

The Upgrade of Roads to Low Volume Seal in and around the Town of Rundu in the Kavango East Region: John Mutorwa Street in Rundu, DR3402 (from TR8/4 intersection to Rundu University Campus), DR3448 (from TR8/4 intersection for 5 km) and DR3402 (from Rundu University Campus for 1.4km towards Kayengona Junction)

Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Public Consultation Meeting
Venue: Kavango East Regional Council Auditorium
Date: 13 October 2021
Time: 10h15 – 11h45

Agenda

1. Prayer – Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangu
2. Welcome – Honourable Councillor Vicky Kauma
3. Project Team Introduction – Rian du Toit
4. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – Rian du Toit (Translator: Benjamin Makayi)
5. Project Scope – Clinton Payne (Translator: Benjamin Makayi)
6. Q&A
7. Conclusion – Rian du Toit and Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangu
8. Prayer – Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangu

1. Prayer Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangu, Rundu Rural Constituency

2. Welcome Honourable Councillor Vicky Kauma, Rundu Urban Constituency

Welcome to the Engineers, Headmen and Headwomen from the areas where the projects will take place and representatives from institutions and Honourable Mbangu. Welcome to the Rundu Urban Constituency in which most of the projects will take place. We are very happy about these projects. People have been complaining about the roads in Rundu for a long time and it presents a lot of economical issues. Our gravel roads are not even gravel roads, but at least today we can start to talk about tar roads and roads in good condition on which the cars can drive. Some of the tar roads here are new and already in a poor condition, that means the consultations, the engineering and the construction are not done to the right standards. You have sent us good consultants, please keep doing good things for us and build us roads up to standard so that the government's money does not get wasted. You are also bringing employment to us, some people here will be employed, and households will benefit, lets work together as a community, engineers and contractors and let's unite for these projects when they start so that we don't jeopardise these projects. Strikes and negotiations stop projects, I don't want to see abandoned projects or that the timeframes of these projects are abused. Today marks the day that everyone comes

together for the start of this project, let's come together at the end of this project to celebrate it's completion.

3. Project Team Introduction

Rian du Toit, Consulting Team

- Enviro Management Consultants (EMC) – Mr Rian du Toit & Ms Maike Prickett
- Element Consulting Engineers – Mr Clinton Payne
- Roads Authority – Ms Christine Sanzila
- Appointed Contractors – Road Heart

4. EIA Presentation (see attached presentation document)

Rian du Toit, Consulting Team

- *What is an EIA? It is a practical implementation to prevent negative and improve positive impacts.*
- *Environment defined - bio-physical (water, soil, plants, etc), social and legislation*
- *Impacts – what we do and how that changes the environment (cause and affect)*
 - *Building a road: what is needed to build the road (layer works, materials), how does that change the environment, during operation what are the positive or negative effects of the road on the environment*
- *Rules and Regulations/Legislation – **Constitution of Namibia, Environmental Management Act No.7 (2007)***
- *What is the ultimate objective of an EIA? To maintain sustainability - a balance between development and conservation*
- *Normal stakeholder concerns of road development projects:*
 - *Land – taken and no benefit to stakeholder*
 - *Water / Materials*
 - *Consider the gain of such a project: economic gain*
 - *The cost-benefit analysis for this road has been done and that is why this project is going ahead*
 - *Trees in the road reserve will be removed only if they are a safety concern, if not, they will be left*
- *The objective of EMC is to:*
 - *Consult the public, stakeholders that know the area need to give their input (comments and concerns)*
 - *Consider the negative and positive impacts*
 - *Present and Submit EIA and application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) application to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) – they grant or reject ECC for this project*
 - *If ECC is granted, it is valid for 3 years, once this has been issued the project can commence. We need to avoid/minimise/reduce the negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts.*
We want to avoid – spillage, pollution (surface water/soil, etc), bad waste management practices, etc.
 - *Borrow pits: they must be left by the contractor in an acceptable condition.*
- *One the one hand we the EIA to look at the impacts that this project will have and on the other hand we have the Environmental Management Plan which will become part of the contractor's contract which addresses the negative impacts to ensure that the negative impacts are avoided or mitigated by the contractor. This is a requirement by the MEFT that the EMP included before they approve a project.*
- *You are welcome to raise your comments and concerns.*

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to your community. I am representing Element Consulting Engineers and I am now a resident of Rundu and here for the duration of the project. We were appointed by the Roads Authority to conduct this design and to ensure that the road is going to be built to durable standards and that during the duration of the contract the contractor is achieving his objectives and building the roads to standard and not taking any shortcuts and that the EMP is being adhered to. Any problems that are created, I am here to address them on behalf of the Roads Authority. Our contractor is in the room as well, they have already been appointed and they are currently in the field doing their own surveys of the roads that they will be upgrading.

The road is called a Low Volume Seal and the reason for this is, that it is not a big national road. The requirement for a national road is to be able to carry heavy and a lot of traffic like the road going to Zambia. You are not getting a lower standard road, but a road that is designed specifically for the class of traffic that this road is receiving, mostly your traffic on these roads is small vehicle traffic with some delivery trucks, but it is not a massive main road and that is why it is called a Low Volume Road.

