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Document Type:

Background Information Document (BID)

Project Name:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) No. 8136 LOCATED SOUTH-WEST OF REHOBOTH IN THE HARDAP & KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Environmental Consultant:

EXCEL DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD

Proponent:

FRANKLIN AILOHI OHOIZEBAU

1 INTRODUCTION

Franklin Ailohi Ohoizebau (hereinafter referred to as The Proponent) has been granted the Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 8136 by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). The application for the EPL was granted on 19 March 2021, and expires on 18 March 2024. The 9805.905-hectare (ha) EPL is located about 59.05km south-west of Rehoboth, in the Hardap & Khomas Region (**Figure 1**). The EPL covers (overlie) farms such as Farm Ou Naus No. 609, Kubitsaus No. 318, Naus No. 905, The Farm No.909, Areb No. 176, Areb North No. 202 and Isabis No. 929 (**Figure 2**). The EPL has potential for commodities such as Base & Rare Metals, Dimension Stones and Precious Metals. However, the Proponent's target commodities for this project are **Base & Rare Metals**.

Prospecting, exploration and all mining related activities are among the listed activities that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The relevant listed activities as per EIA regulations are:

- *3.1 The construction of facilities for any process or activities which requires a license, right of other forms of authorization, and the renewal of a license, right or other form of authorization, in terms of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Act, 1992).*
- *3.2 other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.*
- *3.3 Resource extraction, manipulation, conservation, and related activities.*

Subsequently, the Proponent has appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd, an independent team of Environmental Consultants, to conduct the required Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) process and submit the ECC application to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

