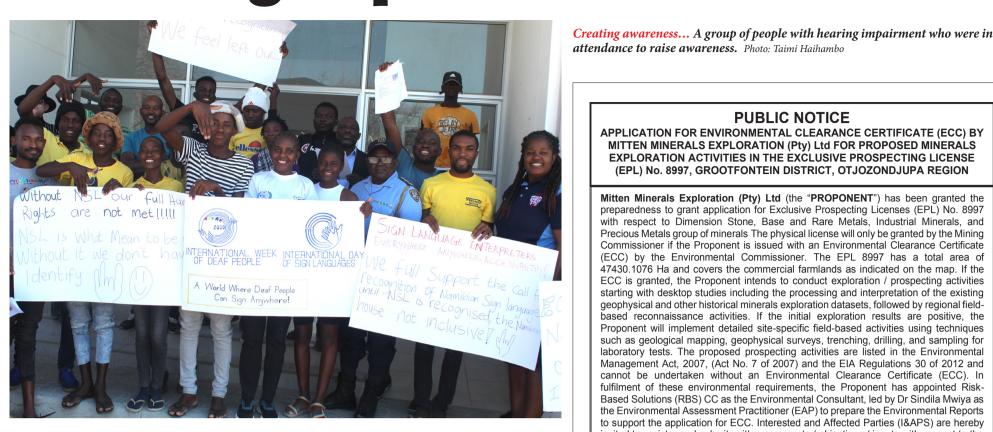
Hearing impaired feel secluded



Taimi Haihambo

ONGWEDIVA - An abundant number of people with hearing impairment feel neglected and left out due to their condition.

According to Lina Mweyakulya, a board member of the Namibian National Association of the Deaf (NNAD), people with hearing impairment feel neglected due to that a lot of people in different institutional services are not trained on how to communicate using sign language.

This is despite Oshana region having over 500 people with hearing challenges.

Mweyakulya gave an example of health institutions, stating that when hearing impaired people visit hospitals, they end up getting wrong medications because nurses and doctors do not understand what they are trying to communicate.

She said those with hearing impairment and are convicted of crime find themselves being kept in custody for a very long period due to communications barriers.

"If the court does not have a sign language interpreter, the suspect will remain in custody for a very long time and until the court officials get interpreters to help do the job," said Mweyakulya.

She was speaking at the ministry of gender equality hall in Ongwediva, where masses gathered to raise awareness on hearing impairment last week.

Festus Hangula (27) who has a hearing impairment said that he is capable of doing different tasks, but when people hear about his condition, they turn him away.

He said they miss out on job opportunities because some interviews are oral while others are written but, in most cases, they do not understand questions. At times, he said, they get phone calls from companies where they applied for a job, but end up not getting it because they are unable to hear what is communicated over the phone.

"We are asking the government to start offering sign language training to everyone for communication purposes," said Hangula.

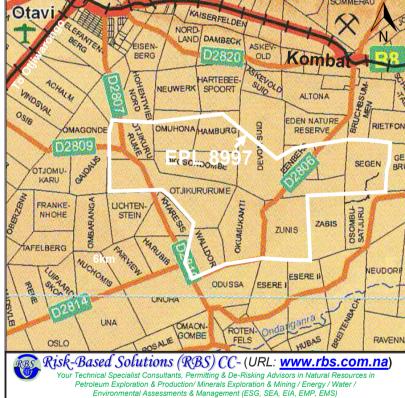
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Drought, unemployment fuel livestock theft

ETANGA - The Kunene region has seen the worst dry spells in the past decade, resulting in more than 90% of livestock losses, farmers are now hit by livestock theft.

The farmers say there is a spike in livestock theft despite their attempts to recover their herd numbers after it was ravaged by climatic shocks.

As a result of these losses, most farmers are now at the mercy of the government's food and drought assistance programmes.

During a recent interview with Nampa, Namibian Police community affairs officer in Kunene, Inspector Vehangaiza Candy Ruiter revealed that the majority of stock theft cases involve farmers who have lost livestock as a result of the current climatic crisis and are now attempting to recoup and replace.

According to Ruiter, most young people are involved in livestock thievery due to the fact they are unemployed, and as a result, they turn to crime.

