

while other parties who contacted the Consultant after project advertisement notices in the newspapers, were registered as I&APs upon their request. Newspaper advertisements of the proposed offshore exploration activities were placed in two widely read national newspapers in the region (*The Namibian* and *New Era* Newspapers). The project advertisement/announcement ran for two consecutive weeks inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and submit their comments. The list of registered and consulted I&APs is provided in **Appendix D**.

6.2 Communication with I&APs

The public consultation process was conducted according to the requirements of Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations. However, the complete fulfilment of this Regulation was slightly affected by the COVID-19 Regulations. Regardless, the Environmental Consultant tried all the possible ways to ensure that they reached as many people as possible to get involved in the process. The communication with the interested and affect parties (I&APs) about the proposed project was done through the following means and in this order to ensure that the public is notified and afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed project activities:

- Registration of pre-identified stakeholders and interested & affected parties (I&APs) and updating the list throughout the environmental assessment process.
- Placement of newspaper adverts in two newspapers, *New Era* and *The Namibian* both on the 22nd and 29th of June 2021 - **Appendix E**, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and submit their comments/concerns.
- A Background Information Document (BID) containing brief information about the proposed facility was compiled (**Appendix F**) and circulated to relevant pre-identified authorities (stakeholders) on 30 June 2021, and upon request to all new registered I&APs.
- A project/public notice was compiled (the clear copy of this public notice is shown in **Figure 16**), printed in three A3 size posters. The public notice contained public meeting invitation details and were placed at the following places:
 - In Swakopmund at the Erongo Regional Council notice board since the harbour infrastructures to be used by the exploration vessel would be taking off from the Walvis Bay Harbour which falls under the Erongo Region jurisdiction (**Figure 17**).
 - In Opuwo at the Kunene Regional Council notice board (**Figure 18**) because on the onshore eastern side, the EPL borders the Skeleton Coast National Park which falls under the Kunene Region jurisdiction.

- Walvis Bay Municipality notice board (in Walvis Bay – **Figure 19**) because the town houses the harbour infrastructure/facilities which will provide services to the exploration vessel.
- Two slot online public consultation meetings were arranged and the link shared with all registered I&APs a week prior to the meeting date. The meeting slots were scheduled for Thursday, the 15th of July 2021 at 10h30 in the morning and 14h30. However, the meeting was a no-show. The Consultant assumed the meeting was a no-show due to some of the following reasons:
 - Lack of interest in the project because the project is offshore, and most members of the public do not see the need to get involved in.
 - Due to the global pandemic of the coronavirus, people may rather be worried about navigating their lives through the COVID-19 situation and its regulations. Some may have been interested but internet connection or operating electronic devices to join online gatherings/meetings could had been a limiting factor, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE PROPOSED OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF PRECIOUS STONES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 6929 WEST OF THE SKELETON COAST NATIONAL PARK IN THE KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA: AN APPLICATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC)

Under the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, the public is hereby notified that an application for the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) of the offshore mineral (precious stones) exploration activities will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Proponent: Linco Investments CC

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd ("EDS" Namibia)

Type of activity: Offshore Exploration Activities of Precious Stones on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 6929

Location & Footprint: The proposed exploration activities of precious stones will be undertaken offshore within the boundaries of EPL 6929. The 77 730-hectare (ha) tenement is located about 400km north of Swakopmund and 200km of southwest of Opuwo along the Skeleton Coast of Namibia parallel to the present shoreline, near Terrace Bay (please refer to the locality map below).

The site area (EPL) is located west of the Skeleton Coast Park, a proclaimed nature reserve in the Kunene Region. The area lies within water depths of about +/-4 meters below sea level (mbsl) to +80mbsl.

Members of the public are further invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Registration is to be done with EDS on the contact details below.

A 2-slot Public Consultation Meeting will be held virtually as per the following details:

Date: Thursday, 15 July 2021

Time 1 (Slot 1): 10h30 Please join Zoom Meeting here: ↓
<https://zoom.us/j/94885568474?pwd=RDFJTkUwZmFxdEkwTDdoQUlnbNmxRZz09>
 Meeting ID: 948 8556 8474, Passcode: 000706

Time 2 (Slot 2): 14h30 Please Join Zoom Meeting here: ↓
<https://zoom.us/j/99608195206?pwd=Tmx2OHp4TXM1bE53V2dCdFY0Z053QT09>
 Meeting ID: 996 0819 5206, Passcode: 928635


Venue: Due to COVID-19 Regulations and movement restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually (online) with registered and available I&APs.

