



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 7TH PARLIAMENT

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE MINING AND ENERGY
COMPANIES IN OSHIKOTO, OTJOZONDJUPA AND ERONGO REGION**

REPORT NO.04/2025

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Acronyms

ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
Hon	Honourable
GM	General Manager
AQMS	Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations
NOEL	Namibian Occupational Exposure Limit
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
WRC	Whale Rock Cement (PTY) Ltd
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
DPMT	Dundee Precious Metal Plant
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
NIMT	Namibian Institute of Mining Technology
CENORED	Central Northern Rural Electricity Distributor
DFS	Definitive Feasibility Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of its constitutional mandate, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources conducted an oversight visit to assess compliance, sustainability, and socio-economic contributions within the mining, energy, and natural resource sectors. The visit covered various regions, including Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto, focusing on key industry players such as mining companies, energy producers, and natural resource processors.

The oversight visit revealed critical findings, including concerns about environmental management, workplace safety, slow renewable energy adoption, inadequate local community investment, and regulatory compliance gaps. While some companies demonstrated adaptability and commitment to job creation, others lacked essential rehabilitation plans and failed to address labour-related concerns effectively. Additionally, the Committee noted that valuable mineral by-products such as lithium and tantalum were not being optimally utilized, leading to missed economic opportunities.

Based on these findings, the Committee recommends stronger enforcement of environmental and labour regulations, improved government participation in the mining sector, accelerated renewable energy implementation, and greater corporate responsibility in community development. Strengthening oversight mechanisms and ensuring sustainable resource management are crucial for long-term economic growth and environmental protection.

The Committee remains committed to ensuring responsible resource exploitation and will continue monitoring industry practices to uphold national development objectives and safeguard public interests.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In an effort to enhance its oversight role and fulfill its mandate, the Standing Committee on Natural Resources established four (4) Sub-Committees. These Sub-Committees were tasked with focusing on the programs and operations of the following Ministries: The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism; the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources; the Ministry of Mines and Energy; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. Each Sub-Committee concentrated on the key programs and activities within their respective Ministries.

The Sub-Committee responsible for overseeing the Ministry of Mines and Energy conducted oversight visits to mining companies in the Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Erongo Regions. In the same vein, energy supply companies in Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa Regions were visited between 6 and 10 March 2023, while visits to Erongo took place from 9 to 12 October 2023.

The delegation comprised of Hon. Tjekero Tweya (Chairperson), Hon. Kletus Karondo (Head of the Sub-committee), Hon. Maria Elago, Hon. Diederik Vries, Hon. Maria Kamutali and Hon. Kennedy Shekupakela.

2. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources has the duty to;

- (a) Consider any matter it deems relevant with regard to the Offices, Ministries, Agencies, and all State-owned Enterprises and Parastatals responsible for the following category of affairs which shall, inter alia, include: Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; Environment, Forestry and Tourism; Fisheries and Marine Resources; Mines and Energy.
- (b) Monitor, enquire into, and make recommendations to the National Assembly on matters that may directly or indirectly affect the natural resources of the Republic of Namibia and its people;
- (c) Operate with a vision to promote sustainable utilization of Namibia's natural resources;
- (d) Review and advice the National Assembly on the activities and matters related to the agriculture, water and forestry;
- (e) Ensure that government put restraint on environmental degradation and protect the environment;
- (f) Review and advice the National Assembly on matters related to mines and energy sectors;
- (g) Ensure a fair distribution of farming land and productive utilization of it in Namibia;

2.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources has 23 Members of Parliament from various political parties represented in the National Assembly.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

- a) To engage with stakeholders on compliance with Environment Regulations;
- b) Social Corporate Responsibility programmes;
- c) Assess level of energy provision in particular the implementation of the Rural electrification programme;
- d) Challenges and success experienced
- e) Assess the use and implementation of renewable energy sources in the regions;
- f) Government shareholding in the mines;
- g) The extent of local ownership of mines;
- h) Environmental impact of mining and mitigating measures;
- i) The effect and impact of heavy mining equipment and transportation of harmful chemical on national roads;
- j) Prepare and table a report on the findings and Recommendations to the Assembly.

4. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the National Assembly of the Committee's Findings and recommendations on the visit to mines and energy supplying companies in Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Erongo Region.

5. MEETINGS

5.1. Courtesy Call on the Governor: Oshikoto Region

The Governor, welcomed the delegation to the region and expressed gratitude to the delegation by undertaking the field work and have evidence from the ground. He indicated that the Oshikoto region is recovering from Covid 19 pandemic like any other region of which several businesses were affected.

