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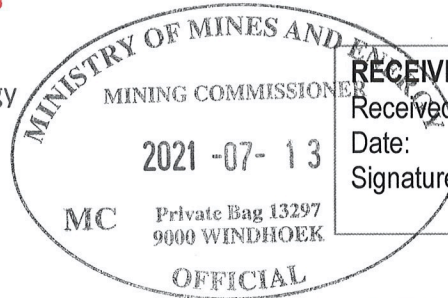
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REFERENCE: ECC-88-338-LET-08-A

08 February 2021

COPY

Ministry of Mines and Energy  
Private Bag 13297  
Windhoek  
Namibia



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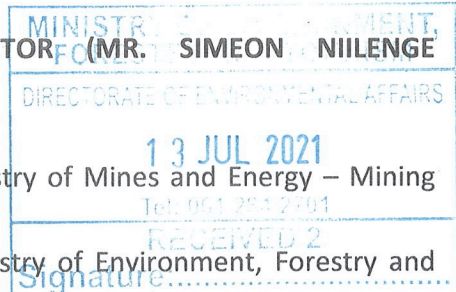
FOR ATTENTION:

MME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MR. SIMEON NIILENGE NEGUMBO)

COPY TO:

Mr. Erasmus Shivolo (Ministry of Mines and Energy – Mining Commissioner)

Mr. Timoteus Mufeti (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism – Environmental Commissioner)



Dear Mr. Simeon Niilenge Negumbo,

**RE: APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR VOTORANTIM METALS NAMIBIA TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7212, 7789, 7964, 7970, 7971, 7972 AND 7974 FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS AND PRECIOUS METALS IN THE KUNENE, OTJOZONDJUPA AND KHOMAS REGIONS, NAMIBIA.**

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by Votorantim Metals Namibia (Pty) Ltd to act on their behalf for the environmental clearance certificate application for the proposed exploration activities for base and rare metals, industrial minerals, and precious metals in the Kunene, Otjozondjupa and Khomas regions, Namibia.

Votorantim Metals provides metal and mineral mining services worldwide. Votorantim undertakes mineral exploration in Namibia and proposes to undertake low impact exploration activities on EPLs 7212, 7789, 7964, 7970, 7971, 7972, and 7974.

In terms of Section 32 (1) of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, ECC has determined that the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is the competent authority for the

proposed exploration project as it triggers the following listed activity that falls within the jurisdiction and mandate of MME:

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
<b>FORESTRY ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorisation in term of the Forest Act, 2001 (Act No. 12 of 2001) or any other law.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Limited vegetation clearing of bush-encroached areas may be required for tracks and survey access creation, and possibly for the set up for survey teams' field camps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MINING AND QUARRYING ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a licence, right or other forms of authorisation, and the renewal of a licence, right or other forms of authorisation, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act), 1992.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The proposed project has obtained an EPL from MME; now requires an environmental clearance from DEA/MEFT for the search for base and rare metals, industrial minerals and precious metals.</li> <li>o Minerals (e.g., soil and sand), will be sampled within selected target areas of the project area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Groundwater will be required for diamond drilling of exploration boreholes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Due to the nature of the proposed project, the potential limited effects on the environment and society and the implementation of industry best practice mitigation measures, ECC has undertaken a high-level environmental assessment in order to produce an environmental assessment report and environmental management plan as per attached.

Therefore, ECC hereby submits the attached application for your consideration and review:



- **COMPLETED FORM 1 (ATTACHED)** – Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007, section 32 Application Environmental Clearance Certificate
- **ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT**
- **PROJECT SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)**

Both the environmental assessment and environmental management plan hereto attached are submitted to the Office of the Executive Director of MME for your review, input, and feedback. The relevant EPL application numbers are APP-002328 (EPL7212), APP-002329 (EPL 7789), APP-002330 (EPL 7964), APP-002331 (EPL 7970), APP-002332 (EPL 7971), APP-002333 (EPL 7972), APP-002334 (EPL 7974).

ECC kindly requests confirmation that the above application is acceptable by your office and in order to fulfill the requirements as per Section 17 (b) and Section 33 (1) of the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and by the Mining Commissioner in terms of section 50 f (i) and (g) of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, No. 33 of 1992.

ECC aspires to build an open and transparent relationship with your office and ECC understands that the MME are the competent authority for mining-related projects, therefore we understand that once MME completes the review of the attached application, MME will forward the application to the MEFT for their attention and action.

Should you or your office require our assistance with the details contained within this letter or any project specific details, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will gladly assist.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



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