Registration and comments/concerns/issues should reach EDS before end of business **on before or on Friday, 6 August 2021.**

Contact Person(s): Mr. Fredrika Shagama or Ms. Althea Brandt

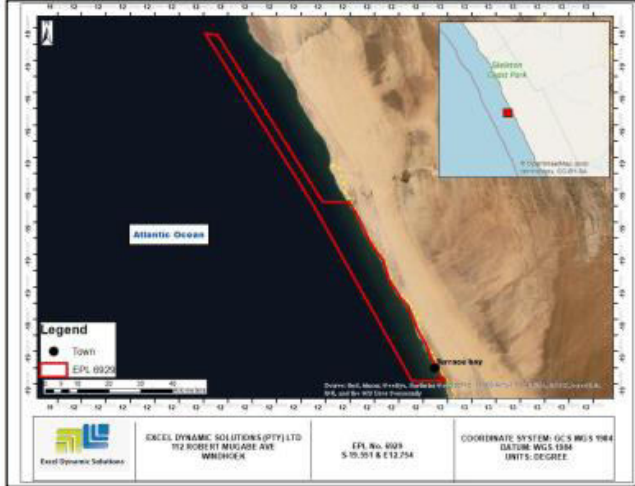
Tel: +264 61 259 530, E-mail: public@edsnamibia.com


Please feel free to join the meeting using either of the provided links according to your availability (i.e., at whichever slot is suitable for you).



Excel Dynamic Solutions
Solutions for Sustainable Project Development

Location of EPL 6929 Offshore





EXCEL DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD
112 ROBERT MUGABE AVE
WINDHOKA

EPL No. 6929
S 10.351 & E 12.754

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GCS WGS 1984
DATUM: WGS 1984
UNITS: DEGREE

Figure 16: Clear copy of the A3 Public notice with visible details



Figure 17: Public notice placed at the Erongo Regional Council

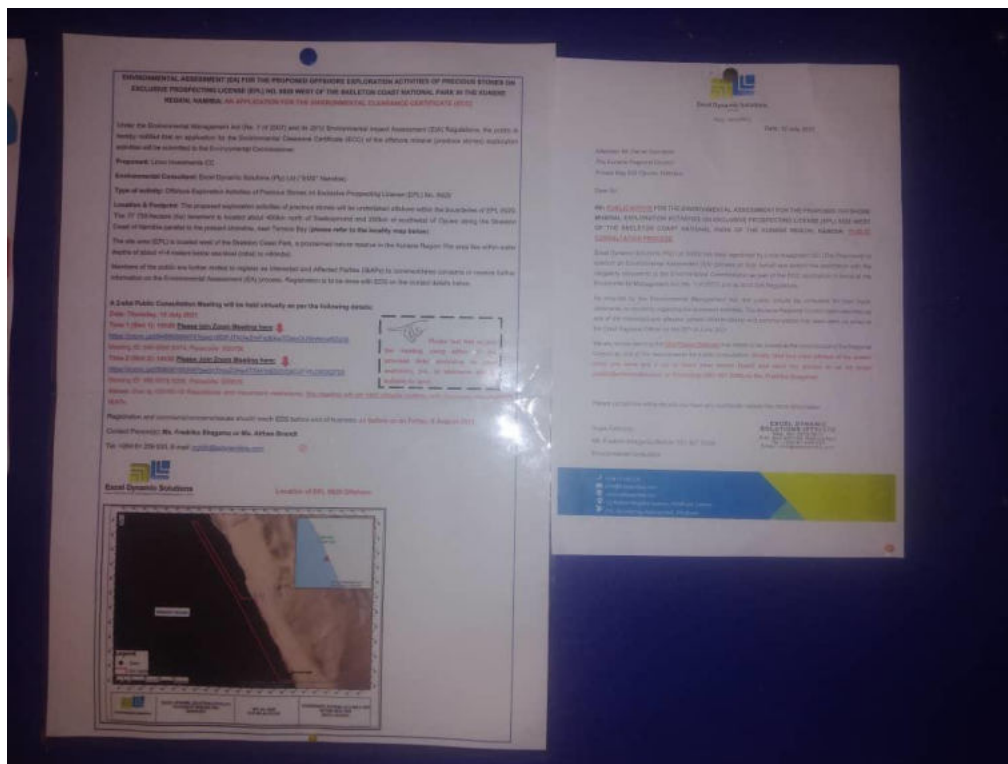
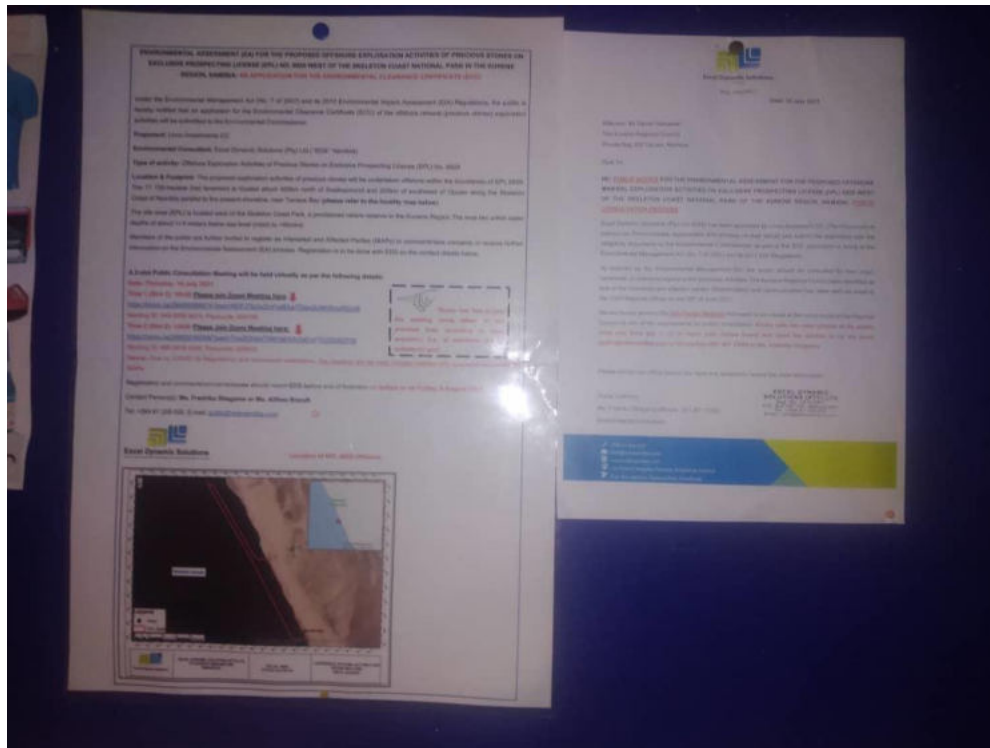


