

the namibian SPORT

Dickson gets Welwitschias caretaker role

• HELGE SCHÜTZ

UNITED Rugby coach Robbie Dickson has been appointed caretaker coach of the national rugby team for three months. The Namibia Rugby Union (NRU) announced the news yesterday saying they hoped to appoint a full-time coach as soon as possible, and that Dickson would serve as a caretaker coach until the recruitment process has been finalised.

"Robbie Dickson, the current coach of United Rugby Club, was identified to temporarily serve as the on-field coach for the players participating in the high-performance programme. His enthusiasm and success as coach at United is outstanding, while he was also previously involved with the national sevens team for two years," the NRU said in a statement.

The national squad has been without a coach since December last year when Johan Diegaardt resigned after differences with the NRU.

The chief executive officer of the NRU, Theo Grünswald, said the process of appointing a permanent coach will be done in conjunction with World Rugby.

"According to World Rugby stipulations, the national coach has to have a level three coaching licence, and at the moment only Johan Diegaardt and Henry Knopf in Namibia have that. We will advertise the positions later and will appoint a full-time coach within three months, but Robbie will take charge of the national squad for the time being," he said.

Dickson has played a major role in United's revival, and in 2019 led them to their first senior league title in 5 years when they beat Uman 44-42 in the final.

Grünswald said Dickson had already started coaching the national squad, but that their local programme would only become clearer later.

"At the moment we have to adhere to the government's Covid-19 regulations which limit sport meetings to 50 people, which is not enough to allow matches to take place. So we hope that the government will ease that restriction, even to 100, which will be enough to stage matches," he said.

Grünswald said the local rugby league still had to be approved at the NRU's annual general meeting scheduled for the end of March, but emphasised the NRU's commitment to host the Africa Cup pool A matches in Windhoek in July.

Namibia will compete in a pool against Madagascar and Ivory Coast, with the top-two teams in each pool qualifying for the 2022 Africa Cup, which is the final quarter for the 2023 World Cup.

CALLING U20 PLAYERS

The NRU, meanwhile, reaffirmed Namibia's participation at the u20 Barthes Trophy to be staged in Nairobi from 25 March to 4 April, where Namibia, Kenya, Senegal and Madagascar will battle it out for a place at the Junior World Trophy in September.

In the press release issued yesterday, the NRU said national trials will be held on the weekend of 19 and 20 February, and called on eligible players, born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2002, to come forward.

"Schools and clubs were invited to nominate eligible players that are skillful and have the determination to play for our national u20 team. Since no official rugby was played during 2020, players are encouraged to make contact with their school or club coaches so they can be nominated to be included in the u20 training group," it read.

It added that the deadline for submissions is tomorrow, 5 February.

"It will be highly appreciated if the union could briefly be advised on the achievements as well as the players' positions. Nominations can be sent to the team manager of the u20 team, Jacky Hoeselmann, at jacky.h@nruc.com.na before the end of business on 5 February," the press release said.



FLEET FOOTED - Amazing Namibia winger Frans Erasmus made an impressive debut during a recent u20 training match.
Photo: Helge Schütz

Young Warriors' plans fall through

• HELGE SCHÜTZ

THE Young Warriors will leave directly for the men's Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations in Mauritania on Saturday morning, and hope they can fit in a friendly match or two before the tournament starts.

"We will leave early on Saturday via Ethiopia and will arrive in Mauritania on Sunday. When we are there, we will see which other teams have arrived early and will then try and organise a friendly or two," he said.

On Sunday, Namibia u20 played the senior national team that recently returned from the Chan tournament in Cameroon and gave a fine performance with a 21-10 victory.

Edmar Kamatuka and Pries Tjoeza scored for the u20s while Wendell Rudath replied for the senior team.

The team's injury concerns also seem to be over and coach James Britz expressed satisfaction with the team's progress.

"I'm very happy with my squad, the fitness levels are good, and we are just lacking a bit in match fitness. Most of our injury concerns are now also over, and I'm sure we will have a full-strength team at our disposal," he said.

"We have a good team, and making our first appearance at the competition in our country, the boys will surely plan to impress and leave a mark on the continent," said an optimistic Britz, who led the Young Warriors to second place at last year's Coastal u20 Championship in South Africa to secure their Afcon spot.

Namibia share Group B with Tunisia, Central Africa Republic (CAR) and Burkina Faso.

"We face two other debutants in Tunisia and CAR and so it will be equal footing. We have not faced them before and that makes it interesting to play them. We will plan for each of them accordingly and nothing is impossible," Britz said.

The Young Warriors begin their campaign against CAR, before facing Tunisia and then Burkina Faso.

Britz will announce his travelling party this morning.

This will be the first edition u20 Afcon to have expanded to 12 teams instead of eight. The top four teams of the tournament would have normally qualified for the 2021 Fifa U20 World Cup in Indonesia as the CAF representatives.

However, Fifa decided to cancel the tournament on 24 December 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE NO. 7874 LOCATED WEST OF LUDERITZ TOWN IN THE KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA
 Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2015 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting License No. 7874 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.
 Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.
Small Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPL 7874. Both invasive and non-invasive exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target community for application on the license is Pöpske Village.
Proposed Area: West of Luderitz CC
Environmental Consultants: East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd
 Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before and of business on 10 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details
 Meeting Date: 23/02/2021
 Time: 09:30
 Venue: Pöpske Community Hall
 Contact: Mr. Nathan Tjoeza
 Tel: +264 74 224 220 | Email: n.tjoeza@eastdynamic.com

East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE NO. 4424 & 4425 LOCATED NORTH EAST OF OKAVANGUA TOWN IN THE OKAVANGUA REGION, NAMIBIA
 Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2015 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting License Nos. 4424 & 4425 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.
 Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.
Small Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPL 4424 and 4425. Both invasive and non-invasive exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target communities for application on the license are Baka and Popske Villages.
Proposed Area: North East of Okavango Town
Environmental Consultants: East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd
 Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to East Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before and of business on 10 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details
 Meeting Date: 23/02/2021
 Time: 09:30
 Venue: TBC to be registered in DEPA
 Contact: Mr. David Hoeselmann, MSc. Applied Geophysicist
 Tel: +264 74 224 220 | Email: d.hoeselmann@eastdynamic.com

Kawana accused of sabotaging Seaflower/Fischer deal

• ESTER MBATHERA

THE chairperson of the African Selection Fishing Namibia (ASFN) has accused minister of fisheries and marine resources Albert Kawana of acting unilaterally in an attempt to cancel the designation and cooperation agreements of the joint venture project between his company and the National Fishing Corporation of Namibia Limited (Fischer).

The attempt to cancel the deal was made last September. In a statement, Adrian Low said the minister's actions are tantamount to sabotaging the joint venture investment agreement between the two companies on which the Seaflower Pelagic Processing (SPP) wetland horse mackerel fishing factory at Walvis Bay was established.

The joint venture was promulgated in the Government Gazette and created Seaflower Pelagic Processing in which ASFN owns 60% and Fischer 40% shares. Low says he is alarmed that the minister relied on remarks made by deputy judge president Hosiua Angula in a matter where Angula was not of the underlying agreements or the government promulgations. "As a legal expert, minister Kawana, relying on an incorrect, legal and factual basis, and entirely without a mandate from Cabinet, caused irreparable harm and damages to the



Ad Low

joint venture project and has prevented 655 workers from being permanently employed," said Low.

He added that the arbitration and court proceedings underway could have been averted had Kawana not relied on the incorrect decisions. Low further denies that his company, SPP, is

engaged in any corrupt activities and fails to understand why the minister failed to allocate 25 000 metric tons of horse mackerel quota to the joint venture in 2020. No quota has been allocated to SPP to date, which Low says is to the detriment of both joint venture partners.

He claims that his companies are not on a warpath with the government, and they will remain committed to finding an amicable solution, to the benefit of all parties concerned and to ensure job security for the workers. With no alternative route left, ASFN and SPP referred the matter to arbitration.

COURT RULING

In his judgement in September last year, when Seaflower Pelagic attempted to stop minister Kawana from selling fishing quotas through a public auction, judge Angula said: "I have carefully considered the terms and conditions of the two agreements [i.e. the cooperation agreement and the designation agreement] and could not find any clause which obliges the government to actually provide 50 000 tons of horse mackerel to Fischer".

The judge went on to say that it was clear that Fischer over-promised on something it could not deliver, as it has no right to allocate quotas. Instead, quotas are allocated to it.

Attempts to get hold of Kawana yesterday proved futile, as his phone went unanswered.

Grapes galore in the north

• ANNA SHINANA

THE northern part of Namibia is a hive of activity as hundreds of people flock to the region, bringing with them hundreds of boxes of grapes for sale, in a bid to ease their financial problems.