"Many of the suspects steal

because they have lost their livestock and want to restart farming. Many young people desire contemporary stuff, yet they are unemployed, therefore, they commit crimes. Others steal to sell biltong or dried meat to street vendors, particularly in Outjo and Kamanjab," said Ruiter.

Since the very beginning, livestock has been the economic backbone of most Kunene farmers. Nevertheless, authorities in the region have reported an increase in livestock theft, which is now threatening community livelihoods on top of the recurring drought.

Some farmers who spoke to Nampa in Etanga, approximately 100 kilometres north of Opuwo, said stock theft has had a detrimental influence on their lives as the cattle are their sole means of existence.

Chief Vemuii Tjambiru of the Kakurukouje Traditional Authority was amongst many who decried livestock theft, stating that it is impossible to police stock theft since most of the region lacks borderlines to

prevent the free movement of livestock from one constituency to another.

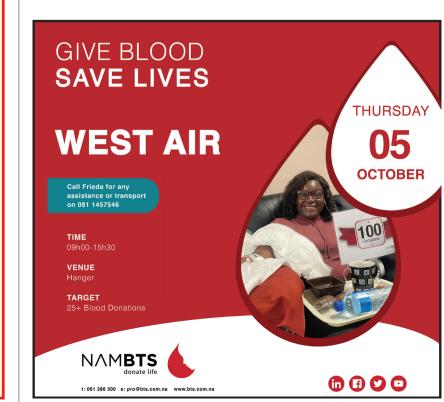
He, too, supported Ruiter's comment that the lack of formal education and the high unemployment rate among young people are factors in stock theft.

The region's police have been under growing pressure to tighten security and reduce the increase in stock theft, which includes outsiders from other

The most prominent areas for stock theft, according to Ruiter, are Omakange, Outjo, Okonjota, Okorosave, Okapembapu, and Ohandungu, where goats, donkeys, and cattle have been reported stolen.

He said the police were able to apprehend a large number of these culprits, as well as retrieve some of the stolen livestock.

According to police records, 172 incidences of theft of livestock have been reported to the Kunene police in the last eight months. The region itself has reported over 1 600 cases across the board. -Nampa



OBSERVER MONEY

New platform to power Africa's energy transition

leading African upstream oiland-gas event Africa Oil Week (AOW) has launched a bold new brand and mission, with a broader energy focus in line with the global energy transition and Africa's evolving role.

The event is evolving into a new platform, to be known as AOW: Investing in African Energy. It will provide a single, inclusive forum for investing in African energy, addressing the continent's immediate energy needs, while driving dialogue to accelerate the clean-energy transition.

"This is the perfect time to launch a bold new brand and mission," says Yemi Ibidunni, Event Director of AOW. "The continent's diverse energy landscape, from its hydrocarbon reserves to its renewables potential, makes Africa a critical player in shaping a sustainable energy future. The platform is evolving to reflect that."

The new evolution of the event will bring together two existing events: the long-established Africa Oil Week, and the two-year-old Green Energy Africa Summit, previously run as parallel events from the same venue in Cape Town.

The continent's diverse energy landscape, from its hydrocarbon reserves to its renewables potential, makes Africa a critical player in shaping a sustainable energy future.

The new format will have a broader focus, to reflect the global move to a diversified energy mix, while ensuring Africa has the resources to power the next phase of its development. The Energy Investment Village for clean-tech start-ups will sit at the heart of the exhibition, and the event will also feature an advanced government meetings programme and new networking lounges where delegates can connect. AOW 2024 is scheduled to run over five days from October 7-11, 2024, with a comprehensive onsite and evening networking programme.

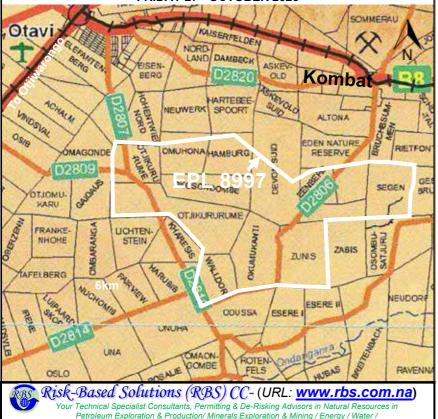


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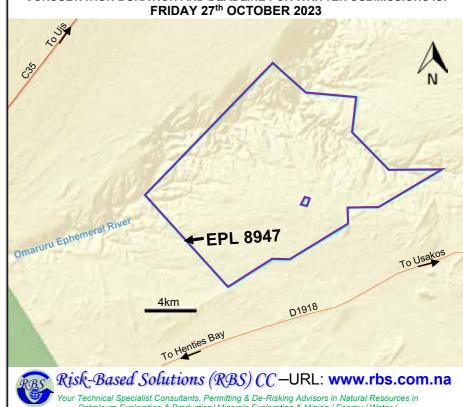
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North Korea sending Russia military equipment, US claims