The estimated length of roads that we will be upgrading will be approximately 22km:

- *John Mutorwa Street –1.2km from the 4way with Sauyemwa to B8*
- *DR3402 - B8 to Rundu University Campus*
- *DR3402 - University Campus where tar road ends to beyond the Kayengona Junction*
- *Road from DR3402 to Calai Border Post*
- *Access Roads at Kayengona up to the Constituency Office, Traditional Offices, School, ect*
- *Access Road to uVhungu-Vhung School*
- *DR3448 - 5km from B8 towards Mbambi*

Project roads highlighted in red.



- *Outline of construction procedure:*

- *The order in which we will start is being finalised at the moment in terms of priority, but what has been confirmed is that we will start with the road to Kayengona because this a priority for the community and is closest to the borrow pit and this will also reduce operational costs for the contractor.*
- *We will primarily be using the existing borrow pit along DR3402 just before the uVhung-Vhungu Dairy Project and extending on that and not necessarily using new ones at this point.*
- *All existing borrow pits will be rehabilitated to safe standards, we are aware that the existing borrow pits are not finished properly.*
- *Accesses and bypasses will be provided for vehicle traffic along the road during construction so that traffic is not being interrupted.*
- *The existing road will be used as far as possible, but we will have to get the road out of the low points and provide proper drainage structures. I would like to urge you to indicate any drainage issues that you are aware of with your Constituency office so that they can communicate that to us. We will pick this up during our survey as well, but we would appreciate your input.*
- *Contract duration of the first phase is 10.5 months starting from when the document is signed between the contractor and the Roads Authority, the second phase will also be 10.5 months and will commence once phase 1 has been completed and funds are available.*
- *The contractor will employ local people. We have had discussions with the Councillors and their offices, and the contractor will run their employment requirements through their Constituency Offices and the balance of the split for employment between the two constituencies will be relative to the length of road in the respective constituency.*

6. Questions & Answers

Q1. Mr Mutamba:

- a. I would like to give some background, the Kavango Regional Council submitted a list with roads to the RA in 2014. The DR3448 upgrade was requested for 10km, why was it reduced to 5km?
Response (Clinton Payne): Due to budget constraints only certain roads and certain lengths are being upgraded now but we are trying to get the most out of that as we can and the roads that carry the most traffic will be done first. The road that you are talking about could probably be extended in the future.
- b. I am not convinced by the response about the budget, because you budget according to what you plan. (DR3448 – 5km instead of 10km)
- c. John Mutorwa street should have been 7.3km and not 1.2km, this is the longest street in Rundu. It is important to note that one of the main streets in Rundu was not included, the majority of the people are there and a lot of economic activity is taking place along this road. This road should form part of the project. I would recommend that the project be revised to include that road.
Response (Clinton Payne): We as the Engineers get told by the Roads Authority which roads need to be upgraded, but I suggest that you take it up with the Roads Authority through Christina at the Regional Roads Authority Office.
- d. Are service ducts included? It should be incorporated in the BoQ. For example, the water pipes at the University are exposed. Examples along the Zambezi highway where pipes are exposed.
Response (Clinton Payne): There is provision for ducts for services that cross the road in the bill.

Response (Honourable Mbangi): These are all very valid points, and these issues were raised with the CEO of the RA Mr Conrad Lutombi, but it is also good that we raise these points again. Through our discussion with Mr Lutombi we gave a lot of examples of roads in rural areas that have been upgraded

such as the road from Katima Mulilo to Sibbinda but here we are struggling, we have raised these issues.

Q2. Mr Wakudumo:

- a. Economically speaking the road from Unam to Kayengona has been complained about for a long time. This road should be made a priority, this is where a lot of people have been relocated 30 years ago. Today are still planning using budget constraints and are failing to build a road from the main road to Kaisosi. We as businesspeople are mobilising resources as private individuals. From a business perspective there is development taking place and a lot of people are going there. Can the road from the main road be constructed to the settlement of Kaisosi.
- b. The road to the border has it been concluded, is it permanent border post now or will it be changed? The current road is being flooded. We were told here by Stubenrauch that the road to Kayengona will be the one going to the border post. That road to the current border post will be costly if it is only temporary.
- c. LVS – trucks will damage these roads. Some of our new roads cannot take 5 ton trucks. Especially going to the border, it will be a waste of money because they will use big transport trucks going to Angola.

Response (Clinton Payne): We take note and are working on that. We are aware that the road will take heavier traffic and that it gets flooded and will include it in the increased specification for this road.

Q3. Mr Kennedy Andreas (Chairperson for Public of Transport in Kavango East):

Thank you for the opportunity. Our cars are not in good condition, because the roads are in bad condition. I am impressed by the way this project is being done and by this event that is taking place. We are happy with the project even if only a few roads that were marked, but we all know everything has a beginning and if we see a little thing that our leaders have struggled with and we've come to a point where a few roads will be built it is very good from a socio-economic perspective.