As the grape season nears the end at farms in southern Namibia, people were informed that grapes were selling cheaply for as low as NS30 or NS40 per crate.

This triggered a rush as many people drove or hitched hike to Aussenkehr farm on the Orange River bordering South Africa to buy the grapes for resale.

Suddenly open markets and street corners at Oudangwa, Ongwediva and Oshakati had people selling the grapes in bulk from trucks to street vendors for NS150. The vendors in turn repackaged the grapes into smaller packets that sell for as low as NS10.

Aussenkehr farm produces high quality grapes which are mostly exported, with a small



Photo: Anna Shinana

SWEETNESS ... Vendors rushed to buy grapes brought in from the southern part of the country, for resale to customers.

portion sold locally.

The grape farmers used to allow people to pick left over grapes for free after they harvest for export but this is no longer the case.

According to Shekupe Namपाला who also sells grapes, because of the large number of people, the free hand outs are no longer given.

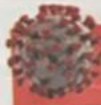
"We were disappointed that

the grapes were sold to us, but we still made profit. It is an expensive trip driving all the way to 'Ou singels' but it is worth it because one can easily make NS15 000. People usually hitch hike on trucks coming from Oshikango and Angola returning to South Africa.

Trucks drivers charge NS150 as opposed to buses that charge NS280 from Windhoek and

when you come back with hundred boxes you pay for them," said Namपाला.

"These grapes sell very fast but we have to transport them here as quick as possible as they are perishable. It is good business and with children starting school at least we can have money to buy the uniforms and school requirements," she said.



Covid-19 Top Statistics

Multi-state coronavirus cases (20 February)
137 011 730

Namibia (20 February): 36 942 confirmed infections
Deaths: 278

33 178 recovered 41 new infections

Total samples tested: 277 864

New infections over past week: 870

Deaths over past week: 19

Most-affected countries

United States: 27 193 849 confirmed infections
450 217 deaths

India: 12 858 371 cases; 155 252 deaths

Spain: 9 599 568 cases; 233 520 deaths

Most-affected African countries

South Africa: 1 479 253 confirmed infections
46 869 deaths

Morocco: 426 125 cases; 8 424 deaths

Tunisia: 218 564 cases; 7 332 deaths

South Africa numbers

Zambia: 65 573 cases; 901 deaths

58 875 recovered

Zimbabwe: 34 781 cases; 1 263 deaths

Botswana: 24 428 cases; 179 deaths

Angola: 20 183 cases; 478 deaths

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

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE NO. 1049 LOCATED WEST OF OUDANGWA TOWN IN THE OUDANGWA REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 1 of 2007 and its 2010 Act Regulations, the proposed application activities on the Exclusive Prospecting License No. 1049 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.

Real Project Description: The environmental impact assessment will identify potential positive and negative impacts arising from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPA, 4048 and 4049. Both invasive and non-invasive vegetation activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target communities for application on the license are Bas and Ora Bas and Ora Bas.

Proposed Open Mining Of Environmental Conservation: Sand Spans: Sand Spans (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or request further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Sand Spans (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business on 01 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details:
Meeting Date: 25/02/2021
Time: 14:00
Venue: Bergdama Community Hall

Contact: Mr. Morgan Tjebke
Tel: +264 78 559 521 | Email: info@sspsand.com

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE NO. 4488 & 4489 LOCATED NORTH EAST OF OKAVANGUA TOWN IN THE OKAVANGUA REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 1 of 2007 and its 2010 Act Regulations, the proposed application activities on the Exclusive Prospecting Licenses No. 4488 & 4489 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.

Real Project Description: The environmental impact assessment will identify potential positive and negative impacts arising from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPA, 4488 and 4489. Both invasive and non-invasive vegetation activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target communities for application on the license are Bas and Ora Bas and Ora Bas.

Proposed Open Mining Of Environmental Conservation: Sand Spans (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or request further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Sand Spans (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business on 01 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details:
Meeting Date: 25/02/2021
Time: 14:00
Venue: TSI to registered I&APs

Swanu: Replace food bank with BIG

Loide Iason

SWANU president Tangeni Ijambo has requested President Hage Geingob to consider replacing the food bank programme with the universal Basic Income Grant (BIG) to fight poverty in the country. The food bank initiative was established in 2013 by Geingob to assist needy and vulnerable community members with food rations as a way of cushioning them against hunger.

According to Ijambo, the replacement of the food bank will help the Geingob administration to introduce a minimum wage for retail sector workers, while more money would be freed up to fund students at institutions of higher learning. He said government will also be in a position to raise corporate income tax by introducing a new tax on all financial transactions.

"Introduce a wealth tax immediately, reduce personal income tax, create stimulus package for the agricultural sector with special focus on communal and small emerging commercial farmers," Ijambo proposed this week. Ijambo added the introduction of a BIG should



Time for BIG... Swanu president Tangeni Ijambo.

not only come as an immediate response to the coronavirus pandemic but as a lasting measure towards eliminating poverty in Namibia. "The introduction of a BIG is not only advisable and sound policy but must be extended beyond the

current period of economic and social upheaval," he sustained.

The member of parliament emphasised that an income grant would move the nation a step further in liberating labour from the clutches of capitalist control and exploitation, allowing people for the first time to choose to change jobs without being threatened by poverty.

"We must reject the principle that people have to work to earn their income and move towards the idea that people deserve to be able to live even if they cannot work," he claimed. The BIG Coalition of Namibia, spearheaded by the Economic and Social Justice Trust, has proposed a monthly grant of N\$500.

However, the ministry of poverty eradication and social welfare believes the proposed BIG for unemployed Namibians between the ages of 18 and 59 is indeed feasible, albeit at a less than N\$400 a month.

The ministry's executive director, Esther Lusepani, last year said this was concluded after the finalisation of the government feasibility study meant to determine whether the country can introduce an income grant to benefit roughly 1.2 million unemployed people.

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CLOSING DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2021

We encourage members from previously disadvantaged groups to apply.

Please note only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. No documents will be returned upon submission.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
 EXCLUSIVE PROJECTING LICENCE NO. 4404 & 4405 LOCATED NORTH EAST OF ODHANANGWA TOWN IN THE OUDHOUBURG REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Projecting Licences No. 4404 & 4405 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts, stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPL 4404 and 4405. Both prospecting and exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target communities for exploration on the license are: **State and State-Native and Project Sites.**

Proposed: Excuse Investment Four Hundred and Twenty Three (Pty) Ltd
 Environmental Consultants: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business on **18 March 2021.**

Public Meeting Details:
 Meeting Date: 25/02/2021
 Time: 14:30
 Venue: TBC (to be confirmed by EIA)

Contact: Mr. Steve Mwanuzi (No. Africa in mind)
 Tel: +264 10 330 330 | Email: info@excelsolutions.com

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
 EXCLUSIVE PROJECTING LICENCE NO. 7474 LOCATED WEST OF LOUPFATZ TOWN IN THE KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Projecting Licence No. 7474 require an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commission.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts, stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 7474. Both prospecting and exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target communities for exploration on the license is: **Project Sites.**

Proposed: Storm Two Mining CC
 Environmental Consultants: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business on **18 March 2021.**

Public Meeting Details:
 Meeting Date: 25/02/2021
 Time: 14:30
 Venue: Bangandu Community Hall

Contact: Mr. Simon Tjebke
 Tel: +264 10 330 330 | Email: info@excelsolutions.com

Orphanage struggles to stay afloat

Obrin Simasiku

OMUTHIYA - For the first time in more than 20 years of its existence, a Tsumeb-based orphanage has slashed its intake by 39 from a total of 65 children under its care.

The Top HIV/AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children Organisation says it is facing an uphill battle, as it struggles to make ends meet to cater for the growing number of vulnerable children. The organisation is only able to accommodate 26 children at the moment. They provide shelter to vulnerable children living with HIV/AIDS, including orphans. It further runs a kindergarten and has a school scheme, whereby it enrolls those children in school and pays the related fees.

The organisation has been operational since 2001, starting with a pre-school with three children. Caretaker Reverend

Edward Amadhila said the decision to remove 39 children from the facility was a difficult one. "We are facing a global pandemic of Covid-19, and many of our donors have pulled out or reduced the rate of assisting, therefore this made it very difficult for us to maintain 65 children."

That is why we took this drastic decision though painful to only remain with those in school and in critical grades," he stressed.

He said six children, including three San girls, are in grade 11 while the rest are in grade 7. "Our only survival now is on the chicken project we are running whereby we sell eggs, that is where we are generating income to feed and take the kids to schools, including the donations from Good Samaritans and donor house on rent. The remaining is what we are trying to save in order to assist the six

learners if they make it to university next year," added Amadhila. In addition, he said, as much as the road ahead is rough, the centre wants to increase its carrying capacity of chickens to produce more eggs in an effort to raise more funds. "We have also realised that some of our customers are from Grootfontein and Otavi, therefore if we continue supporting and this venture materializes, we might in the future look at housing vulnerable kids from those towns, due to their unwavering contributions."

