

APP-006892

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
50 MW AUSSENKEHR SOLAR COMPANY PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT IN
AUSSENKEHR, //KARAS REGION**

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November 2025

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N\$500k tender sparks tribal rift in Kavango West

• TRIBALISM CLAIMS RUBBISHED BY REGIONAL GOVERNOR

Kavango West governor Sirkka Ausiku said her decision to intervene and cancel a tender awarded to a **non-regional company was centred on the principles of inclusivity and promoting deliberate and equitable national development.**

KENYA KAMBOWE/
IRIKANOR NANGOLO
RUNDU

Kavango West governor Sirkka Ausiku's decision to intervene and cancel a tender awarded to a company not from the region has ignited a tribal storm.

She took issue with the fact that Tateeya Investment, a company owned by well-known businessman Remind Ekandjo, was selected to organise National Malaria Day, scheduled for 10 November in Nkurenkuru. The event was eventually called off.

Ausiku, in several letters

addressed to health minister Kalumbi Shangula, expressed her dissatisfaction with the tender award process, stating that local entrepreneurs were overlooked and that it was unfair for them not to benefit.

Explain to the public

She questioned how the regional leadership would justify awarding a tender worth N\$479 785 to a single company that is not from the region.

"It is unfortunate and disappointing that none of the entrepreneurs from the region were accorded the opportunity to participate," she argued in a letter dated 25 October.

"The experience of the region during the hosting of national events like Public Service Day and Heroes Day, local entrepreneurs were given an opportunity to render their services, and only the services that could not be procured locally were sourced from outside the region.

"It is also a concern to award one company an amount of N\$479 789, and it would be difficult for the regional leadership to explain this to the public," she noted.

"Honourable minister, unemployment is a reality in all 14 regions; hence, whenever there is an opportunity for a region to host a national event, resources must benefit the region where the event is taking place. Therefore, the region is requesting for an urgent intervention from your esteemed office."

In an attempt to resolve the situation and clarify that the

process was fair, with Tateeya providing goods and services not available locally while chairs and catering were handled by locals, it seems the ministry yielded to Ausiku's concerns, resulting in the indefinite postponement of the event.

Criticism

While some applauded Ausiku's intervention as heroic, others criticised her for emphasising the aspect of the regional origin of Tateeya Investment's owner rather than addressing potential corruption in the tender award process.

"Are we now saying that Kavango entrepreneurs who have business interests in other regions must be sidelined as well? Instead of encouraging

local businesses to be on the lookout for tenders and apply, she is making it seem as if her local entrepreneurs should not face competition," a source argued.

"Kavango West has become a region where non-Kavangos, especially those that do not hail from her region, are being mistreated, and the name of the governor is always in the mix.

"There was also an issue with the recent Swapo Party rally where the catering company that got the tender was from Rundu – can you imagine? That region is becoming unbearable for non-Kavango West inhabitants. If this is not stopped, it will become a problem in the long run."

Matter of principle

However, Ausiku, when contacted for comment, rubbished tribalism claims.

"The reaction on this matter is not tribally motivated, but a matter of principle and out of courtesy," Ausiku argued.

"The company under discussion has previously rendered services in the region, includ-



UNTRUE: Kavango West governor, Sirkka Ausiku.
PHOTO: KENYA KAMBOWE

ing at the Nkurenkuru Expo. Further, many entrepreneurs not from the Kavango West Region are awarded construction projects in the region.

"Out of courtesy, it is expected that when offices, ministries and agencies host events in any region, the region, especially at the regional council level, must be informed of such events and be involved in the preparations.

"It is about sensitivity towards inclusivity to promote deliberate and equitable national development. Kavango West is among the poorest regions, and this is at the heart of this matter, not the alleged tribalism."

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NEWS IN SHORT

Traffic division
receives 22
new vehicles

A fleet of 22 new vehicles were handed over to the traffic law enforcement division of the Namibian Police ahead of the festive season.

The handover was done by the police and the Road Fund Administration (RFA). It also included five speed cameras, breath alcohol testing devices and a trailer fitted with speakers and branding. Namibian Police Inspector-General Joseph Shikongo said, during the 2023/2024 financial year, the police were allocated N\$92.7 million to procure a new fleet. Therefore, 113 vehicles, three boats and two trailers were procured using both the police budget and financial assistance from the RFA.

