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## Liswani: Policies should impact lives of women

Katrina Liswani believes the advancement of women should not be seen as undermining or being done at the expense of men.

The 68-year-old, who eyes the position of Swapo Party Women's Council (SPWC) secretary, said she will drive policy directives that will have an impact on the lives of women, including girls, to be part of the national agenda.

Liswani was born in 1954 at the Okalumbu village in Onyaanya constituency of the Oshikoto region. The mother of two sons and two daughters says she is a tested and educated cadre, who understands the socio-economic situation of women at all levels, including those with disabilities.

"We need a leader with zeal and capacity to drive policy directives that have long-term impacts on the lives of four women, including girls, to find their space in society and being part of the national agenda. I possess all that, and that makes

me the right candidate for this position. I love our country, I love our party and will work hard to unite our people, and continue to make SPWC relevant and a force to be reckoned with," she enthused.

She has worked in the labour sphere in Namibia's civil service, the African Union Commission as well as the International Labour Organisation.

Liswani holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and several diplomas in various fields such as political, financial management, labour administration, strategic management, personnel management, employment, leadership, child labour and gender training.

"I am a founder member of the Namibia Poverty Alleviation Foundation, a foundation that



**Impact...** Katrina Liswani is standing for the Swapo Party Women's Council's secretary position. Photo: Contributed

was created with the sole aim of alleviating poverty and addressing socio-economic challenges faced by women and children, particularly those living with disabilities. I am a freedom fighter as I participated in the liberation struggle of our country. I left Namibia in 1974, together with my comrades to join our brothers and sisters in exile, fighting to liberate our country from the South African apartheid regime. I was repatriated in 1989 to come and take part in the first democratic elections, in which our mighty Swapo party emerged victoriously," she said.

Liswani was not only part of the crop that liberated the country, but served in various positions of influence because of her qualifications, experience and patriotism.

"But all in all, I am proud that I have been part of the team responsible for labour matters,

focusing on the bread-and-butter issues of our people. I have been part of the agenda to change the socio-economic status of our people, and I am proud that the development of policies that I have been part of were able to improve the living standards of our people," she observed.

She said the country must continue to do more in striking the balance in efforts to uphold gender equality.

"The advancement of women should not be seen as undermining the opposite gender, nor should it be done at the expense of men. Women must not be undermined, but should be given opportunities and platforms to exercise their abilities. It is a topic that the nation should continue discussing," the politician urged.

She added that there must be coordination among all stakeholders involved in fighting gender-based violence and determine its root causes as it is of paramount importance.

# Farmers demonstrate against asparagus, weather station

Festus Hamalwa

On Friday, farm owners and some residents of Etunda and surrounding areas in the Omusati region held a demonstration to call for the closure of the Otjimbele asparagus operation at the Etunda green scheme.

The farmers claimed that the farm management installed a device that prevents rain, despite ash floods in the area recently.

At the centre of the storm was an automatic weather station (AWS), used for real-time information on weather at the farm level. The AWS also provides information on soil moisture and soil temperature, giving better information on irrigation requirements.

Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Calle Schlettwein said asparagus doesn't prevent rain, and it is totally illogical to say that plants influence weather patterns.

The minister reiterated that the claims are a myth and unfounded allegations, and should thus be disregarded.

He said this during the demonstration of new agriculture equipment and machinery held at Ohakweenyanga village in the Oshana region on Saturday.

Schlettwein stated that people should stop listening to misinformation.

"This weather equipment has nothing to do with changing weather patterns. There is no evidence that asparagus is changing weather. It is completely unfounded to say that the weather station and equipment is changing weather at Etunda," he explained.

The minister added that the weather stations at Etunda measure how the weather is changing, but do not change the weather.

"In fact, I wish I could



**Please...** Agriculture minister Calle Schlettwein told demonstrators at the Ohakweenyanga village that an automatic weather station doesn't cause drought. Photo: Festus Hamalwa

give all the small farmers a small weather station so that the farmers could be aware of this equipment, the environment and those plants to have a better understanding," he said.

"We, as farmers, should know that plants need rain, and they cannot grow without water. In fact, on the asparagus plantation we irrigate, we put borehole water on the ground to let them grow," he stated.

He further emphasised that the farmers should know that the government has invested in agricultural production. Therefore, if Etunda closes down, it will simply cause poverty for more people.

Close to 800 people are employed at the Etunda project. NBC reported that the aggrieved residents later withdrew their petition on claims about the asparagus project.

- amalwa@nepc.com.na

**MEL OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION (NAMIBIA) (Pty) Ltd PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) FOR THE PROPOSED 2D SEISMIC SURVEY COVERING THE AREA OF INTEREST (AOI) IN THE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENSE (PEL) No. 93, OWAMBO BASIN, OSHIKOTO REGION, NORTHERN NAMIBIA**

MEL Oil and Gas Exploration (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd, (the Proponent and Operator) is a Namibian registered company holding petroleum exploration rights under the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93 granted by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). MEL Oil and Gas Exploration (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd is a subsidiary of Monitor Exploration Limited (MEL), a United Kingdom (UK) private exploration company, established in 2008, for onshore Oil and Gas exploration in Africa. MEL Limited was formed by Geodynamics WorldWide (GWW), a specialist oil service company. The company intends to conduct 2D seismic survey operations as part of the exploration commitments to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The proposed survey operations covering the key exploration Areas of Interest (AOI) within PEL 93 will be conducted along existing roads, tracks, and farm boundary fences. The survey will use either the Explorer 860 Accelerated Weight Drop (AWD) or Vibroseis such as the Nomad 65 Vibrator as the energy sources and will utilise wireless receivers that will allow for greater lines offset. The rear mounted weight-drop from the Explorer 860 or the centred vibrating metal plates from the Nomad 65 will each generate acoustic / sound waves that will penetrate deep into the ground below each of the proposed survey lines and will bounced off the various subsurface rock layers. Receivers installed along the survey lines at between 5 – 10 m station intervals will measure the returning sound / acoustic wave. The resultant product following complex computer-based processing, is a vertical sonic cross-section of the subsurface beneath each of the surveyed line showing the geological materials (de-risked geological sub-model). The interpreted 2D seismic survey data sets is used to find specific drilling locations where potential reservoirs within the AOI where oil or gas may have accumulated and trapped in sufficient commercial quantities. The following is summary of the key AOI:

- (i) AOI-01 Northeast of Oshivelo, covers 151 km of seismic over a large structure identified from gravity data. The objective is to acquire seismic data to define the structure within AOI01, specifically where Geochem shows encouraging anomalies.
- (ii) AOI-02 North of Oshivelo cover about 108km, this will be defined and mapped out the closure of one of the structures within AOI02. The new seismic together with the existing seismic should be able to generate a prospect with positive Geochemical and Passive Seismic Surveys, and.
- (iii) AOI-00 large anticlinal structures South of Oshivelo, covers 317km. The objective is to acquire seismic data to be able to generate a potential drillable target on AOI00, specifically where Geochemical and Passive Seismic Surveys have shown encouraging results.

Following on the completion of the proposed 2D seismic survey additional infill 2D seismic survey lines may be undertaken, followed by possible drilling of exploration wells on the identified subsurface geological structures. The proposed petroleum exploration activities (2D seismic survey operations) cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) as required by the Environmental Protection Clause 11 of the Petroleum Agreement signed between MEL and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, Petroleum (Exploration and Production), 1991, (Act No. 2 of 1991), Petroleum Laws Amendment Act, 1998, (Act 24 of 1998), the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) and all other applicable national laws and Regulations. In fulfilment of the environmental requirements, MEL (Pty) Ltd has appointed Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC as the Environmental Consultant and led by Dr Sindila Mwiya as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping, EIA and EMP to support the application for ECC and other permits. All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register and submit written comments / objections / inputs with respect to the proposed 2D seismic survey operations covering the key Areas of Interests (AOI) in PEL 93. A Draft Scoping Report will be provided upon registration. Local community consultation meetings have been organised through the Oshikoto Regional Council in collaboration with the local Councillors and traditional authorities. Registered letters with the Draft Scoping Report have also been distributed to the various land owners in the area likely to be surveyed. Additionally, all the environmental reports that will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner will be subjected to further public consultation and disclosure by the Environmental Commissioner for a period of fourteen (14) days. All registered stakeholders will be informed once the environmental reports are available at [www.eia.met.gov.na](http://www.eia.met.gov.na).

**Processed and Interpreted Data**

**Seismic Survey Results: Vertical Sonic Cross-Section View of a Drillable Location**

**REGISTER BY EMAIL: [emerita.ashipala@gmail.com](mailto:emerita.ashipala@gmail.com), Attention: Ms. Emerita Ashipala Independent Environmental Consultant / RBS Senior Consultant,**

**DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IS: FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022, date for the lodgement of the application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) is 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC, URL: [www.rbs.com.na](http://www.rbs.com.na)**

Technical Specialist Consultants, Permitting & De-Risking Advisors in Natural Resources: Minerals Exploration & Mining / Petroleum Exploration & Production / Energy / Water / Environmental Assessments & Management (ESG, SEA, EIA, EMP, EMS)



# Vacancy

**TotalEnergies Marketing Namibia is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the position of Marketing Coordinator (12 Months Contract)**

**KEY PURPOSE**

This role helps execute various elements of the sales & marketing mix in line with the sales targets, marketing strategy and plan developed by seniors. The incumbent is individually accountable for achieving results through team support.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following responsibilities are relevant to the Retail as well as Commercial business sectors:

- Providing ground level support into the implementation of the marketing strategy
- Assist in the development & management of marketing activity plan
- Support in the development consumer focused promotions
- Maintain, implement and develop marketing support systems
- Provide Consumer and Dealer support where necessary
- Provide administrative support to Retail and Commercial Managers, Retail & Commercial TM's, marketing team (TSA), Namibia office (details listed separate below)

**Administrative support to Retail and Commercial Team:**

- AV19 submissions and follow up for new account opening,
- Lubricants admin responsibilities (customer rebate recons & credits, price checks, products master data, LMP and customer orders capturing in SAP)
- Master Reference Data capturing
- Copy invoices and delivery notes when needed
- Customer sales data to Sales team when needed – submission as well as high level analysis where needed (understanding the business drivers and assisting sales team in managing same)
- Rossing & B2Gold spend report monthly
- Customer monthly pricing letters (also checked by TM before sending)
- B2Gold capex debit notes and discount credit note submission documents, ISP fee debit notes (CM6 docs)
- To log calls for Maintenance for customers and to follow up on PO's and invoice payments of contractors
- Custodian and owner of the contracts Register (together with contracts loading and maintenance responsibilities)
- Site Rental calculations

**People Management :**

- To nurture and maintain good Interpersonal relationships with various internal and external stakeholders

**HSEQ :**

- To ensure constant adherence and compliance to company HSEQ and security standards, local by-laws, standards and legislation to minimise all risk pertaining to company assets and protection of life.

**QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:**

- Degree/Diploma in Marketing
- Good Communication and interpersonal skills
- Good computer skills and good computer acumen
- Good organization skills
- Good attention to detail
- 1-2 years working experience in marketing or communication environment

**In line with our equity requirements, preference will be given to candidates from previous disadvantages groups (female), who meet the minimum requirements (must have a Tertiary Qualification).**

Only applications received online will be considered, to apply please visit: <https://careers.totalenergies.com/en>

Closing date for applications: **20 March 2022**



[www.totalenergies.co.za](http://www.totalenergies.co.za)

**GIZ – Green People’s Energy (GPE) Project in Namibia**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**SOLAR INSTALLERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESULT-BASED FINANCING (RBF) PROGRAMME PHASE 2 FOR THE PRODUCTIVE USE OF ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS**

The initiative “Green People’s Energy for Africa” (GPE) is part of the “Marshall Plan with Africa” and aims to improve the conditions in Namibia with regard to decentralized renewable energy supply in rural areas. Particular attention is paid to the promotion of local value creation through the productive use of energy in commercial enterprises.

This RBF program provides market-based financial support for selected service providers who offer solar PV products and services for commercial enterprises in rural Namibia. Furthermore, the installers are incentivised to experiment with less capital-intensive business models and raise awareness on the basic benefits and limitations of solar PV systems in rural commercial enterprises.