Figure 18: Public notice placed at the Kunene Regional Council

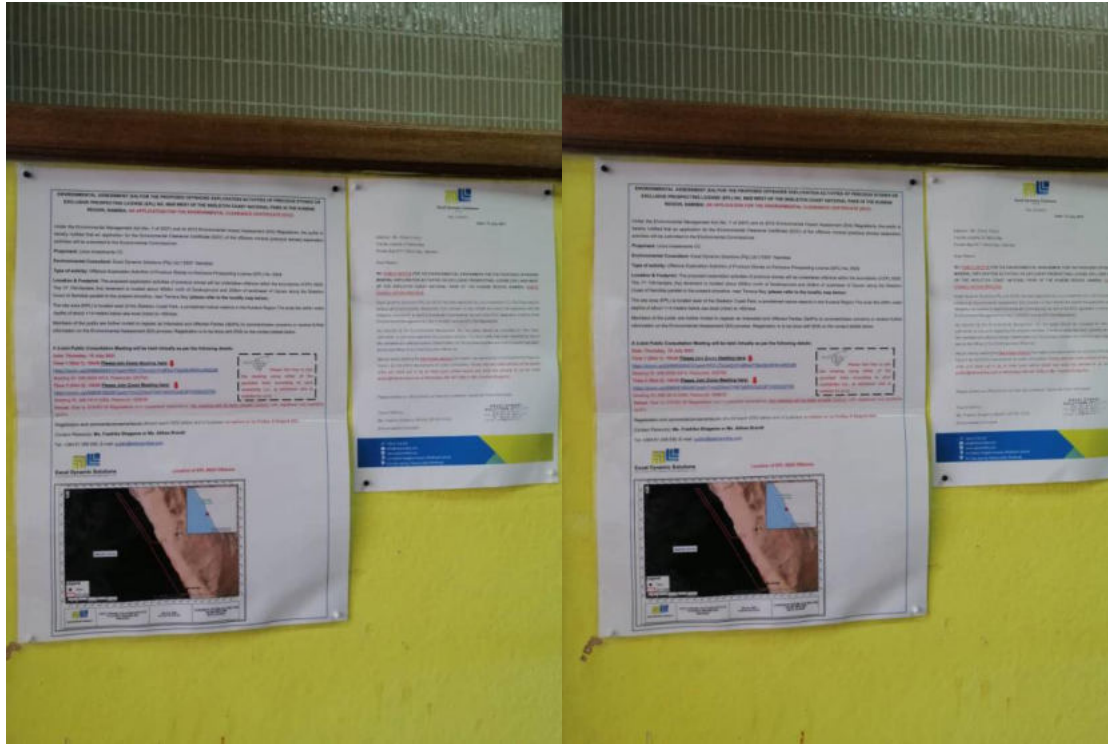


Figure 19: Public notice placed at the Municipality of Walvis Bay

6.3 Public Consultation Feedback

The feedback on the BID was received from two I&APs and this is summarized in **Table 3** below and shown as received in **Figure 20**.

