

AMCHAM/RMB Remarks

As Prepared

Good evening. Thank you for inviting me to this reception where we see South African businesses forming great partnerships with the U.S business community.

I was glad to hear of the growing relationship between AmCham and RMB, with the RMB's Ms. Nana Phiri joining the AmCham board and to hear of RMB's expansion in the U.S. Congratulations to you Ms. Phiri on joining the board and to Mark Chiaviello on opening your office in New York.

As you are aware, the U.S. Embassy is committed to strengthening bilateral economic relations with South Africa and this is a step in that direction.

U.S. Companies have a strong presence here in South Africa and in Sub-Saharan Africa. They have made a great impact in the country and region by contributing to GDP, creating employment directly, and indirectly through investments in skills development.

Let me give you a few examples of what U.S. companies have been doing here in South Africa the last few years:

Citibank initially came to South Africa in 1920, left in 1987, and re-entered again in 1995. Since then, they have grown to become the country's largest foreign bank and the sixth largest commercial bank, with capital and reserves representing over one quarter of the capital of all foreign banks operating in the country. Last month Citibank pledged R1.375 billion to develop a new infrastructure in the Vaal area in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). This project will bring a new international airport and logistics, manufacturing, and agricultural hubs. This will create much-needed employment in a region racked with rampant unemployment.

In the digital space, **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** launched AWS Africa in April 2020 in Cape Town. AWS has added value to South Africa's information technology (IT) sector and in-country spending on goods and services with the construction and operation of AWS's data centers. By the end of 2022, AWS had invested R15.6 billion which contributed R12 billion to South Africa's domestic GDP. AWS' investment creates a ripple effect in South African communities,

supporting more than 5,700 jobs at local vendors in the South African data center supply chain.

Netflix launched in South Africa in 2016. Since then, they have invested over R2.3 billion in 170+ licensed titles and commissioned 16 Netflix original South African series. These have contributed over R3.3 billion towards GDP, enhanced income of 7,000 local employees by R3.1 million and contributed R766 million towards the tax coffers in South Africa. You can thank Netflix for your binge watching of shows like *Blood and Water* or *Young, Famous and African*.

On the flip side we have seen South African companies have great success in the U.S. These companies have managed break into the U.S. market and contribute to the GDP and create employment.

Sasol constructed a world-scale petrochemical complex near their existing site in Southwest Louisiana. The \$8.9 billion project will roughly triple the company's chemical production capacity in the U.S.

In November 2022, Sappi North America invested \$418 million to increase its capacity to produce solid bleached sulfate board (SBS) products at its Somerset Mill in Maine.

Sibanye Stillwater already operates two large mines in Montana that produce palladium and platinum. In 2021, the company formed a joint venture with Ioneer Ltd to develop a lithium mine in Nevada, which will boost local lithium supply to US carmakers and battery producers.

And RMB's new office in the big apple is just the beginning for them.

Thus as you can see from this report card so-to-speak, American companies investing here in South Africa and South African companies growing in the United States are doing great things on both sides of the pond. Our goal is to support both sides of the equation because economic growth is not static. The pie grows and that's good for both sides of the Atlantic. We look forward to all of you contributing to these stories as well. Additionally, we look forward to continued

engagement with the government of South Africa as we seek to continue to improve the business climate.

Thank you for your attention. We always appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to further the goals of economic growth and prosperity for all here in South Africa. Thanks again.