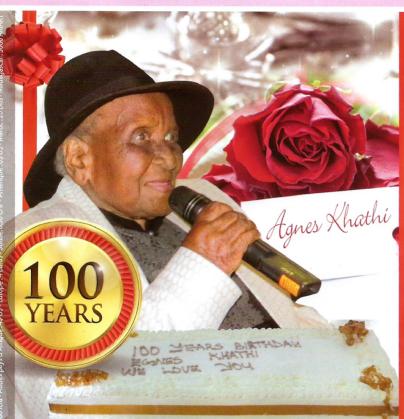
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TIDA COLY & AMY DJIBA **COLORS OF THE WORLD** 



# BABALWA NGONYAMA

CEO, BLACK BUSINESS COUNCIL **SOUTH AFRICA** 

MS. TIGUI MINING GROUP (TMG) & CAMARA DIAMOND & GOLD TRADING NETWORK (CDGTN),

## "Young Guineans must work very hard to help their country"

Ms. Tiguidanke Camara embodies perfectly the spirit of the next generation of mining, as she is one of the youngest female mining executives in Africa. Ms. Camara is a former model turned mining entrepreneur. From an early age, her entrepreneurial spirit drove her thinking and actions.

She is the founder and chairman of both Tigui Mining Group (TMG) and Camara Diamond & Gold Trading Network (CDGTN), one of the few womenowned mineral exploration companies. Ms. Camara's key strength lies in her ability to define economically viable opportunities and translating them into reality.

As a visionary and a proactive businesswoman, she saw value



in the ever-growing Mining sector in her native Guinea. Her objective is to create a conglomerate of natural resource and innovative technology companies. Ms. Camara firmly believes in the growing mineral resources industry as a main driver of her country's development. She is uniquely skilled in understanding and leveraging her relationships with local governments, local communities, and overseas investors.

Ms. Camara's mineral resource companies specialize in Africa, with a particular emphasis on West Africa. They develop ambitious projects through strategic partnerships and alliances to play a crucial role in shaping the future of the region.

### FOCUS

Corporate responsibility is one of the major initiatives of her companies.

She is a member of Women in Mining International (WIM) and one of the founding members of Women In Mining Guineé (WIM Guineé) created in 2013. Ms. Camara is an active advocate of women's presence and role in the development of the mining industry.

#### Introduce us your group.

My Company exists since 2009 and we are working on many companies toward the Africa we have licenses for the diamond and gold mining, and we do a little in oil. We have postulated has a license for the exploitation of iron also. I work a lot in West Africa, but my presence in this Equatorial Guinea economic forum is justified by my growing interest for investments in Central Africa.

#### What are your impressions after this first Summit of African and American leaders?

Overall, my impressions are excellent and I am very happy to have participated in this Summit, which actually represents the objective that Africa was seeking for several years, which is to present Africa in a more positive angle that that which is always shown, namely a dark Africa where famine, war and poverty are prominent. This Summit shows that Africa is full of talent and we are ready to work and to work with the American States and any State wishing to come in Africa to work together and not in the sense of the "Hand Out" because we are tired of this image.

#### *Is it easy to be a woman in the mining sector?*

I am a woman who works in a field often reserved to men, it can be difficult at times, but I am passionate about what I do and that allows me to overcome prejudices. My aim here is to promote the interests of my country Guinea, but at the same time to promote my business interests. I have talked with potential partners in both regards, although I was not able to discuss directly with my president, Mr. Alpha Conde, however I am very much aware of the needs of Guinea.

#### Concretely, what can the African youth expect from this Summit?

This Summit is a development platform for Africa's youth. We must strive to maintain a positive image, in order to draw even more investors to the continent. Young Guineans must work very hard to help their country, be patriotic and validly represent his country wherever they are in the World. We are all ambassadors of our country and must help it out of the stereotype of 'Africa's geological scandal'.

#### What is your message to our women readers in Africa?

I am co-founder of a forum that we call "Women in Mining", a platform to support women wishing to enter into the mining sector, which is difficult, but when you're passionate about it, nothing can stop you. Women should never lose faith in their capacity and ability to make things happen as they wish.