"To date, 40 vehicles and two trailers have been delivered by the suppliers, while 73 vehicles and the three boats are expected in due course." Shikongo said out of the 40 vehicles received, 21 are Toyota Hilux single cab bakkies for the traffic directorate, procured with RFAs assistance. Meanwhile, 16 Toyota Hilux single cab bakkies, one Toyota Hilux double cab bakkie, two Toyota Corolla sedans and two livestock-transporting trailers were acquired with the police budget.

- ELLANIE SMIT

Live cattle
exports decline

On a month-on-month basis, live cattle exports saw a 27.8% decline from the 13 899 heads exported in September to 10 035 exported in October.

According to the Meat Board's Market Watch, live exports are 36% lower than a year ago and 41.94% lower than the five-year average.

Live exports were dominated by South African feedlots and abattoirs (99.9%) as destinations, with Botswana accounting for only 0.1% during October.

Export abattoirs experienced a decline of 41.04% on a month-to-month basis.

"Since May, there has been an almost 50% increase in the number of cattle slaughtered at export abattoirs, compared to previous years."

The Meat Board said the number of cattle slaughtered year-to-date is 40.69% more than what was slaughtered at export abattoirs last year.

"This shift in marketing could be due to the shift in the number of cattle slaughtered at B and C class abattoirs being absorbed by export abattoirs."

- ELLANIE SMIT



PHOTO: FILE

• WORKERS URGED TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Unpaid overtime sparks
revolt at fisheries ministry

The fisheries ministry's top administrator has urged workers to solve matters internally instead of running to unions, politicians and the media.

STAFF REPORTER
WALVIS BAY

Fisheries workers, some of whom are integral to the country's fight against illegal fishing in Namibian waters, have threatened to down tools if their outstanding overtime claims are not settled.

The situation has now seemingly pitted the ministry's top bosses against the workers, with the latter claiming their concerns are not being taken seriously.

It is understood that overtime for fisheries observers and inspectors has been outstanding for more than four months, leaving workers no choice but to consider stopping overtime work, subsequently giving private fishing companies leeway to do as they please during their fishing expeditions without watchdogs on their vessels.

Workers have also accused the ministry's leadership of going the

extra mile to please fishing industry players while failing to sort out in-house operational matters that are central to the ministry's mandate.

Waiting for a crisis

Meanwhile, fishing industry activists have cautioned that the situation could lead to the depletion of fish stocks because inspectors and observers are not out at sea to control and monitor fishing activities.

"Now we only work limited hours although we usually worked shifts. We do not exceed our hours because you do not get compensated for it. We repeatedly told the ministry to solve the overtime problems by paying us on time."

"Imagine not paying workers' overtime for four months and you expect them to deliver," one of the workers, who chose to remain anonymous, lamented.

Another worker said: "The ministry is not serious when it comes to the well-being of its workers and

INTERNAL
MATTER:
Fisheries
ministry
executive
director
Annelie
Haiphene.
PHOTO:
CONTRIBUTED

its mandate to protect the country's marine resources because they always wait for a crisis before they act. Our overtime is always left hanging until we threaten to go on strike; only then is it attended to."

Not scared

Namibian Sun spoke to the workers last week after a meeting with the ministry's executive director, Annelie Haiphene, where the overtime matter was discussed in-depth.

According to ministerial insiders, Haiphene took a hard-line stance and blasted employees for turning to their unions and the media in a bid to solve the matter.

"Your overtime is there on my desk, see what your union will do

to me. You guys are going to newspapers and [Popular Democratic Movement leader McHenry] Venaani about this issue," she allegedly quipped during the meeting.

She apparently added: "How can you talk [about] in-house things outside? You will see, go tell your union, I am not scared of your union."

Haiphene read the riot act to the workers and urged them to improve on the delivery of customer service and overall discipline.

Her visit coincided with the launch of the ministry's customer service charter at the Walvis Bay office.

Haiphene did not respond to calls and messages on the matter.