You see local transport and taxis transporting people from the villages (Kayengona, uVhung-Vhung) to town, you must see the condition in which these cars are, but perhaps now we can offer better services to the people. My main concern is with the contractors, on previous projects there was no consultation and no provision was made for parking spots next to the road (e.g. Secondary School to Magistrates Court) and now taxis cannot stop next to the road to drop off or pick up passengers instead they stop in the middle of the road disturbing traffic and being issued with fines, although this is an urban issue in the example mentioned, I would like to request the consultants/contractors to consider including designated parking areas along the roads. Thank you.

Response (Clinton Payne): We will make provision for parking areas at certain intersections.

Q4. Mr Sep Katjiwana

I have great appreciation for being here and getting this opportunity.

This is an observation; demarcation markers have been moved into people's plots along the road and the community has not been informed. We wanted to know, are people going to be compensated? I know that some of the buildings that will be affected. What can we explain to the community? Where will the bypass go? Is there provision for bus stops for the people?

Additionally, we would like to ask the Councillors, while construction is ongoing, is it possible to request some gravel roads to be constructed into informal areas, there are not many roads in this area?

Response (Clinton Payne): Thank you very much. We take note. The road reserve is set, very often people often encroach on the road reserve. There is a process ongoing between the Roads Authority, the Councillors Office's and affected parties, you can take it up with them. We will provide bus stops/parking areas at key and critical areas along the roads.

Q5. Geraldus (NCCI)

What we want is development in the area. Is the scope of the project final or can it be amended based on development taking place? As Mr Wakudumo mentioned earlier the road to Calai is not suitable at the moment. Is there any way to rather take that portion and construct the road to Sauyemwa for example? Is that something that can be discussed with the business community? We understand and know where the movement of people and the economic activities is.

Response (Clinton Payne):

Q6. Community Member

What about waste management and will trees be cut down? Where will this be discarded, or will they be left next to the road? Where will any waste tar be disposed? On the rehabilitation, often at the end of a project people say they don't have funding to rehabilitate borrow pits, then these fill up with water and children drown. Has provision been made for borrow pit rehabilitation?

Response (Clinton Payne): Trees will be set aside and either spoiled or allowed for people to cut them up to use the wood. The bitumen is dumped in designated areas safely. The borrow pits will have to be rehabilitated, the Roads Authority will not allow any unsafe borrow pits anywhere, it is a requirement.

Q7. Fransiska Kupembona (KERC Senior PR)

What is the road construction sequence? Is it according to what you have displayed during the presentation? What is the budget for this project?

Response (Clinton Payne): Priority is the road to Kayengona and then the others will follow. There is a difference between the budget and money available, but the budget is capped at approximately N\$30million.

Will construction start be for the environmental clearance certificate is obtained?

Response (Rian du Toit): The EC must be obtained before construction starts. As mentioned earlier, the order displayed is not the order in which construction will take place, the road to Kayengona will be priority. With regards the environmental aspect, I will be on site every 3 months to ensure that the EMP is enforced as required by law. That is my responsibility and I give you my word that the borrow pits will look much better than they do now. I witnessed two accidents where children drowned in the Eenhana area and that is totally unacceptable. With regards to bitumen – it is a very stable product, aesthetically it is a problem and animals can get stuck in it, but thankfully it is not tar and it is stable can be disposed very safely and very easily. The hazard is very small.

7. Conclusion

Rian du Toit, Consulting Team

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Councillors and the Translator thank you very much. We are aware of all the requests with regards to new roads and extended roads, but unfortunately it falls outside the scope of this project. We see it all over, people want roads, and we understand it. Unfortunately, it costs money to construct roads, and this is always our constraint, but there are channels, the RA representative Mr Kennedy Chigumira will be moving to Rundu, he is a very pleasant person to work with, please go talk to him. This meeting today was not the last thing from our side, it was to engage the community and to hear what they have to say and to inform them about the project.

Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangu, Rundu Rural Constituency

Honourable Vicky Kauma, Consulting Team, Martha, Ms Chritine Sanzila, the contractor, Traditional Leaders, NCCI, VTC, representatives from Gender, Public Transport and all other attendees, thank

you very much for coming. At least through this engagement we picked up a lot of things and it is important to continue to engage each other. Thank you for sacrificing your time to attend this meeting. Thank you.

8. Prayer

Honourable Councillor Paulus Mbangi, Rundu Rural Constituency

End of meeting 11:45

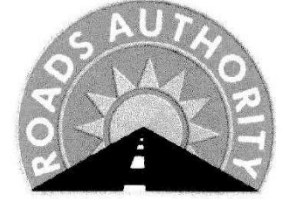
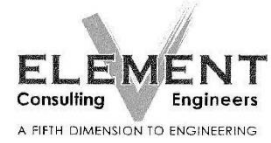


ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 13/10/21

VENUE: Kavango East Regional Council Auditorium

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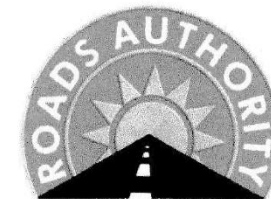
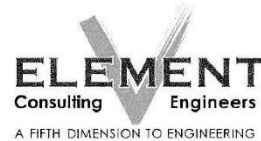