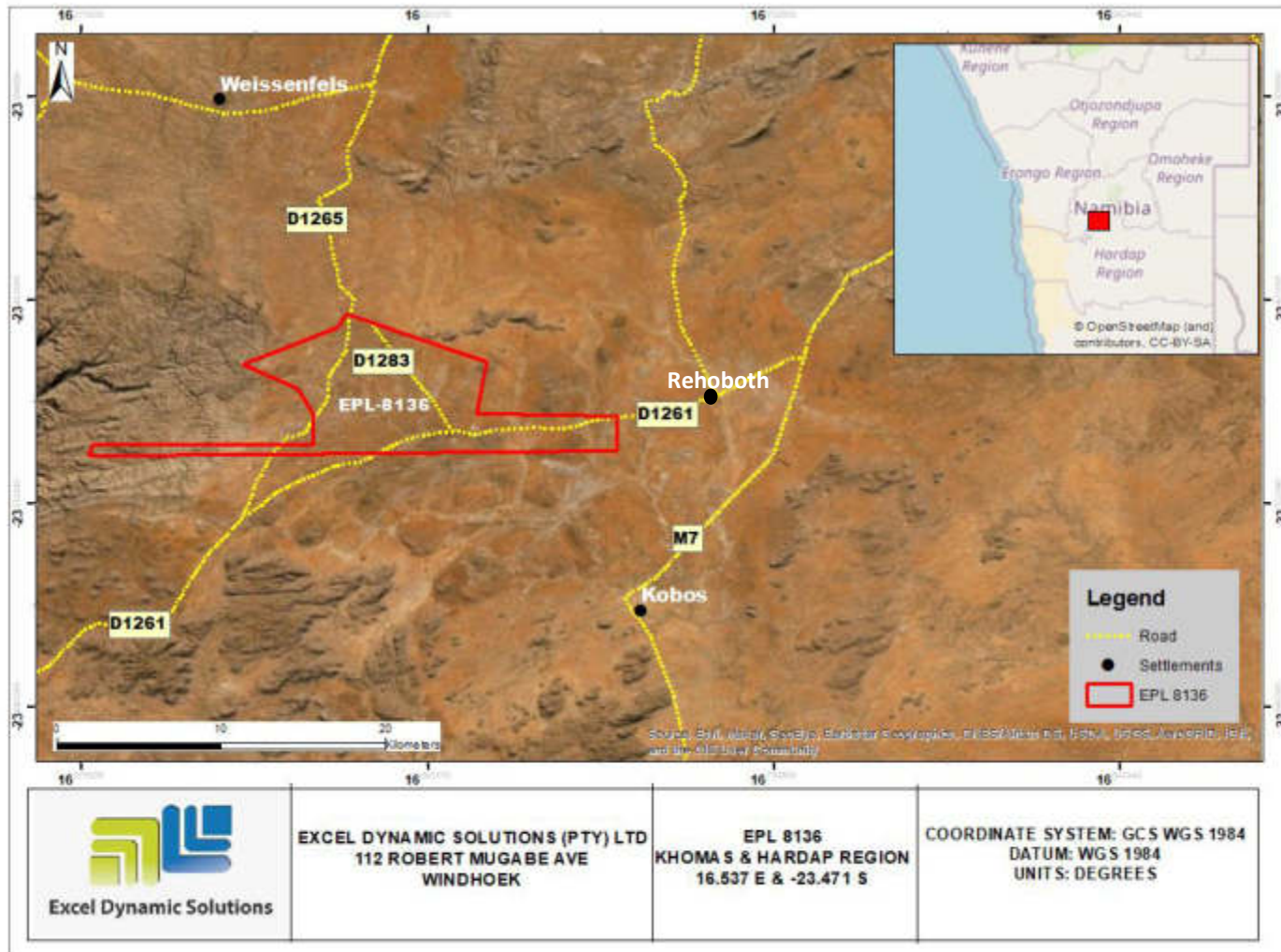


Figure 1: Locality map of EPL 8136 in the Hardap & Khomas Region, Namibia

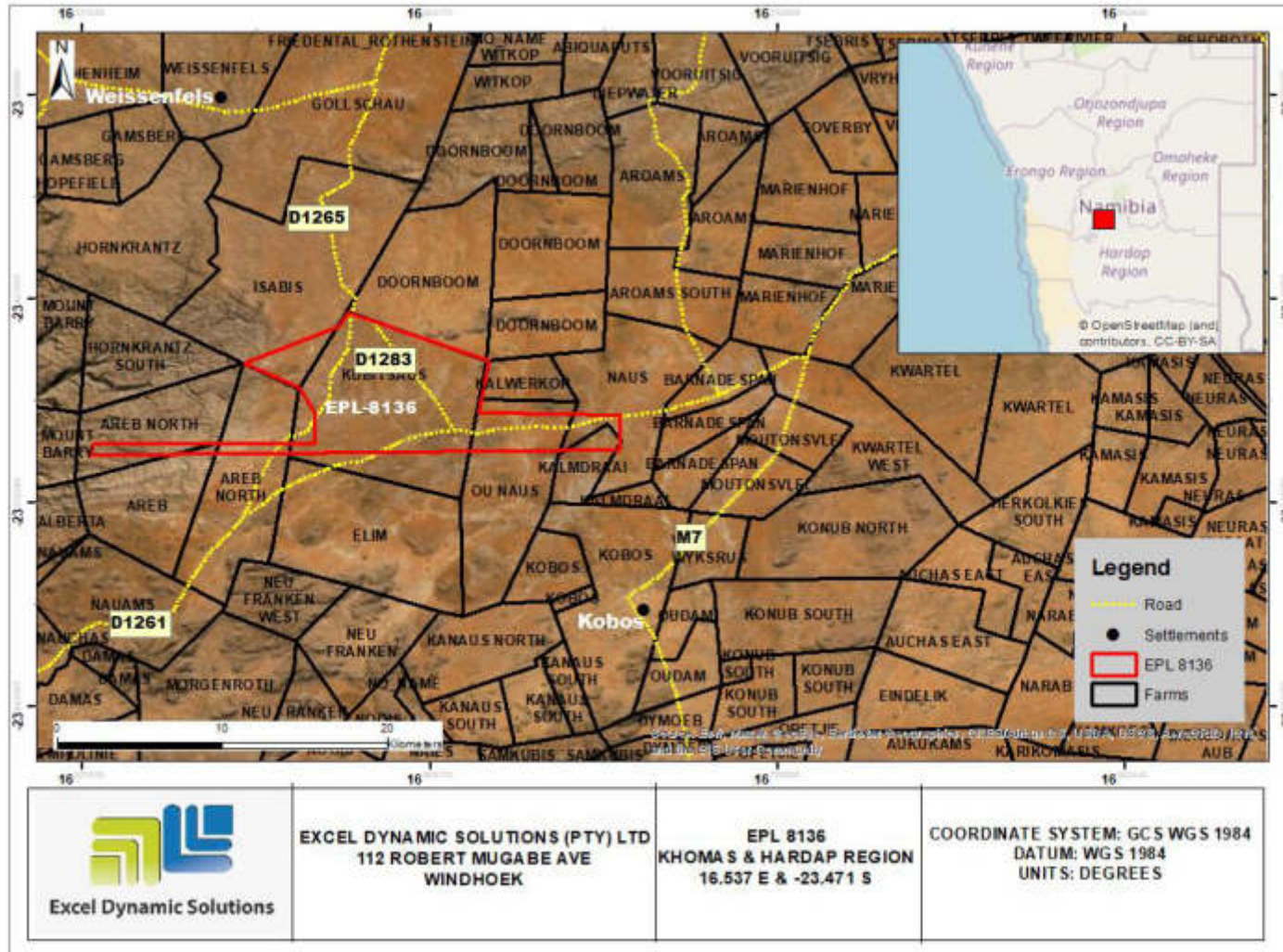


Figure 2: EPL 8136 with affected land use and neighbouring farms

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

It should be noted that **this Background Information Document is not an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report, but a non-technical summary of the ESA**, aimed for information sharing and as a basis for public involvement from the beginning of the ESA process. The purpose of this document is therefore to provide project background information to stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs), thus providing an opportunity for them (I&APs) to receive information, comment and raise issues regarding the environmental authorization process.

The motivation behind this document is to:

- Provide background information to the I&APs of the task, along these lines giving a chance to them (I&APs) to get information, remark and raise issues with respect to the approval measure.
- Briefly introduce the proposed project and related activities to potential I&APs/stakeholders.
- Provide information on the ESA process and how I&APs can get involved.
- invite members of the public to register as I&APs and added to the ESA database so that they can stay informed about the ESA progress throughout its process; and
- To provide all I&APs with an opportunity to comment or provide inputs/concerns on the proposed project activities,

which entails concerns/issues on the biophysical and socio-economic aspects, and any other issues of concern related to the proposed project activities. The information from I&APs will then form basis of the ESA and EMP documents that will help the competent and regulatory authorities (Mines and Energy (MME) and MEFT, respectively) to make informed decisions and consider the issuance of the ECC.

3 NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE ACTIVITY

Mining contributes about 12.5% towards Namibia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The mining industry is one of the largest contributors to the Namibian economy; therefore, it contributes to the improvement of livelihoods. In Namibia, exploration for minerals is done mainly by the private sector. Exploration activities have a great potential to enhance and contribute to the development of other sectors and its activities do provide temporary employment, and taxes that fund social infrastructural development. The minerals sector yields foreign exchange and account for a significant portion of gross domestic product (GDP). Additionally, the industry produces a trained workforce and small businesses that can serve communities and may initiate related businesses. Several associated activities that are fostered include, such as manufacturing of exploration and mining equipment, provision of engineering and environmental services and others. The mining sector forms the vital part of some of Namibia's development

plans, namely: Vision 2030, National Development Plan 5 (NDP5) and Harambee Prosperity Plans (HPPs) I and II. Thus, mining is essential to the development goals of Namibia in contributing to meeting the ever-increasing global demand for minerals, and for national prosperity. Therefore, the successful exploration on EPL 8136 would then lead to the mining of Base & Rare Metals, which would feed into the national development plans. Hence, they are a need to undertake the proposed exploration activities on the EPL.

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed activities will entail the detailed exploration activities and delineating the mineral deposits to determine whether the deposits for targeted commodities are economically feasible (to advance to the resources development and mining phase).

The prospecting and exploration of minerals are the first components of any potential mining project (development and eventual mining). This is done to acquire the necessary data required for further decision making and investment options. These activities are anticipated to last for about three years. The planned activities and required resources and infrastructure are briefly described below. The detailed exploration methods (techniques) will be presented in the ESA Report.

The proposed phased approach for the exploration works is presented below. However, **it should be noted that these activities will only be undertaken upon the approval of the ESA Report and issuance**

of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) by the Environmental Commissioner.

Once the Proponent has been issued with the ECC and obtained all relevant and required permitting/licensing (such as consents and land use agreements), and ready to commence with the actual exploration activities (with financial, technical, and human resources in place), the planned activities will commence on site.

4.1 Project Processes

The proposed exploration activities (methods) are divided into the following categories:

- **Phase 1: Non-invasive techniques (prospecting)** - This will include geological field mapping and ground-based surveys, reviewing of existing geological maps and historical drilling data as well as field evaluation and sampling,
- **Phase 2: Invasive techniques (detailed exploration)** – the techniques involved herein include soil survey, rock sampling, trenching, and/ or pitting and detailed exploration drilling.
- With regards to Phase 2, once the target areas have been selected and verified under the prospecting phase, detailed exploration works will follow. The preferred drilling technique for this exploration programme is Reverse Circulation (RC) Drilling. RC drilling uses a pneumatic hammer, which drives a rotating tungsten-steel bit. The technique produces an

uncontaminated large volume sample, which is comprised of rock chips. It is relatively quick and cheap when compared to other techniques like Diamond Drilling. However, if found to be necessary, diamond drilling may also be considered for this exploration programme, during advanced stages of exploration if large amounts of sample material may be required for analysis and to perform processing trials.

The selection of the potential mineralization model and exploration targets will be based on the local geology, trenching, drilling, and assay results of the samples collected.

4.2 Human Resources, Services, and infrastructure

The following services and infrastructure as provided below will be required for the project activities:

- **Human resources and accommodation:** Around ten (10) people will be employed on site during the exploration phase. The workforce will include both skilled, semi and unskilled people, as necessary to complete the work. The exploration workforce will be accommodated in Rehoboth, upon reaching an agreement and a consent is signed between the Proponent and the respective landowner or custodian (authority) prior to setting up accommodation structures (camps).
- **Working Space (Administration and Control):** Movable shade facility near the working spots and prefabricated temporary offices will be erected on site (subject to approval of landowner/custodian or authority).
- **Water supply:** Around 4500 litres of water will be required for the activities per month. This water will be used for cooling down and washing of equipment, drilling related activities, and ablution. The water will be sourced from elsewhere and transported to site. Therefore, no project related water abstraction will be done onsite or within the site area.

Potable water will also be made available for the exploration crew (workers) on site.
- **Fuel supply:** (for personnel use to cook): The Proponent will provide fuel to be used for food preparation by the site workers. No firewood will be collected on the farms or neighbouring land, without the owners or authority's permission.
- **Fuel Supply (machinery and equipment):** 2000-litres of diesel will be used for machinery and equipment and fuel generator, per month.

- **Accessibility (roads)**: the EPL is accessible via D1823 road which is connected to the C24 road from the Rehoboth Town. Therefore, project related vehicles will be using these existing roads to access the EPL. It is also anticipated that, if necessary, onsite new tracks to the different targeted exploration sites within the EPL will be created. The Proponent may need to do some upgrade on the site access road to ensure that it is fit to accommodate project related vehicles, such as heavy trucks.
- **Waste management**: the different waste will be handled as follows:
- **Sewage**: Long drop ablution facilities will be provided on site. The wastewater will then be transported offsite to the treatment facility either by the Proponent or a designated/appointed external waste management contractor.
- **General and domestic waste**: enough waste bins (containers) will be made available at both exploration sites and campsite for waste storage. The bins will be emptied into the main onsite container for disposal at the nearest landfill site, when necessary (upon reaching full capacity of the main waste container onsite).

- **Hazardous waste**: All vehicles, machinery and fuel consuming equipment will be provided with drip trays to capture potential fuel spills and waste oils. The waste fuel/oils will be carefully stored in a standardized container until such a time that it can be disposed of at the nearest approved hazardous waste management facility.
- **Health and Safety**: Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to every project personnel while on and working at site. A minimum of two first aid kits will be readily available at exploration sites to attend to potential minor injuries, while major injuries will need to be attended to further by transporting the injured to the nearest health centre for treatment and needed care.
- **Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks**: A minimum of basic firefighting equipment, i.e., two fire extinguishers will be readily available in vehicles, at the working sites and campsite.