DILAPIDATED NORTHERN QUARANTINE FACILITY
BLAMED FOR POOR MEAT QUALITY

FALLING APART: A quarantine facility servicing the Kunene, Omusati, Oshana regions is in a dilapidated state. PHOTO: FILE

ELLANIE SMIT
WINDHOEK

ly 12 years ago."

One borehole, no electricity

The petition said for over a decade, the Omutambo Maowe quarantine facility has been unable to provide effective service due to dilapidated infrastructure.

Meanwhile, of the 13 boreholes previously installed at the facility, only one was functioning as of September 2022, it said.

The petition further noted that in July 2022, the facility was without electricity and employees at the site said that the previously installed generator had been broken for eight years.

Furthermore, livestock holding camps on the 24 000 hectare farm were without fencing at numerous places.

Interventions

A sustainable market for livestock in Namibia's NCAs requires distinct interventions, it said. These are effective quarantine services to allow procurement of healthy meat products, effective abattoirs to ensure that animal slaughter and meat value chain processing continues, and an effective programme that seeks to attain genetic improvement of local livestock as a strategic long-term investment.

Apart from making animals disease-free, no efforts have been made

"This explains why over the years the local abattoirs continued to receive poor-quality animals, resulting in poor-quality meat products and no sustainable markets."

According to the petition, a formal submission was made by the Super Group of Companies to rent the land the quarantine facility is on and carry out necessary renovations. It also offered to finance the resumption of livestock procurement, to produce 100 stud bulls per year and have these distributed to farmers for free as a long-term investment for genetic improvement, as well as to build a school and clinic.

This submission was reportedly ignored for three years and when Lisha followed up, the ministry declined the offer.

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Verkragter se vonnis verkort

► Kristien Kruger

'n Man wat tot 12 jaar tronkstraf gevonnis is op 'n klag van verkragting en diefstal, se vonnis is met twee jaar verkort nadat hy 'n aansoek om appell by die hoëhof in Windhoek ingedien het.

Moses Musongo is in November 2022 skuldig bevind nadat 'n vrou aangevoer het dat hy haar verkrag en haar selfoon gesteel het.

Die streekhof op Rundu het hom tot 10 jaar tronkstraf gevonnis vir die verkragtingsklag en twee jaar vir diefstal.

Musongo se appellaansoek was teen sy vonnisoplegging en skuldigebevinding op beide klagte. Die hof het egter beslis dat slegs die appell teen die diefstalklag kan slaag.

Die klagster het getuig sy het haar foon in haar onderklere gehad toe sy en Musongo 'n kroeg saam verlaat het. Haar foon het egter verdwyn nadat hy haar glo uitgetrek en seksuele omgang met haar gehad het. Toe Musongo, wat homself verteenwoordig het, haar tydens kruisondervraging oor die foon uitgevra het, het sy bloot gesê: "Jy is die een wat my uitgetrek het, jy moet weet waar jy dit gesit het."

Regter Dinnah Usiku het op grond hiervan beslis sy was nie seker waar haar foon was nie.

"Sy het bloot aangeneem aangesien hy haar uitgetrek het, moes hy haar foon weggesteek het. Dit was nie die

appellant [Musongo] se bedoeling om haar te beroof nie," lui Usiku se uitspraak.

Usiku het dus beveel dat die vonnis van twee jaar tronkstraf ten opsigte van die diefstalklag, tersyde gestel word.

VERKRAGTING

Die vonnis vir die verkragting bly egter onveranderd.

Musongo het aangevoer hy en die klagster het konsensuele seks gehad. Hy het gesê die hof se beslissing dat die staat 'n redelike twyfel bewyse gehad het dat hy haar verkrag het, was verkeerd.

Dinnah Usiku

REGTER

"Nadat al die bewyse oorweeg is, is hierdie hof oortuig van die appellant se skuld ten opsigte van die verkragtingsklag."

Hy het in die appellaansoek verder aangevoer dat die hof nie die teenstrydighede in haar getuieis in ag geneem het nie. Hy het beweer die vonnis van tien jaar tronkstraf het hom geskok.

"Nadat al die bewyse oorweeg is, is hierdie hof oortuig van die appellant se skuld ten opsigte van die verkragtingsklag. Die vonnis wat in terme van dié klag opgelê is, wek nie 'n gevoel van skok nie, veral met inagneming van die erns van die misdaad en die belang van die samelewing," het die hof beslis.