Table 3: Summary of comments received from I&APs on the BID and prior to the public meeting

Commentor, Date & Mode of commenting	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	ESD Response
<p>Dr Christopher Brown (Namibia Chamber of Environment (NCE)), 1 July 2021 (Email)</p>	<p>Waste management: it is important that any plastic is properly managed – either remove plastic before leaving shore and put into recycling or bring it back to shore and recycle. There have been cases where plastic is simply discarded overboard or allowed to blow overboard – and even put through the galley onboard macerators and discarded overboard with waste food as small plastic fragments.</p>	<p>The valuable input has been incorporated into the impact identification and assessment sections of this Report and draft EMP.</p>

<p>Dr Simon Elwen (Sea Search Research and Conservation - Namibian Dolphin Project), 29 July 2021 (Email)</p>	<p>Potential significant impacts on marine mammals - especially the seismic surveys during exploration but also the long-term mining if it takes place. The area in question has a high density of Heaviside's and dusky dolphins as well as seasonally migrating humpback whales.</p>	<p>The valuable input has been incorporated into the impact identification and assessment sections of this Report. A Desktop Benthic Study has been conducted and the Report is attached hereto as Appendix G.</p>
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From: Christopher Brown [mailto:geo@ncc.org]
 Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 12:11 PM
 To: public@ednamibia.com
 Subject: RE: RE: Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Off-shore Exploration Activities of Precious Stones on EPL 6929 west of the Skeleton Coast National Park in the Kunene Region, Namibia - Background Information Document

Dear Althea,


Many thanks for your very clear and professional BID. It makes a huge difference when BIDs are so well structured that they leave few follow-up questions.

I have just one additional point at this stage. It is important that any plastic is properly managed – either remove plastic before leaving shore and put into recycling, or bring it back to shore and recycle. There have been cases where plastic is simply discarded overboard, or allowed to blow overboard – and even put through the galley onboard macerators and discarded overboard with waste food as small plastic fragments.

Good luck with the EIA process.

Kind regards,
 Chris

Dr Chris Brown



NCE
 Namibian Chamber of Environment
 20 Nachtigal Street, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek
 PO Box 40723, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek, Namibia

From: Simon Elwen [mailto:simon.elwen@gmail.com]
 Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2021 8:32 AM
 To: public@ednamibia.com; namibian dolphin <nam.dolphin.project@gmail.com>; info@ednamibia.com
 Subject: EA for precious stones exploratoin in EPL 6929 Kunena - registration as IAP and need for marine mammal assessment.

Dear Sir/Madam

Please can you register this address and nam.dolphin.project@gmail.com on your IAP data base for the above mentioned project.

Please also note we express here our concern that this project may have significant impacts on marine mammals - especially the seismic surveys during exploration but also the longer term mining if it takes place. The area in question has a high density of Heaviside's and dusky dolphins as well as seasonally migrating humpback whales.

Our research group - Sea Search Research and Conservation - Namibian Dolphin Project is able to assist with reviewing the potential impacts more explicitly. We have done extensive EIA work of this nature in Namibia and South Africa. Please find brief CV attached

Regards
 Dr Simon Elwen

 Simon Elwen Ph.D. - Director [Sea Search Research & Conservation](#) and the [Namibian Dolphin Project](#)
 Research Associate, Department of Zoology and Botany - Stellenbosch University




Figure 20: Comments as received from I&APs

The following chapter entails the potential impacts that are anticipated to be associated with the project activities, their description (for the negative/adverse impacts only), assessment and management/mitigation thereof to minimize their significance to the affected environmental features.

Inside Business

This news is your business

Lebanon's economic collapse



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Tuesday 22 June 2021

Asian markets sink as traders eye Fed tightening

HONG KONG – Asian markets tumbled Monday on growing expectations the US Federal Reserve will begin lifting interest rates as early as next year as it looks to prevent the economic recovery from overheating. In a bid to soothe traders fretting over surging inflation, central bank officials have for months pledged to maintain their ultra-loose monetary policy until the rebound was well on track. But last week it brought forward its forecasts for tightening.

The news was initially broadly taken in stride by investors as the Fed's so-called "dot plot" outlook for rates suggested it would not begin hiking until 2023, and would discuss winding down its bond-buying programme later this year.

But investors were spooked by comments from St Louis Federal Reserve President James Bullard that lift-off could come as soon as late 2022, adding that it made sense for officials to become "a little more hawkish" as inflation surges. That sparked hefty losses on Wall Street, with the Dow and S&P 500 dropping more than one percent and the Nasdaq almost 1%.

And the selling continued in Asia, with Tokyo leading the way with a more than three percent fall, while Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Taipei and Bangkok all lost more than one percent.

There were also losses in Seoul, Wellington, Manila, Mumbai and Jakarta, though Shanghai ended

slightly higher. London and Frankfurt rose in early trade but Paris edged down.

"We had expected the Fed to start discussing tapering at last week's meeting and to upgrade its interest rate forecasts," said Mansoor Mohi-uddin at Bank of Singapore. "But the central bank's tweaks clearly surprised the markets. Thus, in the near-term investors may keep unwinding reflation trades."

Still, the losses were not a surprise to some observers, as many markets are at record or multi-year highs and investors were taking the opportunity to cash in profits.

"The shift toward tapering and a pull forward in first rate hikes may cause bouts of nervousness in markets with shares vulnerable to a decent correction," said Shane Oliver of AMP Capital.

"But note that tapering is not monetary tightening (it's just slower easing) and rate hikes are still a fair way off in most developed countries."