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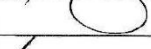
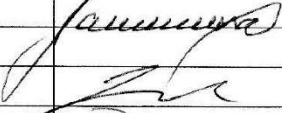
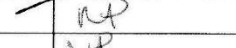


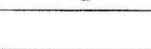


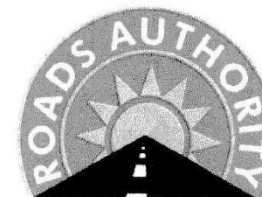
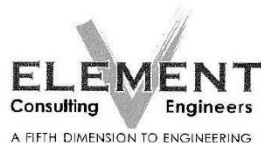
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PROJECT: Upgrade of Roads to UVS in and around the Town of Rundu.

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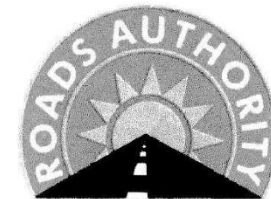
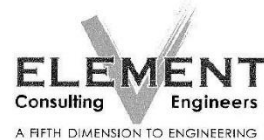
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PROJECT: Upgrade of Roads to US in and around the Town of Rundu

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Walvis Bay dental services nothing to smile about

• SHAROLDINE BOCK

SERVICES at the Walvis Bay State Hospital's dental department have not been expanded to match the town's growing population, residents say. The hospital was built in 1964 to serve a population of about 16 000 people. According to the World Population Review, Walvis Bay currently accommodates about 52 000 residents, which is putting pressure on healthcare facilities and staff at the town. As a result, some residents have to travel to Windhoek for dental services, while those who can afford it turn to private practitioners. Pensioner Lydia Wrenn (73) had to travel to Windhoek at her own cost to obtain dentures and fillings for her lower jaw on 7 December last year. She had to visit Katutura Intermediate Hospital's dental department about nine times, she says. "It is difficult for those of us who live far to get those services. There are a lot of expenses to travel to Windhoek



STAGNATING... The Walvis Bay State Hospital's dental department is causing residents headaches. (File photo for illustration purposes only).

and back. Many people, especially pensioners, cannot afford it," Wrenn says. "When I talk it cuts my tongue, because the teeth are too long in front... I went back to fix it, but they said I had to wear it for a month, and then it would fit. But after the month my

and her denture does not fit. "When I talk it cuts my tongue, because the teeth are too long in front... I went back to fix it, but they said I had to wear it for a month, and then it would fit. But after the month my

tongue was so sore I couldn't speak properly," Wrenn says.

Due to the costs she is not planning on returning to Windhoek.

Another Walvis Bay resident, Joshwin Basson, who suffers from high blood pressure, had to visit the Walvis Bay State Hospital for a tooth extraction last year.

After waiting since 05h00 on the particular day, he was sent home due to his blood pressure being too high to complete the procedure.

"Waiting for that long with little patience would obviously increase my blood pressure. I had to come back again when my blood pressure was normal before I could be assisted," Basson says.

But returning was not easy. "I had to prepare myself psychologically not to stress, because if I did, my blood pressure would increase again and I would have to wait even longer," he says.

Basson's tooth was eventually extracted, but not properly, he claims. He says he never returned.

Basson added: "They should get more equipment and more dentists so that they are able to accommodate more patients daily. They should also allow people to make appointments every day to avoid residents from coming to the hospital very early in the morning."

Dr Leonard Kabongo, chief medical officer and health director of the Erongo region says preferences given to emergencies, pensioners, patients with physical or mental disabilities, and infants.

Patients who need restoration or other lengthy procedures are scheduled in the afternoons, he says.

"In response to the growing population, two dentists were appointed permanently in 2018, compared to the dated staff structure, which made provision for one dental therapist and one dental surgery assistant."

"Very soon another dental surgery assistant will be added to the team," Kabongo says.

He says the possibility of expanding the hospital's dental department is being discussed.

Natural Immunity versus Covid-19

• FEDERICO LINKS

ANTI-VACCINE PROPAGANDISTS will latch on to anything to try and persuade people not to get vaccinated. The latest attempts involve spreading narratives about the human immune system being much more capable of fending off Covid-19 than vaccines.

At the heart of many of these misleading natural immunity narratives, which have gone global, are claims about an Israeli study, the results of which were published in August this year.

The study has not been peer reviewed yet, so caution is encouraged.

A recent post on a social media page dedicated to spreading anti-vaccine content raised the issue by asking the following questions: "Why do institutions force people to get vaccinated even if they had the disease and have natural immunity? Why are more and more studies coming out that natural immunity against the disease is much stronger than the vaccines?"

It is true that the Israeli study "demonstrated that natural immunity confers longer-lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalisation caused by the Delta variant of Sars-CoV-2, compared to the (Pfizer BioNTech) two-dose vaccine-induced immunity".

However, it also found that individuals "who were both previously infected with Sars-CoV-2 and given a single dose of the vaccine gained additional protection against the Delta variant".