MATT MURPHY

S officials have accused North Korea of supplying vast amounts of military hardware to Russia for use in Ukraine.

Pyongyang has supplied up to 1,000 containers of "equipment and munitions" in "recent weeks", National Security Council Spokesperson John Kirby said.

Officials also released photos of what they said were 300 containers assembled for transport in Najin, North Korea.

Last month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Russia to discuss potential military cooperation.

Moscow's military is believed to be burning through huge amounts of artillery shells and missiles in its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and has been seeking to replenish its supplies from some of its isolated allies.

Some analysts believe that Mr Kim's regime could be sitting on huge stores of arms, but could be reluctant to hand over too much given its relative lack of resources.

US intelligence agencies tracked the deliveries, which officials said took place between 7 September and 1



October

Speaking at a news conference on Friday, Mr Kirby said the equipment was exported via sea and rail to a supply depot in southwestern Russia, near Tikhoretsk, about 180 miles (290km) from the Ukrainian border.

Mr Kirby did not specify the nature of the munitions he says were supplied by Mr Kim's regime, but the US has previously accused Moscow of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from Pyongyang.

Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, US officials have consistently voiced concerns that North Korea has supplied munitions to Russia.

"We condemn [North Korea] for providing Russia with this military

equipment, which will be used to attack Ukrainian cities, kill Ukrainian civilians and further Russia's illegitimate war," Mr Kirby told reporters. He said the deliveries by North Korea violate UN Security Council resolutions "which is why we will continue to aggressively raise these arms deals at

the UN alongside with our allies and

partners".

In July, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited the country with a military delegation and met with Mr Kim, who displayed a number of weapons systems - including the Hwasong intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)

And in September, Mr Kim met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Vostochny space centre in Russia's far east

Observers say that North Korean weapons would only give a short-term boost to Russia's war effort. They point to how Moscow, with hugely depleted ammunition, is relying on older, more unreliable artillery shell stocks.

And speaking recently at a ceremony to mark his retirement as chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Mark Milley said he was "sceptical" that any such deliveries would play a decisive role in the conflict. But it comes as the US has been forced to pause plans to send an additional \$6bn in military aid to Kyiv, amid an ongoing budget row in the House of Representatives.

President Biden said earlier this week that the temporary agreement between House Democrats and Republicans may force him to find alternative ways to fund Ukraine's war effort.

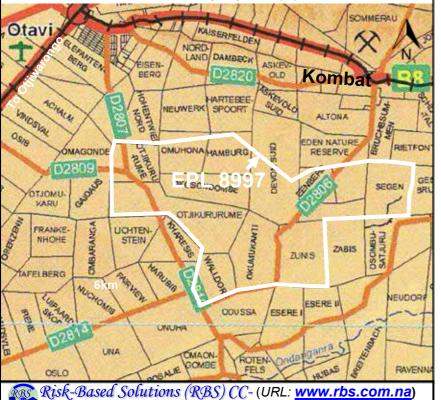
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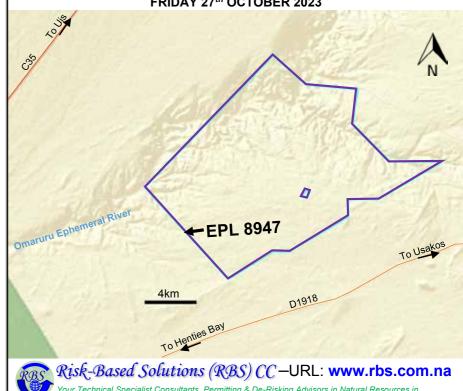
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Israeli strikes on Gaza intensify as humanitarian crisis deepens

sraeli forces kept up their bombardment of Gaza on Monday after diplomatic efforts to arrange a ceasefire to allow foreign passport holders to leave and aid to be brought into the besieged Palestinian enclave failed.