Therefore, I wish to state that, the more the community support, this means they are investing in the future of the learners who might also help others."

He said the number of exit learners is quite high as opposed to one or two in previous years, thus the centre cannot fully commit, as it has no capacity.

- osimasiku@nepc.com.na

Naomab to promote financial sustainability

The Namibia University of Science and Technology's (Nust) new vice-chancellor, Eroid Naomab, has said promoting financial sustainability will be one of his key goals during his tenure.

A robing ceremony was on Tuesday held for the new vice-chancellor, whose appointment was announced last month.

Speaking during the ceremony, Naomab said while it is indisputable that Nust cannot function without government subsidies, it is of paramount importance that the institution, on its part, also scales up its efforts to diversify income streams.

"I am convinced that we will venture into business-to-business relations by translating our capabilities into commercially compelling new offerings," the vice-chancellor said.

Naomab further stated that Nust's new commercial vehicle will move

the institution from being technology pioneers to value innovators, as part of efforts geared towards generating income that could be used to offset budget reductions, invest in service improvement and contribute to student wellbeing, teaching and research excellence.

"Fourth stream income will become a reality and improve our financial sustainability," he said.

Speaking at the same occasion, Nust Council chairperson Florette Nakusera said the university community has confidence in Naomab's leadership and his sound understanding of changing the higher education landscape in Namibia and globally.

"The Nust Council is confident that in Naomab, we have found a suitable and capable vice-chancellor who will provide academic, strategic and transformational leadership and vision for the university.

We can therefore expect to see him leading the university in implementing its recently approved strategic plan," said Nakusera.

She further stated that Naomab demonstrated the required senior executive leadership experience in higher education and an understanding of the operations and affairs of a university environment during the interview process.

Prior to his appointment, Naomab served as assistant pro vice-chancellor at the University of Namibia's (Unam) southern campus.

He holds a PhD from the University of Nottingham and a Master of Research in Strategic Resource Management from Nottingham Trent University, as well as a Bachelor and Master of Science qualifications from Unam.

-Nampa

Obrein Simasiku

OMUTHIYA – Agriculture minister Calle Schlettwein will undertake a tour to the north with a view to familiarise himself with the situation on the ground in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs) that have been battling the foot-and-mouth disease since last year.

The minister's mission will begin in Oshikoto today, where he will engage the farmers, traditional authority and veterinary services

Schlettwein to visit FMD-stricken areas

to listen and as well as share the ministry's plans on how to contain and mitigate the further spread of the disease.

Schlettwein will proceed to Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango West and Kavango East, where he will as well engage the leadership, inspect irrigation farms, animal disease and vaccination checkpoints.

Meanwhile, in an FMD update on Monday, chief veterinarian Dr Albertina Shilongo said vaccination and surveillance in the NCAs are ongoing and no animals are allowed to be moved from infectious areas or crush pens.

"In the case of Kavango West and East, movement of animals in and out of the region is allowed.

However, movement of cattle within the two areas for the purpose of slaughtering is allowed for as long it is done in 72 hours, also should have a permit and inspected before slaughtering by veterinary officials. The cattle must also be tagged and have a valid vaccination permit now less than 30 days and not older than six months,"

she said.

In the same vein, she said, live cattle from FMD free zone into the disease management areas (DMAs) are allowed under strict conditions, including possession of a valid permit and for the purposes of slaughtering only.

All these procedures should be made with the full knowledge and presence of veterinary officials.

Small livestock are allowed from FMD free zone and within the DMAs for breeding

How !Nara melon sustains community

Eveline de Klerk

WALVIS BAY – Harvesting and selling of the !Nara melon has been a traditional norm carried on by many generations of the Topnaar community living along the Kuiseb River in the Erongo region.

The !Nara melon has been sustaining many families among the Topnaars, of whom many survive by selling !Naras and small-scale farming.

New Era this week visited the area and caught up with locals, who were busy extracting what they referred to as "Topnaar gold". The product is later sold in Walvis Bay and surrounding areas. One of the local men, Johannes Uirab, who has been living at the settlement since birth, said the process can take about six hours, while drying can take an additional day before the product is ready for the market. "!Naras are loved not only in Namibia but all over the world," said Uirab, while stirring the 100-litre drum he cooks the plant in. According to him, they first take an entire day to harvest the !Naras.

"They are usually ripe from November until February. Once we bring them home, we cut them open and remove all the content in a bucket before it is gradually added to the drum to cook," he explained.

Anna Beukes added they make various products from the !Nara melon. "Some of the melons are nicely ripe that we make can make !Nara milk from its juice. This can be used as juice and can also be used as a basis to make pap with flour," Beukes said.

She added the pastes are also separated from the seeds and can be eaten once dry. "That, we refer to as Nama chocolate, which is a highly nutritious food source full of vitamins and minerals," she said.

According to Beukes, the selling of !Naras has been just one of the ways her people sustain themselves throughout the years, especially with the growing number

The final product... The !Naras seeds and 'Nama chocolate' ready for consumption.

of unemployed youth and the severe drought.

Another member of the Topnaar community Butros Beukes says they can until June sustain themselves with the !Nara they have just processed. He said, on a good day, they can make about N\$2 800 from a five litre bucket.

"This is better than being unemployed, especially now that we are facing Covid-19," he said.

According to him, they had a woman from Swakopmund who would pay them much better, as she uses the melon to make various products by extracting its oil. "However she hasn't come back to buy due to Covid-19," he said. - edeklerk@nepc.com.na



Break time... Johannes Uirab takes a break from stirring the !Nara pot that takes six hours to be fully cooked. Photos: Eveline de Klerk

Shack fire leaves man homeless

Aletta Shikololo

A Windhoek man was left homeless when a fire at Goreangab destroyed his shack on Tuesday.

"I am homeless and hopeless. I have lost everything I owned in that fire," the 42-year-old fire victim Antonius Petrus told New Era yesterday.

Petrus lives alone and he was not home when the fire started. Petrus, who has been living in the same location for many years, was bemused to what could have caused the fire, adding that nobody could tell where the fire came from.

According to him, he was away for a night when he received a call from his sister, informing him that his shack was on fire.

"Upon arrival at my shack, I found everything burnt down. I cannot put into words how

devastated I feel right now; I have lost my car and all my belongings," he explained.

Petrus added that his story is just as sad as the next person on the streets trying to think of ways to survive from one day to the next.

"I have to start from scratch, and I don't even know where to start," said the unemployed father of four. Petrus' sister Susan Vaino's shack also caught fire, although the damage is minimal.

"Although I have also lost few items such as the TV, microwave and the bed, I am glad the neighbours and other community members managed to save the shack," she said.

Petrus is pleading for help from good Samaritans. "People can help with the little they have," he said.

In a telephonic interview with New Era, Samora Machel constituency councillor Nestor Kalola said his office will look into ways to assist the fire victim.

"We have advised him to follow the right channels by acquiring a letter from the Windhoek fire brigade and also a declaration letter from the police, and we will take it from there. Our office has also assisted with four iron sheets and poles," he said.



Devastating... Antonius Petrus lost everything in the fire that destroyed his shack. - ashikololo@nepc.com.na

Photo: Aletta Shikololo

Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSES NO. 4404 & 4405 LOCATED NORTH EAST OF OKAHANDJA TOWN IN THE OTJONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting Licenses No. 4404 & 4405 requires an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on the EPL 4404 and 4405. Both invasive and non-invasive exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target commodities for exploration on the licenses are: Base and Rare Metals and Precious Metals

Proponents: Gazania Investment Four Hundred and Twenty Three (Pty) Ltd
Environmental Consultants: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business or on 15 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details:
Meeting Date: 20/02/2021
Time: 14h30
Venue: TBC to registered I&APs

Contact: Ms. Rose Mtuleni | Ms. Althea Brandt
Tel: +264 61 259 530 | Email: info@edsnamibia.com

Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE NO. 7874 LOCATED WEST OF LUDERITZ TOWN IN THE KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed exploration activities on the Exclusive Prospecting Licence No. 7874 requires an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before commencement.

Therefore, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

Brief Project Description: The environmental scoping process will identify potential positive and negative impacts stemming from the proposed prospecting and exploration activities on EPL 7874. Both invasive and non-invasive exploration activities are expected to take place upon issuance of an Environmental Clearance Certificate. The primary target commodity for exploration on the license is Precious Stones

Proponents: Storm Two Mining CC
Environmental Consultants: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties in order to comment/raise concerns or receive further information on the EIA process. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd on the contact details below before end of business or on 15 March 2021.