A late August report on the study in *Science magazine* notes that "the researchers compared more than 14 000 people who had a confirmed Sars-CoV-2 infection and were still unvaccinated with an equivalent number of previously infected people who received one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The team found that the unvaccinated group was twice as likely to be reinfected as the singly vaccinated".

In other words, the Israeli study found that people who had a previous Covid-19 infection and were then vaccinated with a single vaccine dose had much higher immunity against the Delta variant than those who had a previous infection and were not vaccinated.



So, even though natural immunity is much higher and better after Covid-19 infection than from a vaccine, vaccines greatly enhance and strengthen that immunity. That is why some countries, including Israel, Germany and France, encourage the previously infected to get at least one dose of a vaccine.

The expert view is that relying on natural immunity when you have not had a Covid-19 infection and is unvaccinated is irresponsible.

The same is true for those who have previously been infected, but do not get vaccinated because they believe they can no longer get infected.

As vaccine scientist and professor of molecular virology Peter Hotze states in a Twitter feed on the topic on 28 September: "Individuals who become infected with Covid-19 and recover exhibit highly variable levels of protective immunity versus reinfection. Some have protection, others very little or none. If you have been infected and have recovered, it's still important for you to get vaccinated."

On the whole, the idea some people have that their immune system, without

previous exposure to Covid-19, is strong enough to repel the Delta variant "is not a good idea", says infectious disease expert Anna Durbin of the prestigious Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the United States.

"Yes, natural infection does provide some immunity, so the next time you get that disease, you won't get as sick," Durbin states in an online article.

"But here's the problem: Your first encounter with that disease could go very wrong. With Covid-19, you could end up very ill, you could end up in the hospital, or you could die."

— Federico Links is the editor of *Namibia FactCheck*, a project of the Institute for Public Policy Research. *Namibia FactCheck* can be viewed at www.namibiafactcheck.org.na



Worldwide coronavirus cases (6 October): 235 558 832 Deaths: 4 612 221

Namibia (4 October): 127 923 confirmed infections Deaths: 3 517 123 191 recovered 1 203 active cases 61 new infections Patients in ICU: 11

First vaccine doses done: 274 127 Completed vaccinations: 193 159 (7.7% of population) New infections over past week: 430 Deaths announced over past week: 23

Most-affected countries United States: 43 862 984 confirmed infections 703 698 deaths 185 788 098 full vaccinations India: 35 850 049 cases; 449 290 deaths Brazil: 21 478 546 cases; 598 152 deaths

Most-affected African countries South Africa: 2 906 851 confirmed infections 87 819 deaths 2 781 565 recovered 18 073 764 vaccinations done Morocco: 935 560 cases; 14 355 deaths Tunisia: 708 203 cases; 24 934 deaths

Southern Africa numbers Zambia: 209 199 cases; 3 650 deaths 205 233 recovered Botswana: 179 220 cases; 2 368 deaths Zimbabwe: 131 129 cases; 4 627 deaths Angola: 58 943 cases; 1 571 deaths

Source: Johns Hopkins University; Ministry of Health and Social Services; South Africa Department of Health; Zambia Ministry of Health



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLRF) hereby notifies all bidders that the bids listed in the table below has been cancelled. The cancellation is in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15, of 2015).

For enquiries contact Mr. M. Lutaka at Tel: 061-2087858 and/or Email address: Mwala.Lutaka@mawlr.gov.na

NO.	PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER	PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION
1.	G/ONB/NAMSIP/37-14/2020/2021	Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Inputs for Crop Farmers (Cereals & Horticulture) as part of the Namibia Agricultural Mechanization and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP) COVID-19 Interventions.

Percy W. Misika EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Notice of Environmental Impact Assessment

The Roads Authority of Namibia (RA) appointed *Element Consulting Engineers* to perform the Consultancy Services for:

The Upgrade of Roads to Low Volume Seal in and around the Town of Rundu in the Kavango East Region: John Mutorwa Street in Rundu, DR3402 (from TR84 intersection to Rundu University Campus), DR3448 (from TR84 intersection for 5 km) and DR3402 (from Rundu University Campus for 4 km towards Kayongosa Junction)

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Public Consultation Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021
Time: 10:00
Venue: Kavango East Regional Council Auditorium

For further information, and to register as an I&AP please contact:

Enviro Management Consultants Namibia
Contact: Ms. Makhe Prickett or Mr. Rian du Toit
Fax: 068 626968 | Email: enviromanagement@gmail.com



Namibia poised to become African renewable energy hub

In March 2021, as I launched Namibia's Second Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPPII), I reflected on the need to emphasise the importance of multilateralism in our efforts to foster an enduring economic recovery.

Namibia's policy on international relations and cooperation is anchored in multilateralism because our very independence was a product of international solidarity. We are a nation that was midwifed by the United Nations. It is for this reason that as we crafted our green economic recovery plan, we knew that it had to build a more sustainable future for our children and their children.

