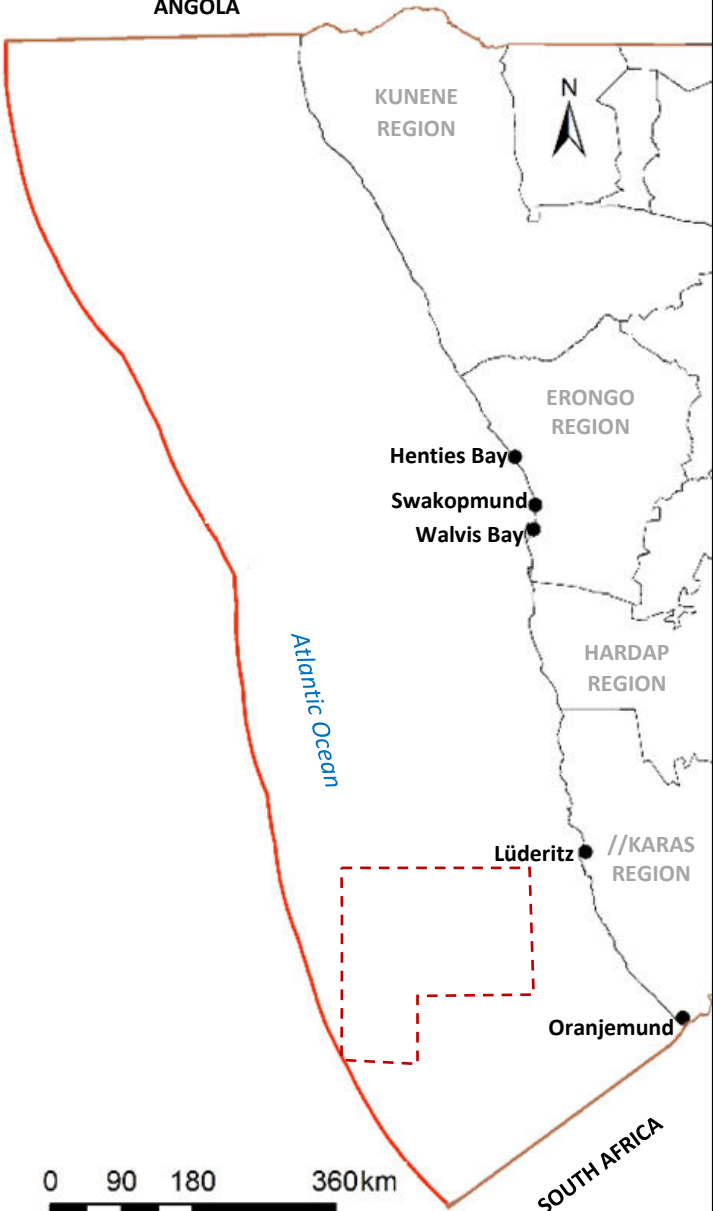
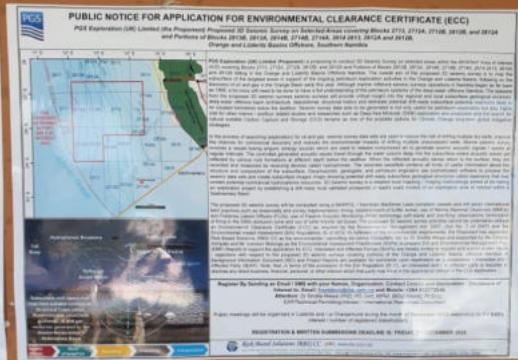


ANGOLA



Legend

- Coastal Towns
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- - - Area of Interest
- Namibian Boundary
- International Borders