Public Meeting Details:
Meeting Date: 25/02/2021
Time: 14h30
Venue: Benguela Community Hall

Contact: Mr. Nerson Tjelos
Tel: +264 61 259 530 | Email: info@edsnamibia.com



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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION AND RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL ZONE AT THE NEARBY AREA OF THE /KARAK REGION, HARYANA
Under the Environmental Management Act (EIA) of 1986, the public is hereby notified that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed extension and relocation of the industrial zone at the PE will be conducted by the Environmental Management Program, Government of Haryana.
The project is located at the PE, Haryana.
The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the EIA Act, 1986 and the EIA Regulations, 2003.
The public is invited to submit their comments and suggestions on the EIA report to the Project Director, Environmental Management Program, Government of Haryana, at the following address:
Project Director, Environmental Management Program, Government of Haryana, Sector 17, Gurgaon, Haryana.
The deadline for submission of comments is 15th February 2021.
The EIA report will be available for public viewing at the following address:
Project Director, Environmental Management Program, Government of Haryana, Sector 17, Gurgaon, Haryana.
For more information, please contact the Project Director at the above address.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LEAD FROM EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EXISTING PROTECTIVE LICENSE (EPL) NO. 10742/07 WEST OF LISIBENZI IN THE JIMKINDI REGION, NAMIBIA

Lead from Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2007, the public is hereby notified that an application for Environmental Clearance (EC) has been submitted to the Environmental Commission and Assessment Board (ECAB) for the proposed exploration and production activities on the EPL and for the submission of the Environmental Clearance Application (ECA) to the ECAB.

Project: Lead from Exploration

Environmental Clearance: Lead from Exploration (EPL) NO. 10742/07

Type of activity: Exploration activity on EPL 10742/07

Site location: Lisibenzi Region. The site coordinates are -16 43' S, 16 20' E. The site is located in the area of a 100 000 ha Free State mineral prospecting area (as defined in the EPL).

Site use: Lead from Exploration, 20 Prospecting Areas, 20 Production Areas and 20 Production Sites.

Activities: The project is a lead from exploration activity. The project is a lead from exploration activity. The project is a lead from exploration activity.

Public meeting will be held at:
 Venue: Tsumeb
 Date: 21 February 2012
 Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Registration and comments should reach: 230 Afrika Street, Windhoek, 15 March 2012

Contact Person: Mr. Nathan (Tel: 061 297 4373), Address: 230 Afrika Street, Windhoek, 15 March 2012

Lead from Exploration: Lead from Exploration (EPL) NO. 10742/07

Lead from Exploration: Lead from Exploration (EPL) NO. 10742/07

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING - SLOT 1:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MINERAL EXPLORATION ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 7874 NEAR LUDERITZ IN THE //KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Date: 25 February 2021

Time: 14h30

Venue: Turnhalle, Lüderitz, || Karas Region

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. Nerson Tjelos (Environmental Consultant) welcomed those in attendance, briefly explained the project and the Environmental Assessment process as well as the purpose of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by members of the Lüderitz community. **An attendance register was signed by the attendees and attached hereto.**

Mr. Tjelos apologized for not being able to project the prepared presentation and requested the attendees to follow the presentation using the BID. Mr. Tjelos attempted to give a brief introduction and explain the environmental assessment process, but the audience had some concerns and questions, which they were eager to get answers to. The members present were given the opportunity to have an interactive session with the Environmental Consultants during which they could submit their comments, issues and suggestions.

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

Some I&AP names are not recorded as most of the I&APs did not introduce themselves before posing questions, raising issues or providing inputs, as requested by the environmental consultants at the beginning of the meeting.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the first public meeting (first slot) on 25 February 2021 at Turnhalle, Lüderitz.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
Mr. Ulf Grünewald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the directors of the company? 	Nerson Tjelos (Environmental Consultant): Gerson Tjihenuna
Mr. Philip Bahlao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Gerson have past experience in mining? 	Nerson Tjelos: We do not have information regarding the Proponent's mining experience
Mr. B Mckay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner is not here to address the questions. This is a big concern for us. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community strongly feels that they need transparency. Some people do not know about the meeting due to a lack of access to info/internet. 	The adverts were published and some people have registered. We have sent the public meeting details to registered I&APs and also communicated meeting details to I&APs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole area is a fishing ground for the community. There is no other area we are allowed to harvest rock lobster. Previous exploration studies have occurred on the area. Mining affects the environment and leaves it un-useable. Marine resources will be destroyed and will not re-appear. 	Point well noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why has the Ministry of Fisheries been excluded? 	The ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has been added to the competent bodies (key government stakeholders).

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are not allowed to drive 4x4 vehicle in the area along the beach. 	Point well noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will not allow it to happen. Once it starts, there will be no going back. Even prospecting activity might cause us not to access the area. 	The concern is noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are already one step ahead of us by sitting here with us. You will not go in the area to do exploration. 	<p>We are not the prospecting company and not any step ahead of you as the I&APs. We, as Environmental Consultants have been appointed by the prospecting company as required of them by the Environmental Management Act and its EIA Regulations. Thus, we are conducting public consultation meetings as a requirement of the same Act and Regulations (part of the environmental scoping assessment study) for the prospecting company (proponent) to get environmental approval in the form of an ECC before they can or not start with exploration. The issuance or rejection of the ECC will be depending on the Environmental Commissioner's decision of the environmental report and its content, including your input as I&APs.</p> <p>The concern is noted</p>

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What Minerals are you prospecting for? 	<p>The minerals which the proponent is interested in are Base and Rare Metals, Precious Metals, Precious Stones and Semi-Precious Stones.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have all the right to say no. 	<p>Noted.</p>
Ms. Sandra Damens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We only have a BID, and you do not have answers. 	<p>Nerson Tjelos: The answers that we currently do not have (in the meeting) will be provided in the draft environmental assessment report and the draft report will be shared with all interested and affected parties' for your review and further comments and input.</p>
Mr. Milton Pitt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am concerned about (project) methodology. It is not clear in the BID. 	<p>Nerson Tjelos: This will be addressed in the draft and final environmental assessment report.</p>
Participant 1 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains value of the Lüderitz Peninsula (Diaz Point). The existing routes are used for recreational and tourist activity. It is the only natural open area available for the residents. There is a protected marine reserve. I also have concerns about water supply mentioned in the BID. The town is highly dependent on tourism (Kolmanskop, Diaz Point). We are against this, and will do everything to stop this. 	<p>Well noted and your opinion is respected. However, your objection should be backed up by valid reasoning as to why the project should not be allowed to go ahead. We will then also have a thorough look at your opinion/objection and see how we can address it and present it back to you in the Report for review before we submit to the Environmental Commissioner (at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism</p>

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		(DEAF)) for evaluation and Environmental Commissioner's decision on the ECC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You said there will be no earth moving activities, but the BID says there will be drilling etc. 	The prospecting programme comprises desktop assessment, geological mapping and geophysical surveys. These activities are non-invasive. Sampling and limited invasive techniques such as drilling will then follow once the nature of the mineralization is establishment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitution says we have right of movement. The peninsula is our place where we can move. 	The proposed project activities will not restrict people's movement in the area. However, should the project be granted permission to go ahead, localized specific sites areas such as for equipment storage may be temporary fenced off for safety and security for the duration of exploration works.
Participant 2 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constructed road leading to the peninsula took us many years to get access. The long term impacts will be detrimental. In addition, it took us five years to rehabilitate minor disturbances to the area. The Proponent needs to walk away. 	Noted. The impact on the road will be addressed in the EA report and Management Plan.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are objecting to this in principle because it's a protected area. Even if there may be diamonds. We still objecting it. I am irked by the fact that the BID does not explain methodology properly. Stay out, the area is for the people, the community. Just like central park in New York does not get developed, the Lüderitz peninsula does not get developed. 	Your concern is noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methodology seems to be compromised. This has been done before. Our community is already marginalized. We are here as concerned residents. In the 1914s there was exploration done in the area and the impacts identified then, was negative. The impacts would even be worse for this project. Priority should be given to our environment. You can explore the rest of the Sperrgebiet and leave the Peninsula alone. I apologize, but your agenda is not to our liking, hence the ambush. 	The consultant is following the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2012, and the requirements stipulated in the Environmental Management Act (Act No.7) of 2007. The methodology will be explained within the EA report.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
Participant 3 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was a baseline study done? 	This is not a baseline study. It is an Environmental Assessment done for the activities of the Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL).
Participant 4 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can a baseline study be done on the ground? 	Yes, the study will be done.
Participant 5 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens if we are not happy with the outcome? 	As I&APs, you have the right to agree or object the proposed activities based on logical reasoning which we will include in the draft and final environmental report, address them, and present these to the Environmental Commissioner for evaluation. Although you will first review the draft report, the final report will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner via the EIA Portal of the Environment Ministry) and there will be another 14-day period for the I&APs to review the same final report (where you as I&APs can still submit your comments directly to the Commissioner. If the Commissioner is happy with the way we have addressed your concerns, then an ECC may be issued. However, should you still not be satisfied with our response in the final report, and the Commissioner approves the