Residents of Hamas-ruled Gaza said overnight air strikes were the heaviest yet as the conflict entered its 10th day with an Israeli ground offensive believed to be imminent.

Bombing carried on through the day, they said, and many buildings were flattened, trapping yet more people under the rubble. Israeli officials issued multiple warnings of Hamas rocket fire into Israel.

Diplomatic efforts have been under way to get aid into the enclave, which has endured unrelenting Israeli bombing since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas that killed 1 300 people, the bloodiest single day in the state's 75-year history.

But Israel's chief military spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said there was no Gaza ceasefire and that Israel was continuing its operations. "There are no such efforts under way at this time. If anything changes, we will

inform the public. We are continuing

our fight against Hamas, this murderous organisation that carried this (the assaults) out."

Israel has imposed a full blockade and is preparing a ground invasion to enter Gaza and destroy Hamas, which has continued to fire rockets at Israel since its brief cross-border assault. On Monday, rocket-warning sirens sounded in several towns in southern Israel, the Israeli military said.

Israeli troops and tanks are already massed on the border.

Authorities in Gaza said at least 2 750 people had so far been killed by the Israeli strikes, a quarter of them children and nearly 10 000 wounded. A further 1 000 people were missing and believed to be under rubble.

With food, fuel and water running short, hundreds of tons of aid from several countries have been held up in Egypt pending a deal for its safe delivery to Gaza and the evacuation of some foreign passport holders through the Rafah border crossing.

Earlier on Monday, Egyptian security

Earlier on Monday, Egyptian security sources had told Reuters that an agreement had been reached to open the crossing to allow aid into the enclave. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a state-



Smoke billows following Israeli strikes in Gaza City, 11 October 2023.-Image Credits :Reuters

ment, "There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out." Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq told Reuters there was "no truth" to the reports about the crossing opening or a temporary ceasefire.
Egypt has said the crossing was rendered inoperable due to Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian side.

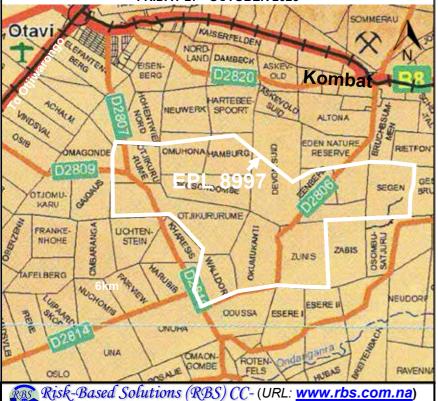
Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Monday the Israeli government had yet to take a stance that allowed the crossing to open. -SABC NEWS

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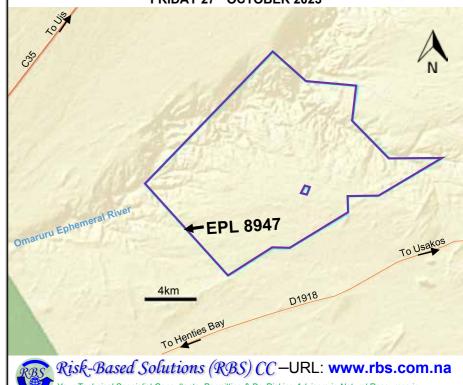
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Iran's Khamenei demands Israel stop bombardment of Gaza

ran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused Israel of carrying out a genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and warned Israel that it must pull back from its attacks on the besieged territory.

Speaking on Tuesday Khamenei said Israeli officials should face trial for their actions in Gaza and warned that "no one can stop" forces opposed to Israel if it continues its assault.

"If the crimes of the Zionist [Israeli] regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them," Khamenei said. "The bombardment of Gaza must stop immediately."

"Regarding the situation in Gaza, we all have a responsibility to react; we must react," he said.

Iranian officials often use the term "axis of resistance" to refer to a network of Iran-backed armed groups throughout the region that includes Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's Fars News Agency also reported that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander-in-Chief Ali Fadavi warned of further action by Iran-backed groups across the region.