Eligible and interested companies can obtain the EOI documents which contain details on the objectives and deliverables under this program, and related documents, by sending an email to: **NA\_Inquiry@giz.de**

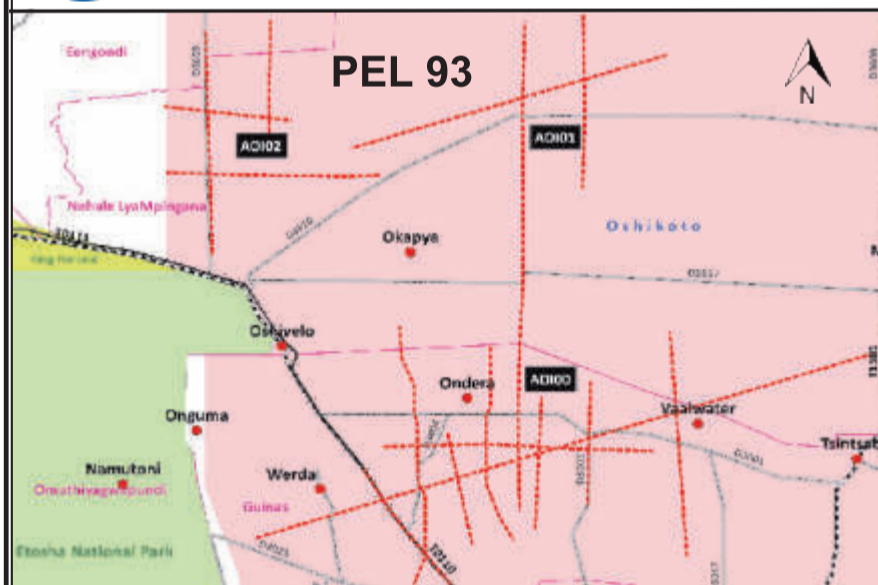
This tender is restricted to local firms/ individual consultants only

**Please quote ref. no. 83403744 as your reference in the email subject line.**

**Submission Deadline for EOI: 16 March 2022 at 16h00.**

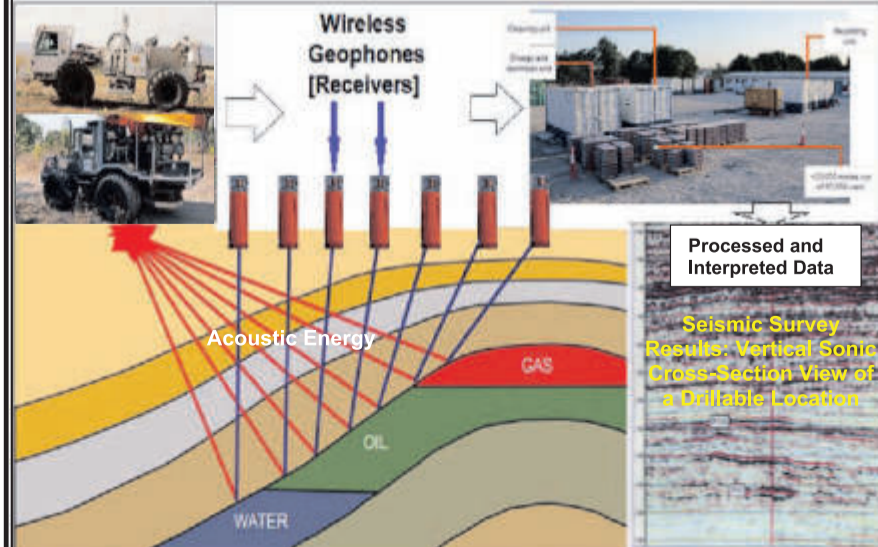
**Interested companies are requested to submit their proposals in accordance with the requirements set out in the Expression of Interest to: Procurement Unit, GIZ-OfZc Namibia, No. 88 John Meinert Street, Windhoek West.**

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# Lower output expected for Otjikoto

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**O**TJIKOTO'S gold production is budgeted to be lower in 2022 (compared to Otjikoto's record annual gold production of 197 573 ounces in 2021) as lower grade ore is anticipated to be processed in 2022 following the planned completion of mining at the higher grade Wolfshag Pit Phase 3 in the first quarter of 2022.

The Otjikoto Mine is expected to produce between 175 000 and 185 000 ounces of gold in 2022.

In the first half of 2022, processed ore is expected to be sourced from Phase 3 of the Wolfshag Pit (scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2022) and Phase 3 of the Otjikoto Pit, supplemented by medium and high-grade ore stockpiles, expected to result in an average head grade of approximately 1.26 g/t.

In the second half of 2022, head grade is expected to increase and average approximately 2.10 g/t, when mining is scheduled to reach the higher-grade portions of Phase 3 of the Otjikoto Pit and high-grade ore production ramps up at the Wolfshag underground mine.

"As a result of this timing of high-grade ore mining, Otjikoto's gold production is expected



to be significantly weighted to the second half of 2022. For the first half of 2022, Otjikoto's gold production is expected to be between 65 000 and 70 000 ounces, which is expected to increase significantly to between 110 000 and 115 000 ounces during the second half of 2022," Clive Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the mine said.

The Otjikoto Mine in Namibia had a strong second half in 2021 and finish to the year, resulting in new quarterly and annual gold

production records. For 2021, the Otjikoto Mine produced an annual record of 197 573 ounces of gold, near the upper end of its guidance range (of between 190 000 and 200 000 ounces), and 18 percent (29 532 ounces) higher compared to 2020.

## STRONGER IN 2021

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the Otjikoto Mine produced a quarterly record of 78 681 ounces of gold, in line with budget, and significantly

higher by 96 percent (38 476 ounces) over the fourth quarter of 2020.

"As planned, with the completion of the pre-stripping campaigns at the Wolfshag and Otjikoto pits in the first half of 2021, Otjikoto's gold production increased significantly in the second half of 2021, as mining reached the higher-grade zone at the base of the Wolfshag Pit in the third quarter of 2021," Johnson said.


For full-year 2021, mill feed grade was 1.76 g/t compared to budget of

1.77 g/t and 1.52 g/t in 2020; mill throughput was 3.54 million tonnes compared to budget of 3.40 million tonnes and 3.51 million tonnes in 2020; and gold recovery averaged 98.6% compared to budget of 98.1 percent and 98.4 percent in 2020.

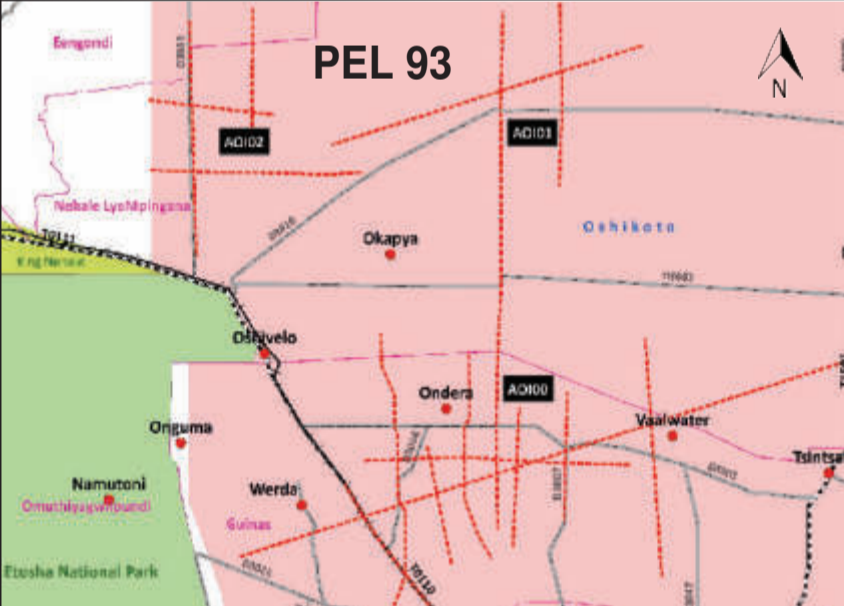
Capital expenditures totalled US\$81 million in 2021, primarily consisting of US\$41 million for pre-stripping for the Otjikoto Pit Phase 4 and Wolfshag Pit Phase 3, US\$21 million for Wolfshag underground development, US\$11 million in mobile equipment rebuilds and purchases and US\$7 million for the national power grid connection line.

Capital expenditures for the fourth quarter of 2021 totalled US\$22 million primarily consisting of US\$8 million for pre-stripping for the Otjikoto Pit Phase 4, US\$7 million for Wolfshag underground development, US\$4 million for the national power grid connection line and US\$3 million in mobile equipment rebuilds and purchases.

"Development of the Wolfshag underground mine continues to progress with ore production expected to begin in the first half of 2022. The initial underground mineral reserve estimate for the down-plunge extension of the Wolfshag deposit includes 210 000 ounces of gold in 1.2 million tonnes of ore at 5.57 g/t gold," Johnson concluded.




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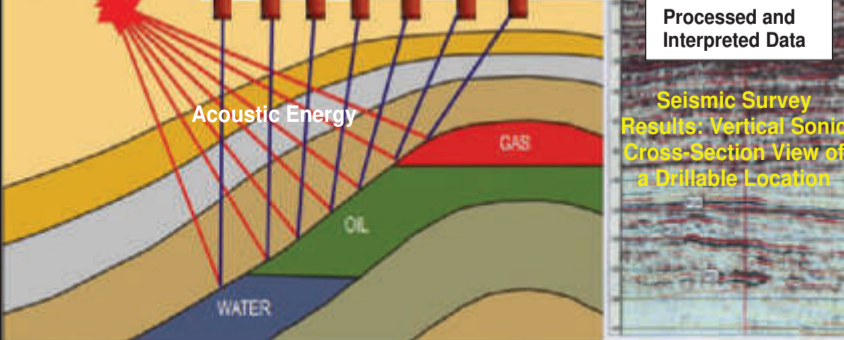
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Wireless Geophones [Receivers]



Acoustic Energy

Processed and Interpreted Data

Seismic Survey Results: Vertical Sonic Cross-Section View of a Drillable Location



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**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**OKASHANA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, OMUTHIYA,**  
**OSHIKOTO REGION**

**Date** Tuesday, 22 February 2022  
**Venue** Okashana Rural Development Centre, Omuthiya, Oshikoto Region.  
**Subject** Proposed 2D Seismic Survey for MEL Oil and Gas Exploration Stakeholder Meeting, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.

Meeting Commenced:	10:03 AM
Meeting purpose/Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks (The Governor of Oshikoto Region Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo).</li> <li>2. Formal introduction of the RBS Team and MEL representatives.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the meeting is to share information regarding the proposed 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration by MEL oil and gas exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd in PEL 93, Owambo (Etosha) Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.</li> <li>4. Key constituencies that are affected or where activities are concentrated. As well as highlight that the aim is to consult not only leaders/institutes but also in the community.</li> <li>5. Similarly, the aim is to get input as key representatives of these communities in order to enrich understanding of the local area in which MEL will be operating.</li> <li>6. Adoption of agenda and adjustments (See attached agenda).</li> </ol>
Attendance: Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC Representatives	<p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Founder of Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC  Ms. Emerita Ashipala Senior Consultant at RBS  Mr. Don Nyambe Senior Consultant at RBS  Ms. Mariam Kauyema Admin officer at RBS  Ms Christine Lents Admin assistant at RBS</p> <p>Apologies: MEL Team</p>
Attendance: Oshikoto Regional Council	<p>Governor of Oshikoto Region Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo  Personal Assistant to the Governor Ms. Ester Domingo  Chairperson: Oshikoto Regional Council Hon. Samuel P. Shivute</p>
Attendance: Community/ other stakeholders	See attendance register attached (Appendix A)