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		project (issue the ECC), you can appeal.
Mr. Junior N Mutaleni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will we hear more about the presentation, and project background? 	Yes, we will proceed with the project information.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you also assess how many professionals are needed to conduct the study? There is local capacity within Lüderitz. What happens under social aspects of the study? 	The study we are conducting has a social aspect. As part of the social management measures in the environmental management plan (EMP), it is always recommended that preference for work opportunities must be given to local experts. Under social aspects, we look at employment, as well as the negative impacts the activity will have on the people.
Mr. Michael	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this mean you just collect information from us and give it to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism? 	We have to note down concerns from the public and incorporate these into the draft environmental report and management plan (EMP). The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's DEAF will then evaluate the final report and decide whether the ECC should be issued.
Participant 6 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proponent need an environmental clearance to start? 	Yes, the Proponent needs to obtain the ECC prior to starting with any of the project activities on site because it

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		is required by the Environmental Management Act.
Dr. J. Kemper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is going to do the specialist study for the prospecting part? 	<p>We are currently conducting a scoping assessment where specialist studies at a detailed level is not required. The scope of this study is for the exploration activities only. Specialist studies would be required for the mining phase (if exploration yields economic feasible results). However, not to be confused with exploration phase, a separate detailed EIA would be required for the mining phase as the exploration license (EPL) would need to be transformed into a mining license by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) (upon application by the Proponent with exploration results). A full EIA (with specialists) and own public consultation meetings would then be conducted for the mining phase because of its anticipated extent, magnitude and duration compared to short-lived exploration activities.</p> <p>Given the nature of the site area (being environmentally sensitive), we are consulting with an Ecological specialist to advise on the ecological impacts of the exploration activities.</p>

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="511 380 1019 407">• Who will be assisting you for the site visit?	Anyone who is interested can join.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
Mr. C.E Shanjengange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is one of the 10 biodiversity hotspots in the country. We want the experts to be involved now so that we can give input as well. 	Noted. Normally specialists' studies are only included at a full EIA stage. However, given the nature of the site area (being environmentally sensitive), we are consulting with an Ecological specialist to advise on the ecological impacts of the exploration activities.
Participant 7 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are you doing the EIA if you are here and not on site? 	We are collecting information to inform us before we go on site. Consulting with you as members of the public is one of the components of the EIA. Therefore, we are doing this in fulfillment of the Act and Regulations.
Participant 8 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will these (in the BID) be the methods? 	What is in the BID is potential methods of exploration. Detailed exploration methods will be included in the environmental assessment report established with the exploration programme funders.
Participant 9 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was the Peninsula specifically chosen? And what is the nationality of the company? 	The Peninsula was not chosen but the MME does identify potential areas for mineral exploration. The Proponent showed interest in the EPL, applied for ownership and had been granted permission to explore on it, pending environmental clearance and other conditions required of the Proponent by the MME.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
		The company (Proponent) is Namibian.
Ms. Martha Kambidhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you please explain the process? 	Nerson Tjelos explained the process.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park falls under an area where exploration should not occur. 	We make considerations for land use. We need to identify the balance between the variety of land uses.
	There is a concession coming up. How are you guys going to deal with this from an environmental perspective?	We will put in consideration issues of conflicting land uses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is already mining occurring and those areas are cut off. 	Noted.
Participant 10 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a sensitive area. You say potential equipment, and these are all heavy equipment. We do not want any of that equipment in the area. It is sensitive for reptiles, seabirds, etc. We do not have a lot of water supply here to share with mining activity. It is a sensitive area, we do not want any large-scale prospecting or mining activity in the area. There should then be another meeting to inform us if these planned methods change. 	Noted. We will circulate that information in the draft report to accommodate any changes.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	You can damage the potential for tourism.	Point well noted.
Participant 11 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any areas identified as no-go areas? E.g. Halifax island farming of abalone? Will they operate 24-hrs? Will the sample area be rehabilitated before moving on to the next sample sites? 	<p>Unless the Ministry of Environment says there is a no-go area, it has not been zoned out.</p> <p>Those are the questions that will be addressed in the report.</p>
Participant 12 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The moment something is found, there will be no access for the public. 	<p>This concern is noted. However, limiting public access to the EPL may only be limited to certain areas of the site (EPL) but not the whole area. This would also just be considered for the mining phase but not exploration. Temporary public access could also be limited to certain sites during exploration such as temporary equipment storage areas that would be significantly small.</p>
Mr. Schelke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where will you put us if the work begins. 	<p>The EPL area does not cover residential properties. In terms of fishing spots, the assessment study will give recommendations based on the magnitude and extent, etc., of the prospecting impacts towards other economic activities i.e., fishing</p>
Ms. Jeanetta Gewers	<p>Do you have a checklist in your consultancy?</p> <p>One of the things that is not on the list is permission from the public/stakeholders to access the area. Before there is a license</p>	<p>We conduct the EIA process according to the Environmental Management Act and the Regulations. We will share the report draft with all stakeholders</p>

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	issued the Ministry of Mines should already consult the public.	so they know their inputs were included.

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION FOR THE FIRST MEETING

Final remarks from Mr. Nerson Tjelos were that all comments will be considered when discussing the details for the exploration works with the Client.

Mr. Nerson thanked everyone in attendance for their time and contribution. He informed the attendees that there is still an opportunity after the meeting to submit questions/comments before the final report is submitted. The consultant also informed the attendees of the next step of the EA process i.e. compilation of the draft Environmental Scoping Report with issues and comments raised during public consultation, sharing and review of the Report by the public prior to submission of the final Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism for consideration of an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

The finalized meeting minutes will be included in the draft Environmental Assessment Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:30.

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING - SLOT 2:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MINERAL EXPLORATION ON EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 7874 NEAR LUDERITZ IN THE //KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Date: 25 February 2021

Time: 17h30

Venue: Turnhalle, Lüderitz, || Karas Region

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. Nerson Tjelos (Environmental Consultant) welcomed those in attendance, briefly explained the project and the Environmental Assessment process as well as the purpose of the meeting, on a PowerPoint presentation.

The meeting was attended by members of the Lüderitz community. **An attendance register was signed by the attendees and attached hereto.**

Mr. Tjelos attempted to give a brief introduction and explain the environmental assessment process, but the audience had some concerns and questions, which they were eager to get answers to. The members present were given the opportunity to have an interactive session with the Environmental Consultants during which they could submit their comments, issues and suggestions.

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

Some I&AP names are not recorded as most of the I&APs did not introduce themselves before posing questions, raising issues or providing inputs, as requested by the environmental consultants at the beginning of the meeting.

Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the first public meeting (slot 2) on 25 February 2021 at Turnhalle, Lüderitz at 17:30.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
Dr. JP Roux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the proponent mining at the moment? 	Nerson Tjelos: The consultant is not aware whether the proponent is currently involved in other mining activities elsewhere.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPL follows the west of the peninsula and is a marine protected area. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire Lüderitz Peninsula is a non-mining area. How do they have an EPL? 	Nerson Tjelos: The EPL is granted by the Ministry of Mines and Energy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You cannot work in the area like this because it has been agreed that this is a non-mining area. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is far more value to the Peninsula. It has a lot of assets to attract tourists. It is coastal and it has a vast biodiversity. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BID mentions different types of sampling and drilling. This cannot be done without specific studies for each of these methods. What you do not see on the Peninsula is the different types of soils. 	This is a scoping assessment. You will receive further details as we proceed with the environmental assessment process. This is the information the proponent submitted to the ministry in the application. The methods in the application may end up being changed. Details may be refined later.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a lot of concerns about the company and whether they are capable to do the proposed activity. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Peninsula has not been declared a diamond area only a conservation area. If it is a diamond area, it has to be fenced off, etc. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
Mr. Jürgen Fleidl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to know who Storm Two Mining is. Is Gerson the sole owner of the company? 	Nerson Tjelos: As far as we know, the only Proponent and owner is Mr. Gerson Tjihenuna.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does he know that there is an area with commodities here? 	This information on the mineral potential of the area is normally established during the prospecting/exploration phase. The consultant does not know what informed the Proponent to apply for an EPL in the area under study. The EPL and potential commodities that can be found within its boundaries are found on the National Mining Cadastre Portal accessible here https://portals.landfolio.com/namibia/ by searching the EPL by its number in the provided search box.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we please have another meeting? 	We will make an effort to have a follow-up meeting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is anyone capturing this session of our concerns? 	Yes, my colleagues are busy taking notes and recording.
Mr. M.R. Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2008 the area became the Sperrgebiet National Park and mining was not allowed. You came here unprepared, without sufficient information. You cannot tell us you do not know who the shareholders are. The area is good for recreation. You want to cut the hotspot of Lüderitz recreation. This will not happen. We have a vast range of biodiversity. A baseline study was supposed to give you all the information you needed before you came here. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have to measure and indicate how you are going to mitigate. The community feels betrayed. 	Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the EPL come with conditions? Can you please share those with us? 	<p>Yes. One of the conditions is that the EPL holder has to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment within six (6) months from the date that the prospecting license was issued.</p> <p>A mining license is only applied for after detailed exploration work and made a proved discovery. A separate EIA will be undertaken for the mining phase after the exploration. Normally that process takes longer than 3 years.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can he get the mining license after he gets ECC in the 3 years? 	<p>The mining license would be approved by the MME upon application to transform the EPL into a mining license (with presentation of the exploration results and upon verification of economic feasibility of the exploration results by MME). Another EIA will need to be taken prior to the mining phase. This EIA will also have its own public consultation meetings such as this but probably on a high level because mining activities would last longer than the exploration activities and the magnitude of certain impacts may be different from exploration.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will you have the same meeting in Swakopmund? 	<p>No, this meeting is only for the Lüderitz area as the directly affected local community</p>