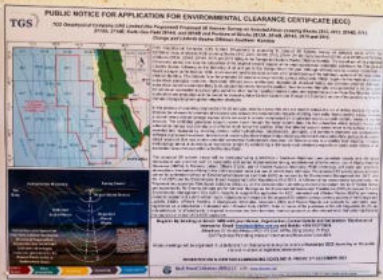
ORANJEMUND BANK WINDHOEK BORDER POST



ORANJEMUND FIRST NATIONAL BANK NOTICE BOARD



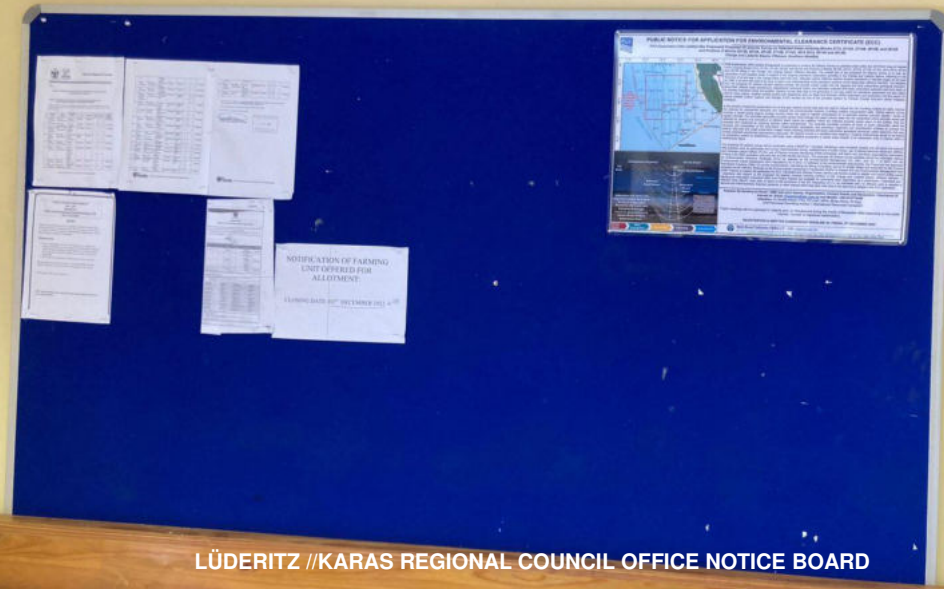
ORANJEMUND SPAR SHOPPING CENTRE NOTICE BOARD



LÜDERITZ OK SHOPPING CENTRE NOTICE BOARD



LÜDERITZ TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD



LÜDERITZ //KARAS REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE NOTICE BOARD

■ Marythar Kambinda

KATIMA MULILO - Expectant mothers, who used to struggle for accommodation when the time to deliver approaches, can now breathe a sigh of relief following the inauguration of a new shelter at Katima Mulilo.

The Katima Mulilo Mothers' Waiting Shelters was inaugurated last week Thursday by former first lady Penhupifo Pohamba.

The shelter, which accommodates up to 80 pregnant women, was built by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in partnership with the Social Security Commission, and forms part of three waiting shelters to be constructed by the SSC nationwide to the tune of N\$30 million.

Pohamba pointed out that expectant mothers of new-born

Zambezi expectant mothers get shelter

babies are often forced to take shelter in temporary makeshift structures, or even in open spaces and under trees next to hospitals while waiting to get maternal care.

She added the deplorable unhygienic conditions where cooking and ablution facilities are non-existent, expose expectant mothers to diseases due to lack of sanitation and harsh weather conditions.

"The lack of safer and decent shelters for expectant mothers subjects them to risk of snake and insect bites and all manners of criminality. This shelter

will greatly benefit our target community, which is our expectant mothers and mothers of newborn babies, providing them with the opportunity to be closer to maternal care," she said.

SSC board member Henry Bruwer stated that at the heart of the commission's mandate is the provision of social security and social protection to reduce poverty and inequality.

"These are the factors that draw desperate women to squat under trees, risking their own safety just to be near a health facility," he said.

In a speech read on his behalf

by Zambezi governor Lawrence Sampofu, urban and rural Development Erastus Utoni stated that the facility is an enormous gesture by the SSC, and will go a long way in resolving the challenges faced by women when it comes to accessing health facilities.

"This has often made it difficult for those that are in remote areas to access health facilities on time or when a need arises. Most importantly, to expectant mothers who might find themselves in unpredictable situations at times," he said.

Meanwhile, minister of health Dr Kalumbi Shangula, in a speech read on his behalf by deputy executive director in the health ministry, Taimi Amaambo, stated that a mothers' waiting shelter is a residential facility for pregnant women designed

primarily as an intervention to improve geographic accessibility to emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. He noted that maternal death for the past five years in Zambezi region range from three to seven deaths per year, while neo-natal deaths range from 29 to 63 per year. "The majority of maternal deaths are preventable and treatable complications that take place before, during and after delivery," he said.

Other speakers at the event applauded the gesture by the SSC, and called on the expectant mothers to utilise the facilities in order to ensure that the wellbeing of their unborn children is secured. The waiting shelter is also equipped with a multi-purpose room aimed at assisting expectant mothers to relax and take part in craft making and many other activities.

