



**Mining and Exploration ...**

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**IDENTIFYING RICHES**

The Policy recognised that Namibia is rich in biological resources that have both national and international significance.

"The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) derives mainly from primary sectors of production, which are heavily dependent on healthy functioning ecosystems and the prudent management of natural resources," the two ministries outlined as the key reasons for the policy's guidance to the overall developmental plan in Namibia.

The ministries agreed on the joint importance that the mining sector plays in the revenue-generating capacity for the nation.

Mining has been the biggest contributor to GDP after government services since the earliest discoveries of minerals in Namibia.

The responsible Ministries have also updated that the number of applications for Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPLs) for various minerals continues to increase.

However, "There are major overlaps in the location of rare species, critical biodiversity areas, and the presence of minerals in Namibia.

The potential negative impacts of exploration and mining activities can be devastating to biodiversity and ecosystems," the ministries added.

The biggest concerns stem from damage to the natural environment and the impacts that are left behind after the extraction of minerals has been completed.

**It has been necessary to expand the scope of the policy to include such areas in line with both growth in the mining industry and in biodiversity conservation programmes.**

The ministries indicate that the sector's ability to compromise ecosystem analysis is the reason why they developed and are currently revising the policy.

This is to guide decision making associated with exploration and mining in protected areas and other areas such as communal conservancies, community forests, other state land, game farms, and other freehold land (private land) that hold high-value species.

This also includes environmental sensitive areas.

"It has been necessary to expand the scope of the policy to include such areas in line with both growth in the mining industry and in biodiversity conservation programmes," the ministries state as they aim to balance the impact and access that exploration actors want versus the other economic values that heritage and tourism activities provide.

While several strategies are being employed to address exploration and mining activities in protected areas, the policymakers noted that it is evident that strong policy frameworks and tools should be developed to improve decision-making and provide protection for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and cultural heritage from development impacts.

The only zones that have been completely exempted from exploration are the Etosha National Park, Waterberg National Park, Mangetti National Park, Hardap National Park, Kanovlei State Forest, Gross Barmen Nature Reserve, Khomas Hochland National Park, Naute National Park, Hamweyi State Forest, Nkasa Rupara National Park, Mudumu National Park, Windhoek Nature Reserve, and the Okahandja Nature Reserve.

**EVALUATION**

The ministries have been working with an established technical committee that is aimed at guiding the implementation process of the policy.

The implementation of the policy will be coordinated by a technical committee composed of different stakeholders, led by the two Ministries.

The two ministries will also, with the support of the technical committee, take the lead in coordinating the regular monitoring and evaluation of progress with regard to the implementation of the policy.

**CALL FOR REGISTRATION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES****ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN RESPECT TO BASE & RARE METALS AND PRECIOUS METAL ON EPL 9752 & 9755, OMAHEKE REGION****1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION**

Century Mining (Pty) Ltd (the Proponent), intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate for their proposed prospecting activities in respect to **Base and Rare Metals and Precious Metals** on a combined area approximate area of **39634 Ha** in the Omaheke Region. The key component of the proposed activity entails geological mapping and survey and manual sample collection for laboratory analysis, and small-scale mining operation. Access to the sampling or survey sites will be by existing tracks and on foot where vehicle access is limited.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites all Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (EIA, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **30 July 2025**.

**3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES**

Please register and direct all comments, queries to:  
Mr. Lawrence Tjatindi, Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
Email: [ea@trigen@gmail.com](mailto:ea@trigen@gmail.com)

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# 192 Registration Officials Recruited for SRV in Kavango East

Annaklets Hawkers

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has recruited 192 registration officials in preparation for the upcoming Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) in the Kavango East Region.

Speaking during a stakeholder engagement meeting held in Rundu on Wednesday, Regional Electoral Officer Paulus Sifire announced that 295 voter registration points will be established across the region.

These will be supported by 48 registration teams, consisting of fixed, semi-fixed, and mobile units to ensure wide accessibility for all eligible voters.

Sifire explained that the current recruitment strictly focuses on SRV operations, and that recruitment for polling day officials will be conducted separately.

"We attracted applicants who are unemployed and reside within their respective constituencies to reduce logistical burdens, particularly accommodation during training," he said.

He added that the database used in the recruitment process was compiled last year. All temporary officials are hired on a contractual basis and undergo thorough verification to ensure they are not formally employed elsewhere.

Sifire emphasised the importance of a credible voter register, stating: "A credible voters' register is essential for free, fair, and transparent elections."

"The SRV exercise plays a crucial role in keeping the voters' register current and accurate," he noted.

He urged all eligible voters to participate in the process and exercise their democratic right to vote in the upcoming elections. Additionally, he called on stakeholders including traditional authorities, church leaders, and political figures to join ECN in amplifying voter awareness and education efforts.

The SRV process will run from 4 to 19 August 2025 as part of preparations for the national elections scheduled for 26 November 2025.

The final voters' register is expected to be published on 24 and 25 October.

The meeting, however, was not met without criticism. Some political party representatives raised concerns about the transparency of ECN's recruitment practices.

Augustinus Shindimba, the Kavango East regional coordinator of the All People's Party (APP), accused ECN of lacking accountability and failing to evaluate the performance of officials from previous electoral cycles.

"If there's no transparency, we're going to lose everything and democracy won't be democracy," Shindimba argued.

He claimed that the absence of a formal post-election evaluation process has allowed untrustworthy individuals to return to the system unchecked.

He went on to highlight the frustration of unemployed youth who, despite applying, were overlooked.

"It appears the ECN keeps returning to the same individuals instead of giving new applicants, especially the youth, a fair chance," he concluded.

Kavango East registration supervisors have already been deployed across the constituency, with most operating out of their respective Regional Council offices. Those assigned to Rundu Urban and Rundu local authority constituencies are based at the regional office.

**CALL FOR REGISTRATION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN RESPECT TO BASE & RARE METALS AND PRECIOUS METAL ON EPL 10181, OMAHEKE REGION**

**1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION**

Crystalpeak (Pty) Ltd (the Proponent), intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate for their proposed prospecting activities in respect to **Base and Rare Metals and Precious Metals** on a combined area approximate area of **1256.76 Ha** in the Omaheke Region. The key component of the proposed activity entails geological mapping and survey and manual sample collection for laboratory analysis, and small-scale mining operation. Access to the sampling or survey sites will be by existing tracks and on foot where vehicle access is limited.

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Mr. Lawrence Tjipindi, Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
Email: [enviro@enviroleap.com](mailto:enviro@enviroleap.com)



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