4.3 Project Equipment, Material, Machinery and Vehicles

The following equipment and machinery will be required:

- 4X4 pickup trucks
- Excavator / front-end loader to scoop up sandy overburden

- Dozers (to clear vegetation along planned drilling site access roads)
- Drilling fluids stored in manufacturers approved containers
- Air compressors
- Diesel generator for power supply
- Two-way radios for constant communication on site.

These equipment, machinery and vehicles will be kept at a storage site that will be established within the EPL.

4.4 Decommissioning: Rehabilitation of Explored Sites

The decommissioning referred to here is the cessation of exploration activities either upon discovering an economic feasible and worthy deposit or unsuccessful exploration works. Either way, the Proponent will need to properly decommission the activities to either prepare the selected areas of the EPL for the mining phase or upon a non-successful exploration abandon the explored and rehabilitated sites.

The impact on the physical environment by exploration works can be lessened by planning with future decommissioning of explored sites in mind. Therefore, towards the end of each exploration activity on worked/explored sites of the EPL, progressive / ongoing rehabilitation will be carried out by the Proponent. This can be achieved through partial backfilling of boreholes and trenches with topsoil and waste

rocks. The aim is to ensure that the disturbed sites are left close to their pre-exploration state as much as possible.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This ESA process is conducted in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and its' Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2012). The primary objective of the EA will be to identify potential negative impacts associated with the proposed activity, assess them, and recommend practical and effective mitigation measures to be implemented by the Proponent to minimize these impacts, while maximizing positive impacts.

The main objectives of this ESA are to:

- Comply with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (2007) and its EIA regulations (2012).
- Identify potential impacts associated with the proposed Activity.
- Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant authorities about the mining activities and to provide them with a reasonable opportunity to participate during the EA process.
- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised.

- Compile a report addressing all identified issues and potential impacts related to various aspects of the activity.
- Compile a Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which includes impacts' management and mitigation measures.

5.1 Potential Impacts

The following potential impacts have been identified so far for the surrounding towns, settlements, and property:

Positive:

- Socio-economic development through employment creation (primary, secondary, and tertiary employment) and skills transfer,
- Open other investment opportunities and infrastructure-related development benefits,
- Produce a trained workforce and small businesses that can service communities and may initiate related businesses,
- Boosting the local economic growth and regional economic development.
- Improved geological understanding of the area, and
- Open other investment opportunities and infrastructure-related development benefits.

- Increased support for local businesses through the procurement of consumable items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), machinery spare parts, lubricants, etc.

Negative:

- **Potential disturbance of existing pastoral systems,**
- **Physical land / soil disturbance**
- **Impact on local biodiversity (fauna and flora) and habitat disturbance**
- **Potential impact on water resources and soils particularly due to pollution,**
- **Air quality issue**
- **Visual impacts due to scars**
- **Potential occupational health and safety risks**
- **Vehicular traffic safety and impact on services infrastructure**
- **Vibrations and noise**
- **Environmental pollution**
- **Archaeological or cultural heritage impact**
- **Potential social nuisance and conflicts**

The potential impacts listed above were pre-identified and therefore should not be deemed as final or the only ones. Other potential impacts will be identified as the ESA process progresses i.e., upon site visit and consultation with the public (I&APs). All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the Environmental Assessment Report and EMP.

5.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation is an important part of ESA process. During the consultation process, interested or affected members of the public are given an opportunity to find out more about the activity and raise any issues or concerns pertaining to the environmental assessment.

To comment or receive further information on the project, **please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd** (contact details herein) as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) **before or on, the 28th of February 2022.**

All registered I&APs will be kept informed throughout the various stages of the project and will be provided the opportunity to comment on the Scoping (ESA) Report.

Furthermore, you are hereby invited to the Public Consultation Meeting scheduled as follows:

- **Date: 16 February 2022**
- **Time: 11:30**
- **Venue: Rehoboth Community Hall**



Excel Dynamic Solutions

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I&APs

List

List of Stakeholders / Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)

Environmental Scoping Assessment for Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 8181 Located South-East Of Rehoboth In Hardap & Khomas Regions

No	Name	Position & Organization	Tel / Fax / Cell No.:	Postal and Email Address
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Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry)				
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Ministry of Mines and Energy				
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Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform				
9.	Mr. Percy W. Misika	Executive Director (ED)	Tel: +264 (0) 61 208 764 9	Private Bag 13184, Windhoek ED@mawf.gov.na

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Ministry of Works and Transport				
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Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment Creation				
18.	Ms. Lydia Indombo	Acting Executive Director	Tel: +264 (0) 206 632 4	Private Bag 19005, Windhoek Lydia.Indombo@mol.gov.na
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Hardap Regional Council				

No	Name	Position & Organization	Tel / Fax / Cell No.:	Postal and Email Address
25.	Hon. S.M April	Governor	Tel: +264 (0) 63 240 944	
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Rehoboth West Urban Constituency Office				
27.	Hon. Harald James Kambrude	Chairperson	Tel: +264 (0) 63	
28.				
29.				
Identified & Registered relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)				
30.	Dr. Christopher Brown	Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE)	Tel: +264 (0) 61 240 140 Cell: +264 (0) 81 162 580 7	P.O Box 40723, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek ceo@n-c-e.org admin@n-c-e.org
Affected Land Users (Property owners) and Directly Neighbours to sites				
31.	Government Republic of Namibia	Farm Areb North No. 202		P. O Box 13343, Windhoek, Namibia

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36.	Johannes Jacobus Izaaks	Karanas Oos No. 609		P. O Box 4354, Rehoboth , Namibia
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Newspaper adverts

1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to explore the ethical implications of the use of social media in the workplace. The research is based on a survey of 100 employees from various organizations. The results show that a significant number of employees believe that social media use in the workplace is unethical. This is particularly true when it comes to the use of social media for personal purposes during work hours. The study also found that employees who use social media in the workplace are more likely to be perceived as less committed and less productive. These findings have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

2. Literature Review

The literature on social media and the workplace is growing rapidly. There is a growing body of research that suggests that social media use in the workplace can have both positive and negative effects. On the one hand, social media can be used to improve communication and collaboration among employees. It can also be used to provide training and development opportunities. On the other hand, social media use in the workplace can also lead to increased stress and burnout. It can also lead to a decrease in productivity and a loss of focus. The research in this study is based on a survey of 100 employees from various organizations. The results show that a significant number of employees believe that social media use in the workplace is unethical. This is particularly true when it comes to the use of social media for personal purposes during work hours. The study also found that employees who use social media in the workplace are more likely to be perceived as less committed and less productive. These findings have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

3. Methodology

The research in this study is based on a survey of 100 employees from various organizations. The survey was conducted using an online survey platform. The survey questions were designed to explore the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace. The results of the survey are presented in the following sections. The first section discusses the overall findings of the survey. The second section discusses the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace. The third section discusses the implications of the findings for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

4. Results

The results of the survey show that a significant number of employees believe that social media use in the workplace is unethical. This is particularly true when it comes to the use of social media for personal purposes during work hours. The study also found that employees who use social media in the workplace are more likely to be perceived as less committed and less productive. These findings have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

5. Discussion

The findings of this study have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees. Organizations should be aware of the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace. They should also be aware of the potential for increased stress and burnout among employees who use social media in the workplace. Organizations should also be aware of the potential for a decrease in productivity and a loss of focus among employees who use social media in the workplace. The research in this study is based on a survey of 100 employees from various organizations. The results show that a significant number of employees believe that social media use in the workplace is unethical. This is particularly true when it comes to the use of social media for personal purposes during work hours. The study also found that employees who use social media in the workplace are more likely to be perceived as less committed and less productive. These findings have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

6. Conclusion

The research in this study has shown that social media use in the workplace can have both positive and negative effects. It can be used to improve communication and collaboration among employees. It can also be used to provide training and development opportunities. On the other hand, social media use in the workplace can also lead to increased stress and burnout. It can also lead to a decrease in productivity and a loss of focus. The research in this study is based on a survey of 100 employees from various organizations. The results show that a significant number of employees believe that social media use in the workplace is unethical. This is particularly true when it comes to the use of social media for personal purposes during work hours. The study also found that employees who use social media in the workplace are more likely to be perceived as less committed and less productive. These findings have important implications for organizations and for the way they manage their employees.