Key discussion:	<p><b>1. Introductions</b>  <i>(Protocols to follow include the meeting being opened (Governor of Oshikoto Region [Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo) and closed by the Chairperson: Oshikoto Regional Council [Hon. Samuel P. Shivute</i></p> <p>After all protocols were observed, all those present were allowed to briefly introduce themselves (their name and affiliated organization/community role).</p> <p><b>2. Summary of the Governor (Governor of Oshikoto Region [Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo) speech.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∫ Welcomed the Consultants and thanked all who travelled from other towns to be at the venue for the public meeting.</li> <li>∫ He proposed that another meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible as not all relevant councillors were present.</li> <li>∫ In his speech, he stated that, Oshikoto Region is a very important and strategic region. It is known for its Mineral Exploration, Agricultural activities, both communal and commercial, tourism, and now it appears to have the potential for other resources such as hydrocarbons/ oil and gas.</li> <li>∫ If any new resources materialize, they will contribute to the economy and the creation of jobs, and immense economic transformation. Although this is the case, it is important to note that hydrocarbon is a very high risk and extremely expensive activity, it has the potential to damage the environment of our Oshikoto region if it is not properly considered and managed.</li> <li>∫ He extended gratitude to MEL oil and gas Exploration Namibia, for doing the exploration in the region, as you may already be aware, the region relies solely on agriculture, farming for their livelihood. He is confident that the exploration will contribute to the region's economy and benefit the people of the region. Furthermore, he thanked MEL for coming to consult the public, emphasizing further the importance of public consultations as mandatory and important such that people can contribute to this project.</li> <li>∫ He urged that the three constituencies (Guinas, Nehale LyaMpingana, and Eengondi tribal authorities) that will be impacted directly by the project need to be contacted and engaged directly in order to avoid miscommunication and encourage transparency.</li> <li>∫ He humbly requests MEL to seek values and engage communities at every turn and communicate clearly and in a timely manner to show how communities were engaged in the process. Traditional Authority</li> </ul>
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	<p>leaders and Councillors should always be contacted and engaged before any decisions are undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ He encouraged all present to assist RBS in carrying out their public discussion</li> <li>¿ He also encouraged constructive discussion and declared the meeting officially open and thanked all present.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Summary of Project presentation</b></p> <p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya gave a detailed presentation of the Proposed project, context included <b>(see attached PowerPoint/project presentation Appendix C)</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Company background, breakdown on partners involved.</li> <li>¿ Purpose of the meeting.</li> <li>¿ Description of basins in Namibia and how they were formed.</li> <li>¿ Different types of land rights (Subsurface and surface rights).</li> <li>¿ Type of investments involved in oil and gas industry in general (both onshore and offshore).</li> <li>¿ How oil is formed.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted the crucial fact that there will be no displacement of people.</li> <li>¿ Exploration process, i.e., de-risking</li> <li>¿ Different types of consultation --- permitting and during the activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ allow the community to physically participate and view activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>¿ Explained the challenges with current seismic lines for example, the private game farm that may not work as a seismic line. There are currently no roads running through the proposed lines and other areas that may also require clearing.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted that all projected phases (exploration, production) will require consultation, additional environmental impact assessment and clearance certificates from the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>¿ Explanation of geophones and acoustic sounds.</li> <li>¿ Different stages of planning location of camps etc.</li> <li>¿ Access compensation.</li> <li>¿ Potential benefits of the project, employment (temporary and limited).</li> <li>¿ Encouraged community participation in identifying cultural norms and offsets.</li> </ul>
<p>Questions/ comments:</p>	<p><u>All questions were addressed by Dr Sindila</u></p>

**Question 1: Kindly provide more clarity on the sections on depression of basins**

Slides 6 and 9 of the Presentation were used to clarify the query regarding depression.

**Question 2: What are the possible social issues that MEL oil and gas may encounter?**

During all operations the IXA camp will be isolated and ensured there is no negative exploitation, no community interactions are permitted, the camp will likely be located at a central point like Oshivelo, where workers will be required to commute to conduct day-to-day activities.

**Question 3: I understand the reason for doing the Environmental impact assessments, however, what are the negative impacts of oil and gas in general on the community. According to the media, even in other countries and mining sectors, these activities are known to have impacts and likeliness of human errors. What are your comments on that?**

Each and every activity performed by humans has an impact, the aim of EIA is to identify the baseline, what are the activities and how can these impacts negatively and positively affect the baseline environment. Also, keep in mind that lodges can also pollute groundwater because of septic tanks that are not being emptied or are damaged.

All impact assessments are conducted in phases of the project i.e seismic survey, drilling, and production. During the seismic survey, possible impacts include minor noise and access into farms causing an infringement of surface rights hence we propose mitigation measures for consent, access compensation, etc. For drilling, you select the less sensitive site, specialists in fauna and flora conduct studies in the selected site which may need to be cleared, impacts on drilling are also very minimal as technology has advanced however yes with carelessness there might be possible hydrocarbon spills causing groundwater contamination though very unlikely.

The impacts of oil and gas could also include climate change, but there is also natural heating of the earth, cooling, and heating in cycles. What needs to happen is to adapt to Climate Change. There is no contradiction in undertaking oil and gas exploration because the overall target is to reduce emission in the long term 2050. In seeking the best path forward, the Government of Namibia is wisely considering many solutions, including oil and gas exploration, green











	<p>that can directly benefit local people and Social Cooperate Responsibilities.</p> <p><b><u>Question 10: How horizontal drilling is conducted without disturbance of the surface.</u></b></p> <p>The subsurface is approximately 3-4km deep, hence you will not feel anything. The technology that allows for flexible drilling material. This will allow you to drill horizontally. A great example of how this is possible is the train tunnel between London and Paris in Europe.</p> <p><b><u>Question 11: How will you keep the stakeholders relevant during the entire program? We are keen on seeing all stages of the project and seeing when to approach the ministry on how the communities will benefit.</u></b></p> <p>We are now on the initial stage of consultation, which is the permitting. During planning, implementation, actual process, and results. There are other stages during exploration, development, and production and all these will require permits and a similar process of consultation.</p> <p>We will therefore ensure continuous updates on the projects.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue sharing information to all affected, because they are crucial and people need to understand and be well informed to avoid misconceptions.</li> <li>- Questions such as infringement and compensations will come about and therefore need people to be informed that no dislocation or rights will be removed.</li> </ul>
Closing Remarks:	<p><b>Closing Remarks by the Oshikoto Regional Council Chairperson Hon. Samuel P. Shivute</b></p> <p>The Hon. Chairperson concluded with a vote of thanks and also added the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∫ He acknowledged that he followed the consultation with interest and that the meeting was a resounding success.</li> <li>∫ He indicated that he was happy with the active participation of all and that the meeting took place in a free atmosphere.</li> </ul>

	<p>¿ The Regional committee and all stakeholders were really pleased and the region is grateful as a whole that the leadership is being consulted and being involved from the beginning.</p> <p>¿ He took the opportunity to thank everyone present and urge everyone in this meeting to live by the motto "If we pull our resources and building on our strengths, we can accomplish anything." Ronald Reagan</p> <p>¿ I thank you for your kind attention.</p>
Way Forward:	- Continuation of meetings and engagements
Official Meeting Adjourned	1:36 PM
Walk-in Session	Media (NawaZone) showed up and was taken through the poster presentation.
Meeting Tone:	The tone of the meeting was friendly and constructive. The attendees understood and encouraged the RBS and MEL team and potentially benefiting their community. Once again as previously indicated, strict COVID-19 Regulations were observed throughout the entire meeting.









APPENDIX B  IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



Figure 1: Governor of Oshikoto Region  Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo giving his welcoming and opening remarks.



Figure 2: Dr. Sindila During the Presentation



Figure 3: Ms. Ashipala Welcoming the Governor and all Present



Figure 4: RBS Team ensuring adherence to COVID-19 regulations



Figure 5: Some Members of the Public during Meeting



Figure 6: Audience Discussion During Meeting





Figure 7: RBS Team Ensuring that COVID-19 Regulations are observed.



Figure 8: Chairperson: Oshikoto Regional Council Hon. Samuel P. Shivute giving the closing remarks.



**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**FARM ONDERA, GUINAS CONSTITUENCY,**  
**OSHIKOTO REGION**

**Date:** Wednesday, 23 February 2022.  
**Venue:** Farm Ondera, Guinas Constituency, Oshikoto Region.  
**Subject:** Proposed 2D Seismic Survey for MEL oil and Gas Exploration.

Meeting Commenced:	10:30 AM
Meeting purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks by Mr. Hendrick Mwatotele, Control Administrator of the Guinas Constituency.</li> <li>2. Formal introduction of the RBS Team by Ms Emerita Ashipala.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the meeting is to share information regarding the proposed 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration by MEL oil and gas exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd in PEL 93, Owambo (Etosha) Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia. Additionally, discuss community involvement in the protection and potential benefits of the project through the Traditional Authorities, and all other relevant stakeholders.</li> </ol> <p><i>The Meeting was conducted under strict COVID-19 regulations.</i></p>
Attendance: Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC Representatives	<p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya ☑ Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Founder of Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC  Ms. Emerita Ashipala ☑ Senior Consultant at RBS  Mr. Don Nyambe ☑ Senior Consultant at RBS  Ms. Mariam Kauyema ☑ Admin officer at RBS  Ms Christine Lents ☑ Admin assistant at RBS</p> <p>Apologies: MEL Team</p>
Attendance: Guinas Constituency Office	Guinas Constituency Control Administrator ☑ Mr. Hendrick Mwatotele
Attendance: Community/ other stakeholders	See attendance register attached (Appendix A).
Key discussion:	<p><b>1. Summary of project Presentation</b></p> <p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya gave a detailed presentation of the Proposed project using posters (See attached posters presented (Appendix B),</p>

	<p>The presentation was translated by Mr. Erastus Naoxab in the San Language.</p> <p>The context of the presentation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Purpose of the meeting.</li> <li>¿ Different types of land rights (Sub-surface and surface rights).</li> <li>¿ Description of basins in Namibia and how they were formed.</li> <li>¿ Type of investments involved in oil and gas industry (both onshore and offshore).</li> <li>¿ How oil is formed.</li> <li>¿ Highlight that there will be no displacement of people.</li> <li>¿ Exploration process, i.e. de-risking</li> <li>¿ Different types of consultation --- permitting and during the activities ☐ allow the community to physically participate in activities were possible.</li> <li>¿ Explains the challenges with current seismic lines ☐for example the game farms that have no access and other areas that may require clearing.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted that all projected phases (exploration, production) will require consultation and different permits.</li> <li>¿ Explanation on the seismic survey (use of geophones and acoustic sounds).</li> <li>¿ Different stages of planning ☐location of camps etc.</li> <li>¿ Access compensation.</li> <li>¿ Potential benefits of the project, employment (temporary and limited).</li> <li>¿ Encouraged community participation in identifying cultural norms and offsets.</li> </ul>
<p>Questions/concerns:</p>	<p><b><u>Question 1: Why was the meeting held in Ondera?</u></b>  <i>Addressed by Mr. Hendrick Mwatotele</i></p> <p>Initially, the consultant proposed a meeting in Oshivelo or Tsinsabis, however, upon studying the maps the area of interest is between Osjivelelo and Tsumeb which consist of mainly commercial and private farms, including the Farm Ondera and Ombili which are in close proximity and known to contain settlements. Oshivelo and Tsinsabis are further away from areas of interest and therefore are not directly affected by the proposed project activities.</p> <p>This is the first meeting to be conducted and the consultant will be ongoing as the project progress.</p>



1990 (Act 13 of 1990) and MODEL Petroleum Agreement empowers the Minister of Mines and Energy to ensure that prior to the license granting there is clear participation of communities and Cooperate Social Responsibilities in the area. Hence, it is very important to engage communities from the start to ensure active participation in the progression of the project. It is the responsibility of community leaders to engage the government on how the local community will like to benefit.

In Nigeria, the President is given more rights and can change and sign anything. Hence, a lot of political instability.

I can almost guarantee you that upon discovery and the type of laws we have in the country, there will be development and direct benefit in the area.

**Questions 4: Ondera Farm is a resettlement farm, what guarantee is there, that should there be a discovery the people will not be relocated since the farm anyways belongs to the Government.**

There is no relocation of people in the oil and gas industry because, despite discovery on a particular farm, there is the technology that allows for flexible drilling material. This will allow you to drill horizontally even 5km away from the targeted area.

**Question 5: Can one also find helium in the well?**

Helium is a naturally occurring gas, so yes, it can be found in the well.

**Question 6: Is it possible to only find gas in the well?**

Yes, because gas moves faster compared to oil if there is a rock that is permeable only gas may be found, however, this may mean there is potential for oil elsewhere. There are two things that are required for oil and gas to be found, these are the fault/pore spaces, and how these pore spaces are interconnected to each other.