Usiku het verder beslis dat die getuieis tot die teendeel – dat die seksuele omgang konsensueel was – hoogs onwaarskynlik is.

— kristien@republiek.com.na



Die hoëhof in Windhoek. FOTO ARGIF

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Otjikoto maak reg vir werksverliese

Bedrywighede by die myn se verwerkingsaanleg sal waarskynlik nog tot 2031 voortduur soos laegraaderts wat op die myn geberg word, deur die meule gesit sal word.

► Augetto Graig

Die bestuur van B2Gold se Otjikoto-goudmyn beplan om ná die eerste kwartaal van 2024 tot sowat 'n derde van sy bykans 1 000 werknemers af te lê.

'n Verdere drastiese vermindering in werksgeleenthede sal in 2025 volg, wanneer mynbou in die oopgroefmyn heeltemal opgeskort mag word. Bedrywighede in die ondergrondse Wolfshag-uitbreiding word verwag om ook in 2026 tot 'n einde te loop.

Otjikoto se algemene bestuurder, Eric Barnard, het verlede week hieroor uitgebrei gedurende 'n mediageleentheid waar top-B2Gold-beamptes, soos Bill Lytle, senior adjunkpresident en hoofbedryfsbeampte, uit Kanada Namibië besoek het.

B2Gold Namibia se raadsvoorsitter, dr. Leake Hangala, het gesê daar is amper nie meer gouderts by die myn om te ontgin nie.

Dit kom egter nie as 'n verrassing nie, aangesien B2Gold reeds aangekondig het dat voorbereidings reeds getref word om die



John Roos, B2Gold Namibia se streekbestuurder. FOTO'S AUGETTO GRAIG



myn uiteindelik te sluit.

Bedrywighede by die verwerkingsaanleg sal waarskynlik nog tot 2031 voortduur soos laegraaderts wat op die myn geberg word, deur die meule gesit sal word, volgens Barnard.

Hangala se toespraak het afgeskop met die eerste goudproduksie in Februarie 2013. Kommerisie produksie is egter eers in April 2014 bereik, brei hy uit.

"Dit was 'n reusebelegging, meer as US\$300 miljoen, amper US\$400 miljoen. Ons het sowat 900 mense direk in diens geneem, indirek sowat 1 000 of so, ons voel ons het tot die ekonomie bygedra en ons is uiters trots daarop."

Die myn het oor die jare reeds N\$19,5 miljard tot die plaaslike ekonomie bygedra, insluitend sowat N\$1,1 miljard in belasting, uit inkomste van sowat N\$7 miljard in 2023.

Korporatiewe sosiale beleggings vanaf die Otjikoto-myn beloop sowat N\$26 miljoen, insluitend N\$14 miljoen vir die nuwe Ombili Primêre Skool in Otjiwarongo, is van die

inligting wat tydens die geleentheid gedeel is.

"Die Otjikoto-myn word 90% deur B2Gold besit en baie van die gesigte wat julle hier sien is van Kanada, en hulle het vandag hier aangekom.

Hulle het gekom omdat hierdie myn deur Namibiërs bestuur word, van die grond af op," het Hangala ook gesê.

John Roos, die streekbestuurder vir B2Gold Namibia, en het gesê: "Mense geniet dit om vir B2Gold te werk. Ons werknemers bly gemiddeld sowat ses en 'n half

jaar by ons, wat in 'n mynbedryf merkbaar is. Tog moet ons aandink en besef die myn moet eendag sluit.

Oeskerm die nalatenskap vir almal wat vir so 'n besonderse onderneming soos B2Gold Namibië werk."

Dit is hoekom die menslike hulpbrondepartement reeds 'n berading begin het met werknemers voor te berei vir die lewe na die sluit van die myn, voeg hy by.

Opleiding oor finansiële geleentheid word verskaf aan werknemers wat met groot skuldgevoelens en gesondheidsambasdeurs is uitgeken, 'n wustspan is saamgesaam en lede van elke portuugroep kry ondersteuning.

Verder word uitgebreide opleiding gebied, asook hulpe toelae om werknemers se vaardighede verbeter, voeg hy by.

