

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

An Amendment to an Environmental Clearance Certificate to allow for Exploration Mining of Industrial Minerals from One (1) Mining Claim (MC-70725), Pegged on a Private Farmland

Karibib District, Erongo Region

June 2023

INTRODUCTION

Mr Jeano Foelscher, is a well-established Small-scale Miner (SSM) who has been a beneficiary owner of one (1) Mining Claim with the number (MC-70725) since June 2018. MC-70725 is pegged on a privately owned farm situated in the Karibib district in Erongo Region. The MC has provided access to the SSM to mine semi-precious stones (SPS), mostly tourmalines. The mining activities have been permitted via an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC – 2300296) granted to the SMM on 17 April 2023 and is valid until 17 April 2026.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT

Recently, grab samples collected from active working areas within MC-70725 have assayed good grades of Industrial Minerals (IMs) which appear to indicate mineralisation of lithium, tin and tantalite in the pegmatite exposed during mining. The proponent would like to conduct exploration mining for the said IMs in order to ascertain the size, extent and characteristics of any IM deposits. Since MC-70725 is granted for semi-precious stones, for the SSM to engage in exploration mining for IMs without such IMs having been registered on the MC would constitute a violation of the Minerals (Prospecting & Mining) Act.

The Mining Commissioner has been formally notified of the discovered IMs and advised the SSM that for MME to register the discovered IMs on the MC registration certificate, the following requirements have to be satisfied:

- ❖ The discovered IMs must be confirmed by an accredited laboratory.
- ❖ The existing ECC must be amended to allow for exploration mining of IMs.

Table 1: Current and Desired Status of MC-70725

Current Status with Authorities	MC Size	Minerals Allowed for Mining	New Minerals Discovered	Minerals Desired for Mining
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ MME - Application❖ MEFT - ECC granted on 17 April 2023	15.15 ha	Semi-precious Stones	Industrial Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Semi-precious Stones❖ Industrial Minerals

EKWAO CONSULTING

Ekwao has been appointed by the SMM to handle the amendment of its ECC. The scale and footprint of the envisaged exploration mining for industrial minerals are completely different to that of mining SPS – hence a full EIA was recommended.

MINING PROJECT PROPOSAL

The proposal of the SSM is to mine lithium-tin bearing pegmatite from this MC and to deliver such crushed ore for processing by a third party who is establishing a lithium processing plant near Karibib. At this stage the volume of the ore to be mined and delivered for processing by the third party is unknown. It is understood that such data will become available once adequate exploration mining has been successfully completed.

PROJECT LOCATION

MC-70725 is pegged on the farm Kaliombo, situated south of the B2 highway and about 25 km away, as more or less depicted in Fig. 1 below. Access to the project site is provided via farm roads which are in relatively good conditions.

COMMENTS AND OR INPUTS

Given that the MC is located on a private farmland and that mining activities have been ongoing since June 2018, a public meeting has been waived by the EIA Consultant.

However, interested and affected parties are hereby invited to provide their comments and/or inputs with respect to the EIA being conducted to Ekwao Consulting. Comments or inputs can be provided via email, fax, text messages or social media platforms such as WhatsApp on or before the 14 July 2023.

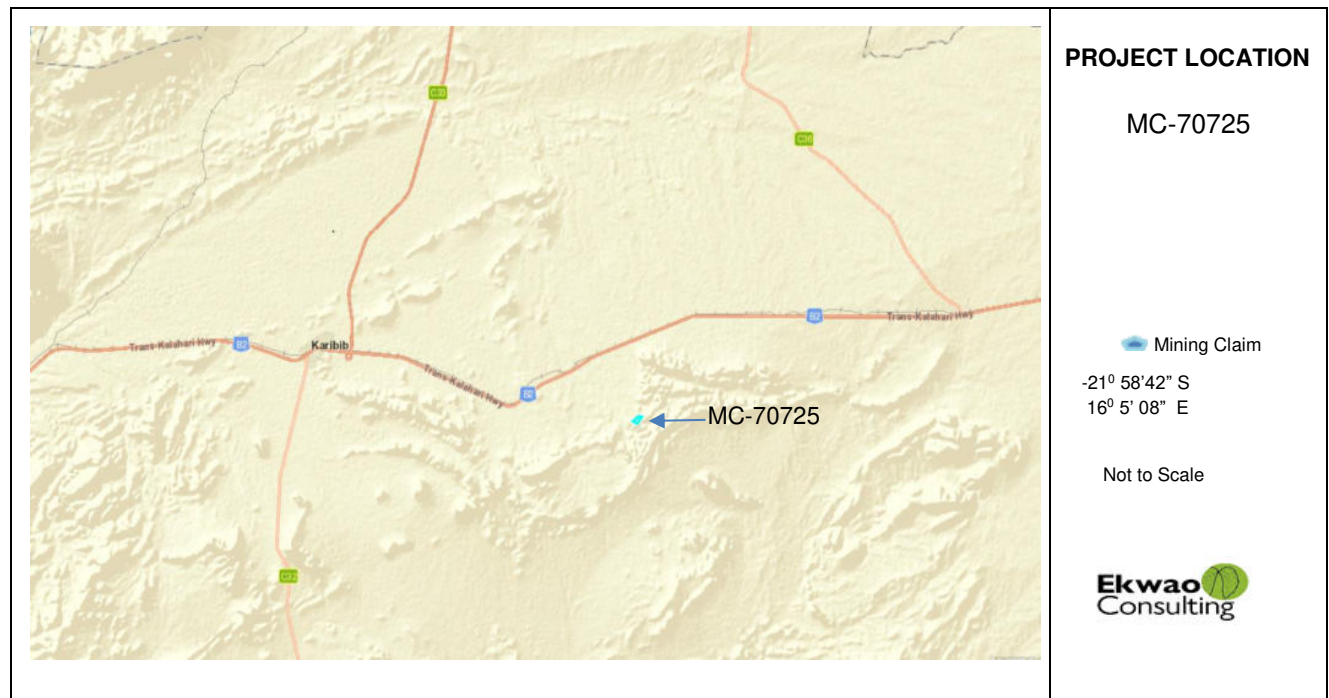


Fig. 1: Location of the Mining Claim