

**11 August 2025**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES:**

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the proposed prospective and exploration activities on Exclusive Prospecting Licence (EPL) No. 9238 located near Helmeringhausen, Karas Region, Namibia**

**Date:** Monday, 11 August 2025

**Time:** 11:00 – 12:00

**Venue:** Helmeringhausen Hall

The public consultation meeting was conducted at the Helmeringhausen hall, including four (4) Consultants from Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS) - **Please refer to the attached attendance register.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS**

The consultation meeting was opened by the Environmental consultant with an introduction of the project, and the reason why the affected parties are being consulted.

The meeting attendance register was circulated for the attendee to write down their names and contact details so that they could be added to the list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and receive further information on the ESIA process.

### **2. MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTATION**

The agenda of the meeting included the following main points:

#### **2.1 Brief Description of the Project**

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the reason that the Proponent appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EDS), an independent Environmental Consultant to carry out the ESIA and apply for the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

## **2.2 Explanation of what an ESIA is, its Process, and the Public Role in the Process**

Ms. Hilma Nampala explained to the attendee the purpose of the meeting and why they were invited (with reference to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations on Public Consultation). Ms. Nampala further explained that the proposed activities are one of the listed activities in the 2012 EIA Regulations of the EMA that cannot be undertaken without an ECC from the Environmental Commissioner.

## **2.3 Presentation of Potential Project Impacts**

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

## **2.4 Public Open Discussion (Interactive Session)**

Ms. Nampala allowed the meeting attendee to raise their concerns, issues, and/or comments on the proposed project activities. The concerns/issues and comments recorded are presented in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Comments and issues raised during the public consultation meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

<b>Comment/ issue No.</b>	<b>Commenter name &amp; issue/comment/question</b>	<b>Response and name of responder:</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Commenter 1:</b> We have concern regarding drones that are flying in our area. It is notable that these drones are conducting geophysical data on our farms, without our permission or concern.	<b>Ms. Hilma Nampala (HN):</b> Noted, kindly take note that those drones are not operated by the EPL holder.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Commenter 2:</b> Exploration activities have been conducted on our farms in the 1970's moving forward. Past exploration companies have failed to ensure that trenches are filled up, and pits are covered up.  We have a mine in the area, whereby their operation has caused field fire and have affected neighboring farms without attending to the matter.	<b>Mr. Silas David (SD):</b> Noted, it is important to note that, companies need to rehabilitate areas where exploration activities have been conducted. In addition, during the access agreement, this condition can be stressed to ensure that the EPL holder adhere to such conditions. To avoid history to repeat itself.  Noted, in my opinion, it is important that the mining company could have provided mitigation measure for such accident, and could have acted upon on the accident. However, we cannot comment further to their action.

Comment/ issue No.	Commenter name & issue/comment/question	Response and name of responder:
3.	<p><b>Commenter 3:</b> Is prospecting and exploration part of the environmental and social impact assessment?</p> <p>It will be best if these phases (prospecting and exploration) are separated.</p> <p>Helmeringhausen contains sensitive biodiversity which consist of threatened fauna and flora. Does this project have specialist, for input? Taking into account that we have an archaeologist specialist amongst us?</p>	<p><b>Mr. SD:</b> Yes, the environmental and social impact assessment will involve prospecting and exploration activities.</p> <p>Noted, however, once an ECC is obtained. The Proponent will need to have an access agreement with the targeted farms. Access agreement for Prospecting and exploration activities will be handled separately.</p> <p>Noted, Dr. Peter usually does our ecological specialist report, and we can look into that to ensure that your concerns are incorporated.</p>

### FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Ms. Nampala thanked the attendees for their crucial input through comments and raising their concerns. He indicated to the attendee that all their comments, concerns, and inputs had been noted down for consideration and addressing in the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report as well as incorporating their recommendations into the draft EMP.

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

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

The public consultation meeting adjourned at 12h00.