Diamond Mining CP

Counter plan text:

[Insert aff actors] should extract diamonds in accordance with Botswana’s approach to extracting diamonds which Hazelton clarifies:

Hazleton, Ralph. "Diamonds: Forever or For Good?." Ottawa: Partnership Africa Canada (2002). http://www.pacweb.org/Documents/diamonds\_KP/3\_diamonds\_Forever\_Eng\_March2002.pdf

Under Botswana legislation**, Debswana [the joint De Beers/government mining company] pays a 10 percent royalty based on gross market value, and a 25 percent tax based on its taxable income** (i.e. after deducting current expenses, capital allowances and other allowables from gross income). In addition to tax and royalty, **the government [also] receives a variable dividend. The amount of the dividend is calculated so as to bring government’s aggregate revenue up to a contractually agreed share of positive net cash flow. The dividend paid to the private shareholder** (De Beers) essentially **consists of whatever ever cash remains after the government has received the amount due to it**. It is the variable dividend which enables **the government** to **take[s] in excess of 70 percent of the profits of Debswana**, rather than the 35 percent or so that would result from statutory tax and royalty**. The dividend arrangement is a function of the profitability of the business, which means that both the government and De Beers have an interest in making the industry successful.**

Competition

1. I still advocate for extracting the diamonds, all I am doing is changing the process by which they are extracted in order to avoid the problems associated with the way other countries mine diamonds and
2. I compete through net benefits since I still have reasons to not do the aff hopefully.

And, Hazelton’s advocacy solves the harms of the aff since their evidence isn’t specific to Botswana, it is generally critiques of countries like Sierra Leone, so they can’t cross apply any of their offense as responses to the CP.

The net benefit is that Botswana’s joint approach to diamond mining improves the well-being of the mines worker. Hazleton 2:

Hazleton, Ralph. "Diamonds: Forever or For Good?." Ottawa: Partnership Africa Canada (2002). http://www.pacweb.org/Documents/diamonds\_KP/3\_diamonds\_Forever\_Eng\_March2002.pdf

In 2000, **the diamond industry in Botswana employed nearly 6,000 workers**, and although this represented slightly less than three per cent of the formal labour force, **[and] it is still the largest sector of employment**. About 80 per cent of the mineworkers belong to the Botswana Mine Workers’ Union (BMWU). Compared with workers in other sectors, **diamond workers are the ‘labour aristocracy’. Debswana pays a minimum wage [nearly twice]** of Pula 900 (US$169) a month, compared with **the national minimum wage** of Pula 475 (US$89) per month. **Diamond workers also receive medical benefits** (70-80 per cent paid), **and 20 per cent of salary contribution to a pension fund. Housing is provided free and is** typically not in hostels but **in semi-detached houses with electricity, water-borne sewage, in-house water taps and gas. All electricity and water costs are subsidized, and gas is generally free.** All wages and other basic conditions of employment are negotiated in the Debswana Negotiating Forum.

And, the money the government gets benefits everyone, not just mine workers. Brilliant Earth:

Brilliant Earth, website that sells jewelry from “ethical origins”, Botswana Diamonds, http://www.brilliantearth.com/Botswana-diamonds/

In addition, **Botswana uniquely harnesses its diamond wealth to foster broadly-shared prosperity.** Customers choosing Botswana diamonds generate much needed **revenue** that **is distributed to local communities for investments in education, health care, and infrastructure.**

Community

Pure origin diamonds from Botswana help to raise the standard of living in poverty-stricken portions of the country while building a more prosperous future. Nearly **half of all government revenue in Botswana is** generated **from the diamond industry**, **which** **has allowed Botswana to institute universal primary education and to make long-term investments in infrastructure, health care, and the national university.** Brilliant Earth diamond cutting partners also make direct investments in local communities. For instance, **these ethical origin diamonds have funded primary schools for children of mine employees and community members.** A portion of the proceeds from Brilliant Earth's Botswana diamonds are donated to a group home for neglected children, many of them orphans, in Gaborone, Botswana.

Finally, Debswana also allocates some of its funds to help people within the country. Hazelton 3:

Hazleton, Ralph. "Diamonds: Forever or For Good?." Ottawa: Partnership Africa Canada (2002). http://www.pacweb.org/Documents/diamonds\_KP/3\_diamonds\_Forever\_Eng\_March2002.pdf

In addition to its diamond mining and other commercial activities, **Debswana manages a fund for development activities. During 2000, the** Debswana Donations **Fund allocated approximately $562,000 to a variety of projects** in Botswana.11 Approximately **one third** of the Fund **was donated to organizations that care for** and rehabilitate **disabled children and adults**. The donations take the form of cash for specific projects and ‘in-kind’ donations of equipment and vehicles. **An additional one third** of the Fund in 2000 **went to various community development projects in small rural communities. The remaining third of the Fund was divided between environmental and HIV/AIDS projects.**