7. References

1. Smith, J. (2010). Social media and the workplace: A double-edged sword. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 95(1), 1–15.

2. Jones, K. (2011). The ethical implications of social media use in the workplace. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 100(1), 1–15.

3. Brown, L. (2012). Social media and the workplace: A double-edged sword. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 100(1), 1–15.

8. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in the completion of this study: [Names of individuals]

9. Appendix

The following table provides a list of the survey questions used in this study. The questions were designed to explore the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace.

10. Appendix (continued)

The following table provides a list of the survey questions used in this study. The questions were designed to explore the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace.

11. Appendix (continued)

The following table provides a list of the survey questions used in this study. The questions were designed to explore the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace.

12. Appendix (continued)

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13. Appendix (continued)

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14. Appendix (continued)

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15. Appendix (continued)

The following table provides a list of the survey questions used in this study. The questions were designed to explore the ethical implications of social media use in the workplace.

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Magdalena Krupnik is a leading member of Thomson. She has a Ph.D. in Business Administration and is currently an Associate Professor at the University of [Name]. She has published numerous articles in the field of business ethics and is a frequent speaker at conferences. She is also a member of the [Name] and the [Name].

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3.	Karl M. Izaacs P. O. Box 10435, Windhoek Namibia	
4.	Johannes Jacobus Izaaks P. O. Box 4354, Rehoboth Namibia	
5.	Johanna Mildred Campbell P. O. Box 3881, Windhoek Namibia	
6.	Dean Derick Dentliger P. O. Box 4667, Rehoboth Namibia	
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Registered Mail	\$288.80	
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(Recipient Name)		
(Address Line 1)		
(Address Line 2)		
(Address Line 3)		
(Address Line 4)		
PrePaid	-\$331.20	
Net	-\$37.67	
Tax Code	Amount	Total Tax
VAT A (0%)		
VAT B (15%)	\$251.13	\$37.67
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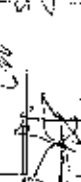


Three white documents with text and images, including a map, are pinned to the wall.

Attendance Register

Public Meeting Attendance Register

PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSES (EPL) No. 8136 LOCATED
WEST OF REHOBOTH IN THE HARDAP & KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA - 2nd meeting

Venue: IAreb Farm
Date: Saturday, 26 February 2022
Time: 10h00

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
1	Ms. Tunedo Schultz	Farmer		0813166559	
2	Hester Rosinnye	Farmer	hesterrosinnye@gmail.com	0813166559	
3	Raul Sandere			0816966683	
4	Joselina Sandere	Farmer		0816966683	
5	Ch. Lenzke	FARMER		0818340998	
6	A. S. Josephat	FARMER	Sipporaj@gmail.com	0818157632	
7	Simon Dinsie	Farmer			X
8	Johannes Atrih	Farmer			X
9	Paulina Boois	Farmer			X
10	Ganga Boois	Farmer			X

1
2
3

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
11.	Johannes Wilber	farmer			X
12.	Miriam Muna	farmer			M. Muna
13.	Nafiseh Mubtan	farmer			M. Mubtan
14.	Sigfried Pross				S. Pross
15.	John Eganwada				J. Eganwada
16.	Seldon Nabebe	farmer			S. Nabebe
17.	Hans Ulrich	farmer			H. Ulrich
18.	Ketivita Bebis				K. Bebis
19.	Symon Bikar				S. Bikar
20.	Maria Bikar				M. Bikar
21.	Wilkilawase Sebawete			0812925165	W. Sebawete
22.	Sabine Sebso		gabina Sebso@gmail.com	0812858131	S. Sebso
23.	Timothew Bikar			0812999355	T. Bikar
24.	Rickey Bebis			0817985531	R. Bebis
25.	TOSAK BOOIS				T. BOOIS
26.	Abenasis Grubntas			0813525369	A. Grubntas

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
27	Stanley Reimise	Farmers		081 2996404	
28	Stephanus Gumpels	Farmers		0818484912	
29	Shas David	EDS	Schmidt@edsonline.co.za	0833180030	
30	Roland Muzki	EDS	roland.m@edsonline.co.za	0812322273	
31	Melchior F. N. N.	Nampel (Farmers)	melchiorf@nampel.co.za	08140207083	
32	Mikepp. Markus	Nampel (Farmers)	Mikepp@nampel.co.za	0814314912	
33	Ukel. U. Mbitse	Mikeppel Community	ukel@ukel.co.za	082577087	
34	Ndumiso Shieriga	Whimhobe Rural C.	ndumiso@whimhobe.co.za	08187007	
35	P. P. Adams	Wk Rural Costrucing	pretoriusp@wkrural.co.za	0818749837	
36	Phathi Skymur	WHL	0812756150	062/542048	
37	Simon Skymur	WHL		0814443151	
38	Selwasa P. K. K.	WHL Rural	skelwasa@wkrural.co.za	0813814446	
39	Lesana K. K.	WHL Rural		0817491110	
	Mo. Mbitse	WHL		0812659882	




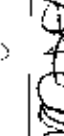



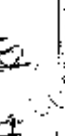

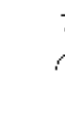
Public Meeting Attendance Register



PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSES (EPL) No. 8138 LOCATED
WEST OF REHOBOTH IN THE HARDAP & KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Venue: Rehoboth Community Hall

Date: Wednesday, 16 February 2022

Time: 44:30 - 12:00 - 13:42

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
1.	D. DENTLINGER	OU NAUS 609	dentlangone@yahoo.com	0812763141	
2.	K. Beyer	Aranus 984	beyerk@live.com	0812449118	
3.	C. DENTLINGER	OU NAUS 609	dentlangone@yahoo.com	0812763141	
4.	ARNOLD OLIVIER	FARM 909 KUBITS AUS 318	arnoldolivier@netcom.na	0811243248	
5.	H.L. OLIVIER	FARM 409 KUBITS AUS 318	olivierh@netcom.na	0811243248	
6.	Z. OLIVIER	FARM 909 KUBITS AUS 318	olivierz@netcom.na	0811243248	
7.	Z. C. OLIVIER	FARM 409 KUBITS AUS 318	olivierz@netcom.na	0811243248	
8.	M. DE KOCK	FARM 1000 KUBITS AUS 318	dekokm@netcom.na	0811243248	
9.	HESTER SCHULTZ	FARM 1000 KUBITS AUS 318	hester@netcom.na	0811243248	
10.	C. E. CONRATH	FARM 1000 KUBITS AUS 318	conrathc@netcom.na	0811243248	

No	Name	Organization	E-mail Address	Telephone Contact	Signature
11.	P. Gerosos	Arela 176		0570434818	
12.	P. M. M. M.			0818518337	
13.					
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**Public
consultation
meeting
minutes**

21 April 2022

**FARM KUBITSAUS No. 318 I & AP PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
ASSESSMENT (ESA) DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING &
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) No. 8136 LOCATED
NEAR REHOBOTH**

Date: Thursday, 21 April 2022

Time: 09:10 – 12:00

Venue: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) (EDS) Office

The Consultation Meeting was attended by three (3) people, including one Environmental Consultant from EDS and two farm owners (farm Kubitsaus No. 318).

INTRODUCTION

The environmental scoping report (ESA) and the environmental management Plan (EMP) was drafted after the public consultations which was held on the 16 and 26 February 2022 in Rehoboth and ! Areb community farm, respectively, and shared with the I&APs to review the reports. Thus, the affected parties of Farm Kubitsaus No. 318 had some comments on the scoping report, at which the farm Kubitsaus owners has requested for a face-face meeting with the consultant.

