

Electoral body unveils virus mitigation strategy



Proactive... The ECN has unveiled its Covid-19 draft mitigation strategy ahead of the regional and local authority elections in November. Photo: Nampa

■ Kuzeeko Tjitemisa

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) yesterday unveiled its Covid-19 draft mitigation strategy, which outlines specific plans that would be implemented to lessen the impact of the global coronavirus crisis ahead of this year's regional council and local authority elections.

The electoral body's chairperson, Notemba Tjipueja, unveiled the pandemic mitigation strategy during a consultative workshop with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Windhoek.

Namibians are heading to the polls in November to elect new regional council and local authority leaders despite fears of the global coronavirus crisis that is testing the world's democracies in myriad ways.

"We want to make it categorically clear that the ECN is under no illusion that conducting elections under the present circumstances will be an onerous task but we believe that this country can hold successful elections if everyone complies with the relevant regulations and requisite health precaution," she said. Tjipueja acknowledged that the elections would take place against the backdrop of Covid-19 and, thus, the electoral body has established a working relationship with the health ministry.

"We have provided the health ministry with the draft mitigation strategy document in order for the ministry to provide health risk assessment in respect of all electoral processes and the transmission risks they may have," she said. She said, most importantly the electoral body strategy will be aligned to the national guidelines as may be announced by the relevant authorities under the state of emergency regulations.

Under the draft ECN Covid-19 mitigation strategy, ECN said it will use online recruitment platforms to receive and review staff applications.

For in-person interviews, the ECN said it has identified facilities with sufficient space to allow for required physical distance, provide hand sanitisers and ensure the use of face masks, especially for pregnant women, elderly person and persons with pre-existing conditions.

On election day, the electoral body said even if no voters or election officials experience any symptoms of the virus, all precautions would be taken as if any person in the polling station could be infected.

"The placement of the tables and sets for election officials will respect the required physical distance, and presiding officers will control the flow of voters at each polling process to avoid person-to-person contact and allow time for sanitisation of any equipment," ECN chief electoral officer Theo Mujoro said.

Additionally, Mujoro said, the ECN will consider eliminating any step that might lead to unnecessary touching of objects.

"Multiple-person seating, especially benches and side-by-side chairs, will be removed, and polling places will have few unnecessary objects and surfaces as possible," he added.

"The wearing of a face mask will be mandatory for all persons coming to register as voters and to all voters, including all electoral officials."

- ktjitemisa@nepc.com.na

Kawana family gives back



Supportive... The Kawana family has donated food items to some vulnerable residents of Walvis Bay as part of the fight against Covid-19. Peter Kawana and his wife Anna donated 500kg of butternuts and 250kg of cabbages, which were received on Sunday by Jafet Itenge, the director of disaster risk management in the Office of the Prime Minister. "The produce donated is part of our agro-business, as we own and farm in the Grootfontein district. We hope to produce more and have surpluses in future so that we can assist other communities in other parts of Namibia. We wish all the Namibians a safe and healthy environment and call on all the citizens to seriously follow all the set protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19," said Anna. In the photo, Hilya Ithete and Itenge (both from the OPM's office) receive the donation from the Kawana family. Photo: Contributed



PUBLIC INVITATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSUMER FUEL FACILITY IN KEETMANSHOOP, KARAS REGION

Notice is hereby given to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its Regulations (2012) for the following intended activity.

Project Name: Snyman Transport Consumer Fuel Facility
Project Location: Remainder of Portion CC of Keetmanshoop Town and Townlands No. 150, Karas Region.

Project Description:
The proposed development will entail the following activities:
• Construction and operation of the consumer fuel facility, with all associated infrastructure.
• Supply of fuel to the company's fleet.

Proponent: IJ Snyman Transport Pty (Ltd)

Environmental Consultant: Matrix Consulting Services

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are encouraged to register and raise concerns or provide comments and opinions. I&APs will be provided with a Background Information Document (BID) comprising detailed information for the intended activity and will be informed of the public participation process to be followed.

A public meeting will be held subject to the interest expressed by the public and stakeholders. All registered I&APs will be informed accordingly should the public meeting or open day session be held.

Should you wish to register as I&AP and receive a BID, please contact the Matrix Consulting Services office.

Contact: Mr. M. Shippiki, Tel: (+264-61) 224197; Fax: (+264-61) 212165;
E-Mail: environment@matrixconsultingcc.com
DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 23 JULY 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) INVITATION FOR AFFECTED AND INTERED PARTIES

This notice serve to inform all Interested and Affected Parties that an application for the Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Environmental Commissioner as per the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Government Notice No. 30 of 2012 (EIA Regulations) for the following activities:

PROJECT NAME: The Environmental Impact Assessment study for the application for the mining license number 201, in Omdel, Erongo Region

District Area: Omdel dam, Henties bay district Area.

Proponent: Phoenix Investment PTY LTD

Environmental Consultants: Namland Consultants cc

Public Participation forms an integral part of the EIA process. Therefore, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register. All registered I & APs will receive a Background Information Document (BID) describing the processed activity and the EIA processed to be followed.

To register or to submit your contributions, please contact:

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INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING:

VENUE: Open area in Omdel, next to dam, Erongo Region
DATE: 18 July 2020
TIME: 10:00 AM

PURPOSE: PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 5702

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012). The project will comprise of mineral exploration activities on the tenement.

Location: The mineral licence is located 45 km Northeast of Kamanjab and covers farms Khairros, Ohorong Reserve and Otjitambi.
Proponent: Hepburn Rhineland (Pty) Ltd (Pty)

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINING CLAIMS 71896-71900

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012). The project will comprise of dimension stone quarrying activities on mining claims.

Location: The project is located 15 km northeast of Karibib on farm Okawayo, Erongo Region.
Proponent: Triple Tas Trading Enterprises cc

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before 27/07/2020. Contact details for registration and further information:

Mr. N Amutenya.
Email: eia@impalac.com, Tel: 0856630598