Namibia hails SADC cooperation in Mozambique

■ Kuzeeko Tjitemisa

Namibia has extended its appreciation to SADC member states that contributed troops and personnel to the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and for the cooperation extended to the mission by the government of Mozambique.

Chairperson of the regional bloc's peace and security council for the month of November, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, said this during a virtual meeting of the AU-PSC yesterday.

An Islamist organisation known locally al-Shabab - not the Somali group of the same name - launched its first major insurgency in the town of Mocimboa da Praia, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado in October 2017.

The armed conflict affects thousands of families in Mozambique. Some 950 000 people had been internally displaced by the end of June 2022, according to the United Nations Agency for Migration (IOM).

Nandi-Ndaitwah, who is Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, said since its deployment, SAMIM, working along with Mozambique's army, contributed significantly to facilitating the liberation of territories in the hands of the terrorist group and the degrading of the threat posed by the group.

She also salutes the African Union (AU) for facilitating financial support and offering equipment for SAMIM from the Continental Logistics Depot and that being rerouted from China to SAMIM.

"Our gratitude also goes to countries that provided airlift capabilities, including Angola and Zambia, for moving the equipment in the Continental

Logistics Depot (CLD) in Douala, Cameroon to Mozambique for use by SAMIM," said Nandi-Ndaitwah who is also the deputy prime minister.

She said given the continuing threat of the terrorist group in Cabo Delgado and the scale of the crisis it has caused; it is SADC's conviction that there is a need to strengthen SAMIM's capabilities.

"Of particular importance in this regard is the need to address the financial and logistical shortfalls, which can undermine the effective execution by SAMIM of its mandate," she added.

"This is not the time to allow these gaps, which could threaten and reverse the gains made thus far. Enhancing the capabilities and military posture of SAMIM is critical not only to consolidate the gains achieved thus far but also to free



Grateful... International relations minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Photo: Contributed

the rest of Cabo Delgado from the threat posed by this terrorist group." She said she is mindful that there

is ample experience from across the continent from Somalia to the Sahel region to appreciate the combination of measures that are critical to defeat terrorism and violent radicalism.

"I would like to note that the possession by SAMIM of the required military/security capabilities would not be enough to get the job done," she said, adding that the use of these capabilities is predicated on and in pursuit of promotion of the overall political strategy for the stabilisation of the Cabo Delgado region.

She said as such, beyond sustaining and expanding the military pressure on the terror group, Ahl al-Sunnah wa al Jamma'ah (ASWJ), SAMIM, working in collaboration with Mozambique and the AU, should also support the implementation of the socio-economic, governance and community stabilisation measures.

Therefore, Nandi-Ndaitwah said the regional bloc welcome steps being taken by Mozambique for implementing, with support from SAMIM and AU, comprehensive stabilisation and peace-building measures in Cabo Delgado that are aimed at both addressing the governance gaps and the socio-economic deficits and rebuilding effective and legitimate regional and local administration structures for delivery of much needed social services and rehabilitation of the human, social and economic infrastructure of the region.

In Palma and Mocimboa da Praia Districts where Rwandan security forces operate, more than 130 000 internally displaced persons have reportedly returned to their villages and homes.

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Income tests for grant recipients

South African government working with banks

South Africa will spend R243 billion, or almost 4% of gross domestic product on welfare, in the current fiscal year.

PRINESHA NAIDOO

South Africa is tightening the qualifying criteria for recipients of a welfare grant that was introduced to cushion the poor against the fallout of the coronavirus as it considers how best to continue providing support, a National Treasury official said.

The so-called Social Relief of Distress grant was first paid in 2020, re-introduced in the wake of deadly riots in July last year, and extended until March 2024 in last month's budget update. The R350 monthly stipend is intended to help support the jobless in a country where more than a third of the workforce is unemployed, but local media outlets have reported that it has been abused, with more than 5 000 government employees fraudulently receiving payments.

The government has worked with about eight of the country's banks to undertake income tests for grant recipients and weed out those using multiple bank accounts to get payments, Mampho Modise, the deputy



About 7.4 million people out of a working-age population of 40 million receive the temporary stipend. PHOTO REUTERS

director-general for public finance at the National Treasury, said in a webinar on Wednesday. It is also trying to verify claimants' employment status, she said.