The issues and comments recorded are presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the meeting at EDS on the 21st of April 2022

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
1.	<p>Arnold Olivier: You have forwarded us the EPL 8136 and confirm the information with our sources. We would like to see and verify the physical license of EPL 8136. I do put a question mark because it was not presented on the 16 February 2022.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: He responded that you can go to the Ministry of Mines and Energy and verify the legitimacy of this information as it is open to anyone. If you have doubts on it, you are welcome to verify at their offices.</p> <p>Based on the source that you mentioned, sometime we can be misinformed just to avoid confusion, the advice to you is to go the right custodians that would give us the right information.</p>
2.	<p>Arnold Olivier: Together with the EPL, there was supposed to be an application included. We also wanted to see the application. The application was supposed to be sent with the documents sent to us.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: This EPL is not a renewal or pending an ECC to have an application. What was giving to you is a mineral license of the EPL, given the fact you have reviewed the report such information in the report.</p> <p>Such information you received from your source, it misleading and in-accurate.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	Is this an Environmental Scoping assessment report and not an Environmental Impact Assessment? Why are the words used differently?	It's the same thing.
3.	Arnold Olivier: When will the ECC be finalized?	Mr. Silas David: Basically, after the ESA report it is the right of the MET to make a decision to either approve or reject it. Once approved, it means the proponent received an ECC to conduct mining activities according to the law and in retrospect, without an ECC the proponent will not be allowed to conduct any mining activities.
4.	Arnold Olivier: It says in your document, the application for the ECC was compiled and submitted to competent authority, with date stamp 2 February and a copy of this was also uploaded. So you have done this?	Mr. Silas David: The project is registered with MET and that is a copy of the application, which is also known as form 1.

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
5.	<p>Arnold Olivier: The application of the ECC was compiled and submitted, and you just mentioned that after the ESA then an ECC will be issued. This document states that it has already been compiled and submitted?</p> <p>Basically, why would you apply for something you have not done the assessment, because you need the assessment to get the certificate? So why would you apply for a certificate before doing the assessment?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: The application has been submitted to be considered for issuance, meaning the project has to be registered with an ECC application form, key word application form, stating the proponent's information what will be on the ECC itself.</p> <p>The Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) application or form 1 is submitted together with N\$300 worth of revenue stamps, to state that the application has been paid for. Following that the ESA is finally submitted and goes under review to either be accepted or rejected. If accepted, the proponent can collect the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).</p>
6.	<p>Arnold Olivier: Brief project description, the desktop study, the desktop review of the geological area map grants observation, this includes area geological maps and so forth. Update were relevant, so were they updated (geological maps)? Are they updated or not?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Project description, that's when an ECC is conducted, what happens on the ground. For them to get targets, were they do prospecting. After the ECC is issued.</p> <p>For the geological section in the ESA report, it is conducted through the geological review of the area.</p> <p>Basically, what has been observed is mainly domination of outcrops</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
7.	<p>Arnold Olivier: Was the lithology survey done?</p> <p>So rocks shall be collected and taken for tracing to be conducted by a laboratory to determine onsite trenches, fencing, sand soil sampling, so this has not been done?</p> <p>The drilling will also come after that?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: No, only when the ECC is issued.</p>
8.	<p>Arnold Olivier: The socio-economic development-positive impacts. If everything is positive (the findings), will we be able to get partnership in the proponent's company?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: That will come with legal agreement that comes between the proponent and your farm (farm owner). It may or may not even come to that point.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: The negative impacts, this is our concern. This is our livelihood and everything is medium, the negativity is medium. I find it strange that everything is medium. It is mitigated and then goes to low. In any case, everything can be medium in my understanding? How come in your report everything is medium?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: It is all done based on our calculations.</p> <p>If the mitigation measures are not done, then the Proponent has violated the stator document which is the EMP.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	Also the mitigation, if the mitigation is not done what happens?	
9.	Arnold Olivier: The recommendations, with all due respect who pays you?	Mr. Silas David: We are contracted by the proponent.
	Arnold Olivier: The issues and concerns, raised by the I&AP's form the basis of the draft EMP, we are only now given a chance to raise our concerns.	Mr. Silas David: The rest of the group was given chances and that is with the Arab community. For the two weeks, they have responded that they didn't have issues. The Khomas regional councilor was there, gave their concerns within that time period. All parties were given the same amount to provide comments or raise issues. Issues which can be communicated through email, which we need to attach as proof of the concerns when we submit the project. No shorter time was given for reviews unless we didn't keep up with our emails.

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Arnold Olivier: For example, the water issue, the rain, what you have written in this report, we are now given a chance to talk about it.</p> <p>I corrected you on the dates of the minutes and I have read them. If you spoke to us about the basis of the report then we would have.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Have you read the minutes that were shared?</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Arnold Olivier: It is therefore recommended that the proposed prospecting activities can be granted an ECC provided. The proponent gets the ECC and we tell him he must not do this, can we go to the Ministry?</p> <p>We would like to point out that we do not agree because as mentioned our livelihood depends on this.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Yes, you are allowed to take legal action, an ECC comes with terms and conditions.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
11.	<p>Arnold Olivier: I want to point out that agriculture is one of the largest contributors to the Namibian economy and the mining industry, in terms of agriculture 70% of the population lives off directly or indirectly from agriculture. So we should guard against substituting one against the other.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Noted.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: The service infrastructure, water for the exploration you referred to 4500 liters and somewhere in the document (BID) along the line you mention 2000 liters.</p> <p>The area is 9000 ha, how is that going to be determined?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: BID is a non- technical document, meaning the figures of the water was verified in the technical report.</p> <p>Kindly visit the mining cadaster which all almost all the information about the project.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Arnold Olivier: Decommissioning and rehabilitation phase. One you have done the reports and you are gone and somebody comes, we need to see to it that in the contract that we signed with the proponent is being implemented.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: It is also your right to have a copy of the EMP because if proponent does not adhere to the it , you are allowed and have legal right to take it up.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
12.	<p>Arnold Olivier: The EIA regulations outlines the details of the scoping report and assessment report. You have explained that the scoping report is the same as the Environmental Impact Assessment, is that correct?</p> <p>If you look at the constitution, and all the laws you have given are protecting the environment and we now do the opposite. By implementing the EMP, will be conformant to the constitution and ecological sustainability will be the main priority for the proposed development. These statement together with all the other mitigations, we feel assessment was not current.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: EIA regulations and Environmental Management Act of 2007 is also outlined in the required details of a scoping report, there is the gazette number and the gazette number.</p> <p>Mr. Silas David: It says it will be a priority, whilst the ECC is granted. So ecologically, in term of the ECC it means cutting out what the Proponent is not prospecting will not be a go ahead.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>If we are saying ecological sustainability is the main priority, for the proposed project; if they can do what they please, I suppose as you said we can go to court but the damage has been done.</p> <p>So all these recommendations that you mentioned here in the law, will be looked after by the proponent and this will be a document were we can refer back to, to say you were supposed to do this but did not.</p> <p>Other issues come along with the Minerals Act, Wildlife Act, Nature Conservation Act, all these acts that you referred to are there (ESA) and its good that they are there and their implication.</p>	

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
13.	Arnold Olivier: We are going to have a written agreement with the proponent. The proponent should include masses by which they should rehabilitate the area, was that part of the application?	Mr. Silas David : It is in the document under rehabilitation.
14.	Arnold Olivier: Did the Rehoboth town council make any comments? Who did you talk to and who was supposed to be there?	Mr. Silas David: It was only the Khomas regional council that showed up. We have consulted the Rehoboth town council but they didn't show up. The CEO was supposed to be in attendance, whom we communicated with through the secretary.
15.	Arnold Olivier: If you look at the mining cadaster, you will see all the EPL's that are there. How are they going to affect our country, not just our area, our country is full of EPL's? The water resources in Namibia are scarce, it was well documented that we are in a low rainfall area. The statements are made that only 4500 liters of water will be used-which we do not agree with.	Mr. Silas David: Yes, I have seen.