**Question 7: Will the females also benefit from these potential jobs or is it only the men?**

Yes, I highly recommend mothers be proactive and propose community projects that can benefit them.

**Question 8: Who does the environmental permit for the proposed activities? And what are the possible impacts of the seismic survey?**



	<p>What Risk-Based Solutions is busy with right now is applying for the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) on behalf of MEL oil and gas exploration, no work will commence without obtaining this ECC.</p> <p>The truck to be used operates in a very narrow area, and will be using (existing roads, fences) where necessary to widen the roads, pruning will be done with minimal clearance and manoeuvring to avoid the clearing of big trees. Other impacts include possible noise during the drive-through which is very temporary and highly localized as it passes through.</p>
<p>Closing remarks:</p>	<p><i>By Dr Sindila</i></p> <p>Thanked all for the attendance and encouraged community members to avoid external influences. Where there are doubts or information needed, RBS and MEL will be available to answer all questions/concerns, and there should be no hesitation to reach out. We are here today because we would like to make you part and parcel of the project such that together we can protect and benefit. He further encouraged the communities to work together, set up committees and present project ideas that can be presented to the company with the assistance of RBS.</p> <p>Dr Sindila invited the Hon. McHenry Venaani for more concern and questions, however, addressed the community on his main purpose for his presence in the community farm which is not actually the proposed oil and gas exploration in the area.</p> <p>The headman gave his closing remarks:  Thanked the company and community members for coming to the meeting. They hope to receive water, electricity, etc as they have been struggling to have access to these basic needs and explained how COVID -19 has even affected them more. He thanked the guests and community for attendance.</p>
<p>Way Forward:</p>	<p>- Continuation of meetings and engagements</p>
<p>Official Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>15:36</p>
<p>Meeting Tone:</p>	<p>The tone of the meeting was friendly and constructive. The attendees understood and accepted the project. They look forward to working with the RBS and MEL teams and potentially benefiting from the project.</p>

APPENDIX A ATTENDANCE REGISTER



Risk – Based Solutions (RBS) CC

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 Windhoek Central Business District (CBD)  
 P. O. Box 1839  
 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Public Meeting in

*Farm Ondkra*

**For the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 23/02/22

TIME: 10h00

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION/VILLAGE	MOBILE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
<i>Willem Seebach</i>	<i>Farm Ondkra</i>	<i>0877052212</i>	
<i>Abraham Naach</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>Jakob Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>Harriet Naach</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0816148121</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Petrus HANEB</i>		<i>0812573165</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Leonard Hinga</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0812545741</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Jans Nkhamba</i>	<i>Am/Avij</i>	<i>0679308571</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>W Du plessies</i>	<i>Am/Avij</i>	<i>0679308550</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Nataniel Kamukuta</i>	<i>Okandji</i>	<i>067230050</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Sagarias Kamukuta</i>	<i>Okandji</i>	<i>067230050</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Olga Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0613838033</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Stompie Swanson</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>R2</i>
<i>Daniel HANEB</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0816625754</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Bismy Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0812078317</i>	<i>B-K</i>
<i>Jacob Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Selwin Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>SG</i>
<i>Jacopit Tsa</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0814690248</i>	<i>JACOPIT</i>
<i>Bonnie Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0817796218</i>	<i>BONNY</i>
<i>Petrika Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Gaasob</i>
<i>Ellie Goasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0813162273</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Bismy Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0815837553</i>	<i>R G</i>
<i>Garney HANEB</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	
<i>Bismy Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0813519702</i>	<i>Bismy</i>
<i>Ulrich Gaasob</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>VUIB</i>



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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

## Public Meeting in

*Callona Village*

## For the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 23/02/2022

TIME: 10h00

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION/VILLAGE	MOBILE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
Williamina Gumbo	Callona	-	W.S
Samuel Gumbo	"	-	S.G
Rosemary Gumbo	"	-	R.A
Angus Gumbo	"	081 767 8063	A.H
Auguste Gumbo	"	"	A.H
Suzanna Gumbo	"	-	S.A
Marcus Gumbo	"	-	M.A
Tomas Gumbo	"	081 2213365	T.M
Franz Gumbo	"	081 2143086	F.R
Elsa Gumbo	"	-	E.G
Elaine Gumbo	"	-	E.G
Christophina Gumbo	"	-	C.G
Agnes Gumbo	"	-	A.G
Joseph Gumbo	"	-	J.N
Max Gumbo	"	-	M.G
Marius Gumbo	"	081 2210172	M.G
Peter Gumbo	"	-	P.S
Johannes Gumbo	"	-	J.G
Grace Gumbo	"	-	G.L
Maria Gumbo	"	-	M.G
Sylvia Gumbo	"	081 7563730	S.S
Simon Gumbo	"	-	S.N
Sharon Gumbo	"	-	S.A
Alina Gumbo	"	-	A.H



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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

## Public Meeting in

Onvica Farm

### For the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 23/02/2022

TIME: 10/00

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION/VILLAGE	MOBILE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
Petrus Hambe	FARM Onvica	-	PH
HANNOH GAWES	"	-	HG
MARIA GASOS	"	0814957067	MG
BICA GASOS	"	08125175110	BG
KOSITH GASOS	"	0812467276	KG
Stampie Tsam	"	-	ST
JAMES AUKHUMB	"	081663827	JA
ELIAS AUMSER	"	081 ?	EA
ABASALAM ITHOMIA	"	081211230	AI
AYIKOS ITHUMBOS	"	-	AI
MULIANT BAKOMBA	"	-	MB
Christine Tsam	"	-	CT
MURIEL TSAM	"	0814585879	MT
Christie Tsam	"	-	CT
Olga Tsam	"	-	OT
Johanna Mucunga	"	-	JM
EMIRIE GAWES	"	-	EG
HANSING GAWES	"	-	HG
JANICKES BAKOMBA	"	-	JB
Evelling Ithumbos	"	-	EI
LEON HANSE	"	081757653	LH
KESER GAWES	"	0816256024	KG
Joseph Nasser	"	-	JN
MERTIN GAWES	"	0817002910	MG





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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

## Public Meeting in

ONDERA Farm

### For the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 23/02/22

TIME: 10:20

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION/VILLAGE	MOBILE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
Leopoldine Ntsoxolo	FARM ONDERA	0812697046	
Jordan Secheb	"	0816476826	
Joel Nages			
Piet Ais-aibeh			
Johannes Kubido			
Eva Nages			
Hili Gungwe			
Helen Nages			
Brenda Hanes			
Amosela Kwanse			
Jan Dymeh			
Helen Khusas			
Anna Hanes			
Joan Goboseb			
David Amasab			
Bele Oreses			
Erna Nages			
Auguste Nages			
Brenda Hanes			
Margherita Jasep			
Rosehold Somereb			
Alessio Gaooseb			
Axaro Gaooseb			
Stompie Gaooseb			



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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

## Public Meeting in

From Ondara

### For the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93

### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 23/02/2022

TIME: 10H00

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION/VILLAGE	MOBILE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
Hans Harbers	Ondara farm	-	HH
Antonie Khusas	"	-	A.K
Spencer Khusas	"	081 4916800	S.K
Antonie Khusas	"	-	A.K
Pieter Klaammus	"	081 7377844	P.K
Else Gowus	"	-	E.G
Maria Khusas	"	-	M.K
Gordon Hrosow	"	-	G.S
Sarahen Team	"	-	S.T
Kristy Gapsce	"	-	K.G
Emeloy Harbers	"	081 2728220	E.H.
Anita Gapsce	"	081 6106103	A.G.
Williamus Geminus	"	081 2737789	W.G
Ekwa Gamba	"	-	E.G.
Jositta Kupin	"	-	J.K
Petrina Harbers	"	-	P.H
Elisabeth Ekman	"	-	E.E
Stanley Klaammus	"	-	S.K
Don Nyambe			
Sindika Mariya			
Hendrick Mubateke		0816621144	Mubateke
Derrif Endongo		0816621144	D. Endongo
M Vermeer	Office Opposition leader	0811245862	M.V
Ementa Rhipaga	RBS	0817016851	E.R

APPENDIX B IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



Figure 1 Community members at the meeting.



Figure 2 - Community members at the meeting.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**OSHIKOTO REGIONAL COUNCIL,**  
**OMUTHIYA TOWN, OSHIKOTO REGION**

**Date** Tuesday, 15 March 2022  
**Venue** Oshikoto Regional Council, Head Office Boardroom, Omuthiya Oshikoto Region  
**Subject** Proposed 2D Seismic Survey for MEL oil and Gas Exploration Stakeholder Meeting, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.

Meeting Commenced:	10:30 AM
Meeting purpose/Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks and chair of the meeting (Hon. Matheus Kamati (Member of Management Committee)</li> <li>2. Formal introduction of the RBS Team and MEL representatives.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the meeting is to share information regarding the proposed 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration by MEL oil and gas exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd in PEL 93, Owambo (Etosha) Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.</li> <li>4. Key constituencies that are affected or where activities are concentrated covering AOI00 (Guinas Constituency), AOI01 (Nehale Lyampingana Constituency) and AOI02 (Eengodi Constituency). As well as highlight that the aim is to consult not only leaders/institutes but also on a community level as well.</li> <li>5. Similarly, the aim is to get input as key representatives of these communities in order to enrich understanding of the local area that we will be operating.</li> <li>6. Adoption of agenda and adjustments (See attached agenda).</li> </ol> <p><i>The Meeting was conducted under strict COVID-19 regulations</i></p>
Attendance: Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC Environmental Consultants	<p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Founder of Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC</p> <p>Ms. Emerita Ashipala Senior Consultant at RBS and Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)</p> <p>Ms. Mariam Kauyema Admin officer at RBS</p> <p>Ms Christine Lents Admin assistant at RBS</p>
MEL oil and gas exploration Representative:	Mr. Robin Sutherland
Attendance: Oshikoto Councillors/ other stakeholders	See attendance register attached (Appendix C).



<p>Key discussion:</p>	<p><b>1. Introductions</b>  After all protocols were observed, all those present were allowed to briefly introduce themselves (their name and affiliated organization/community role).</p> <p><b>2. Summary of Presentation by Monitor Exploration Limited (MEL oil and gas exploration) (Mr Robin Sutherland) (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation [Appendix B]):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Monitor blocks, shareholders, overview of the company.</li> <li>¿ Background on completed work over the area (collected data from MME, passive seismic, and remote sensing).</li> <li>¿ Current work plan, Environmental impact assessment conducted by RBS, commence with seismic survey and hopefully drill within the last quarter of the year.</li> <li>¿ Reasons for the choice in sites [based on Recon Africa results and potential for oil in the area and other discoveries.</li> <li>¿ Commitment to adhere to Namibian regulations and guidelines and safeguard the environment accordingly.</li> <li>¿ Possible Benefits including employment opportunities, hiring of vehicles, supply of goods and, services.</li> <li>¿ Encourages concerns and issues to be raised with him and can be the point of contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Summary of Presentation by Risk-Based Solutions (Dr. Sindila Mwiya): (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation [Appendix C]):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Type of licenses (Minerals, oil, or gas).</li> <li>¿ Rental of oil block.</li> <li>¿ Description of basins in Namibia and how they were formed.</li> <li>¿ How oil is formed.</li> <li>¿ <del>Dr. Sindila Mwiya</del></li> <li>¿ Brief explanation of types of seismic and history of these seismic activities in the Owambo Basin.</li> <li>¿ Type of investments involved in oil and gas industry in general (both onshore and offshore).</li> <li>¿ Highlighted the crucial fact that there will be no displacement of people during exploration or production.</li> <li>¿ Exploration process, i.e. de-risking</li> <li>¿ Different types of land rights (Subsurface and surface rights).</li> <li>¿ Different types of consultation i.e., registered mail, newspaper adverts, public meetings) conducted--- permitting and during the activities [allow the community to physically participate and view activities.</li> <li>¿ Footprint on drilling sites.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Explained the challenges with current seismic lines and uses, for example, the private game farm that may not work as a seismic line. There are currently no roads running through the proposed lines, and other areas that may also require clearing.</li> <li>¿ Rehabilitation of the sites.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted that all projected phases (exploration, production) will require permits and consultations.</li> <li>¿ Explanation of seismic survey, energy used, machines used, geophones.</li> <li>¿ Different stages of planning location of camps etc.</li> <li>¿ Access compensation where lines are passing through the farms or fields.</li> <li>¿ Potential benefits of the project, employment (temporary and limited).</li> <li>¿ Potential impacts.</li> <li>¿ Encouraged community participation in identifying cultural norms and offsets that may be necessary to avoid.</li> </ul> <p>All concerns Should be directed to RBS and MEL.</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<p><b><u>Question 1: Briefly explain the use of water during oil and gas production?</u></b>  <i>Addressed by Mr Robin Sutherland</i></p> <p>When oil is produced, pressure is reduced therefore needs to be replaced with water to ensure pressure maintenance. By maintaining pressure more oil is pushed out of the well. This also ensures stabilization of the well.</p> <p><b><u>Question 2: Is a production license automatically granted after a discovery has been made? Can a different company apply for it?</u></b>  <i>Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland</i></p> <p>No, a production license is required and applied for at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, this is done via various processes including petroleum agreements, field development plans, etc.</p> <p>The production license, will not be open for bidding, MEL oil and gas that has completed the exploration will apply for the production license on the terms and agreements agreed with the state.</p> <p><b><u>Question 3: How long is the license issued?</u></b>  <i>Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland</i></p> <p>The duration of the license is initially 4years, which involves studying and interpretation of the area, extended to 4 years for drilling the wells, so 8 years in total.</p> <p>The production Licence is 25years. All together it will be 33 years.</p>

**Question 4: what exactly are the costs involved in this kind of industry as there might be locals that may want to take part in the activities?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

The seismic survey is estimated to cost US\$3.5 billion; each well is estimated to cost US\$ 10-12 million.