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
Participant 1 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you do not know what kind of mining is going to happen how can you do an impact assessment? The ministry of mines should have already refused this kind of work in the area. 	Nerson Tjelos: I will show the activities that he has indicated as exploration activity to the Ministry of Mines and Energy. He wants to do prospecting work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no solid explanation to how the site was allocated. 	The site was not chosen per say, but when the MME maps minerals' areas, they look at potential of the area and this is how the EPL was mapped. The Proponent applied for the EPL, got ownership and had been granted permission to explore on it, pending environmental clearance and other conditions required of the Proponent by the MME.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are you going to prospect in the environment if you don't know what you are prospecting for? This is all just formalities. 	The site was not chosen per say, but when the MME maps minerals' areas, they look at potential of the area and this is how the EPL was mapped. The Proponent applied for the EPL, got ownership and had been granted permission to explore on it, pending environmental clearance and other conditions required of the Proponent by the MME.
Participant 2 (name not stated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you going to the site without local people who know the area? 	Nerson: We will be assisted by Ms. Melancia and Dr. Kemper.

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Comment/ issue by:	Issue / comment / question	Response and name of responder:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I suggest you come back again for another public consultation. 	<p>Nerson: We will assess this request and advise if there will be follow up consultation meetings.</p>
<p>Ms. Estelle Fleidl</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At what point is the proponent required to engage us? 	<p>It could be requested but he is not required by law to be here.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can it (exploration process) be extended beyond the EPL validity period? 	<p>Yes. The EPL can be renewed for another 2 years after the first 3 years' validity period.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the clearance certificate be renewed? 	<p>Yes. An ECC is valid for 3 years. After that, the proponent needs to apply for a renewal if they feel the need to continue with the prospecting phase or if they have not completed the exploration/prospecting activities within the 3 years.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many people were at first meeting? 	<p>EDS Colleague: About 38 people were present at the 14:30 slot.</p>
<p>Participant 3 (name not stated)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the only area where we are allowed crayfish farming. 	<p>Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will not be received with open arms. 	<p>Point noted by the Environmental Consultants.</p>

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION FOR THE SECOND MEETING

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Final remarks from Mr. Nerson Tjelos were that all comments will be considered when discussing the details for the exploration works with the Client.

Mr. Nerson thanked everyone in attendance for their time and contribution. He informed the attendees that there is still an opportunity after the meeting to still submit questions/ comments before the draft Report is submitted. The consultant also informed the attendees of the next step of the EA process i.e. compilation of the draft Environmental Scoping Report with issues and comments raised during public consultation, sharing and review of the Report by the public prior to submission of the final Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) of the Ministry of Environment & Tourism for consideration of an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

The finalized meeting minutes will be included in the draft Environmental Assessment Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:45.

At the meeting on the 25th, we present below arguments against proposed mining activities:

- Water pollution (oil & diesel & sludge) – Degradation of natural habitat (above & below ground) – Air Pollution (diesel & dust)- Negative impact on endangered species, e.g.: Brown Hyena, Damara Tern and African Penguin to name just a few.
- What about Flamingos, Cormorants, Dolphins, Whales ...
- **TOURISM receipts** have grown year on year for NAMIBIA (post 2010) and it has been recognised as **Namibia's biggest GDP contributor in the future**
- Tourism is currently the second biggest contributor to the local economy and with local fishing in decline, will become the biggest contributor.
- The growth of Wind Farms in the future, using natural resource (wind), will further add to the “green credentials of Lüderitz – a pioneer of this sector in Namibia.
- The opening of the N\$350million government funded NUST Complex will add significant growth to inbound tourism as well as re-enforce the natural beauty of the coast of Lüderitz.
- Namibia is the ONLY country in the world to include CONSERVATION and the protection of vast areas of land (42%) in its CONSTITUTION.

FORWARDED CONCERNS: 17/02/2021

The LÜDERITZ PENINSULA is situated within a **protected area** (natural park) with various ongoing and valuable **CONSERVATION PROJECTS**, e.g., AFRICAN PENGUIN, DAMARA TERN and BROWN HYENA PROJECTS – these key projects are located in the proposed Mining Area: EPL7874.

The **world-famous** DIAS CROSS situated at **DIAS POINT** is included in ALL major KEY tour operator itineraries and is located in the proposed Mining Area: EPL7874.

Designated and pre-prescribed routes and trails (4x4 & 4x2 routes) are used by locals and the international tourist to explore and experience the natural and pristine beauty of the peninsula – these routes are located in the proposed Mining Area: EPL7874.

The Lüderitz peninsula is the ONLY “open” and “accessible” area in Lüderitz allowing both locals and highly valuable tourists to explore its natural beauty, generic flora and fauna. Windsurfers and Kite boarders also use this area as well as fishermen. Furthermore, the coastline all along the peninsula is designated as a PROTECTED MARINE RESERVE.

The Lüderitz Tourism Forum strongly objects to any form of exploration activities on the peninsula based not only on the above motivations but also on actual points mentioned in the PROPOSAL – below are just two;

- “It is not possible at this (early) stage of exploration to give exact areas for future drilling or an exact duration of the exploration activities” (this is unacceptable)

- “Water supply for exploration works will be sourced from any nearby fresh water sources from the Lüderitz Town Council and/or nearby boreholes and seawater” (water is an extremely valuable and scarce resource for Lüderitz)



Nick Hammond

As a geologist who previously worked for Namdeb and Diaz Point Explorations in the Sperrgebiet, I would say that there is far too much "generic" information here, particularly as to the actual prospecting work to be done. Drilling, for example, is a messy affair at the best of times, let alone the creation of multiple access roads to allow entry to drill and sample sites. More information as to the size/s of prospecting pits/trenches (which would probably require heavy earthmoving equipment to excavate the trenches) would be very useful. This whole area has a generally thin sand cover over

Write a public comment...



7 >



useful. This whole area has a generally thin sand cover over basement rocks, so it will be very easy to wreak environmental havoc here. I suspect that the application is possibly to find another E/Bay type diamond deposit in the Grossebucht area, which has similar geological features. No doubt the old Germans would have prospected the hell out of this region anyway and came up with very little. Or perhaps the applicants hope to discover a new base metals mine, who knows? Either way, it will make an awful mess of a reasonably pristine area and its the very last thing that should ever be allowed here. It should remain as a mining

Write a public comment...



7 >



mine, who knows? Either way, it will make an awful mess of a reasonably pristine area and its the very last thing that should ever be allowed here. It should remain as a mining proposal only and nothing more.

3d Like Reply 11

[View 2 previous replies...](#)

Phil Balhao Nick Hammond we...

Estelle Fleidl Nick Hammon...

Nick Hammond Thank you for...



Brigitte Soltau

Well said Nick Hammond, our fragile nature would be destroyed at its best. We don't need this here at all!

2d Like Reply 2



Heinz Von Schweinitz

Write a public comment...



13:11

67%

Brad Wood Photography



Brad Wood Photography

2d

Luderitz Peninsula - Namibia

The #Luderitz Peninsula is a place where people meet and escape the troubles of the day, to recharge and absorb the energy of the sea. It is a place where #dreams can be found. There are several braai spots across the peninsula where you can have a private dinner or where families can join and share the beauty that develops in the evening sky. The beaches here are some of the safest and cleanest in #Namibia. Experiencing the beach with kids helps to make you appreciate life and is truly invigorating!

#protectluderitzpeninsula

This image was taken at Sturmvogel Bay (Shearwater Bay), which is my



Write a comment...