"The resistance front's shocks against

66

If the crimes of the Zionist [Israeli] regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them

the Zionist regime will continue," he

Israel has pounded Gaza from the air since Hamas launched a surprise attack from Gaza on southern Israel on October 7, when hundreds of Hamas fighters breached the Israeli fence that surrounds Gaza and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

After the attack, Israel cut off food, water, and electricity to the more than 2.3 million residents of Gaza and launched an aerial assault that has destroyed entire neighbourhoods, killed more than 3,000 people and wounded 12,500 others, according to Palestin-



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday, October 17 [Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader via AP]

The question of potential expansion of the fighting to include not just Hamas, the Palestinian group that governs Gaza and receives some support from Iran, but more formidable Iran-backed groups such as Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, has loomed over the 11-day

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that supporting the Pales-

tinians was Iran's foreign policy priority but that the armed groups make their own independent decisions. Israel has said it intends to destroy Hamas and has mobilised hundreds of thousands of military reservists ahead of an expected ground offensive on Gaza. Military experts have warned that any ground offensive into densely populated areas of Gaza would

be extremely challenging and could potentially lead to heavy losses on both sides

The Israeli military suggested on Tuesday that it was considering other options as it prepares for "the next stages of the war" against Hamas. "Everyone is talking about a ground offensive, but it could be something else," Israeli army spokesperson Richard Hecht said on Tuesday without

providing further details.

"Any ground operation [by Israel into Gaza], starting such an operation, that could be a trigger" for other armed groups to join the war, Mahjoob Zweiri, a professor at Qatar University, told Al Jazeera.

The United States has sought to deter Iran-backed groups from joining the war, moving two aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean and putting 2,000 of its troops on deployment alert. Israel has warned that any party that joins the fighting will pay a heavy price.

But a widening of the conflict could also cause considerable problems for Israel, which would be faced with the prospect of barrages of missiles from Hezbollah's considerable arsenal and a two-front war that could stretch the capacity of its forces.-AL JAZEERA

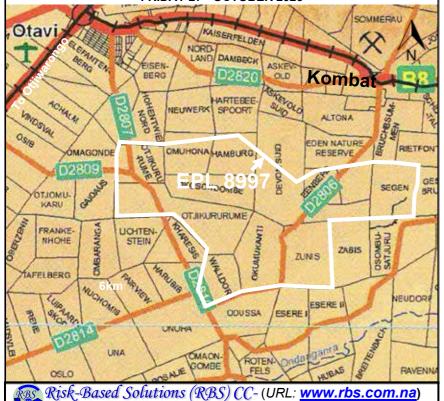
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APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) BY MITTEN MINERALS EXPLORATION (Pty) Ltd FOR PROPOSED MINERALS EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) No. 8997, GROOTFONTEIN DISTRICT, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

Mitten Minerals Exploration (Pty) Ltd (the "PROPONENT") has been granted the preparedness to grant application for Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPL) No. 8997 with respect to Dimension Stone, Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, and Precious Metals group of minerals The physical license will only be granted by the Mining Commissioner if the Proponent is issued with an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) by the Environmental Commissioner. The EPL 8997 has a total area of 47430.1076 Ha and covers the commercial farmlands as indicated on the map. If the ECC is granted, the Proponent intends to conduct exploration / prospecting activities starting with desktop studies including the processing and interpretation of the existing geophysical and other historical minerals exploration datasets, followed by regional fieldbased reconnaissance activities. If the initial exploration results are positive, the Proponent will implement detailed site-specific field-based activities using techniques such as geological mapping, geophysical surveys, trenching, drilling, and sampling for laboratory tests. The proposed prospecting activities are listed in the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the EIA Regulations 30 of 2012 and cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). In fulfilment of these environmental requirements, the Proponent has appointed Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC as the Environmental Consultant, led by Dr Sindila Mwiya as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to prepare the Environmental Reports to support the application for ECC. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APS) are hereby invited to register and submit written comments / objections / inputs with respect to the proposed prospecting activities. A Background Information Document (BID) is available on request upon registration.