**Question 5: Kindly elaborate on the shareholding of MEL 75%, Namcor 10%, and Legend Oil 15%. Are these dividends part of a license agreement? Who determines the shareholding agreements?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

This is done by Monitor and Legend, the 10% is on Namibia, the 90% is agreed upon by Legend and Monitor.

**Question 6: Does it make sense that Namibia is only getting 10% despite the resources belonging to Namibia?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

exploration cost. This is covered entirely by MEL. The government only regulates and does not take part in costs.

In addition to the 10%, when production starts, Namibia benefits from royalties for all production costs, for every production profit, the government takes 35% as tax until such a time that rates of return are done. All together the government benefits can be approximately 60%.

*Addition by Dr. Sindila*

The chance of discovering oil is as low as 20% hence reluctance from the government to participate in oil exploration because the chances of drilling to find a dry well is high.

**Question 7: Should viable oil be found, is there a possibility for Oshikoto Regional Council to be part of the shareholding?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

This is up to the government of Namibia to decide. The company cannot get involved in how the money is spent.

**Question 8: is the 50USD paid annually to Petrofund/Namcor per single license holder or for all collective licenses.**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

Each individual company as part of their agreement has a commitment to training and internal training for their team.

About 70 scholarships a year are awarded for oil and gas studies.

**Question 9: Who exactly are the owners of Legend Oil Namibia?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

Legend oil is a corporate Namibian company, you can find out the information with the Ministry of Mines and Energy. I do not know who exactly the partners are.

**Question 10: When is compensation paid, is it during the survey or after?**

*Addressed by Dr. Sindila*

There is different compensation paid, where there is a public track surface holder to be paid, traditional authorities administer the use of the track. However, for private tracks, there are access agreements that are conducted prior to the survey that identifies the owner and obtains these consents. Compensation only comes in where there is damage to fences, damage of property should a line be passing through a fence.

**Question 10: what could future prospects mean for the country? Should the oil industry be successful?**

*Addressed by Mr. Robin Sutherland*

In the short term of exploration, there will be minor job opportunities and opportunities to supply goods and services. In the long -term there will be an increase in industrial activities, via the development of facilities including more jobs for the construction of roads, and other necessary infrastructure, ongoing maintenance of field equipment, and the supply of goods and services.


It, unfortunately, does not mean that oil prices will be cheaper unless subsidized by the government. With no refinery in the country, it will need to be exported or sold internationally, in conjunction with the Namibian Government.

Closing Remarks:

*By Mr. Peter Ndawedwa (Deputy Director of Development Planning)*

- Vote of thanks to MEL and RBS for coming to share information



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stated that they hope to reach the desired destination in terms of finding a commercial discovery.</li> <li>- Wished the company well and welcomed the project into the Region and stated that should the company need any assistance not to hesitate to reach out to their offices, he concluded by requesting ongoing consultation and reports.</li> </ul>
Way Forward:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proceed to have community meetings in Nehale Lyampingana Constituency  Omboto Village on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022</li> <li>- Proceed to have a community meeting in Eengodi Constituency, Onamuishu Village on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022.</li> </ul>
Official Meeting Adjourned	13:26
Meeting Tone:	The tone of the meeting was friendly and constructive. The participants contributed well with comments and questions for the project. The meeting ended with good acceptance to the Region.



APPENDIX B IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



Figure 1: Stakeholder meeting at the Oshikoto Regional Council head office in Omuhiya.



Figure 2: Ms Emerita Ashipala during the introductions



Figure 3: Mr Robin Southland (MEL Oil and Gas representative) during his brief overview on MEL oil and gas Exploration Namibia.



Figure 4: Hon. Kamati Chairperson of the meeting





Figure 5: Poster presentation session at the Oshikoto Regional Council head office.



Figure 6: Dr Sindila Mwiya during his presentation on the proposed 2D seismic survey



**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**NEHALE LYAMPINGANA CONSTITUENCY**  
**OMBOTO VILLAGE, OSHIKOTO REGION**

**Date**                    **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Venue**                   **Nehale Lyampingana Constituency, Omboto Village, Oshikoto Region**  
**Subject**                **Proposed 2D Seismic Survey for MEL Oil and Gas Exploration**

Meeting Commenced:	10:30 AM
Meeting purpose/Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks.</li> <li>2. Formal introduction of the RBS Team and MEL representatives.</li> <li>3. The purpose of the meeting is to share information regarding the proposed 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration by MEL oil and gas exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd in PEL 93, Owambo (Etosha) Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.</li> </ol> <p><i>The Meeting was conducted under strict COVID-19 regulations</i></p>
Attendance: Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC Environmental Consultants	<p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Founder of Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC</p> <p>Ms. Emerita Ashipala Senior Consultant at RBS and Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)</p> <p>Ms. Mariam Kauyema Admin officer at RBS</p> <p>Ms Christine Links Admin assistant at RBS</p>
MEL oil and gas exploration Representative:	Mr. Robin Sutherland
Attendance: Oshikoto Councillors/ other stakeholders	<p>Hon. Johannes Shilongo</p> <p>See attendance register attached (Appendix B).</p>
Translators	Ms Emerita Ashipala delivered all her presentations and answers in the local Oshiwabo language. The English presentations by Dr Sindila Mwiya (RBS) and Mr Robin Sutherland from (MEL), were translated by Mr. Jason Nghilalulwa supported by Ms Emerita Ashipala and the Hon. Councillor Johannes Shilongo of Nehale Lyampingana Constituency.
Key discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Summary of Presentation by Monitor Exploration Limited (MEL oil and gas exploration) (Mr Robin Sutherland) (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation):</b></li> </ol> <p>¿ Monitor blocks, shareholders, overview of the company.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Background on completed work over the area (collected data from MME, passive seismic, and remote sensing).</li> <li>¿ Current work plan, Environmental impact assessment conducted by RBS, commence with seismic survey and hopefully drill within the last quarter of the year.</li> <li>¿ Reasons for the choice in sites based on Recon Africa results and potential for oil in the area and other discoveries.</li> <li>¿ Commitment to adhere to Namibian regulations and guidelines and safeguard the environment accordingly.</li> <li>¿ Possible Benefits including employment opportunities, hiring of vehicles, supply of goods and, services.</li> <li>¿ Encourages concerns and issues to be raised with him and can be the point of contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Summary of Presentation by Risk-Based Solutions (Dr. Sindila Mwiya): (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation).</b></p> <p>The context of the presentation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Purpose of the meeting.</li> <li>¿ Different types of land rights (Sub-surface and surface rights).</li> <li>¿ Description of basins in Namibia and how they were formed.</li> <li>¿ Type of investments involved in oil and gas industry (both onshore and offshore).</li> <li>¿ How oil is formed?</li> <li>¿ Highlight that there will be no displacement of people</li> <li>¿ Exploration process, i.e., de-risking</li> <li>¿ Different types of consultation --- permitting and during the activities allow the community to physically participate in activities where possible</li> <li>¿ Explains the challenges with current seismic lines for example the game farms that have no access, and other areas that may require clearing.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted that all projected phasis (exploration, production) will require consultation and different permits.</li> <li>¿ Explanation on the seismic survey (use of geophones and acoustic sounds).</li> <li>¿ Different stages of planning location of camps etc.</li> <li>¿ Access compensation.</li> <li>¿ Potential benefits of the project, employment (temporary and limited).</li> <li>¿ Encouraged community participation in identifying cultural norms and offsets.</li> </ul> <p>All concerns Should be directed to RBS and MEL</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<p>Below are some questions posted by community members and addressed by the RBS team and MEL representative:</p>

**Question 1: What will happen to our houses should the survey lines cut across them? What happens to the fences in line with the survey lines? Will we be relocated?**

About 90% of the proposed lines cut across existing routes, fences, where they need to cut across fields or houses, there will be offsets to sensitive features such as graveyards, heritage, etc. the team will try and avoid sensitive areas as much as possible. Hence, community assistance is required in order to assist the company in the identification of property or monuments that need to be avoided.

**Question 2: Seeing that the license runs through the borders of Angola, does that mean oil will come from Angola?**

No, the license is only to explore within the license area (PEL 93).

**Question 3: Some of these farms are owned by people that hardly come around. What happens if lines need to pass through these farms, how will they be notified?**

There will be a forward team prior to the survey being conducted that will gather contact details of landowners and get access agreements in place. Hence, community assistance is required in order to assist the company in the identification of property or monuments that need to be avoided.

**Question 4: Should the target prospect be located underneath the house, what happens then, is it only survey lines that have the chance to pass our houses?**

There will be no relocation of people during the survey nor when there is a discovery.

**Question 5: If there is a discovery in Namibia, will it not bring about political instability?**

There is a risk of political instability and criminality which causes the environmental incident.

The criminality started when communities were not part of the development phases such that there is now opportunism for criminality. People are generally unhappy and not consulted, hence, took it on themselves to connect pipes and illegal refineries as a source of living.

Finally, yes, there are challenges, almost all human activities do have impacts, it all depends on the expertise involved, and the level of compliance. It is how you manage the project that makes it sustainable to identify opportunities and

opportunists for coexistence between the different sectors that may be there and also the activities that can be enhanced so that the benefits are there.

**Question 6: If there is a discovery, is it the same company that is exploring that will do the drilling?**

Yes, MEL oil and gas exploration will be the one to apply for a production license should there be a discovery in PEL 93.

**Question 7: What strategies are there to rehabilitate the area?**

The size of the site required for drilling is approximately 3ha, which is similar to a normal construction site where there are offices and laydown areas. The well area is an approximately 100cm sized hole that is capped and contains a meter for monitoring pressure within the hole. It is also fenced off for protection and handed over to the Ministry of Mines and Energy as state property.

After drilling, the area is cleared by removing the pipes and infrastructure. As it has previously been done, because of the presence of water at the site the area could be a site as a community meeting point, community garden/nurseries, or anything that can be constructed on request by the community members and relevant authorities.

**Question 8: How will pollution (oil spill) be controlled?**

Accidents do not just happen, they are human-induced. Technology has advanced to a great level that accidents are limited and MEL oil and gas will ensure prevention and control of pollution. Should there be a spill, clean-up of spills will be carried out in accordance with the Oil spill contingency plan and other procedures such as waste management plan shall be adhered to.

**Question 9: How will individuals benefit from the project?**

During the seismic survey, individuals can benefit from employment opportunities and the provision of services needed.

**Question 10: How long is the license valid?**

The exploration license is 8 years and the production license is usually valid for 25 years.