Die myn is ook 'n voorloper op die gebied van sonkrag in te span van die Otjikoto-sonkragleg, wat reeds in 13% v

die myn kragbehoefte voorsien. Volgens jaar word 'n aanleg uitgevoer wat 'n megawatt (MW) en sal tot 3 van die myn en aanleg kragtoevoer "groen" we

het Roos gesê.

Die Otjikoto-myn sal ook 'n voorbeeld in ter van deurliepende besittings en voorbereiding om die omgewing te rehabiliteer, asook die voorsiening van voedsel en graan en inheemse plaaslike plaas en 'n natuurreservaat wat B2Gold vestig het.



Skandeer die QR-kode

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Die hoërhof in Windhoek. FOTO ARGIF

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Bedrywighede by die verwerkingsaanleg sal waarskynlik nog tot 2031 voortduur soos laegraaderts wat op die myn geberg word, deur die meule gesit sal word, volgens Barnard.

Hangala se toespraak het afgeskop met die eerste goudproduksie in Februarie 2013. Kommerisiele produksie is egter eers in April 2014 bereik, brei hy uit.

"Dit was 'n reusebelegging, meer as US\$300 miljoen, amper US\$400 miljoen. Ons het sowat 900 mense direk in diens geneem, indirek sowat 1 000 of so, ons voel ons het tot die ekonomie bygedra en ons is uiters trots daarop."

Die myn het oor die jare reeds N\$19,5 miljard tot die plaaslike ekonomie bygedra, insluitend sowat N\$1,1 miljard in belasting, uit inkomste van sowat N\$7 miljard in 2023. Korporatiewe sosiale beleggings vanaf die Otjikoto-myn beloop sowat N\$26 miljoen vir die nuwe Ombili Primêre Skool in Otjiwarongo, is van die

jaar by ons, wat in 'n mynbedryf merkwaa is. Tog moet ons and dink en besef die m moet eendag sluit. O beskerm die nalatens vir almal wat vir so 'n sonderlike ondernem soos B2Gold Namib werk."

Dit is hoekom die menslike hulpbr departement reeds n berading begin het werknemers voor te be vir die lewe na die sluit van die myn, voeg hy h Opleiding oor finansiële geleentheid w verskaf aan werknem wat met groot skuld gesondheidsambasdeurs is uitgeken, 'n w standspan is saamges en lede van elke portu groep kry ondersteun sê hy.

Verder word uitgebreide opleiding gebied, aso hulpe toelae om w nemers se vaardighede verbeter, voeg hy by.

Die myn is ook 'n vo loper op die gebied sonkrag in te span va die Otjikoto-sonkrag leg, wat reeds in 13% v

die myn kragbeho tes voorsê. Volgen jaar word aanleg u gebrei tot me g a w (MW) en sal tot 3 van die m en aanleg kragtoew "groen" w

het Roos gesê.

Die Otjikoto-myn s ook 'n voorbeeld in ter van deurlopende begring en voorbereid om die omgewing te re biliteer, asook die vo siening van voedsel n graan en inheemse pla van naburige komm siale plase en 'n natu reservaat wat B2G gevestig het.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS AT AUSSENKEHR, /KARAS REGION

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Aussekehr Solar Company (Pty) Ltd, Oryx Orange River Solarpark (Pty) Ltd and Aussekehr Energy Investments (Pty) Ltd to undertake environmental assessments for photovoltaic power plants in Aussekehr in the /Karas Region. Additional and location information about the photovoltaic power plants, located adjacent to each other, can be obtained at: <http://www.thenamib.com/projects/projects.html>

The environmental assessments will be conducted according to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and its regulations as published in 2012.

The three plants will be located adjacent to each other and cover approximately 300 hectares (100 ha each). Each plant will be connected to an aboveground power line which will be linked to the National grid via the Aussekehr Substation. Construction will include land preparation, minor earthworks, installation of solar panels and linking with the Aussekehr Substation. Operations include on site security, daily maintenance and repairs when required.

All interested and affected parties are invited to register with the environmental consultant. By registering you are provided with the opportunity to share any comments, issues or concerns related to the projects, for consideration in the environmental assessments. Additional information can be requested from Geo Pollution Technologies.

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Skandeer die QR-kode