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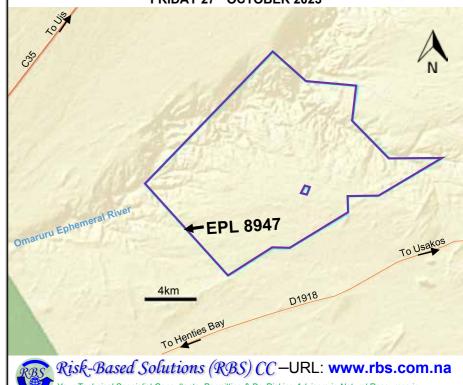
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Guinea-Bissau capital without power over unpaid bill to Turkey's Karpowership

GLORIA ARADI & YUSUF AKÍNPÈLÚ

Turkish firm has cut power supplies to Guinea-Bissau's capital over an unpaid bill of at least \$15m (£12m), plunging the city into darkness.

It has severely disrupted daily life, with hospitals affected and radio stations off-air

Economy Minister Suleimane Seidi acknowledged the arrears, saying most of the bill would be paid in 15 days. Karpowership is one of the world's biggest floating power plant operators, supplying several African states. But it has taken a tough line over non-payment. Last month, it cut power to Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, over an unpaid bill of \$40m.

The Turkish company has also signed a deal to supply power to South Africa, saying it will cover more than 5% of the country's total electricity needs. South Africa has been hit by a wave of power cuts with people going without electricity for up to 10 hours a day.



Power was cut in Bissau, a city with a population of more than 400,000, in the early hours of Tuesday and has not been restored, a resident told the BBC. Some public hospitals are now using generators to carry out surgery, local journalist Assana Sambu told the BBC. But they don't have running water because there is not enough electricity, and hospital directors have appealed for power in order to cook food for

their patients.

Another journalist, Alberto Dabo, said he was drinking water from a well because water supplies had been cut amid the sweltering heat which reaches 40C.

"Our houses are very hot. Most families stay outside till 4am before entering their houses to spend the rest of the night. You can't stay indoors because of the heat."

State-run Rádio Nacional is among media outlets that have stopped broadcasting, while the private radio station where Sambu works is only partially operating, he added.

Karpowership says it has been supplying 100% of Guinea-Bissau's electricity since signing a five-year agreement with the state-owned electricity and water utility company in 2019.

The country is one of the poorest in the world and has been beset by instability since independence.

"Unfortunately, following a protracted period of non-payment, our [floating power plant] is now unable to continue operating," a Karpowership spokesperson was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying.

"We are working around the clock with officials to resolve this issue and we aim to have generation back online as soon as possible," the spokesperson

Energy Minister Isuf Baldé said \$6m of the \$15m bill had been paid. "In a small and poor country like Guinea-Bissau, carrying out a transfer operation of this level, \$10m, takes time," he said.

He added that the contract with Karpowership needed to be renegotiated because costs had almost doubled since it began, to a level Guinea-Bissau could no longer afford.

The company also supplies electricity to six other African countries - Ghana, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The company prides itself as "the owner, operator and builder of the world's only Powership (floating power plant)".

Its involvement in the electricity sector is the latest example of Tukey's growing influence in Africa.

Although access to electricity has increased in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, it still remains low, with more than 50% of the region's population having no grid connection, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

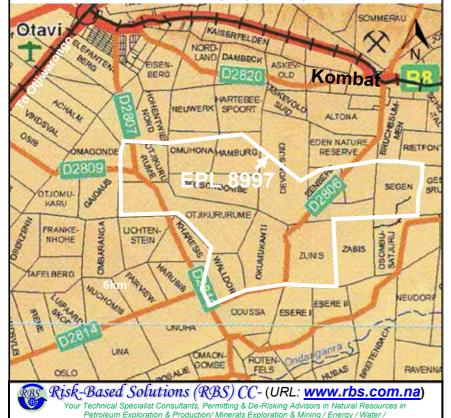
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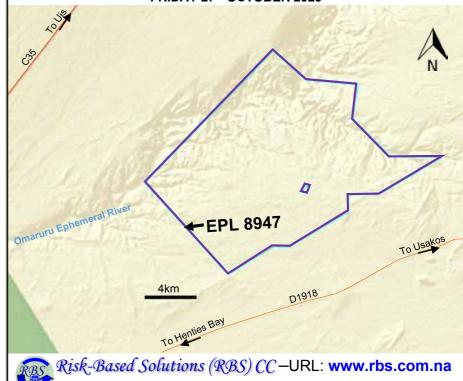
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