**Question 11: Is there anything else that the company is searching for apart from oil/gas?**





APPENDIX B  IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



Figure 1: Briefing Hon. Councillor and the members of the Constituency office before the official meeting with the community.



Figure 2: Hon. Councillor Joseph Shilongo during his welcoming remarks



Figure 3: Ms Emerita Ashipala doing formal introductions of the team



Figure 4: Mr Robin Sutherland during his brief presentation on MEL oil and gas





Figure 5: Dr Sindila during the project presentation



Figure 6: Community discussions during the question-and-answer session



Figure 7: Community discussions during the question-and-answer session



Figure 8: Community discussions during the question-and-answer session



# EENGODI CONSTITUENCY

## COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

**Date** Thursday, 17 March 2022  
**Venue** Eengodi Regional Council Hall, Onamuishu, Oshikoto Region.  
**Subject** Proposed 2D Seismic Survey for MEL oil and Gas Exploration, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.

Meeting Commenced:	10:41 AM
Meeting purpose/Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formal introduction of the RBS Team</li> <li>2. The purpose of the meeting is to share information regarding the proposed 2D seismic survey for oil and gas exploration by MEL oil and gas exploration Namibia (Pty) Ltd in PEL 93, Owambo (Etosha) Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto Region, Northern Namibia.</li> <li>3. Discussion on community support through the Councillors, Traditional Authorities, and all other relevant stakeholders and community members.</li> </ol> <p><i>The Meeting was conducted under strict COVID-19 regulations</i></p>
Attendance: Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC Representatives	<p>Dr. Sindila Mwiya ☑ Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Founder of Risk-Based Solutions (RBS) CC</p> <p>Ms. Emerita Ashipala ☑ Senior Consultant at RBS</p> <p>Ms. Mariam Kauyama ☑ Admin officer at RBS</p> <p>Ms Christine Links ☑ Admin assistant at RBS</p>
Attendance: MEL Representative	Mr Robin Sutherland
Attendance: Oshikoto Regional Council	Hon. Procustius Neshuku
Translators	Ms Emerita Ashipala delivered all her presentations and answers in the local Oshiwabo language. The English presentations by Dr Sindila Mwiya (RBS) and Mr Robin Sutherland from (MEL), were translated by Mr Hosian Hitanwa supported by Ms Emerita Ashipala and the Hon. Councillor Procustius Neshuku of Eengodi Constituency
Attendance: Community/ other stakeholders	See attendance register attached (Appendix A)
Key discussion:	<p><b>1. Introductions</b></p> <p><i>(Protocols to follow include the meeting being opened (the Regional Councillor</i></p>

Hon. Procustius Neshuku), the delegation presented the following.

**2. Summary of Presentation by Mr Robin Sutherland - Monitor Exploration Limited (MEL oil and gas exploration) (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation):**

- ¿ Monitor blocks, shareholders, overview of the company.
- ¿ Background on completed work over the area (collected data from MME, passive seismic, and remote sensing).
- ¿ Current work plan, Environmental impact assessment conducted by RBS, commence with seismic survey and hopefully drill within the last quarter of the year.
- ¿ Reasons for the choice in sites based on Recon Africa results and potential for oil in the area and other discoveries.
- ¿ Commitment to adhere to Namibian regulations and guidelines and safeguard the environment accordingly.
- ¿ Possible Benefits including employment opportunities, hiring of vehicles, supply of goods and, services.
- ¿ Encourages concerns and issues to be raised with him and can be the point of contact.

**3. Summary of Presentation by Risk-Based Solutions (Dr. Sindila Mwiya): (see attached PowerPoint/project presentation).**

- ¿ Type of licenses (Minerals, oil, or gas)
- ¿ Rental of oil blocks
- ¿ Description of basins in Namibia and how they were formed.
- ¿ How oil is formed.
- ¿ Brief explanation of types of seismic and history of these seismic activities in the Owambo Basin.
- ¿ Type of investments involved in oil and gas industry in general (both onshore and offshore).
- ¿ Highlighted the crucial fact that there will be no displacement of people during exploration or production.
- ¿ Exploration process, i.e. de-risking.
- ¿ Different types of land rights (Subsurface and surface rights).
- ¿ Different types of consultation i.e. registered mail, newspaper adverts, public meetings) conducted--- permitting and during the activities allow the community to physically participate and view activities.
- ¿ Footprint on drilling sites.
- ¿ Explained the challenges with current seismic lines and uses, for example,


	<p>are currently no roads running through the proposed lines, and other areas that may also require clearing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¿ Rehabilitation of the sites.</li> <li>¿ Highlighted that all projected phases (exploration, production) will require permits and consultations.</li> <li>¿ Explanation of seismic survey, energy used, machines used, geophones.</li> <li>¿ Different stages of planning □location of camps etc.</li> <li>¿ Access compensation where lines are passing through the farms or fields.</li> <li>¿ Potential benefits of the project, employment (temporary and limited).</li> <li>¿ Potential impacts.</li> <li>¿ Encouraged community participation in identifying cultural norms and offsets that may be necessary to avoid.</li> </ul> <p>All concerns Should be directed to RBS and MEL</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<p><b><u>Question 1: In the past, the company that constructed one of our main roads was known to have potential oil. Is MEL following the same statement or are they different?</u></b>  <i>Addressed by Mr Sutherland</i></p> <p>The companies differ, MEL has studied the area using different techniques such as the using remote sensing, satellite data, soil sampling, passive seismic, and other existing seismic data to show the now identified area of interest for further studies, hence the proposed seismic survey.</p> <p>Hon. Councillor added stating that there should not be a mix-up with activities previously conducted by other companies. He further indicated that the possible villages where the survey lines are running include Otalashe, Onakadhila, Onanyege, Ofilu, Ohamaye, Omulamba, Okoloti villages.</p> <p><b><u>Question 2: Is the seismic survey able to detect the type of oil/gas found?</u></b></p> <p>No, the seismic survey is to search for the oil reservoir, which is then further explored by drilling. At the moment we are only searching where to drill.</p> <p><b><u>Question 3: Are the seismic lines cutting across existing lines or are new tracks/roads being created?</u></b></p> <p>About 90% of the seismic lines fall on existing tracks or fence corridors. In some places, however, there might be the need to create access to be able to join the existing track. Where this is necessary, it will be done with the consent of all relevant authorities and landowners.</p>





	<b>Comments:</b> Member stated that he does not decline the project, he is just mentioning food for thought.
Closing Remarks:	<p><b>Closing Remarks by the Oshikoto Regional Council Chairperson (Hon. Procustius Neshuku)</b></p> <p>The Hon. Councillor concluded with a vote of thanks and also added the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ζ He acknowledged that he followed the consultation with interest and that the meeting was a resounding success.</li> <li>ζ He indicated that he was happy with the active participation of all and that the meeting took place in a free atmosphere.</li> <li>ζ The Regional committee and all stakeholders were really pleased and the region is grateful as a whole that the leadership is being consulted and being involved from the beginning, even more, that they did not end at the leadership but also came down to the communities.</li> <li>ζ He pleaded that the community members work and lift each other for development. He concluded by encouraging the community members to accept the project and have a mutual understanding.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting was concluded with a prayer and thanked everyone present.</p>
Official Meeting Adjourned	12: 57 PM
Meeting Tone:	The tone of the meeting was friendly and constructive. The attendees understood and encouraged disseminating information.

APPENDIX A- ATTENDANCE REGISTER



**Risk – Based Solutions (RBS) CC**

Tel: +264-61-306058 / 224780 / 236598  
 Fax: +264-061-245001, Mobile: +264-811413229  
 Email: [frontdesk@rbs.com.na](mailto:frontdesk@rbs.com.na)  
 Global Office / URL: [www.rbs.com.na](http://www.rbs.com.na)

10 Schützen Street, Erf No. 7382  
 Windhoek Central Business District (CBD)  
 P. O. Box 1839  
 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

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Eengodi Village

**Public and Stakeholders Meeting in Omuthiya, Oshikoto Region  
 for the Proposed Petroleum Exploration (2D Seismic Survey  
 Operations) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) No. 93**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

DATE: 17 Mar 2022

TIME: 10:00 end

APPENDIX B  IMAGES FROM THE MEETING



FIGURE 1 HON. COUNCILLOR GIVING THE WELCOMING REMARKS.



FIGURE 2 - THE HEADMEN DURING THE ANSWER AND QUESTION SESSION



FIGURE 3 - COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

LIST OF REGISTERED INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES FOR THE PROPOSED 2D SEISMIC SURVEY IN PEL 93, OWAMBO BASIN, OSHIKOTO REGION NAMIBIA.

No.	Name	Organisation	Contact details	Comments/concerns
1	Jan Arkert	Frack Free Namibia	<a href="mailto:jan@africaexposed.co.za">jan@africaexposed.co.za</a> <a href="tel:+27836560900">+27836560900</a>	As attached
2	Mercy Dacruz Hashiti	Okashana RDC		No comments
3	Tunohole Mungoba	Head: Careers and Tertiary	<a href="mailto:tunohole@myzone.com.na">tunohole@myzone.com.na</a> <a href="tel:+264813753679">+264 81 3753 679</a>   <a href="tel:+264818112117">+264 81 811 2117</a>	No comments
4	Ms. Kakuna Kerina	-	081-3670737	No comments
5	Dr. Christopher Brown	Nambia Chamber of Namibia	Tel: +264 (0)61 240 140 NCE Mobile: +264 (0)81 162 5807 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ceo@n-c-e.org">ceo@n-c-e.org</a>	No comments
6	Dr Annette Hübschle	Global Risk Governance Programme Faculty of Law	Email: <a href="mailto:annette.hubschle@uct.ac.za">annette.hubschle@uct.ac.za</a>	No comments
7	Mr. Jaco Swart Commercial Manager  Ms. Hilka Hamukuaja Sales & Marketing Manager	Rent -a - drum	<a href="mailto:cm@rent-adrum.com.na">cm@rent-adrum.com.na</a> <a href="mailto:pr@rent-a-drum.com.na">pr@rent-a-drum.com.na</a>	No comments
8	Gerhard Shimwandi	-	<a href="mailto:gshimwandi@gmail.com">gshimwandi@gmail.com</a>	No comments
9	Vilho Mtuleni	Resident of Otjikoto Region	<a href="mailto:vilhomsnake@gmail.com">vilhomsnake@gmail.com</a>	No comments
10	Ureh kiimba	Onayena	<a href="mailto:urehtate@gmail.com">urehtate@gmail.com</a>	No comments
11	Tunohole Mungoba	myzone	<a href="mailto:tunohole@myzone.com.na">tunohole@myzone.com.na</a>	No comments
12	Mercy Hashiti	Okashana RDC	<a href="mailto:mercy@okahanardc.com">mercy@okahanardc.com</a>	No comments





Risk Based Solutions cc  
PO Box 1839  
Windhoek  
Namibia

18th March 2022

Attention Dr. Sindila Mwiya

**COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS TO RISK BASED SOLUTIONS**  
**DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR 2D SEISMIC SURVEY IN PEL 93**  
**BY MEL OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION .**  
**OSHIKOTO, NAMIBIA**

Dear Sir,

The following report is presented in response to the Draft Scoping Report (volume 1), for 2D Seismic Surveys within PEL 93, Oshikoto, Namibia, as proposed by MEL Oil and Gas Exploration and prepared by Risk Based Solutions

All the comments, suggestions and recommendations in this response will therefore refer to the following document:

Draft Scoping Report/Background Information Document to Support the application for environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the Proposed 2D Seismic Survey covering the Area of Interest (AOI) in Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 93 Ovambo Sedimentary Basin, Oshikoto, Namibia.

This report is in response to an invitation to Interested and Affected Parties (IAP's) to submit comments and objections to the draft Scoping Report by no later than 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

In accordance with the Environmental Regulations clause 23 (1) (b), we wish to state that we have no direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application.

Frack Free Namibia  
frackfreenamibia@gmail.com

cc. The Environmental Commissioner Mr. Timoteus Mufeti



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**COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS TO RISK BASED SOLUTIONS**  
**DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR 2D SEISMIC SURVEY IN PEL 93**  
**BY MEL OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION.**  
**OSHIKOTO, NAMIBIA**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The following comments are presented in response to the **Draft Scoping Report** for 2D Seismic Surveys within PEL 93, Oshikoto, Namibia by MEL Oils and Gas Exploration. The reports were compiled by Risk Based Solutions, and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) is Dr. Sindila Mwiya.