13:11

67%

Brad Wood Photography



Brad Wood Photography

3d

Luderitz Peninsula - Namibia

The #Luderitz Peninsula is home to many bird species including flamingos. I found it interesting that the #flamingos made noises similar to geese and often enjoyed watching them fly across the lagoons just after sunset. Flamingos are very sensitive to noise and seek out quiet, private areas like the Luderitz Peninsula. They are particularly common along Grosse Bucht where they feed in tidal pools.

This image was taken across Guano Bay, looking to the north at Diaz #Lighthouse. The mist coming off the cold ocean makes for a mvsterious peaceful setting. The



Write a comment...



Comments by: Dr. Jessica Kemper

15 June 2021

General comments:

A long report does not necessarily make it a good and comprehensive report – as is the case here. This particular draft report clearly shows the EAP team’s lack of even a basic understanding of the local geography and ecology, and therefore fails to produce a document that adequately addresses the risks posed by the planned exploration activities to the Lüderitz Peninsula. The report states that since this project only involves exploration activities, there is no need for specialist studies. However, due to the significance of the Lüderitz Peninsula (in which the entire EPL is located), in terms of its

- unique biodiversity,
- high level of endemism,
- sensitivity,
- inclusion in a National Park that borders Namibia’s only marine protected area,
- local economic importance in terms of tourism,

together with the EAP team’s apparent lack of knowledge of the area or its intricate ecology, and given the nature of the proposed project and the envisaged exploration methods to be used, a fauna and flora specialist study should be mandatory for this particular project to ensure that good quality, detailed information on the local ecology is collated to allow for an adequate assessment.

Many mitigation measures listed in this report are generic and not necessarily “custom-made” for this particular project. Nor do they specifically take the particularly fragile ecology of the project area, or the management and tourism development plans for the Tsau //Khaeb National Park into account. Again, this demonstrates the lack of understanding of the local ecology and therefore necessitates informed input by a specialist with a sound knowledge of the area.

Detailed comments on some key issues:

Apparently diamonds are not the primary sought-after commodity, which is questionable, seeing that the entire general area has been or is being targeted for diamonds. What then IS the primary target commodity? Knowing what is targeted would help to understand the likely landscape features / habitats to be targeted, their extent (and therefore the likely scale of the exploration activities) and the methods used to explore the EPL.

If, as suspected, diamonds are in fact the most likely commodity that is being explored, then the EPL area WILL be fenced off – this would be a major blow to the local tourism industry (and note that the job creation opportunities envisaged by this project will not make up for the losses likely to be suffered by

the tourism industry if the EPL is fenced off). It would also rob the local residents of their only recreational space outside of town limits and of their recreational lobster fishing opportunities. It would also affect a commercial mariculture venture and a commercial kelp wrack harvesting project. What guarantee is there that this will not happen? This is one of the key issues that need to be explicitly discussed and which could have dire consequences for the local economy.

The section on no-go alternatives is biased as it only lists negative effects that would result from not letting this project go ahead. It therefore concludes that the no-go option should not be pursued. What about listing any positive aspects, including economic reasons, such as no loss of tourism revenue, including direct and indirect jobs in the tourism industry? Or preservation of a unique and fragile ecosystem, including lichen fields and Damara Tern roosting and breeding sites?

The report alleges that it is MEFT's and MFMR's responsibility to designate no-go areas. However, as per the ToR, it is the EAP's responsibility to advise MEFT and MFMR on no-go areas and project alternatives, using the results of an informed assessment, on the habitats most likely to be impacted by the proposed exploration activities. The onus is therefore on the EAP (with the help of relevant specialists) to provide MEFT with a map of areas that are likely to be at high risk and should therefore be considered no-go (and/or buffer) areas. Such areas include (but are not limited to) the lichen fields and Damara Tern breeding pans.

As mentioned in the general comments, much of the report follows a generic template and includes aspects that are irrelevant to this particular project, e.g. why make detailed reference to nomadic pastoralism?

Legal framework: why are the following not listed?

- Tsau //Khaeb National Park management plan,
- Tsau //Khaeb National Park tourism development plan
- Marine Resources Act 27 of 2000, including its regulations (this includes regulations specific to the Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area). Note that the management of the marine protected area extends to the high water mark. Note also that the regulations list protected species that may not be disturbed, harmed or killed.

Climate: this section is pathetic. The climate of the Khoichab Pan, including rainfall, temperature, wind and humidity profiles is vastly and significantly different to that of the Lüderitz Peninsula. This alone clearly demonstrates the EAP's inability to understand the local ecology and therefore casts doubt on the quality of this assessment as a whole.

Flora: This is far too generic, lists species that do not occur on the peninsula, does not mention the important, including protected, threatened and/or endemic species that DO occur on the peninsula, such as the various lichen species, *Lithops*, *Conophytum*, *Pelargonium* etc. Why is there no mention of Lüderitz Peninsula Dwarf Shrubland or Lüderitz Plain Dwarf Shrubland? I also doubt whether *Zygophyllum decumbens* is the most important species in the EPL. One of the most important species in the EPL is the saltbush, *Salsola nollothensis*. It plays an important role in the ecosystem and provides

microhabitat to a range of organisms. It is also threatened by coastal development, including mining activities, along its range. It is slow-growing and difficult to re-establish in locations where it has been removed.

Flora: The species in Figure 18 is also not *Mesembryanthemum cryptanthum*, but more likely a *Brownanthus* species. Figure 19 shows *Tripteris crassifolia* and not *Didelta carnososa* as alleged. Again, it is evident that the EAP team does not have much knowledge of the local flora. Given the importance of the area in terms of its flora, a specialist should be involved to provide a better, more thorough overview of the flora and the risks the project poses to the local flora.

Tourism: why show Bogenfels arch? This is completely irrelevant to the assessment.

Loss of biodiversity: you recommend that no-go sites should be demarcated but don't advise on where they should be. Your brief is to advise the proponent and the relevant authorities where they should be, based on your assessment. Also you state that breeding sites should not be disturbed – have you identified any? Has your assessment looked at where breeding sites are in the EPL, including those of brown hyenas, jackals, porcupines and various birds to advise the proponent on which specific areas to stay clear of?

Loss of biodiversity: have you considered the impact of using water during exploration activities on the micro-ecology of the affected area? This is an arid area and plant/animal life is adapted to this. What are the potential impacts of using water in an area that is generally devoid of water? Is it likely to kill the local vegetation? Flood animal burrows? Any other potential impacts? How would you mitigate for this?

Potential land use conflict: NO, fishing is not only carried out outside the EPL!!! All local shore-based recreational lobster fishing activities take place within the EPL; recreational line fishing also takes place on the shore side of this EPL. Exploration activities (and potential fencing off of these areas) therefore could have a significant impact on the recreational (and tourism) activities of the local community. IN addition, a commercial mariculture venture is accessed from the shore that is part of the EPL; wet kelp is collected for a commercial abalone farm from beaches that fall inside the EPL.

Pg 92 of the EIA/pg 23 of the EMP: "The Proponent should avoid carrying out exploration works within the Peninsula area of the EPL or within 5 km of the Peninsula boundaries". Since the entire EPL falls onto the peninsula, that means no exploration work should be carried out in the EPL? This makes no sense. Again, this statement underscores how unfamiliar the EAP is with the area (despite a site visit with three locals who volunteered their time and knowledge, and went out of their way to brief the EAP about the area), and therefore casts doubt on the value of this assessment.

Explain how exploration activities and other existing land uses such as tourism are supposed to co-exist efficiently? How do exploration activities NOT hinder tourism activities – in an area that draws visitors with their (relatively) unspoiled landscapes and views?

How would the project workers not "drive around other land use sites" if the entire peninsula, including the entire EPL, is primarily used for tourism?

Please define the terms “rehabilitation” and “restoration”. Is this only visual habitat restoration or functional habitat restoration? Please note that in the desert environment, the re-establishment of the natural vegetation (from a pioneer to a climax community) is difficult (and sometimes not possible), is a long-term process and requires a lot of onsite work (seeding, regular watering, tending to seedlings etc). Rehabilitating pits and drilled boreholes to the “original state” therefore requires intensive and long-term commitment and success is not guaranteed.

Waste generation: Litter of any nature needs to be contained in closed containers so it does not blow away in strong wind and to remain out of reach of crows, jackals and hyenas.

Noise and vibrations: What about noise, including drilling and blasting noise on local wildlife (particularly since they don’t stick to a “working hour” schedule), including protected birds such as penguins, cormorants, gulls, terns and oystercatchers nesting on Halifax Island?

Decommissioning and rehabilitation: this section is vague at best and does not provide any tangible guidelines or mitigation measures that would constitute a sound rehabilitation effort.