Namibia is a small, open economy that is impacted by independent intervening variables, including climate change and its disruptive consequences. Our economy is heavily reliant on the agricultural sector, which employs more than 20% of our labour force. Namibia experiences recurrent droughts, the most recent of which have been recorded as the worst in history. These droughts can be linked to climate change, which according to the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, is unequivocally a man-made phenomenon. Therefore, Namibians must play a role in crafting climate-change solutions, not just for the sake of our citizens, but indeed for the global community at large.

Accordingly, Namibia is poised to tackle climate change, by establishing a green economy that will drive our economic recovery as envisioned for African countries by African heads of state during the launch of the African Union Continental Green Recovery Action Plan. In this context, we have ambitious plans to develop green and blue economies as articulated under the economic advancement pillar of our HPPII.

The feasibility of these plans is underscored by the abundant availability of sunlight throughout the year and proximity to billions of cubic metres of seawater and vast marine resources in the Atlantic Ocean. We have the potential to capture around 10 hours of strong sunlight per day for 300 days per year. As a result, Namibia has some of the highest solar irradiance potential of any country in Africa, which is sufficient to provide power for our



Green energy... The generation of solar power will complement Namibia's available green energy portfolio. Photo: Nampa

people and our neighbours.

It is with this potential in mind that we have entered into a partnership with the government of Botswana and the United States - under the auspices of USAID's Power Africa - which culminated in the signing of a memorandum of intent in April 2021. With support from the global community, we intend to utilise the abundance of sunlight to produce solar power for our own benefit and for our neighbours.

The generation of solar power will complement Namibia's available green energy portfolio, such as hydroelectricity, which already constitutes more than two-thirds of our installed power capacity. Electrifying key parts of our economy and of our neighbours will spur unprecedented economic activity and growth for Namibia and Southern Africa.

A green hydrogen economy

It is well known that clean electricity is not available in sufficient quantities to adequately supply global demand. This challenge was underlined in the Net Zero by 2050 report published by the International Energy Association

(IEA), which noted that hard-to-abate sectors - like cement, steel and chemicals, road trucking, container shipping, and aviation - will need green hydrogen if the world is to remain on course to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.



Namibia is better-positioned resource-wise, as well as having the political will to answer that clarion call.

To produce green hydrogen competitively, a country would need world-class transmission infrastructure, international port facilities, world-class wind and solar resources, access to sustainable sources of clean water (without displacing existing consumers), lots of land and a conducive legislative environment. These are all ingredients that Namibia has. Already, our country is home to the largest desalination plant in Southern Africa, meaning that the conditions for producing abundant clean water in a desert country are conducive.

Once Namibia has successfully incubated the green hydrogen economy, it will enable the country to become a supplier of energy, rather than an importer. Judging from the scale of the initial proposals submitted to Namibia by interested investors, these renewable projects, relative

to the size of Namibia's economy, will be greatly transformative to the Namibian economy.

Currently, at its peak, the economy consumes about 640 megawatts of power per annum whereas the proposals presented to government entail investments that could produce 10 times that amount of peak generation capacity in the next 10 years. But Namibians will not have to wait until 2030 to start enjoying the benefits of our green revolution because construction of the pilot plants will begin within the next 12 months.

A new frontier

The required infrastructure for power trading already exists. About 40% of Namibia's power currently comes from South Africa and is primarily driven by coal-fired power plants. We imagine a reality where Namibia exports clean energy to South Africa thereby assisting the Southern African region to decarbonise.

Namibia also boasts world-class port infrastructure in the cities of Luderitz to the south, and Walvis Bay to the west. Renewable electricity, and green hydrogen and its derivatives, provide Namibia with a real opportunity to attract meaningful foreign direct investment, create well-paying jobs, further diversify its export basket, and improve its terms of trade. Therefore, the development of a green and blue economy, as well as a green hydrogen industry, are some of the cornerstones of the HPPII.

As Namibia embarks on this new frontier, it is imperative that its vision of shared prosperity on the national, regional and global levels is realised. Meaning that we do not neglect those without access to political and economic power today nor exclude those who currently rely on carbon fuels.

Covid-19 has already widened the existing chasm of inequality, a scourge Namibia is

all too familiar with. With a Gini coefficient of 59.1, inequality is a foe we have sworn to tackle. This is why, even during these fiscally challenging times, we have resolved to establish a sovereign wealth fund, to ensure that both current and future generations will enjoy balanced and equal access to Namibia's wealth for many years to come.

Namibia also has a sophisticated capital market - the second deepest on the continent, which can absorb project bonds, green bonds, and sustainable bonds. The contractual and collective savings of Namibian citizens equate to more than 100% of our GDP and stand ready to be deployed alongside funds from interested investors. In addition to capital, our tertiary institutions are in the process of establishing a National Green Hydrogen Research Institute, to ensure that the requisite research and development is executed right here at home. This will enable Namibians to capture as much of the value chain as possible.

Namibia is uniquely positioned to become the renewable energy hub of the continent and we are determined to play a leading role in illustrating how environmentally sustainable business practices can be profitable and transformative undertakings.

As the glaciers retreat, wildfires spread, and sea level rises, climate change is at the forefront of our global leaders' minds. Sustainable financing can change the structure of economies that are bold enough to provide a healthy portfolio of investment opportunities, which are aligned with the global agenda to "build back better".