And Kerry Craig of JP Morgan Asset Management added: "We believe that market jitters over the latest Federal Reserve meeting will pass, as inflation appears to be mostly transitory and the growth outlook continues to be positive."

Others said the pullback would likely be seen as healthy because many stocks appeared to be somewhat overvalued.

There is also a feeling that while

the Fed will begin discussions on tapering it is a bond-buying programme this year, the bank's target of full employment was still some way off and talks on the wind down would likely take some time.

Oil prices extended Friday's gains on growing optimism the global recovery will ramp up demand, with some experts suggesting it could go as high as \$100.

The gains come after the dollar-priced black gold tumbled in the middle of last week as the prospect of higher interest rates sent the greenback higher, making it more expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Support also came from talks between world powers and Iran over Tehran's nuclear programme ending with no deal.

Prices have been weighed recently by the possible return of Iranian oil to world markets if US sanctions are lifted after the signing of a new deal.

"The market is quickly coming around to the view that, with demand rebounding so strongly over the northern hemisphere summer, additional supply will be required," said Daniel Hynes at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

"With OPEC remaining cautious and little chance of Iranian oil hitting the market soon, the market looks likely to remain fairly tight in the next few months."

– Nampa/AFP

Bitcoin dives as China widens crackdown on crypto mining

BEIJING – Bitcoin tumbled more than 10% Monday after China broadened a crackdown on its massive cryptocurrency mining industry with a ban on mines in a key southwestern province. Chinese mines power nearly 80% of the global trade in cryptocurrencies despite a domestic trading ban since 2017, but in recent months several provinces have ordered mines to close as Beijing turns a sharp eye to the industry.

Authorities in the province of Sichuan ordered the closure of 26 mines last week, according to a notice widely circulated on Chinese social media and confirmed by a former bitcoin miner.

The price of bitcoin sank to as low as US\$32 309. The unit has taken a severe hit in recent weeks, having hit a record near US\$65 000 in April, partly because of Beijing's crackdown.

The notice reportedly instructed power companies to stop supplying electricity to all cryptocurrency mines by Sunday.

It vowed a "complete clean-up" and ordered local governments to carry out a "dragnet-style investigation" to find and shut down suspected crypto mines.

The province represents one of the largest bases for mining in the country.

A former cryptocurrency miner told AFP they had "closed everything" in line with the requirements in recent days.

"There have been working groups coming to check, making sure we shut down operations and removed the machines," he said.

Sichuan, a mountainous region in southwest China, is home to a large number of cryptocurrency

mines, which require a colossal amount of energy supplied by the province's cheap and abundant hydropower.

According to a report in the state tabloid the Global Times, the closure of mines in the province has resulted in the shutting down of more than 90% of the country's bitcoin mining capacity.

Beijing has turned the screw on cryptocurrency miners to stamp out financial risks from speculation, although environmental concerns about the gas-guzzling mines is also a factor.

Chinese media reported that electricity supply to all crypto mines across the province was stopped at midnight Sunday, as the topic trended on social media.

Sichuan is China's second most intensive mining region after Xinjiang in the country's northwest, according to Cambridge University's Bitcoin Electricity Consumption Index.

All crypto mines in the sparsely populated but coal- and hydropower-rich regions of Inner Mongolia and Qinghai were also ordered to shut down in recent months, with citizens encouraged to report illegal mines.

Last month, the value of bitcoin dived after three Chinese financial industry bodies reasserted a ban on financial institutions from offering cryptocurrency services, warning against risky speculation by traders.

China is in the midst of a wide-ranging regulatory crackdown on its fintech sector, whose biggest players – including Alibaba and Tencent – have been hit with big fines after being found guilty of monopolistic practices.

– Nampa/AFP

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) NO. 6929 LOCATED NORTH OF TERRACE BAY (OFFSHORE)

Under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting Licence No. 6929 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement. The public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 6929. The primary target commodity is Precious Stones.

Proponent: Linco Investments CC

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd.
 Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/ raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process.

Public Participation meeting will be held on:
 Date: 15 July 2021
 Time: 13:00 and 17:00 (2 sittings)

Venue: To be confirmed and communicated with Interested and Affected Parties.

Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details on the contact details below before, or on 06 August 2021.

Ms. Alibea Brandt
 Email: info@exceldynamic.com
 Tel: +264 61 209 310



Illegal fishing... A Royal Thai Navy guard detained Vietnamese fishermen on their boat in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat on 21 June 2021 after the 10 crew members were caught in two boats allegedly fishing in Thai waters.

Union wants unrestricted overtime for nurses

■ Nnusita Ashipala

ONGWEDIVA – With the surge of new cases across the country, the Namibian Nurses Union is demanding the health ministry to allow nurses to claim more than the prescribed 40 hours overtime per month.

In an interview with *New Era* on Monday, NANU acting secretary general, Junias Shilunga said with the increased Covid-19 cases, nurses are

now forced to work up to 100 hours because there is critical shortage of nurses in the health facilities.