This report is in response to an invitation to Interested and Affected Parties (IAP's) to submit comments and objections to the abovementioned reports by no later than 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The report has been compiled by Jan Arkert, on behalf of Frack Free Namibia. Jan holds a BSc (Honours) degree in geology and engineering geology and a MPhil degree in Wildlife Management. He is registered as a Professional Natural Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).

Frack Free Namibia and Jan Arkert are registered Interested and Affected Party

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER**

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Dr. Sindila Mwiya, must be disqualified from conducting this EIA and EMPr. Considering the statutory requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: Environmental Management Act, 2007, an environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) must "*perform the work relating to the application in an **OBJECTIVE** manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant*" EIA Regulations, sec. 4(b).

As shown below, Dr. Mwiya has not shown himself to be objective and certainly does have a vested interest in the positive outcome of this application.

- 2.1 A signed declaration of independence or potential conflicts of interest is included in the EIA, however the declaration cannot be valid as Dr. Mwiya has a direct interest in the approval of the EIA and EMPr. He and his company Risk-Based Solutions have a history of providing services to the oil and gas industry in Namibia. There is therefore a continued and vested interest future employment by ReconAfrica.
- 2.2 Dr. Mwiya has presented a comprehensive personal CV, which lists numerous positions and projects completed while in the employ of many multinational oil and gas companies. It is also stated that his academic qualifications and background in the field of the earth sciences and specialising in geology



and geotechnical engineering. The EAP has made several pronouncements and statements in the reports that are beyond his skills and qualifications.

- 2.3 With a career deeply embedded within the oil and gas industry the impartiality of the EAP must be raised. The following extract was obtained from the home page of Risk Based Solutions (RBS) website [www.rbs.com.na](http://www.rbs.com.na) accessed on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The objectives and aspirations of RBS contradict the requirements of an EAP whose obligations are to be objective and impartial to the outcome of the environmental assessment.

#### About Us

Founded in 2004, Risk Based Solutions (RBS) CC, Reg No CC/2004/1305, is the consulting arm of Foresight Group Namibia (FGN) (PTY) LTD. Both RBS and FGN are Namibian local owned companies established with the objective to meet the demand and for the promotion of Local Knowledge Based Solutions (LKBS) in the following investments and consultancy portfolios of our specialisation:

- ¿ Mineral exploration and mining.
- ¿ Petroleum (Oil and Gas)
- ¿ Energy (Solar, Wind and Thermal)
- ¿ Tourism Investments and experiences.
- ¿ Property development and management.
- ¿ Waste Management.
- ¿ Environmental Assessments (EIA, EMP, SEA, SEMP).
- ¿ Geological (Geo-environmental and Geotechnical)
- ¿ Engineering Programme and Project Management and Logistics.
- ¿ Specialised Training and Industry Research.

Risk Based Solutions (2022)

- 2.4 Furthermore, in figure 1.1 shown on page 12, the EAP included the following sentence ***“Plenty more blocks are open for anyone to apply if one has about N\$2million yearly payment to lease such an area from the State inclusive of all other required mandatory State contributions.”*** The necessity for the EAP to advertise and promote Namibia’s national assets is beyond the scope of an environmental report and shows blatantly biased attitude.

### 3. To FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK?

- 3.1 A broad statement is included in paragraph 1.1 (5) on page 11 in which the EAP has felt it necessary to provide an explanation of fracking and claims that hydraulic fracturing will not be resorted to. For



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ease of reference the disclaimer is reproduced. “ *It is during the EIA for appraisal drilling for commercially discovered oil or gas and for possible production from either a conventional reservoir (with natural pores and permeability) or unconventional reservoir (natural pores but limited permeability) that one can now start to talk about fracking. At present Namibia has no commercial or economic or even indicative oil or gas discovered onshore to frighten the public about nonexistence planned fracking. Fracking is not an exploration drilling technique, but an oil or gas production method applied after a commercial proved discovery in a reservoir with poor primary permeability.*”

Without prior knowledge of the geological conditions that prevail within the area of interest, this statement is premature, and can be construed as being denial.

Yet, in paragraph 1.3.4 on page 20, the following patronising sentence is included “***The scope of this environmental assessment only covers the exploration phase and specifically focusing only on the proposed 2D seismic survey operations and has nothing do with the production phase and possible method/s of production because no oil or gas has been discovered and the unknown cannot be measured.***” .

Similarly, the EAP once again makes comments that are beyond the scope of this report and outside of his competency when he makes the following comments that appear in paragraph 1.6.1 on page 74. “ *This environmental assessment is focused only on assessing the environmental impacts associated with the proposed 2D seismic survey exploration method over an area of interest within the Owambo Basin, a very limited portion of PEL 93. This environmental assessment study has nothing do with the conventional or unconventional production methods for oil and gas that does not exists because one cannot measure the unknown. If there is a commercial discovery, then yes, the environmental assessment studies that will follow for the appraisal and production phases will examine the environment friendliness of the type of production methods that may be used to produce the commercially discovered oil or gas and the opportunities for coexistence with current and future land uses.*”

Considering the early stages of this proposed oil and gas exploration project and the many unknown factors, as highlighted by the EAP, it must be questioned why the original sentence denying that fracking may be a future means of production was included. It is possible, as in the lines from Hamlet by William Shakespeare that “ **the EAP doth protest too much, methinks**”

## **4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

- 4.1. An extremely disturbing comment is included in paragraph 3.5.1 on page 101, in which it is stated that “***..the project team will focus heavily on working with the regional, local, and traditional leaders who will be responsible for informing their local communities about the proposed activities.***”

Public consultation with interested and affected parties and members of the community who may be directly impacted by the proposed activities **CANNOT** be delegated by the applicant. Local and traditional leaders do not necessarily have the technical knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the project and therefore cannot provide adequate information to engage with communities.



Direct engagement and prior informed consultation are the minimum requirement for communities to provide objections or consent to a project of this nature. This is particularly relevant when the project documents are only provided in English, which is not the mother tongue.

- 4.2 A statement is included in paragraph 1.2.1 on page 14 that reads “***3-4 months contractual employment opportunities for the local communities.***” No indication of the type of work opportunities or long-term career possibilities are provided. Neither is an indication of the number of employment opportunities included. Contrary to recent experience in Kavango, short term two-week, rotational employment of members of the local community **DOES NOT** constitute gainful employment.
- 4.3. The draft Scoping Report makes no provision to develop a baseline determination of the current condition of buildings and infra structure such as wells and boreholes within proximity to the seismic traverse lines. Previous experience in Kavango has shown that both wells and buildings were affected by seismic activity and individuals and communities affected must be fairly and adequately compensated.

## 5. TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT?

- 5.1. A statement is made in paragraph 1.2.2 on page 14, which reads as follows “***...no community relocation whatsoever does takes place and no one will be relocated during the proposed 2D seismic survey operations to be conducted along existing roads and tracks.***” Similar comments about the 2D Seismic Survey only being conducted along existing roads and tracks are included elsewhere in the draft scoping report. See paragraph 1.5.1 on page 26 “***No big trees shall be cut unnecessary because of widening access because no new cut line will be created.***” and paragraph 2.4.4 on page 93. “***The proposed survey will be undertaken along the already existing roads, farm fences and tracks and already disturbed areas.***”

Table 3.3 on page 100 also makes an inclusion that “***..No removals of protected species or mature trees anticipated because the activities will only require the widening the already existing tracks as may be applicable***”

The EAP’s comments reproduced above are contradicted by statements included on paragraph 1.5.1 on page 26, which clearly indicate that that seismic traverse lines 5, 8, 12 and 15 will be required to be cleared, stating that “***..no track exists, the line will have to be cut through pristine communal forest.***” The total length of the lines that needs to be cleared is 105 km of virgin forest of the proposed 576 km of the 2D seismic survey. This constitutes 18% of the length and an area of **31.5ha** (if the statement that 3m clearance width on page 93 is correct). Much of this cleared forested area will traverse communal forest land as well as pristine commercial farmlands with no existing track or farm fence access and through the sensitive Onguma Game Reserve (see plate 1.12 on page 45)

- 5.2. A further conflicting statement is made in paragraph 2.3.3 sub paragraph 4 on page 87, which states that “***Creation of new access especially cutting of new MEFT firebreak cutlines to be used for additional data acquisition.***” It must be questioned if the position of the MEFF cutlines will coincide with the proposed seismic traverse lines. Typically, the positions of firebreaks will be determined based on





ecological, environmental, and social requirements and **NOT** along the exploration requirements of a commercial operation. The sudden and unsolicited requirements of the MEF for firebreaks in areas of northern Namibia where oil and gas exploration activities are happening is very questionable. It is assumed that the EIA will address this issue and provide greater clarity.

- 5.3 The EAP makes repeated comments in the draft scoping report that “*..No big trees shall be cut around the selected fly-camp sites.*” (page 93) and “*..No big trees shall be cut unnecessarily*” (page 93). This is simplistic as no definition is provided that defines a “big tree.” It can be argued that a trees size may be determined by its girth at a certain height above ground level or even the height of the tree. Furthermore, many endangered and protected species that may be affected may be immature specimens that are small in stature yet are equally vulnerable.

Similarly, no account is provided to protect and preserve smaller herbaceous and medicinal plants.

The EIA must provide a clear definition of which flora may or may not be removed, and this must comply with the requirements of the Forestry Act (No. 12 of 2001) and Forest Amendment Act (No. 13 of 2005) and other applicable legislation.

## 6. UNREALISTIC TIMELINES

- 6.1. A flow chart of activities is provided in figure 4.1 on page 105. The diagram does not take cognisance of the regulations made in terms of Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 section 56 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Government Notice 30 of 2011.

The relevant sections of the regulations are reproduced below.

### 23. Registered interested and affected parties

- (1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as -
  - (a) comments are submitted within 7 days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report: or
  - (b) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- (2) Before the applicant submits a report compiled in terms of these regulations to the Environmental Commissioner, the applicant must give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment in writing on the report.
- (3) Reports referred to in sub regulation (2) include –