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>If you look at the country, our underground water and depending on how many of these EPL's are approved, our water resources in our country will be very affected.</p>	
	<p>Bayer Olivier: How many are approved (EPL's)? Or how many are disapproved?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: I cannot say they are many or few because we are not the only consultants that deal with EPL's.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: If you look in the stampriet area, the issues going on with the Uranium mining all of those EPL's, the water resources are not monitored, controlled or measured, as you guys as well ---What is the depth of the water in our area, how much water is there? And how is influence of the water usage on there is not well documented?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Each EPL, once the ECC is granted. The proponent has to acquire all the permits needed. If the proponent is going to abstract water from the ground, they are going to be given a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water of how much water will be abstracted from the borehole the proponent has applied for.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: If we approve, EPL's & EIA and give them to the proponent and starts prospecting, the bole is already in the</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: The proponent does not have a permit yet to abstract water.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>ground. How are you going to stop the proponent?</p>	
	<p>Arnold Olivier: So the EIA does not tell the proponent that we do not have water in that area? That is what I thought an environmental assessment will be, that the water availability, depth will be checked, the ground will be checked, vegetation will be checked, rainfall will be checked because rainfall is the biggest supplier of underground water. That is how I understood the environmental assessment report in my mind. Copper needs a lot of water, according to our information, you can't go there and drill for copper, things like that should be put in the assessment.</p> <p>Water resources are not well used. Dry country with 3 years of drought, 2 years of rain within 200mm, there is no adequate provision for underground water and that is why we feel that this assessment is not</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: We take note.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>done properly. In Chile, the corporates take the money and go and the locals get poorer. The president said in the 73th sitting of the United Nations that water is our most important resource. We are hotter and drier than 10 years ago. The rainfall is shifting north –east, recommendation is that the south going up north-east, farm less with small stalk and go into game farm and there are professional reports on that by Chris Brown.</p> <p>The game on the farm was also not well recorded on the ESA report. It mentioned donkeys, sheep and goats and did not report on game. There are also protected species on the farm like mountain Zebra, stienboks.</p>	

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
16.	<p>Arnold Olivier: The water goes down to the Hardap area, what about the contamination?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: That is when the ministry of agriculture comes into play. How much water can be extracted, the availability of water and so forth. If they allow the proponent to over over-extract in the area, obviously the water will be scarce. That is why they are issued a permit.</p> <p>Taking into account that you have gone through the document, mitigation measures are outlined to prevent that.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: On topography and geography, the map given is that showing were the EPL is (page 51)?</p> <p>The graph after that, the landscape area is just showing the height?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: That's to show the landscape of the EPL. Looking at the map, the range is from A-B, that's the average height. Looking at the report, the range is from 1.5 -1.7m above the sea level. The 2.5m is the highest point of all the data, if you look at these grayish points those are mountainous areas where you can get the highest.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Arnold Olivier: What is the height of Rehoboth above sea level?</p> <p>Now you agree that you should have the average for the EPL and not Rehoboth?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: I will have to find that out because we work on the height of EPL area. It will not make sense having the average height of the EPL but the EPL is what we can get of the exact height of the EPL.</p> <p>These EPL's fall in the district of Rehoboth and the average rainfall has been recorded, and that is how it got the average rainfall. Coming to this point, we can incorporate the Rehoboth topography on how many meters but at higher level the EPL from A-B this is what to expect as the average height.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: Another point to include, no rainfall, humidity, high temperature, lots of dust, underground water supplementation depends on rainfall. We have little ground water and we still want to mine?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: That is the confusion between mining and exploring." There will not be mining eventually", that is false information. What happens is there will be exploration, to see if there are viable minerals in the area intended for mining. In the case were there are no viable minerals the proponent will be wasting their resources and money to dig for something that cannot be recovered. In the case where nothing is found, I (proponent) will rehabilitate and apply for another EPL.</p> <p>They are going to look at mineral, Copper to mine or not in the future, and that is when another scoping report will be compiled, as well as the archaeological specialist report, climatological report to ensure everything is in order. For now, it is just to explore.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Arnold Olivier: If they find copper? Exactly, then it carries on and when everything looks good, it will end in mining. If we don't point it out in the reports like these about the negative effects, the proponent is going to think the first step is made, and will go for the second. We have pointed out already, when the water is gone is gone, contaminated is contaminated and if all those mitigations are not done. It must be told that we (proponent) can't do this because of this.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: They will do another full ESA. This is the reason; this document ensures that when they (proponent) comes on your farm you are aware that all is in order from your side and they are adhering to the document (EMP). How the ministry grants an ECC, they look at the mitigation and see if they can approve and if they disapprove, they will be requiring the consultant to go back and consult various points. When approved, in terms of water extraction this is how much should be extracted and in terms of vegetation, they are not allowed to cut out vegetation unnecessary. The ECC comes with terms and conditions - what the proponent should do and not do and the farmer can have a copy of the EMP to verify what's being done on their farm is being adhered to.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: Please explain to me the ground water vulnerability map?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: That is from the Ministry of Agriculture, in terms of groundwater vulnerability to pollution, there are three criteria: High, medium and low. According to their data, the EPL is in a moderate range which means that water contamination in a moderate.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Commenter: You mentioned, you only have one protected species. Where did you get this information from? So you did not record what you saw on the farm, apart from the Acacia?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: It's from the botanic Research institute, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: So you got that from?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Vanessa Stein, she is a forester from MEFT. Her contact number is 0612022013.</p>
	<p>Bayer Olivier: What historic building that any environmentalist or you would not recommend? What criteria would you use to not recommend it?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Archaeologically recognized or identified</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: We have pointed out to you that we want to do game farming and there are protected species.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: You have mentioned the mountain zebra.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Commenter: Our point is we disagree strongly, with all the impact is medium because we pointed out our issues with the water, rainfall, temperature, humidity and dust- everything cannot be medium. If they are not mitigated, you could put mitigation practices in place, then our water is gone and what left over is polluted. We are speaking on our EPL and on for the rest of the country as well. Therefore, it must be relooked at and predetermined.</p> <p>I'm referring you to an article, contact Chris Brown to get information from him and get articles on the water of Namibia and be incorporated into your report.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Before the mining another EIA process will be done again with all the reports. If you look at the disturbance of grazing area, look at the table with criteria, that states in which range the medium is and the lowest.</p> <p>It is in a range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, 1 the lowest and 4 mediums to high. This is how the negativities are calculated. This goes for all the criteria of the duration, intensity, magnitude. The disturbance of grazing, we have given it the scoring of a medium and the probability is medium to high. That is why we say the magnitude is 40 which falls in the median of range, however through mitigation measures it can go down to 16. For the proponent not to disturb the grazing of that area, is to give this recommendation e.g. unnecessary removal of grazing is allowed. To reach the medium, it was calculated to according to the criteria.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>Arnold Olivier: You might have the calculation but we are asking you to have a relook at it. What have you go for the duration of the first? What figure did you use for maximum potential on the probability?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: The information is in the ESA. In addition, people are given time to comment on the report. The Khomas regional council commented on the report and prior to that a week after I planned to submit but luckily I didn't as the was some time left for additional comments, hence to incorporate your comments into the report. That is why it is very important at times to communicate through email, then a screenshot is taken and incorporate it in the ESA report. This project could have been submitted and be in review but I froze it to accept your comments. My suggestion would be once the project is submitted, you have all the right to visit MEFT and I am willing to share a link where you can make your comments. The ministry of Environment can look at what you have commented, what was advertised and the minutes that were taken for the reporting to make their final decision.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: Why didn't you tell me in the first meeting, that you only have three weeks to do this? We were not aware and this is. This is the first time we have been confronted with something like this and that is why we are reacting to the reports.</p> <p>We did not know you were going to write the report like this so that we can comment on it, so we cannot comment at</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Point Noted with thanks.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<p>the begin on everything that we do not know. So I think it is an unfair comment.</p> <p>In the first recording, we said we do not want this and are against this. In the recording of the first meeting I asked for the EPL in the last meeting and it was not reacted on in my email.</p>	
	<p>Arnold Olivier: What should happen from now on?</p> <p>We comment on the minutes and rewrite anything before the submission of whatever you are going to submit. You will prepare the final report because this is a draft and thereafter send us the final report as well as to MET.</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: When I finalize the minutes, we will share the minutes.</p>
	<p>Arnold Olivier: When will the minutes and final report be sent? We wait for you?</p>	<p>Mr. Silas David: Right now, I have other priorities on my desk and cannot promise when I can share the minutes and also the draft report. However, all</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		necessary documents will be shared with you for your attention. Kindly, keep tabs on your emails.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00



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28 February 2022

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING & EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) NO. 8136 WITHIN THE AREB COMMUNITY FARM IN THE KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Date: Saturday, 26 February 2022

Time: 10h00 (started 13h33) – 15h15

Venue: ! Areb Community Farm

The Public Consultation Meeting was attended by forty (42) people, including one (1) Environmental Consultant and one (1) Archaeologist specialist from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS). - **Please refer to the attached attendance register.**

COVID-19 REGULATIONS ADHERENCE

To ensure that the public consultation meeting adhered to the COVID-19 regulations, social distancing was observed and every attendee had a face mask on.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting was officially opened by Ms. Sabina the chairperson of the !Areb farm community, with a prayer; on behalf of Cllr. Pit Adams. Ms. Sabina handed over the meeting to Mr. Silas David. Mr. David introduced the team to the community members and expressed gratitude to everyone in attendance for making time to attend the meeting.