GDP

"We are taking out the ones that don't qualify for the grant," she said.

South Africa will spend R243 billion, or almost 4% of gross domestic product on welfare, in the current fiscal year, with most of the money going toward child support and pensions, the medium-term budget shows.

Stringent qualification criteria will remain in place for future iterations of the welfare payment, Modise said. The National Treasury is working

with other state entities, including the Department of Employment and Labour, on options to replace, complement or adjust the grant, she said.

About 7.4 million people out of a working-age population of 40 million receive the temporary stipend. If the current grant value and take-up rate remain the same and it is extended indefinitely, its cost will likely grow at an average of 8.8% per year to reach R65 billion in 2031, the Treasury said last month.

Without a source of permanent funding, which may include increases in revenue, spending reprioritisation or a combination of the two, that amount "would threaten the sustainability of the public finances," it said.

-Fin24

Mantashe pins hopes on Saudi refinery in SA

CAROL PATON

Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe says he hopes to persuade Saudi oil giant Saudi Aramco to revive its interest in building a refinery in South Africa.

The Saudi-South Africa refinery project dates back to July 2018, when President Cyril Ramaphosa undertook his first state visit to the Gulf country, and was earmarked for Richards Bay. However, the proposal never materialised.

In a visit to Saudi Arabia last month, Mantashe said South Africa had again put the refinery project back on the agenda. This follows the destruction of key parts of the Sapref refinery in Durban following floods in KwaZulu-Natal in April. Mantashe had hoped that the Central Energy Fund (CEF) would buy Sapref after joint owners Shell

and BP ceased operations in March.

Answering questions in the National Assembly on Wednesday, Mantashe said: "We made efforts to revive Sapref, but it was subject to disaster in KwaZulu-Natal. We are now engaging a number of players. One is Saudi Aramco's proposal to build a refinery in the country."

Mantashe told MPs that the Strategic Fuel Fund was building additional storage capacity for refined petroleum in Saldana and Mossel Bay to ensure the country has sufficient strategic stocks. Of SA's 10.3 million barrels of crude oil stocks, 6 million are to be sold to cover the cost of the R1.50 price relief to consumers earlier this year.

The SFF would mitigate the risk of selling these stocks by increasing refined product stocks, he said.

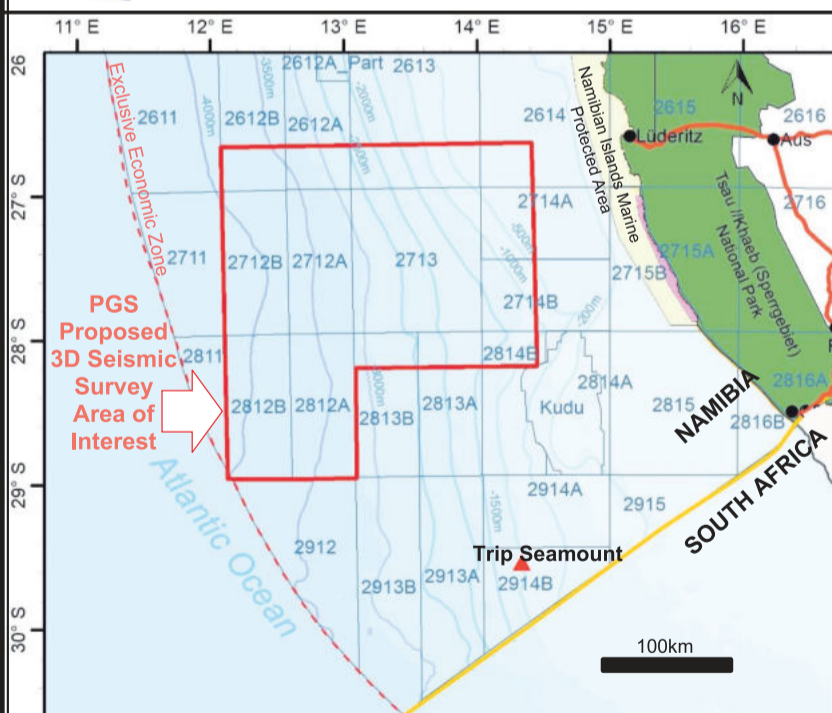
-Fin24



The LyondellBasell refinery, located near the Houston Ship Channel, is seen in Houston, Texas, U.S., May 5, 2019. PHOTO REUTERS/LOREN ELLIOTT

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