"Our understanding is that nurses are forced to work more than 40 hours due to the critical shortage of nurses in our health facilities. This issue is also due to the huge influx of patients during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Shilunga.

"Considering the urgency of this and the ever increasing challenges our healthcare

system is currently facing in the midst of this pandemic, we will highly appreciate if we can receive your response in the next 14 days," said Shilunga further.

The unionist said the concerns were particularly raised in Kunene, Omusati and Otjozondjupa that during the last weeks saw an increased number of Covid-19 cases and a lack of mortuary space.

He said allowing nurses to claim more than 40 hours

would motivate and boost the morale of the frontline nurses who have sacrificed their lives to fight the deadly pandemic.

Shilunga said the nurses have far too long compromised themselves to work more than 40 hours because there is no one to attend to the patients.

He said the situation becomes even worse when some nurses go on leave or in isolation as the numbers of nurses exposed continue to increase.

– nashipala@nepc.com.na



Junias Shilunga



Oshana earth dams approved

■ Nnusita Ashipala

ONGWEDIVA – The governor of Oshana, Elia Irimari said the region has finally received approval to put up earth dams to harvest flood and rainwater to boost agricultural production.

"We have approval from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in this regard and we are looking forward to seeing these plans actualised," the governor said in his state of the region address recently.

The governor, who in the same address highlighted limited water infrastructure for agriculture, as a challenge, said access to water is vital for increasing food security.

Irimari, since his days as a councillor

of Ondangwa Urban, has been advocating for communities to harvest water to boost agriculture.

During an interview with *New Era*, he said the need for community earth dams emanated from meetings with the communities calling on the government to provide them with water especially for use during the drought seasons.

The governor said the earth dams will not only boost agriculture but will also serve as a source of water during the drought seasons.

He said the thousands of reported livestock that perished to drought in the recent years did not die because there was not enough grazing.

"The grazing was there, but the water was not sufficient," said Irimari.

The envisaged earth dams will be put up at a central point, particularly in areas close to flood plains so that they receive sufficient water inflow.

Irimari is encouraging community members to make use of the earth dams once they are in place.

In addition to providing food for themselves, he said farmers can produce enough to sell to their communities and thereby create an income for themselves.

In terms of potable water, the governor said the region has potable water in many parts.

However, due to the increasing population, the water pressure in some areas is very low because the pipes used to disseminate water previously were too small. – nashipala@nepc.com.na

Lüderitz resolves management committee squabbles

■ Steven Klukowski

KEETMANSHOOP— After functioning without a management committee for more than six months, the Lüderitz Town Council elected a new management committee last week.

Magistrate Adelinu Hallonga swore them in after judge Herold Geter recently set aside the results of the previous election of 1 December 2020, declaring the said results null and void. The presiding officer previously admitted his mistake when he swore in seven instead of five councillors last year as members of the management committee as prescribed by law. He then applied to the High Court for the 2020 election results to be set aside.

Delivering her inauguration speech, chairperson Albertina Ndeshekaya expressed her gratitude towards her fellow councillors for placing trust in her

by electing her as chairperson.

"Openness and unity will take us to great heights, hence the need to put our political differences aside and work together as a team striving to deliver the best of services for the residents of Lüderitz," she said.

Also speaking during the ceremony, mayor Anna Marie Hartzenberg raised the concern that it has been a long, frustrating six months with no management committee in place.

"It is now, more than ever, time to turn the page of politics to that of the developmental agenda for the best of our community," she emphasised.

Hartzenberg congratulated the members of the new management committee and said council should now divert their energy and competencies to a spirit of teamwork, planning and executing relevant activities as a means

to enhance and promote the socio-economic circumstances of those who voted for them.

"We know that there are and will always be big challenges ahead of us, but it is my belief that as long as we work together as a team, there will be no challenge that we will not be able to overcome," said the mayor.

The newly elected management committee comprises: Albertina Ndeshekaya, chairperson (Independent Patriots for Change), Benjamin McKay (Popular Democratic Movement), Phillipus Bathao (Independent Patriots for Change), Johannes Abraham and Brigitte Fredericks (Swapo, additional committee member). The positions for mayor (Anna Marie Hartzenberg) and deputy mayor (Josephine Heita) remain unchanged.

– sklukowski@nepc.com.na



CHINA CIVIL ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION (NAMIBIA) (PTY LTD)

SUITABLE QUALIFIED AND HIGHLY
MOTIVATED CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO
APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

**Position 1
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

REQUIREMENTS

- MBA or master's equivalent
- more than 7 years proven experience in the executive field

**Position 2:
BID MANAGER**

REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in Quantity Surveying or any related qualification
- more than 5 years proven experience

Duty Station: Windhoek

Contact:

HR Office @ 061 254917
Hand delivery
ERF NO: Harvery Street,
Windhoek North

Due date: 02 July 2021

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 6929 LOCATED NORTH OF TERRACE BAY (OFFSHORE)

Under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its 2013 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting License No. 6929 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement. The public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 6929. The primary target community is Previous Nomads.

