

Midlands Minerals Corporation

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For immediate distribution

Tanzanian Drilling Program to Begin - March 10, 2004

Toronto, Canada, February 20, 2004 – Midlands Minerals Corporation announces that it is about to commence drilling on its Itilima properties in Tanzania on March 10, 2004. Exploration to date, including ground magnetic surveys, has indicated the dimensions of a known gold (and silver) strike extending for 2 km at an average width exceeding 50 metres. Artisanal pits have shown mineralization to be continuous along the 2 km strike, and at a depth of about 40 metres with gold values as high as 43.8 g/t. Other field work and an airborne magnetic survey indicate probable extensions and parallel structures for gold mineralization.

Work done to date has been supervised by Watts, Griffis and McQuat Limited with Joe Hinzer, PGO (President) as the Project Manager. Work undertaken to March of 2003 included soil geochemistry, trenching and ground magnetic surveys. The results, and in particular, the discovery of three previously unknown kimberlites, led to the airborne magnetic and radiometric survey which was undertaken in September of 2003 by Fugro Airborne Services Ltd. The airborne survey results and interpretations, which were released in October 2003, identified 82 kimberlites of which 10 are considered highly prospective targets. Two of the 10 were previously sampled by Watts Griffis and McQuat Limited and samples were sent to SGS Lakefield Research Laboratories for chemical and petrographic analysis. Results showed the presence of indicator minerals and given that the samples collected were surface samples, the company found the results encouraging. As a result, Midlands has now developed a work plan to further explore for both gold and diamonds on the Itilima project.

PLANNED WORK

Up to 1400 metres of RC and RAB drilling will be undertaken from March 10 to the middle of April to further define the length, width and depth of the strike and the existence of parallel strikes. Diamond drilling may be undertaken to provide structural information at greater depth. Midlands' plan includes concurrent RAB drilling in two of its 82 indicated kimberlite targets. Petrographic and chemical analysis on these two kimberlites has confirmed the presence of kimberlite ore, garnets and ilmenite.

In addition to its Tanzanian gold and diamond properties Midlands also has a gold property on the north-east end of the famous Ashanti Gold Belt in Ghana. Work to establish drill targets in Ghana is expected to begin early this spring.

Midlands Minerals Corporation is in the process of completing a reverse takeover of Grand Oakes Resources Corp. and is in the process of filing for a TSX Venture Exchange listing. Northern Securities Inc is our Sponsor and the closing is estimated to be on or about April 30, 2004.

Disclaimer. *This news release contains estimates and forward-looking statements. Due to the risks and uncertainties inherent in mining exploration there is no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate. Results may vary from management's expectations.*

This document should not be construed as an offer to buy or sell securities of Midlands Minerals Corporation or Grand Oakes Resources Corp.

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