The references cited in the report are to a large extent irrelevant. Although it is correct that the ecology of the Lüderitz Peninsula is understudied, there are certainly more relevant and more recent references than some of those cited in this report (e.g. a reference on the vegetation types of the Kaokoland or one on the reptiles of the Kunene River Mouth are irrelevant to this project area). A thorough literature search would have been helpful (including a search on the EIS website) – again a specialist desktop study would have probably produced more useful references.

EMP guidelines are vague at best, e.g. wording like “should aim to” or “should be handled more efficiently” or “should refrain from” makes management measures meaningless. For example, the EMP states that “project workers should refrain from killing species”. As it is illegal to kill species (both animal and plant species, particularly in a national park), this needs to be stated clearly, instead of suggesting that it’s not a good idea to do so.

Public participation process: As mentioned in the draft report, two public meetings took place in Lüderitz (both on the same day, to cater for covid-related group size restrictions). It became apparent during the meetings that the EAP was ill prepared for fielding questions and answering concerns from the public. From the public’s point of view (and this is reflected in the summary given in Appendix J of the report), the information given in the BID and during the two public meetings was scant and not particularly useful. As such the public participation process was flawed and another round of such meetings should be considered by the EAP to be able to answer the community’s questions properly.

Conclusion:

This draft report needs a lot more work, as in its current form it appears to follow a generic template. As a result, the information and mitigation strategies discussed in this report are inadequate for making an informed decision on this particular project.



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
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WINDHOEK

03 August 2021

The Executive Director
 Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
 P/Bag 13306
WINDHOEK

Dear colleague,

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON THE EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 7874 LOCATED WEST OF LUDERITZ IN THE !IKARAS REGION - APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC)

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) reviewed the Environmental Assessment report submitted by Excel Dynamic Solution (Pty) Ltd on 02 June 2021 for recommendations for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No.7874, located west of Lüderitz in the //Kharas Region, to explore the following commodity groups: Base and Rare Metals, Precious Metals, Precious Stones and Semi-Precious Stones.

The proposed area is in close proximity to the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA) that is located in the central region of the BCLME within the Lüderitz Upwelling Cell. The islands and adjacent productive waters provide important breeding and foraging habitat for threatened seabirds, marine mammals and

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON THE EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE (EPL) NO. 7874 LOCATED WEST OF LUDERITZ IN THE !IKARAS REGION - APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC)

reptiles, and important nursery grounds for the commercially important west coast rock lobster, *Jasus lalandii*.

We also take note that EPL 7874 is located in the Lüderitz Peninsula, within a protected area: the Tsau //Khaeb National Park (TKNP), which hosts a variety of sensitive areas including lichen fields and 50% of the Damara Tern (*Sternula balaenarum*)'s breeding colonies found around the Lüderitz area.

Given the eco-sensitive nature of the proposed site and the fact that the prospecting activities will use invasive exploration methods which are envisaged to have adverse impacts on this environmentally sensitive area, MFMR does not recommend that environmental clearance is granted.

We therefore, recommend that the proponent carries out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including detailed specialist studies, specifically regarding the activity's ecological impacts on the sensitive receiving environment of the proposed area.


MS. Annely Haiiphene
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CC: Timotheus Mufeti: Environmental Commissioner

List of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)
Environmental Assessment for the Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 7874 in the ||Kharas Region

No	Name	Position/Organization
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (Department of Environmental Affairs)		
1.	Mr. Teofillus Nghitila	Executive Director
2.	Mr. Timoteus Mafeti	Environmental Commissioner
3.	Dr. Sonja Loots	Manager: Threatened Plants Programme (MEFT: Forestry department)
Storm Two Mining CC (Proponent)		
4.	Gerson Tjihenuna	Senior Manager
Ministry of Mines and Energy		
5.	Mr. Simeon Negumbo	Executive Director
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources		
6.	Ms. Annely Haiphene	Executive Director

No	Name	Position/Organization
Ministry of Works and Transport		
7.	Ms Esther Kaapanda	Executive Director
8.	Ms. Monica A. Uupindi	Personal Assistant to Executive Director
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform		
9.	Mr. Percy Misika	Executive Director
10.	Mr John Hailwa	Directorate of Forestry - Director
Ministry of Urban and Rural Development		
11.	Mr. N Daniel	Executive Director
12.	Ms. Rosalia Ruben	Secretary to Executive Director
13.	Ms. B. van Wyk	Personal assistant to the ED
Ministry of Health and Social Services		
14.	Mr. Ben Nangombe	Executive Director
15.	Ms. Petty Tjaimba	Personal Assistant to the Executive Director
Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade & SME Development		
16.	Mr. Gabriel Sinimbo	Permanent Secretary
17.	Mr Calicious Tatalife	Deputy Director: Industrial Policy, Planning, & Development

No	Name	Position/Organization
Roads Authority		
18.	Mr C. M. Lutombi	Chief Executive Officer
19.	Mr E. de Paauw	Senior Specialist Road Legislation, Advice & Compliance NP&C
National Heritage Council		
20.	Mrs Erica Ndalikokule	Acting Director
21.	Ms Agnes Shiningayamwe	Regional heritage officer
22.	Mr Manfred Gaeb	Regional heritage officer
23.	Ms Lucia	Admin
 Kharas Regional Council		
24.	Hon. Aletha Frederick	Governor
25.	Hon. Jan Scholtz	Governor Chair person
26.	Mr. Beatus Okeri Kasete	Chief Regional Officer
!Nami#Nûs Constituency		
27.	Hon. Suzan Ndjaleka	Councillor - !NamiNus
Luderitz Town Council		
28.	Hon. Cllr. Hilaria Mukapuli	Mayor / Chairperson of Council

No	Name	Position/Organization
29.	Hon. Cllr: Brigitte Fredericks	Deputy Mayor
30.	Mr. Reinhardt Ochs	CEO
31.	Phil Balhao	Councillor
Owners / Occupiers of Land and Neighbouring Property Owners		
32.	Coleen Mannheimer	Botanist
33.	Dr Jessica Kemper	Seabird / Conservation Biologist
34.	Sharon	I&AP
35.	Juergen Fleidl	Five Roses Aquaculture cc
36.	Dr Antje Burke	
37.	Elizabeth Fleidl	Luderitz resident
38.	Brad Wood	
39.	Ockert Theron	I Logistics Luderitz (Pty) Ltd
40.	Esmeralda strauss	
41.	Dr. Jean-Paul Roux	
42.	Melanie Ferreira	Luderitzbucht Pharmacy
43.	Michael Kahiriri	Karas Media House

No	Name	Position/Organization
44.	Mrs. Gisela Schmidt-Scheele	Luderitz Safaris and Tours
45.	Ferdie de Villiers	
46.	Ulf Grünewald	
47.	Erastus Angula	Karas Media House
48.	Stefanus Gariseb	SHREQ Officer (Namport)
49.	Max Kooper	Namport
50.	Alfons Ferreira	Lüderitz resident
51.	Reginald Hercules	
52.	Brad Wood	
53.	Louisa Jona / Tataleni	
54.	Michael Jeremiah	
55.	Junior N Mutaleni	Karas Media House
56.	Martha Kambidhi	MEFT - Luderitz
57.	Philip Balhao	CUR. LTC
58.	J Kemper	Private
59.	Matheus Naftal	MEFT

No	Name	Position/Organization
60.	Desmond B Tom	Min of Fisheries
61.	Diina Mwaala	Min of Fisheries
62.	Wendy van Schweinitz	Namport
63.	Heinz van Schweinitz	Hydrolec
64.	Gustaf Hanghome	MFMR
65.	Sandra Damens	Private
66.	Jeanetta Gewers	Byru-youth org
67.	Makoka Pandeni	Community Member
68.	Bianca Roberts	Luderitz Mutlisave
69.		
70.	Mavitza Morgan	Prospectus Inn
71.	Hannes Theron	Luderitz Yacht Club
72.	B Mckay	Min of Fisheries
73.	Micton Pitt	Development @ Work
74.	Erich Looser	Atlantech Mecc
75.	B Bothma	Fishing

No	Name	Position/Organization
76.	G Uyumba	
77.	T Van	B.A Rewinding
78.	M. Zitha	B.A Rewinding
79.	C.E Shanjengange	Education
80.	JJ Burgess	Oceangrown Namibia
81.		Office of the President
82.	K.Grobler	MFMR
83.	Michael J	Youth Forum
84.	Anthony Ferreira	LuderitzBucht Pharmacy
85.	Estelle Fleidl	
86.	J Fleidl	
87.	Norbert K	
88.	J P Roux (Dr)	NNF
89.	M.P Barton	Odikwa Investment
90.		
91.		

No	Name	Position/Organization
92.		
93.	Aune Nantinda	General Manager – Hangana Abalone (Pty) Ltd