Proponent: Lincio Investments CC

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd. Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process.

Public Participation meeting will be held on:

Date: 15 July 2021

Time: 11h30 and 17h30 (2 sittings)

Venue: To be confirmed and communicated with Interested and Affected Parties

Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details on the contact details below before, or on 06 August 2021.

Ms. Abhee Brandt
Email: info@exceldynamic.com
Tel: +264 61 259 530



Children's foundation depends on individual donors

• LUGERETZIA KOOPER

THE Mainstream Foundation at Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi region has been surviving on individual donations since the organisation lost its permanent donors due to Covid-19's economic fallout.

The foundation on Wednesday received generous donations from Zam-Fish and Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL).

The foundation is a community-based non-governmental organisation, which was established in 2008 by the parents of children with disabilities, and currently has about 37 children in its care.

Sylvia Chidunka, the foundation's director, said these donors have been keeping their doors open since the outbreak of the pandemic.

"We provide our pupils lunch, as we know most of them are from poor backgrounds. Therefore, these food items, vouchers, and cash for school materials mean a lot to us," she said last week.



Photos- Lugeretzia Kooper

HELPING HAND ... About 37 pupils at Katima Mulilo's Mainstream Foundation will be benefiting from the donations of Zam-Fish and Namibia Breweries Limited.

Zam-Fish chairperson James Sankwasa said the company has committed to donating N\$10 000 to the foundation, from which food

items have been acquired, and which would fund new chairs and tables for the school.

"I want to thank the parents of

this school for working tirelessly to ensure that those with disabilities are not left behind, like the national slogan says," he said.

We provide our pupils lunch, as we know most of them are from poor backgrounds. Therefore, these food items, vouchers, and cash for school materials mean a lot to us.

— Sylvia Chidunka



Sankwasa appealed to the Katima Mulilo Town Council to make more land available to the foundation to enable them to expand.

NBL, in celebration of its 100th birthday has donated food vouchers and school materials to organisations in all the regions of the country, and has selected Mainstream Foundation in the Zambezi region.

NBL regional sales representative Vernon Mbozi said the food vouchers are valued at N\$34 000, and the school materials are worth N\$56 167.

Service station accused of forced resignations

• ANNA SHINANA

SOME 10 employees of the Engen Service Station at Tsumeb have been left in the cold after their employer allegedly served them with resignation letters, forcing them to resign or face possible arrest.

The group claims manager Tracy Nell, who was appointed in that position early last year, in June 2020 claimed money went missing and that she would therefore have to "get rid of all of them and start afresh with new employees".

This was soon after Jacques Jansen van Vuuren took over ownership of the station.

Martha Kambinda has been employed as cashier at the station for over six years. "When Nell came to tell us she was going to get rid of us we thought she was joking, but we later heard that because many of us have been working there for a very long time, and were earning between N\$4 000 and N\$5 000 per month, it was decided the employers could no longer

afford to pay us. If they started with new workers it meant they could pay them less," Kambinda alleges.

Christophine Mbeu, who has worked at the station for 13 years, says: "Last year Nell told us she was going to get rid of us. The following month another meeting was called with the 10 employees, and in that meeting she handed us each a document in English and demanded that we sign it. She told us if we refused to sign she was going to call the police."

"I, along with eight others, went ahead and signed. We did not understand what was going on as most of us don't really know English, and she didn't give us the chance to take the documents to people who could explain them to us. We were only informed after we signed that we would no longer be working for the company as we have voluntarily resigned," Mbeu says.

Kambinda says she was threatened with the police when she refused to sign the document.

"The police was called in to arrest me, because I was the only one who refused to sign. I explained I could not sign a document I did not understand. The police later told Nell that my not wanting to sign the document was not really a police matter and left. It was too late for the others, since they had already signed," she says.

Both Kambinda and Mbeu says they filed a case of unfair dismissal with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

"... we were told our cases had had to be split, so the official made us withdraw the initial case to reopen separate cases. We did as instructed, but it turns out the forms they made us sign were just to withdraw the case," Kambinda and Mbeu claim.

The two then contacted social activist Johannes Johannes for assistance.

"This is completely wrong. You can't force employees to resign without any justification or following procedures

such as conducting a hearing to hear them out ... The labour officer who dealt with this case made people sign withdrawal notices without bringing it to their attention.

"After that the employees would from time to time call them to follow up on the cases, but would be told that everything is in order and they should just be patient. This went on for six months. This was a deliberate thing. We all know that cases not attended to for that length of time become invalid, and that is exactly what happened. The cases were dismissed on the grounds that it was filed after six months, and Nel won the case on technicalities ...," Johannes says.

When contacted for comment, Nel referred *The Namibian* to Jansen van Vuuren, who could not be reached.

Ebbon Zaronda, the general secretary of the Mineworkers Union of Namibia, confirmed that the case was brought to the union's attention, and that it is being investigated.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 8929 LOCATED NORTH OF TERRACE BAY (OFFSHORE)

Under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting Licence No. 8929 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement. The public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 8929. The primary target commodity is Precious Stones.