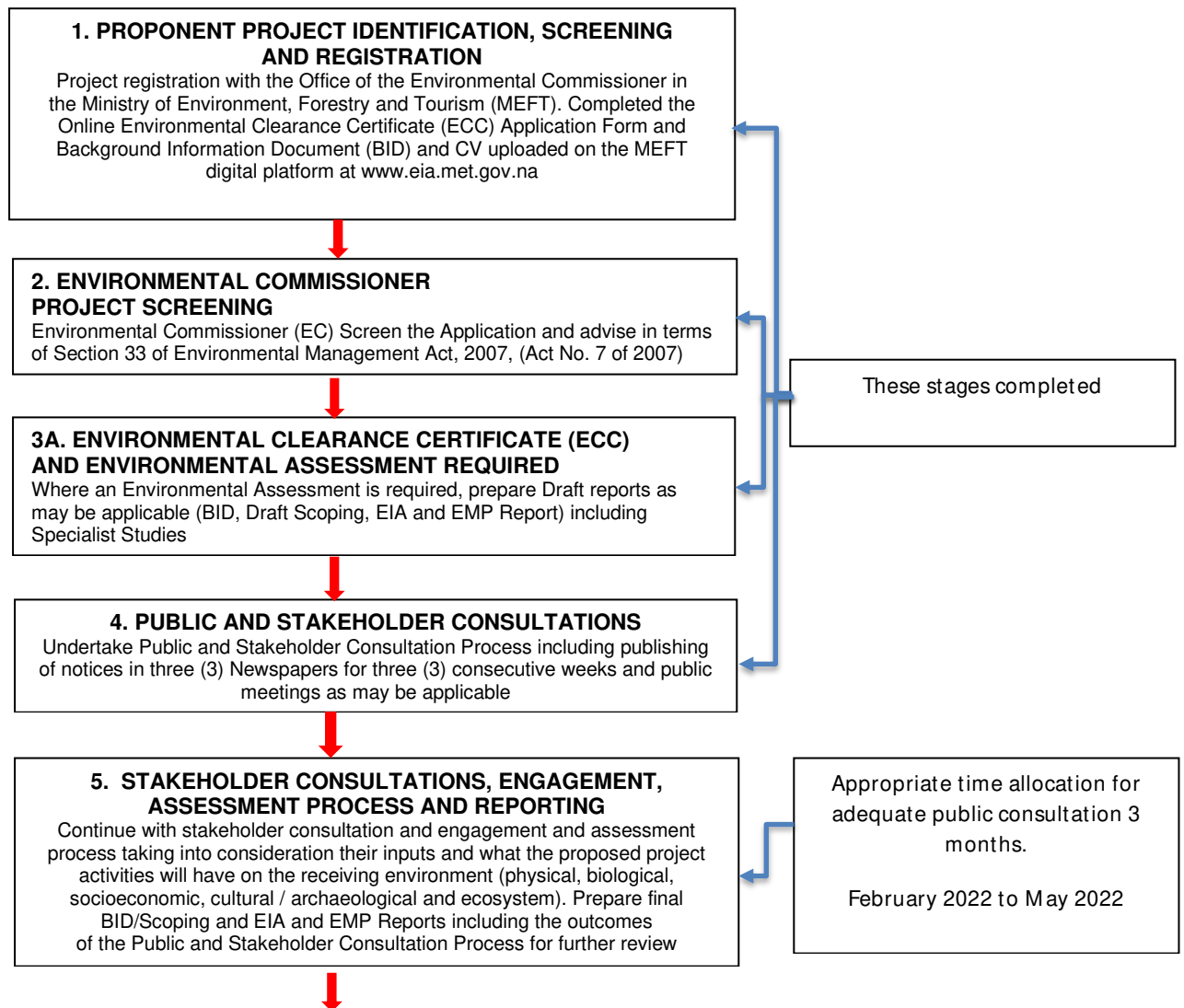


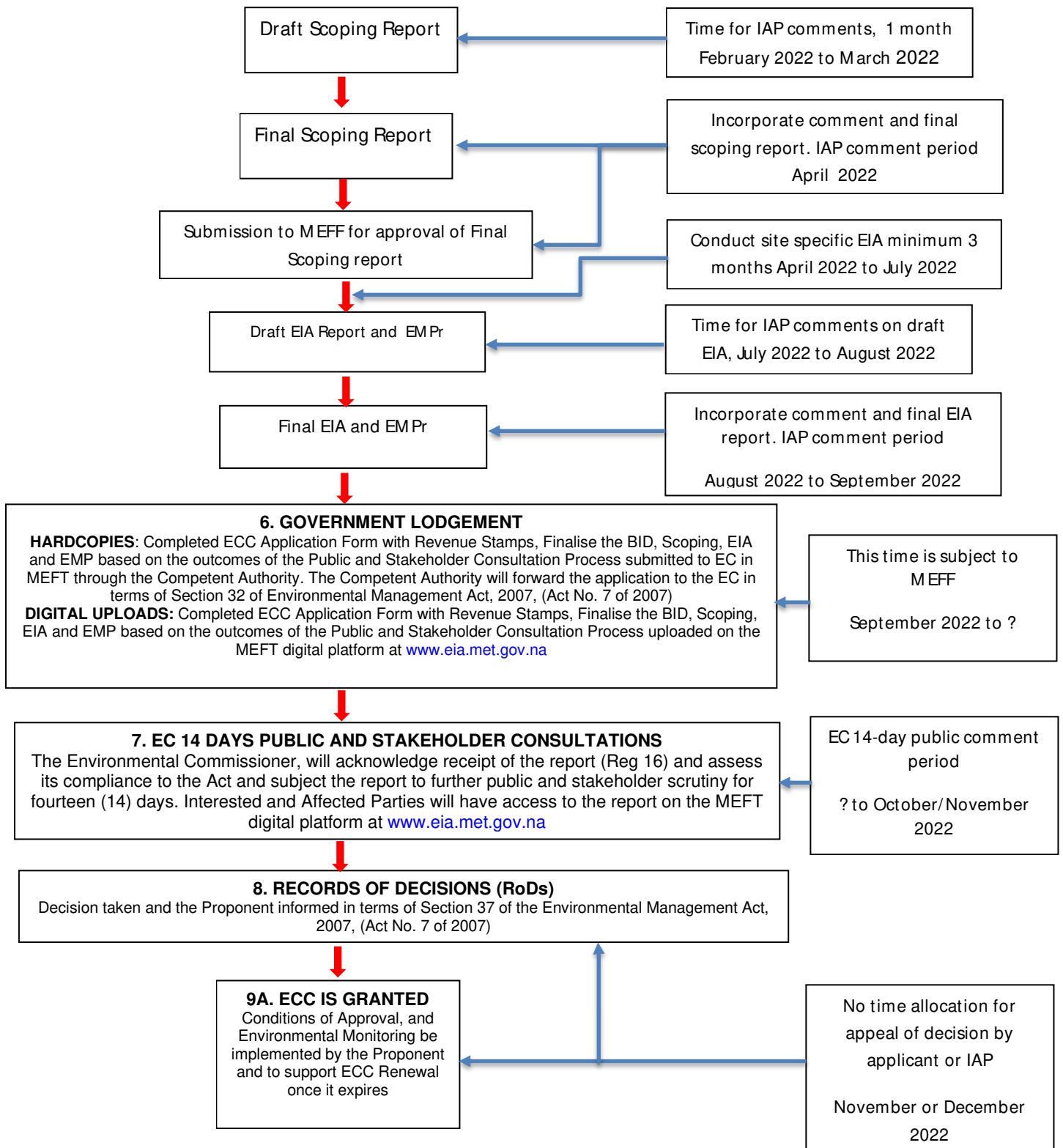
- (a) scoping reports;
- (b) scoping reports amended and resubmitted;
- (c) assessment reports; and
- (d) assessment reports amended and resubmitted.

(4) Any written comments received by the applicant from a registered interested or affected party must accompany the report when the report is submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

(5) A registered interested or affected party may comment on any final report that is submitted by a specialist reviewer for the purposes of these regulations where the report contains substantive information which has not previously been made available to a registered interested or affected party.

In terms of these regulations, we suggest that the following flow chart is a more accurate assessment of the activities and timeline for the proposed seismic survey.







The flow chart of activities and appropriate timelines that are presented above has recognised the realistic time required to perform a comprehensive public participation process that includes engagement and consultation with community member. As stressed section 4.1 above this activity CANNOT be delegated to local and traditional leaders. It is the applicant's responsibility to convey the message. It is considered that a minimum period of 3 months will be required to conduct this aspect of the EIA.

Considering the IAP's rights as directed under Section 23 of the EIA regulations and in particular sub sections (3) (4) and (5) each final report must be made available to stakeholders and IAP's must be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on each report prior to submission.

When considering the timeline presented it is apparent that at the earliest, a record of decision (ROD) may be issued in November or December 2022. This excludes the possibility/probability of the decision being appealed by stakeholders, in which case the process will be delayed till 2023.

This is a realistic depiction of events and associated time scales and bears no resemblance to the condensed and limited environmental assessment process proposed by the EAP in paragraph 4.2.2 (xi) ***"Wait for the Records of Decision (RD) from the Environmental Commissioner (From March 2022) "*** is completely unrealistic and false.

## 7. WAVES OR LINES?

- 7.1. The inclusion in paragraph 2.5.1 on page 94 as well as figure 2.6 on page 95, which states the following ***"Interference is defined as the effect produced when two waves of the same frequency, amplitude and wavelength travelling in the same direction in a medium are superposed (i.e as they simultaneously pass-through a given point) (Fig. 2.6). When the crest of two waves of equal wavelength is together, the waves are said to be in phase, that is, they have a phase difference of zero. In this case, according to the principle of linear superposition, the waves will reinforce each other, or add up and will undergo constructive interference and thus affect local wildlife vocalisation of the same frequency if present in area being surveyed (Fig. 2.6). On the other hand, if two waves superimpose with each other in opposite phase, the amplitude of the resultant is equal to the difference in amplitude of individual waves, resulting in the minimum intensity of the wave. This is known as destructive interference and thus will produce a negligible effect on the local wildlife vocalisation of the same frequency if present in area being surveyed (Fig. 2.6)."***

Both the explanation of constructive and destructive interference of waves is designed to create an impression that seismic surveys have no impact on wildlife. Figure 2.6 creates a false narrative to readers who may not be familiar with basic physical principals of wave motion and propagation. Whilst the diagram is correct in illustrating the effects of super-positioning of wave motion, it does not explain that interference (both constructive and destructive) is **NOISE** during seismic surveys and therefore efforts are made to avoid superposed waves. This entire section and the damaging insinuations must be removed from the final Scoping Report



## 8. 3 x 4 + C = LOW IMPACT???

- 8.1 The methodology adopted by Dr. Mwiya to determine the environmental risk assessment of impacts, is incomprehensible and illogical.

Tables 4.2 to 4.6 shown on pages 108 to 110 list the evaluation criteria for the magnitude, duration, and extent of impacts, respectively. A numerical 6-point grading scale has been included for magnitude, but the duration consists of a 2-point scale, reflecting that the impact is either permanent or temporary. The spatial extent of the impact is measure on a 5-point alphabetic grading scale. Likewise, on page 109, table 4.5 presents a 5-grade alphabetic evaluation scale for the probability of an event occurring.

In table 4.6 on page 110 a receiving environment sensitivity rating scale, which is graded in 5 steps from negligible to very high. It is not explained how this final sensitivity scale is achieved, particularly when it is considered that different alpha-numeric values are used the determine the various input factors.

There are **NO MEANS** by which the incongruent grading scales can be summarised into a coherent, repeatable, and independently evaluated risk assessment. The grading of the social and environmental impact that the EAP has applied in the EIA constitutes a complete oversimplification of the means to evaluate the severity of environmental risk.

To illustrate the concerns that the proposed methodology is purely subjective and does not meet the standards of objectivity that is a legal requirement of the EAP, a hypothetical example has been provided below.

Assuming an activity has been assessed to have a *magnitude* rating of tolerable effect and scores a value of 2. The same activity is however deemed to be *permanent* in duration and scored a P. Similarly, the geographical *extent* is of a regional extent, R. The *probability* of the impact occurring is medium and is assigned a D. How are these disparate alpha-numeric grades combined to assign an appropriate *sensitivity* rating and how does Dr. Mwiya determine a numeric value as shown in table 4.7, on page 112.

- 8.2. Table 4.7 on page 112 an environmental impact matrix that vaguely resembles a Leopold Matrix is shown, which has been modified by the EAP. No indication is provided how the matrix has been compiled and what methodology was adopted to determine the numeric values presented.

Commonly used and internationally recognised environmental evaluation method have not been applied to this EIA process and it is evident that an overly simplified, customised evaluation method has been adopted. This method cannot be independently applied and is not repeatable and is therefore subject to the assessor's personal subjectivity and is not an objective assessment as





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required by law. This cannot be considered acceptable or adequate for a large and complex project of this nature that has potential international ramifications.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Considering that Article 95 of Namibia's Constitution mandates the *"maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of the Namibians, both present and future."* In addition, for reasons that have been spelt out in this submission, the morally and ethically correct and scientifically appropriate decision must be to terminate the current Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- 9.2 Recognising the limits of project-based EIA's in proactively planning and managing oil and gas activities, it is advocated that a moratorium is declared by the appropriate Namibian Authority with immediate effect and that a transboundary Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the regional and international impacts is initiated. To effectively deliver on the benefits of SEA, and to ensure appropriate planning for environmental and social impacts, a multi-sectoral approach is required, with terms and conditions for project-specific developments and regional monitoring programs.
- 9.3 In light of the severe limitations of the current Draft Scoping Report, some of which have been highlighted above, we have no hesitation in demanding the rejection of a permit for seismic activities.
- 9.4. Neither Dr. Siyanda Mwiya nor his company, Risk Based Solutions are registered member of Environmental Assessment Professionals of Namibia (EPAN). He has no obligation to subscribe to the mission statement, values, and vision of the only professional association in Namibia that guides the conduct of EAP's. His attitude of disrespect towards norms and standards set by his peers and inappropriate professional conduct is well illustrated in this Draft Scoping Report.

Frack Free Namibia














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