Towards this end, we encourage developed nations and multilateral funding institutions to find innovative ways to deploy affordable capital that is aligned with the science-based urgency to reach worldwide carbon-neutrality targets.

- World Economic Forum

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 Contact: Ms. Maika Preckitt or Mr. Rian du Toit
 Fax: 088 626968 | Email: enviromanagementnc@gmail.com



Preacher gets trial date on child-abuse charges

• WERNER MENGES

AN EX-PASTOR of a Windhoek church is due to go on trial in March next year on four charges connected to allegations that he had sexually molested four under-age boys. Former Rhenish Evangelical Lutheran Church pastor Joe Diergaard's trial is scheduled to start in the Windhoek Regional Court on 3 March. Diergaard was informed of this when he made a first appearance in the regional court on Friday, a week after his case was transferred to that court. Diergaard is due to be prosecuted on three counts of rape and a charge of committing a sexual or indecent act with a child under the age of 16 years. He denied guilt on the charges during an appearance in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court in Katutura in July this year. He has "from day one" said he was not guilty of the charges, his defence lawyer Garth Joseph, told *The Namibian* on Friday. Joseph did not want to elaborate on the allegations made against his client. Diergaard, who was attached to the Khomashal congregation of the Rhenish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Windhoek, was arrested on 29 January this year on one charge of rape involving an 11-year-old boy who had allegedly been sexually assaulted during July 2019. During Diergaard's second court appearance in February, three additional charges were added to his case. In those charges, it



Photo: Werner Menges

DENYING GUILT. Joe Diergaard (right), with his defence lawyer Garth Joseph, at the Windhoek Regional Court on Friday.

is alleged that he raped a second 11-year-old boy by committing a sexual act with him during 2019, that he also raped a third under-age boy by committing a sexual act with him, and that he sexually assaulted a fourth boy as well. After nearly six weeks in police custody, Diergaard was granted bail in an amount of N\$7 000 on 9 March. During his court appearance before magistrate Victor Nyazo on Friday, Joseph informed the magistrate that Diergaard has moved to the Dordabis area and asked to have one of his bail conditions changed so that he would have to report to the police

PROTECT yourself and your LOVED ONES

Covid-19 Top Statistics

Worldwide coronavirus cases (10 October): 237 719 281
Deaths: 4 650 162

Namibia (9 October): 129 106 confirmed infections
Deaths: 3 527
123 542 recovered
Patients in ICU: 10
First vaccine doses done: 265 266
Completed vaccinations: 206 036 (83.9% of population)
New infections over past week: 302
Deaths announced over past week: 11

Most-affected countries
United States: 44 326 511 confirmed infections
India: 33 953 475 cases; 450 589 deaths
Brazil: 21 567 181 cases; 600 809 deaths

Most-affected African countries
South Africa: 2 911 497 confirmed infections
88 292 deaths
19 016 618 vaccinations done
Morocco: 938 801 cases; 14 442 deaths
Tunisia: 709 456 cases; 24 996 deaths

Southern Africa numbers
Zambia: 209 536 cases; 3 653 deaths
205 417 recovered
Botswana: 180 436 cases; 2 376 deaths
Zimbabwe: 151 782 cases; 4 635 deaths
Angola: 61 245 cases; 1 818 deaths

Sources: Johns Hopkins University; Ministry of Health and Social Services; South Africa Department of Health; Zambia Ministry of Health

at Dordabis, instead of in Windhoek, each Friday. The magistrate changed the bail conditions as requested. When he was granted bail in March, Diergaard was also ordered not to have any direct or indirect contact with the complainants in his matter.

Cafeteria tender not finalised – Nipam

• TIMO SHSHEPO

THE process of awarding a state food and catering contract has not been finalised yet. This is according to Maria Nangolo, the executive director of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (Nipam). She said this in response to an article published by *The Namibian* last week, saying the state-owned institution awarded this contract to Flamingo Inflight Services. Flamingo Inflight Services is implicated in the Fishrot corruption scandal and is owned by awaiting-trial James Hataukilipi, former minister of justice Sacky

Shanghala, former National Planning Commission permanent secretary Leevi Hungamo, and former secretary to the president Ndutala Angolo. The *Namibian* reported that Flamingo Inflight Services was awarded the contract by Nipam, subject to objections. This information is contained in a Nipam document dated 24 September, which has been signed by Nangolo. The document states that Flamingo Inflight Services has been selected to provide catering services for 2021/22. Other companies that were short-listed include Welwitschia Catering and Gourmet Chef Catering. Nangolo says the process is not concluded yet, despite evidence showing that the state-owned institution informed Flamingo Inflight Services they won the contract. "Nipam is still busy with the procurement process, and no contract has been awarded," she says. Sources familiar with the tender say the contract could be worth N\$3 million a year depending on the number of workshops held at Nipam. They also say whoever is renting the cafeteria could additionally generate an estimated N\$300 000 to N\$400 000 a year through corporate functions and events.