The Background information documents (BIDs) and Farm maps were circulated to the attendees for their perusal. A meeting attendance register was also circulated amongst the attendees, to complete with their details, for registration as interested and affected parties (I&APs), in order to be registered as part of the whole Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) process.

MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION

The agenda of the meeting included the following main points:

2.1 Brief Description of the Exploration Project

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/ Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) for exploration activities for Base & Rare Metals (i.e. Copper) on EPL 8136.

The Proponent (Unique Capital Investments) appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS), an independent environmental consultant to carry out the EIA/ESA and to apply for the environmental clearance certificate (ECC) on behalf of the Proponent.

2.2 Explanation of what an ESA is, its Process and the Public Role in the Process

Mr. David elaborated on the purpose of the meeting, with reference to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations on Public Consultation. Mr. David further explained the ESA process and the proposed exploration activities as one of the listed activities in the 2012 EIA Regulations of the EMA that cannot be undertaken without an ECC from the Environmental Commissioner.

Ms. Sabina and Cllr. Pit Adams translated from English to Khoekhoegowab to the attendees.

2.3 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts

To ensure transparency and that the attendees understand both sides of the proposed exploration project activities, Mr. David presented the pre-identified potential positive & negative impacts, and how these pre-identified potential negative impacts are managed and prevented during the exploration phase by means of mitigation measures.

2.4 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)

Mr. David provided the meeting attendees the opportunity to raise their concerns/issues and/or comment on the proposed exploration project. With provision of meeting house rules (one person at a time was allowed to ask questions) in order to have a well ordered interaction. The issues and comments recorded are presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the public meeting at !Areb Community Farm on the 26th of February 2022

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
1.	Who is the EPL holder and where is he/she from? It would be best if the EPL holder was present.	Mr. Silas David (SD) from EDS: The EPL holder is Mr. Franklin Ailohi Ohoizebau as indicated on the cover page of the BID. Mr. Franklin is a Namibian citizen and due to unforeseen circumstances, unfortunately he could not make it for today's meeting.
2	With regards to the positive potential impact the exploration project can contribute to the !Areb community, the !Areb community has in the past has been promised benefits, is this the same issue that is going to happen?	Mr. SD: These are Pre- identified positive potential impacts and not Identified positive impacts. Pre- identified potential positive impacts, are impacts that can potentially contribute to the socio-economic benefit of the !Areb community, when economical viable Base & Rare metal are found on the EPL. Notably, there has been illegal exploration activities in !Areb, as raised during the first public consultation meeting in Rehoboth by one of the !Areb community members. However, the consultant is not aware of what was promised to the communities and commenting on that statement without concrete evidence will be regarded as bias. However, these are not promises but, outlining potentially the benefit of the project to the community.

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
3.	When was the EPL granted and how is the Proponent able to conduct exploration activities?	<p>Mr. SD: The application for the EPL was granted on 19 March 2021, and the EPL expires on 18 March 2024. Therefore, within these years the Proponents needs to acquire and Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) which act in a form of a permit for the Proponent to conduct exploration activities.</p> <p>After acquiring an ECC, the Proponent needs to gain excess agreement with the land owners before exploration. Therefore, a contract between two parties will be drawn up.</p>
4.	Poor communication skills were used for these project. Honorable Cllr. Supposed to be the first person to know about this project. The !Areb community falls under the custodian of Ministry of land reform and agriculture and communication about this meeting was not communicated with them.	<p>Mr. SD: legal procedures as required by the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 was followed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The consultant has advertised adverts about the project in two local newspapers (The Namibian Newspaper and The New Era Newspaper). 2. Site Notices were placed in Rehoboth as a form of communication with I&APs about the project. 3. The consultant has engaged with Farm representative for the area to inform the affected farmers about the meeting through other means of communication e.g. WhatsApp groups phone calls etc. <p>In addition, this is where the chairperson of !Areb community heard about the meeting (WhatsApp) and consulted EDS to hold another meeting. Bringing to the point why EDS consultant is here today, Because, EDS believes no one should be left out during public consultation meetings.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
5	Pre-identified negative potential impacts should be taken seriously. As this can have a permit impacts on the Farm of the Areb community.	<p>Ms. SD: The consultant takes note of this.</p> <p>The operation phase of this project will have an Environmental Management Plan which is a statutory (legal) document which act as a guidance of the mitigation measures during operation phase.</p>
6	The !Areb community has experienced past illegal exploration activities for copper. The community has reported these illegal activities to Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) but, nothing has been done about, to-date.	<p>Mr. SD: That is very sad to hear about that. However, just because the community has reported these illegal activities once, this does not mean the community has to give up and wait for responses. It is very important that the community continue to follow up with such complaint until an answer is given.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
7	Community members do not have access to Newspaper, and does not have access to WhatsApp. Therefore, proper communication should have been carried out.	<p>Mr. SD: Noted.</p> <p>All necessary communication aspects about the public consultation was followed, and efforts was put in to inform the public members. EDS will work on that for the future.</p>
8	The proponent could have conducted a detailed geological study so that the Proponent could know what he/she want and where he would like to conduct exploration activities, and not just based on desktops studies.	<p>Mr. SD: The targeted commodity as explained earlier is Base and Rare Metals which is copper. The Proponent intends to conduct exploration activities for this commodity.</p> <p>The proponent cannot start conducting such activities at the current stage, due to the fact that the Proponent did not acquire an ECC. For the proponent to conduct that now will be regarded as violating the Environmental Management Act. The proponent only do so, once an ECC is granted.</p>
9	The community members do not support this project. As the community members feels that this will bring problems in the future. The community feels that The Proponent is working together with the foreigners who illegally damaged our land and left drilling holes, years back. The !Areb community does not want this project in our properties.	<p>Mr. SD: That is not the intention of the Proponent. However, EDS takes note of the community decision and fully respect that. EDS will add all registered members to the I&APs list and will be involved throughout communications with regards to the EIA processes.</p>

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
10	It is important that officials from Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform is engaged because this is where concerns need to be raised.	Mr. SD: Concern noted.

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Mr. Silas David thanked the attendees for their crucial input through comments and raising their concerns. He indicated to the attendees that all their comments, concerns and inputs had been noted for consideration and addressing in the Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report as well as incorporating their recommendations into the draft EMP. Furthermore, Mr. Silas David informed them that the draft Environmental Assessment Report together with the meeting minutes, and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be shared with them for review and further comments. These documents will be made available through emails provided on the attendance register.

Once the review of the draft ESA Report and EMP is done, the documents will be finalized and submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of an ECC.

The meeting was adjourned at 15h15.

01 March 2022

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING & EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENCE (EPL) NO. 8136 LOCATED SOUTH-WEST OF REHOBOTH IN THE HARDAP REGION, NAMIBIA

Date: Wednesday, 16 February 2022

Time: 12h00 – 13h20

Venue: Hermanus van Wyk Community Hall

The Public Consultation Meeting was attended by sixteen (16) people, including three Environmental Consultants from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS). - **Please refer to the attached attendance register.**

COVID-19 REGULATIONS ADHERENCE

To ensure that the meeting, as a form of gathering complies with the COVID-19 Regulations, the chairs were set up in a way that social distancing between the people is observed.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting was officially opened by Ms. Belinda Shivangulula. She expressed gratitude to everyone in attendance for making time to attend the meeting.

