

11 September 2023

## **IONIC RARE EARTHS WELCOMES UGANDAN MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FOR MAKUUTU HEAVY RARE EARTHS PROJECT**

The Board of Ionic Rare Earths Limited (“IonicRE” or “the Company”) (ASX: IXR) is pleased to advise that The Hon Dr Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu, the Ugandan government minister for Energy and Mineral Development, has indicated her support for the licensing and development of IonicRE’s Makuutu Heavy Rare Earths Project in Uganda.

Ionic Rare Earths Managing Director Tim Harrison met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu at the Africa Down Under Mining Conference 2023 from 6-8 September in Perth.

The Minister indicated her support for IonicRE’s flagship Makuutu Heavy Rare Earths Project and said the Makuutu project was one of the world’s best rare earths resources.

“Uganda is committed to the development of its mining sector, in line with the Mining and Minerals Act 2022, and its 2040 Vision.”

“Under this new framework, we look forward to granting approval of the mining licence application to Ionic Rare Earths Ltd. and Rwenzori Rare Metals Ltd.”

This is a flagship project to establish Uganda as a strategic partner in global supply chains for heavy rare earths,” the Minister said.

Australia’s Minister for Resources, Madeleine King, also spoke highly of the partnership between Australia and Uganda represented by Makuutu. Minister King noted that the abundance of natural resources in African nations that help to produce critical clean energy technologies presents “great opportunities for us to work together across international borders.”

“An example, because I know they’re represented at this conference, is Australian company Ionic Rare Earths. Ionic Rare Earths operates in Uganda and develops rare earths from ionic clay projects.”

“The company is focused on developing its flagship Makuutu Rare Earths project to become a significant supplier of critical and heavy rare earths to support the global green energy transition,” Minister King said in her address on Friday morning.

Ionic Rare Earths Managing Director Tim Harrison said new laws in Uganda’s mining sector had facilitated a conducive mineral investment climate.

“Uganda’s new mining laws and regulations offer a clear framework for mineral development in Uganda. We welcome the Ugandan government’s support for expediting approvals for the Makuutu

project, reinforcing the project as one of the world's largest and most advanced development-ready heavy rare earth element assets."

Authorised for release by the Board.

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**About Ionic Rare Earths Ltd**

Ionic Rare Earths Limited (ASX: IXR or IonicRE) is set to become a miner, refiner and recycler of sustainable and traceable magnet and heavy rare earths needed to develop net-zero carbon technologies.

The flagship Makuutu Rare Earths Project in Uganda, 60% owned by IonicRE, is well-supported by existing tier-one infrastructure and is on track to become a long-life, low Capex, scalable and sustainable supplier of high-value magnet and heavy rare earths oxides (REO). In March 2023, IonicRE announced a positive stage 1 Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) for the first of six (6) tenements to progress to a Mining Licence Application (MLA) which is pending in Uganda. The Makuutu Stage 1 DFS defined a 35-year life initial project producing a 71% rich magnet and heavy rare earth carbonate (MREC) product basket and the potential for significant potential and scale up through additional tenements.

Ionic Technologies International Limited ("Ionic Technologies"), a 100% owned UK subsidiary acquired in 2022, has developed processes for the separation and recovery of rare earth elements (REE) from mining ore concentrates and recycled permanent magnets. Ionic Technologies is focusing on the commercialisation of the technology to achieve near complete extraction from end of life / spent magnets and waste (swarf) to high value, separated and traceable magnet rare earth products with grades exceeding 99.9% rare earth oxide (REO). In June 2023, Ionic Technologies announced initial production of high purity magnet REOs from its newly commissioned Demonstration Plant. This technology and operating Demonstration Plant provides first mover advantage in the industrial elemental extraction of REEs from recycling, enabling near term magnet REO production capability to support demand for early-stage alternative supply chains.

As part of an integrated strategy to create downstream supply chain value, IonicRE is also evaluating the development of its own magnet and heavy rare earth refinery, or hub, to separate the unique and high value magnet and heavy rare earths dominant Makuutu basket into the full spectrum of REOs plus scandium.

This three-pillar strategy completes the circular economy of sustainable and traceable magnet and heavy rare earth products needed to supply applications critical to electric vehicles, offshore wind turbines, communication, and key defence initiatives.

IonicRE is a Participant of the UN Global Compact and adheres to its principles-based approach to responsible business.

### **Forward Looking Statements**

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