Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM) Lda, based in Cabo Delgado , is part of the Gemfields Group of companies, a leading gemstone miner listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange (ticker: 'GEM').

Gemfields owns 75 per cent of the MRM mine, in partnership local company Mwiriti Limitada. Gemfields is the world's leading coloured gemstone producer, setting new benchmarks at the intersection of exploration, mining and marketing. Natural gems are at the heart of its operations, setting new environmental, social and safety standards in the coloured gemstone sector.

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