

For immediate release

RMB Namibia unveils Africa's Fearless Thinker – a symbol of pride, courage and strength

9 December 2021: In March 2017, the iconic Fearless Girl statue by Kristen Visbal took its place on Wall Street, standing defiantly and staring down New York's bronze 'Charging Bull' by Arturo Di Modica. This year, 2021, RMB Namibia unveiled their own 'African Fearless Thinker' on 9 December 2021 at the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre to celebrate Namibia Women's Day and International Human Rights Day, both celebrated on 10 December 2021.

A replica of artwork commissioned by RMB and created by Cape Town-based artist Marieke Prinsloo-Rowe, the statue is a proud and courageous African teenage girl. Having been inspired by Wall Street's Fearless Girl, RMB envisioned an Afro-centric version of the artwork that would speak to the values of individuality, courage and strength.

The African Fearless Thinker commissioned by RMB Namibia depicts a smaller statue of an African girl posing defiantly with arms in her side. RMB Namibia CEO Philip Chapman says, "the statue is an inspiring and unique reminder of the African spirit, particularly that of women and girls across our beautiful continent. "

"RMB believes that arts, culture and creativity can contribute to a strengthened economy," explains Chapman. "But more importantly, they can capture the spirit of the time, transform lives and bind together, not only hearts and souls, but entire societies and nations. RMB works towards creating an environment where women feel they are empowered to achieve their individual career goals; and growing the number of women in leadership in financial services.

"RMB believes that arts, culture and creativity can contribute to a strengthened economy. More importantly, they can capture the spirit of the time, transform lives and bind together not only hearts and souls, but entire societies and nations. As an example, Africa's Fearless Thinker expresses how courage, diversity and gender equality are valued and embraced. When we invest in the arts, we invest in the lives of young artists and communities and contributing towards the growth of the overall creative economy", adds Chapman.

“As we celebrate Namibia Women’s Day and International Human Rights Day, I am proud to unveil our Africa’s Fearless Thinker. May she serve as a constant reminder to have courage, stay curious and relentlessly question the status quo. Coupled with a collaborative mindset, fearless thinking can unlock the collective wisdom to support society to find opportunity in adversity” concludes Chapman.

Ends//

For more information, please contact Elzita Beukes, Group Communications Manager at FirstRand Namibia Limited on telephone: (+264 61) 299 2125, or Elzita.Beukes@fnbnamibia.com.na.