Nangolo disputes this. "She says Nipam has never made budgetary provisions for this in the past or in its current operational budget. The *Namibian* in April reported that Nipam contracts were cancelled amid concerns of possible collusion among two senior executives and other allegations, such as favouritism. Nangolo denies this too. "The cancellation was due to a technical matter. Moreover, the executive committee of Nipam currently doesn't consist of the numbers advanced in the article, and it's noteworthy that the procurement management unit does not consist of any exco member," she says. She says Nipam's procurement management unit follows the structure as contained in the Procurement Act. The *Namibian* earlier this year reported that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is investigating the disappearance of N\$4.1 million earmarked for buying drought-relief food for needy Namibians in 2016. The ACC's investigations uncovered that the bulk of the N\$4.1 million found its way into the bank account of Flamingo Inflight Services. "Creating association with Nipam in the storyline is misleading," Nangolo says.

Cops smuggling contraband in holding cells – Ndeitunga

• ELIASER NDEYANALE

POLICE inspector general Sebastian Ndeitunga has accused police officers of smuggling contraband into police holding cells. Ndeitunga said this when he opened new police offices, a fuel station and police holding cells in the Oshana region on Friday. "I am convinced that police officers are collaborating with inmates and members of the public to smuggle contraband and other illegal items into the cells," he said, cautioning police officers involved in these illegal activities to stop doing so. Ndeitunga said last week he received a report that contraband



Sebastian Ndeitunga

who manage police holding cells do not develop personal relationships with inmates. He also urged commanders to improve their supervision and control and to uphold policing standards and behaviours. With regards to crime, Ndeitunga said police records indicate that over the past years Oshana has mainly recorded crimes of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH), theft under false pretences, armed robbery and house-breaking with intent to steal. "Sadly, gender-based violence (GBV) against women and children has become alarming nationwide and Oshana region is no exception. I would, therefore, like to urge all stakeholders to redouble their efforts in combating gender-based violence in this region.

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Fax: 088 628968 | Email: enviromanagement@gmail.com

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IMF meets to discuss MD's alleged misconduct

WASHINGTON — The IMF executive board met yesterday (Sunday) to discuss a new report that alleges misconduct by Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. The board will hold a session at the World Bank, the report said Friday. It would have "clarifying details" on a possible conflict Georgieva will face for job, and that it will discuss the "IMF role".

Georgieva, 48, has won the support of France and other European countries, a source close to the office told AFP on Friday. However, the United States — a key member of the IMF — has not yet signed on, pending an investigation, according to two other sources with knowledge of the situation.

The IMF board will meet on Friday and the World Bank to begin their full meetings today. Georgieva, a Bulgarian national, was appointed by former secretary of the IMF board on Wednesday. She has reportedly declined the report's conclusions, and on Thursday allowed a letter from her attorney to the board, refusing to disclose her findings, as well as her 12-page resume to the 24 board members.

The board met three times last week. Wednesday's and again yesterday to discuss the terms of the investigation. On Saturday, it met with representatives of the law firm Cleaver Hales, which found that Georgieva was among top officials who processed audit data changing data for Czech bonds in the 2010-2011 period. The audit was conducted by the business agency.

"I am pleased that I really had the opportunity to explain to the IMF board my role in the Czech bond program, and how I was supported by my colleagues," she said in a statement.

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More than half the photo are an alert for managers, and the government is mulling bringing ahead power stations back on operations. Coal accounts for nearly 70% of India's electricity generation, and around three-quarters of the coal used is imported from overseas. In a bid to curb large-scale coal imports, the government has decided to restrict coal imports to only power plants for coal supply, including

Delhi warns of looming power 'crisis' as coal shortages bite

NEW DELHI — New Delhi's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal warned of a looming power crisis in the national capital as he said that the state of the power and fuel stations supplying the city have been a dire state.

Kejriwal said that the state of the power and fuel stations supplying the city have been a dire state. He said that the state of the power and fuel stations supplying the city have been a dire state.

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Macron hails global tax agreement as 'major advance'

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Build and maintain strong relationships with clients	Ensure high quality service and customer satisfaction
Monitor and report on business performance	Collaborate with other departments to ensure seamless service

For more information, please contact us at hr@worldbank.org

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday hailed the "historic" agreement of 137 countries committing to a common tax rate for multinational corporations as a "major advance".

Macron also praised the agreement as a "major advance" for the world's economies, saying it would help to create jobs and boost growth.

Notice of Environmental Impact Assessment

The State Secretary of Environment, Urban Planning and Construction is hereby notified that the following project is being proposed:

Project Name: [Project Name]

Location: [Location]

Project Description: [Project Description]

The project is being proposed for the following reasons:

- [Reason 1]
- [Reason 2]
- [Reason 3]

The project is being proposed for the following reasons:

- [Reason 1]
- [Reason 2]
- [Reason 3]

Public Consultation Period: [Date]

Date: [Date]

Time: [Time]

Location: [Location]

For more information, please contact us at [Contact Information]

The tax agreement reached at the OECD in 2021 is a historic milestone and will help to create jobs and boost growth. The agreement is a major advance for the world's economies, saying it would help to create jobs and boost growth.