

PDAC'2019 SPEECH – BRAZILIAN MINING DAY

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION AND CONGRATULATE THE MINING SECTOR ENTITIES FOR ORGANIZING ANOTHER BRAZILIAN MINING DAY.

THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE GREAT RELEVANCE OF THE ANNUAL PDAC CONVENTION AND, ESPECIALLY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BRAZILIAN MINING DAY WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE BRAZILIAN MINING SECTOR ABROAD. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO START MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGENDA IN THIS EVENT, WHEN BRAZIL STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE SPONSORING COUNTRIES.

THE CURRENT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER THE COUNTRY IN A DEEP ETHICAL, MORAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS. AND AT THE BEGINNING OF PRESIDENT BOLSONARO'S MANDATE, WE EXPERIENCED A NEW PAINFUL SHOCK WITH THE BREAK OF ANOTHER WASTE DAM, WHOSE CATASTROPHIC RESULTS MOVED AND SHOOK OVER ALL BRAZILIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRAGEDY, ALL THE NECESSARY SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES NECESSARY TO MITIGATE THE TREMENDUOUS SUFFERING OF THE VICTIM'S FAMILIES WERE TAKEN. MOREOVER, A DEEP REFORM OF OUR LEGISLATION, WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT MORE SEVERE AND EFFECTIVE IS UNDER WAY.

THE RAPID AND DECISIVE RESPONSE TO THIS DISASTER WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CURRENT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT BOLSONARO'S ADMINISTRATION PRIVILEGES TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL AFFILIATION. I CAN ASSURE YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT I FULLFIL THIS REQUIREMENT, REASON WHY I WAS CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT BOLSONARO TO LEAD THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY.

ONE OF THE GREATEST COMMITMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT BOLSONARO IS TO BOOST FOREIGN TRADE, INTEGRATING BRAZIL EFFECTIVELY TO THE WORLD, INCORPORATING THE BEST INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES.

I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON AN AGENDA BASED UPON FOUR PILLARS: SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM; PRIVATIZATIONS; ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND COMMERCIAL OPENING. THIS AGENDA IS COMPLEMENTED BY OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS SUCH AS THE GUARANTEE OF LEGAL CERTAINTY TO FOREIGN INVESTORS IN BRAZIL, IN ADDITION TO BOOSTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.

IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE MINING SECTOR, OUR FIRST COMMITMENT IS TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NEWLY-CREATED NATIONAL MINING AGENCY – ANM, WITH A VIEW TO GUARANTEEING THE LEGAL SAFETY, INDISPENSABLE TO THE LONG STAGES OF MATURATION OF MINING PROJECTS AND, HENCE, ENCOURAGING MORE INVESTMENT IN THE SECTOR. MINING HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED AS ONE OF THE DRIVING FORCES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

WITH RESPECT TO THE GEOLOGY AND MINING POLICIES, I AM AWARE THAT THE MAJOR CHALLENGES ARE TO COORDINATE AND ARTICULATE WITH MY TEAM THE POLICIES NECESSARY TO ATTEND TO THREE COMMON AND PRIORITY DEMANDS OF THIS SECTOR: PREDICTABILITY, REGULATORY AND LEGAL STABILITY, AND GOVERNANCE.

ANOTHER PRIORITY OF MY PORTFOLIO IS TO EXPAND THE OFFER OF AREAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESEARCH AND NEW PROJECTS. MAKE NO MISTAKE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CHALLENGES AHEAD ARE

ENORMOUS, BUT WE ARE ALSO CONFIDENT THAT WE HAVE THE WILL , THE LEGITIMACY AND THE MEANS TO MAKE IT!

WITH REGARD TO THE FOREIGN TRADE, OUR GOAL IS TO SURPASS THE FIGURES OF 2018, WHEN THE MINING SECTOR MADE UP FOR 21 % OF BRAZILIAN EXPORTS.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MINING PROCESSES AVAILABLE, WHOSE VALUE WERE INCREASED BY THE INCLUSION OF BRAZILIAN GEOLOGICAL SERVICE DATA AND SHOULD SOON BE OFFERED BY AUCTION, ACCORDING TO A QUICKER, MORE OBJECTIVE AND MORE TRANSPARENT SYSTEM.

MOREOVER, A PROJECT WITH POTENTIAL FOR COPPER, LEAD AND ZINC, IN THE AREA OF PALMERÓPOLIS (GOIÁS), WHOSE RIGHTS ARE TODAY UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SERVICE OF BRAZIL, WAS INCLUDED IN THE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND SHOULD ALSO BE OFFERED FOR BIDDING STILL THIS YEAR.