Proponent: Lincio Investments CC.

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process.

Public Participation meeting will be held on:
 Date: 15 July 2021
 Time: 11h30 and 17h30 (2 slots)
Venue: To be confirmed and communicated with Interested and Affected Parties.
 Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details on the contact details below before, or on 06 August 2021.

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the bottomline

News, views and everything you need to know about the economy



Photo: James Jamu

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT ... Namibia's meat industry is yet to start turning its waste into useful and marketable products. The informal economy already acquires hides, trotters, and animal heads to resell in the country's townships. An active circular economy would benefit any sector.

FIM Act signed into law

• LAZARUS AMUKESHE

IT has been confirmed that president Hage Geingob has signed the Financial Institutions and Markets (FIM) Act into law. This brings the tedious process to push through legislation that took over 10 years to finalise to an end.

Ministry of finance spokesperson Tomateni Shidudhu has confirmed that the president has indeed signed the code which seeks to consolidate and harmonise the laws regulating financial institutions, financial intermediaries and financial markets in Namibia.

Gazetting this, however, still remains. "We have already submitted to the Ministry of Justice for gazetting. Last week, they indicated it will be gazetted this week," Shidudhu said.

It is still not clear when the possible effective date for the application would be, however, the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (Namfisa) last week said after gazetting it would notify the industry and stakeholders. After this the regulator

would activate the FIM Act implementation plan, which would see formal consultations of drafted regulations issued under the act.

In 2019, the regulator's chief executive officer (CEO) Kenneth Matomola said all regulations and standards to be issued were only waiting for lawmakers to pass the bill into law.

The law will bring the current regulatory framework up to date to ensure that market and systemic risks are effectively deterred and managed, and that the industry contributes optimally to national development objectives.

Moreover, the legislative framework will balance, among other things, business growth, domestic, economic and financial market development, as well as the risk-based supervision framework for the industry.

Former finance minister Calle Schletwein described the laws governing this interconnected sector, some as old as 50 years, as archaic.

Currently, supervision of non-banking financial institutions is undertaken through various stand-alone laws.

Pension Funds Act of 1956, the Usury Act of 1968, the Unit Trusts Control Act of 1981, the Stock Exchanges Control Act of 1985, the Medical Aid Funds Act of 1995, and the Short-term and the long-term insurance acts.

The non-banking financial sector, of which the asset base is about twice the size of the gross domestic product, standing at N\$339,8 billion by the end of last year, plays a key role in the country's economy and the stability of the financial system.

In line with the current Namfisa Act, it would also be under this law that the regulator would ensure consumer protection by enforcing the laws under its administration and the ongoing consumer education initiatives.

Several benefits of the FIM Act include the simplification of insurance policy contracts, which would now need to be written in plain and simple language.

Former finance minister Calle Schletwein has said international bodies, such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group and the par-

on economics, natural resources and public administration, as well as the non-banking financial sector were all consulted to provide inputs on the code.

Some analysts and pension specialists have over the last few years said the FIM Act could have negative consequences for the pension industry, and ultimately the amount of money people receive as payouts during their retirement years.

The non-banking sector includes pension funds, friendly societies, microlenders, asset managers, unlisted investment managers, special purpose vehicles, collective investment schemes, linked investment service providers, stock exchanges, medical aid funds, insurance brokers and agents.

It is often said that the current laws also do not encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, as they have failed to enhance the deepening of the financial market to create more business opportunities.

It appears the tide has finally turned.

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Management Tip
of the Day

Mind Your Language

WHEN leaders communicate with their teams, it should be about ways to inspire, influence and help them achieve results. Aggressiveness, hurtful comments and negativity have to be ruled out. Words have an impact, and the impact is often long-lasting. In times where most meetings are virtual and people are likely not to be able to read your body language, it is critical that leaders choose how they disseminate information and communicate. Team members can interpret messages differently. How a certain message is conveyed can affect the team's morale and productivity, hence the importance of minding your language when engaging with team members. This does not only include verbal communication, but also the tone of your emails and how you respond. Take time to think thoroughly about a particular message before relaying it, and ensure that the intention is aligned to the impact you want to make. Take cognisance of the fact that you are working with mature individuals, and respect is still important in the workplace.

* Adopted from 'Hiti's People Management Handbook', by Lisa Matomola.

EXCEL DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 6929 LOCATED NORTH OF TERRACE BAY (OFFSHORE)

Under the Environmental Management Act, No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting License No. 6929 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement. The public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 6929. The primary target commodity is Precious Stones.

Proponent: Lincz Investments CC
Environmental Consultants: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd
Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process.
Public Participation meeting will be held on:

Date: 15 July 2021

Time: 11:00 and 17:30 (2 slots)

Notes: To be confirmed and communicated with Interested and Affected Parties.

Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details on the contact details below before, or on 08 August 2021.

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