Ms. Althea Brandt introduced the team of EDS and welcomed all attendees. The meeting attendance register was then circulated for the attendees to write down their names, contact details and sign so that they could be added to the list of interested and affected parties (I&APs) and receive further information on the ESA process.

MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION

The agenda of the meeting included the following main points:

2.1 Brief Description of the Project

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or ESA and the reason that the proponent appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS), independent environmental consultants to carry out the EIA and apply for the Environmental Clearance certificate (ECC).

2.2 Explanation of what an ESA is, its Process and the Public Role in the Process

Ms. A. Brandt explained to the attendees what the meeting was all about and why they were invited (with reference to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations on Public Consultation). Ms. Brandt further explained what an ESA is and that the proposed exploration activities are one of the listed activities in the 2012 EIA Regulations of the EMA that cannot be undertaken without an ECC from the Environmental Commissioner. The presentation was done in Afrikaans for better understanding.

2.3 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts

To ensure transparency and that the attendees understand both sides of the proposed project activities, the Environmental Consultants also presented the potential pre-identified potential positive & negative environmental and social impacts.

2.4 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)

Ms. Brandt provided the meeting attendees the opportunity to raise their concerns/issues and or comment on the proposed project activities. The issues and comments recorded are presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the public meeting at the Hermanus van Wyk Hall in Rehoboth on the 16th of February 2022

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
1.	<p>Anonymous: How do these people get an EPL on our farms without our knowledge or consent?</p>	<p>Ms. Althea Brandt: Applications for EPLs, MCs, MLs are done through the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Once the proponent is granted with the Licence, the next step is to conduct an Environmental Scoping Assessment which is what we are required to do as the Environmental Consultant. It is at this phase of public consultation that the we are required to reach out to all Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) covered by the EPL, in order for each and every one to get an opportunity to raise their concerns regarding the potential project.</p> <p>With these concerns raised, they should all be address all the highlighted concerns and come up with mitigation measures as well, which will then be reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and their team will decide if an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).</p>
2.	<p>Mr. Arnold Olivier: How will the communication work between you as the consultant and us as the farmers? Because the EPL covers a lot of farms. We wouldn't have heard about this meeting if we weren't on the Farmer's Union group. Meaning if you are doing site visits, does</p>	<p>Ms. Althea Brandt: Communication is always an issue especially taking into consideration that some farm areas do not have the best network. We did have trouble reaching out to all affected farms' owners. However, we also did depend on the farmer's union that exists to provide us with at least a few farmers details.</p> <p>In order for us to do site visits, we do need permission from the farm owners and that is one of the aims we have after this meeting. Because we do need a better idea and of what the actual area looks like.</p>

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	that mean you will just be going onto different farms without consent?	
	I want there be a contract between us and the EPL holder as well as with the Environmental Consultants.	Ms. Althea Brandt: We as the environmental consultants are basically just here to conduct the study and make sure to keep the communication open with I&APs throughout the EIA process. Once and ECC is granted, the EPL holder will appoint a different set of skilled workers under the exploration activities. It is also then their responsibility to draft a contract if the exploration area will fall within a specific farmers' area.
	Will we get an opportunity to review the finalized report before submitting it to MEFT?	As soon as we are done with our assessment and reporting, it will be shared with the client for final input and confirmation of information within the report. Once this is done, we will also share the report with all the registered I&APs for their input and final concerns.
	You mentioned that the EPL holder is interested in copper, does that mean if they don't find enough copper, will they have to go back and find another mineral.	Ms. Althea Brandt: The EPL holder is only interested in Base and Rare metals for this study.

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3.	We are on the communal area of !Areb. What are we expected to do as the community in such a project?	Ms. Althea Brandt: The committee can also share their concerns regarding such developmental activities.
	Even though meetings such as these are held, in previous cases, the Chinese have come into our areas without permission or consent and commenced with work. Some of the holes are left open and I do feel like they should've also gone through this process. We do not know how they got to such a phase. We would've appreciated being consulted with first before they started working in those areas, and also for us to have gotten an opportunity to share our concerns.	Ms. Althea Brandt: I fully understand. Proper consultation is required, so that everyone that may be affected by the potential project is aware of it prior to actual work starting (If an ECC is issued). An ECC is granted based on certain mitigation measures which the EPL holder needs to comply with.
4.	Mrs. Didi Olivier: What input will you as the Environmental consultant provide if the Proponent do not adhere to what the Management Plan requires them to do?	Ms. Althea Brandt: Once this study is done and an ECC is granted, an audit report should be submitted to MEFT bi-annually. In this report a checklist will be used to verify if the EPL holder does work according to what was stated in the EMP. This is if the EPL holder makes use of us (the same Environmental

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		consultants) for compiling the Bi-annual study. Based on this Audit report, MEFT are in a position to advise further.
	<p>Are you the Environmental consultants responsible for this study for the next 3 years before the ECC expires?</p> <p>This might end up being an issue, because you may do a good job but the next consultants may not be as good. There are other exploration projects that I know of where the rehabilitation of such areas have not been done successfully and this a problem and big concern for us because of past experiences. We now know you and are busy establishing a relationship with you so it would be best if your company continue working with this EPL holder for the 3year period.</p>	<p>In most cases, the EPL holder can decide to continue making use of our services or they can get another Environmental practitioner to compile the audit and compliance reports.</p> <p>We take note of this point raised.</p>

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5.	<p>Mr. Calvin: I have an EPL holder doing exploration work on my farm for the past 6 years. The ministry was supposed to come to my farm and inspect this but they never came, for this reason I have no trust in this whole process at all. I still have proof of 3m deep holes that were dug and never filled up. Some of my cattle have fallen into these holes, but no one seems to do anything about this. I have no interest in this development. This EPL holder brought people into my farm area, I availed a section for them to set up camp for the workers which are left there without food, they use my water, I even drafted a contract which was never signed by the EPL holder.</p> <p>What are the methods and machinery that the will be used for the exploration work?</p>	<p>Ms. Althea Brandt: We take note of your concerns and will definitely mention all these points in the reports.</p> <p>This information will be addressed and provided within the ESA Report and can then be reviewed.</p>

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	Who is the EPL Holder? Does he have the required experience to conduct this type of work?	Ms. Althea Brandt: Mr. Franklin Ailohi Ohoizebau, he is Namibian.
6.	If the ECC is issued, how long will it take after the prospecting and exploration works before we can continue farming?	Ms. Brandt: Exploration is not supposed to keep farmers from farming in the respective areas, it all depends on where exactly the EPL holder plans to have work done in the area.
7.	This EPL does have a lot of history that I have discovered.	Ms. Brandt: It would then be good to speak with our Archaeologist in order to get enough information for the Heritage report.
8.	Mr. Arnold Olivier: Can we see a copy of the EPL of the client? Also it should be certified as well.	Ms. Brandt: We can reach out to client and ask for this.
	We do not want anything to do with this EPL. We want to continue with our current farming activities.	We take note and the reasons for being against this project can be sent to our office in writing as well.

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9.	We are from !Areb and there are a lot more people that also needs to hear about this. Is it therefor possible or you to have another meeting with our community as well so that everyone is informed? Previously the Chinese just came into our area without any consent from our people. The whole !Areb was left without being rehabilitated.	Ms. Brandt: We can arrange for a next meeting with the !Areb community. We also take note of your concerns and input.

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Ms. Brandt thanked the attendees for their crucial input through comments and raising their concerns. She indicated to the attendees that all their comments, concerns and inputs have been noted down for consideration and addressing in the Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) Report as well as incorporating their recommendations into the draft EMP.

Furthermore, Ms. Brandt informed the attendees that the draft Environmental Assessment Report together with the meeting minutes, and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be shared with them for review and further comments. These documents will be made available through emails provided on the attendance register.

Once the review of the draft ESA Report and EMP is done, the documents will be finalized and submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) for evaluation and consideration of an ECC.

The meeting was adjourned at 13h20.