THOSE WHO TAKE PART AND FOLLOW THE BRAZILIAN MINING SECTOR WILL HELP AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION TO BUILD AND DEVELOP AN AGENDA FOR RECOVERING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MINING INDUSTRY TO INVESTORS, EITHER BY MEANS OF MEASURES WITH A VIEW TO THE RESTORATION OF LEGAL SECURITY, OR ACTIONS AIMING AT INCREASING

THE AVAILABILITY OF GEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE OFFER OF AREAS TO THE MARKET.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMITMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION WITH A SUSTAINABLE MINING SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, BASED UPON GOOD SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES.

WITH REGARD TO REGULATORY ISSUES, WE WILL STUDY AND GO THROUGH OBSTACLES THAT, ONCE OVERCOME, WILL ENHANCE THE FUTURE OF THE SECTOR AND THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE ACCESS TO EXISTING MINERAL RESOURCES IN AREAS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED TO EXPLORATION, SUCH AS INDIGENOUS LANDS AND BORDER AREAS. THIS PROCESS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL THE REVELANT STAKEHOLDERS, SUCH AS INDIGINEOUS POPULATION, THE ORGANIZED SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES AND MOSTLY CONGRESS. THE RESTRICTIONS APPLIED TO THESE AREAS HAVE NOT FAVORED THEIR DEVELOPMENT. THEY HAVE ACTUALLY TURNED INTO HUBS OF CONFLICTS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.

WE ALSO INTEND TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE AMENDMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NUCLEAR SECTOR, WITH A VIEW TO THE FLEXIBILIZATION OF RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION OF NUCLEAR ORE AND THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS SO THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAN HELP DEVELOP THE SECTOR.

IN ESSENCE, THE FUTURE VISION REQUIRES COMMITMENT BY THE STATE, MARKET AND THE ORGANIZED SOCIETY BASED UPON THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT, ACADEMY AND THE COMMUNITIES.

IN THAT PERSPECTIVE, I HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO MEET ALL THE RELEVANT ACTORS IN THE SECTOR, COLLECTING VALUABLE ELEMENTS OF ANALYSIS FROM UNIQUE POINTS OF VIEW, OFFERED BY EACH INTERLOCUTOR.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF MINING RESOURCES TO THE POPULATION'S QUALITY OF LIFE AND TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE STRESSED AND BETTER COMMUNICATED TO SOCIETY THROUGH A PERMANENT AND TRANSPARENT DIALOGUE WITH ALL THE ACTORS INVOLVED.

THE DEMAND OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, BEARING IN MIND SUSTAINABILITY PRECAUTIONS, GROWS EVERY DAY AND THE SURVIVAL OF COMPANIES IN THIS SCENARIO, IN THE FUTURE, WILL REQUIRE THE INCORPORATION OF THIS ASSUMPTION IN THE CULTURE AND IN THE WAY OF OPERATION.

I BELIEVE, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT IT IS KEY TO REDUCE THE BUREAUCRACY OF THE SECTOR AND TO REDUCE TIME SO THAT ENTREPRENEURS, INVESTORS MAY BE ABLE TO START PRODUCING IN A SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME THAN WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CURRENT DAYS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IS A KEY POINT, ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONSIBLE OPERATION, TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF MINING TO SOCIETY AND TO ENABLE THE LONGEVITY OF THE MINING ENTERPRISES IN BRAZIL.

AS I HAVE MENTIONED, WE ARE WORKING HARD AND WITH ENTHUSIASM FOR STRUCTURAL REFORMS TO BE HELD, WHICH WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FINANCIAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMIC SCENARIO AND OPENING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE AND DURABLE INVESTMENTS.

THESE REFORMS WILL ALLOW US TO CREATE A VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF THE ECONOMY, WHICH WILL GENERATE THE TRUST NECESSARY FOR US TO OPEN OUR MARKETS FOR FOREIGN TRADE, STIMULATING COMPETITION, PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. ALL THE PRODUCTION SECTOR WILL BENEFIT FROM INCREASING EFFICIENCY, WITH LESS REGULATION AND BUREAUCRACY.

WE WILL CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS, IN ORDER TO MAKE MORE AND BETTER!

WE WILL WORK FOR A TRUE NATIONAL PACT BETWEEN SOCIETY AND THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIARY POWERS, WITH A VIEW TO FINDING NEW WAYS TO UNVEIL A NEW BRAZIL.

REST ASSURED, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT BOLSONARO IS COMMITTED, BODY AND SOUL, TO PERFORM THE NECESSARY REFORMS SO THAT BRAZIL WILL BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN ITS CAPABILITIES, EXPANDING ITS HORIZONS AND INITIATING A NEW CHAPTER OF PROSPERITY IN OUR HISTORY.

THANK YOU.