5.2 Meeting with the Regional Councilors: Oshikoto Region

The Honourable Councillor for Tsumeb Constituency informed the delegation that Dundee Precious Metals had been operating for more than six months without a valid Environmental Clearance Certificate, which expired in June 2022. The company continued operations with the expired certificate until it was renewed in February 2023. He expressed concern that the community had not been consulted regarding the re-issuance of the Environmental Clearance Certificate. In addition, he highlighted complaints from the community about a pile of acidic waste on Dundee's premises, posing significant health risks to both workers and the surrounding community.

The Councillor also raised concerns about Henning Crushers (Pty) Ltd, a company involved in sand mining in Tsumeb, stating that it has failed to engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. For example, it has not made any donations to local schools or hospitals. Furthermore, it was reported that many Namibian-owned sand mining companies are neglecting their responsibility to rehabilitate the land after completing their projects, leaving dangerous open pit holes, which pose a hazard to the community. Although the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has been informed of these issues, no action has been taken to date.

The Councillors commended the Ministry of Mines and Energy for its efforts in electrifying schools in the Oshikoto Region, although they noted that some schools still remain without electricity. Rural electrification in some villages has halted, with the focus shifting primarily to schools and other government facilities. While the electrification initiative is appreciated, the Councillors raised concerns about the high electricity rates, which make it difficult for local residents to afford its continued use. Frequent power outages during the rainy season were also reported in certain areas. Nored engineers explained that these outages were due to the overloading of a single-line connection, which needs to be replaced with a multi-line system.

In terms of renewable energy, progress in the region has been slow. Although there is a solar plant in Onyaanya-Okatope, it is not yet operational, and Dundee Precious Metals has constructed a solar plant at Oniipa. Locals have been applying through Nored to access solar energy. In terms of CSR, Nampower constructed a kindergarten in Omuntele during the 2020/2021 financial year, and Nored has committed N\$2 million to CSR, although at the time of the oversight the constituencies were still waiting for these funds.

5.3 Meeting with the Ministry of Mines and Energy (Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy)

An engineer from the Electrification Department at the Ministry of Mines and Energy informed the delegation that the objectives of the rural electrification program were to improve the standard of living in rural areas, increase economic and commercial activities, and enhance the quality of health and educational facilities. He further stated that the rural electrification program targeted public institutions rather than households, although households within 1 km of the grid were electrified. Since independence, 2,230 public institutions and over 51,268 homesteads had been electrified, with more than N\$1.63 billion spent. The program had been allocated an annual budget of N\$69 million since 2020.

In the Oshikoto Region, four schools were electrified during the 2020/2021 financial year, at a total cost of approximately N\$5.7 million. Renewable energy electrification was implemented through the Solar Revolving Fund, with about 680 systems installed. In the Otjozondjupa Region, seven public institutions and 405 households in the Tsumkwe area were electrified using a hybrid system of solar and diesel energy, at a cost of approximately N\$26 million during the 2019/2020 financial year. In addition, 184 systems were installed through the Solar Revolving Fund between 2011 and 2022. The electrification of Mangetti Dune Settlement was highlighted as one of the program's major successes, costing approximately N\$39 million. The project benefited the entire community, resulting in the electrification of around 127 households.

5.4 Meeting with Nampower Tsumeb

The Area Manager informed the delegation that Nampower's operations in Tsumeb and Otjiwarongo were primarily focused on transmission and maintenance. The company was responsible for supplying electricity to its customers in both regions, including municipalities, Cenored, Nored, Ohorongo Cement, Dundee Precious Metals, and Erongo Red. He recounted several challenges, noting that vandalism and copper wire theft were on the rise. Moreover, he pointed out that locals had been building houses under electricity lines, which posed a serious danger. The aging infrastructure, particularly wooden poles, was another concern, as their collapse

could result in power outages. He further highlighted that Nampower had initiated security measures in copper zone areas, though this was a costly undertaking.

5.6 Meeting with the former Employees of Dundee Precious Metals (Tsumeb) in relations with Social Corporate Responsibility to the Locals

The former workers of Dundee Precious Metals informed the delegation that their health and safety had been at serious risk. The company employed two doctors to attend to the employees, but these doctors did not diagnose the true nature of illnesses or their causes. The employees also did not have access to their Occupational Health test results. The former workers provided an example of a long-term employee who operated an overhead crane that vibrated for 27 years, resulting in back problems. Despite this, the doctors diagnosed that his illness was not work-related but instead due to working on his mahangu field in his village during his time off. Ill employees were sent home with their salaries, but their medical aid only covered them for three months after leaving the company.

The former workers reported that many male employees experienced issues with their sexual health, which had negatively affected their marriages and relationships. They also stated that some of the protective clothing provided, such as plastic overalls meant to prevent dust exposure, was unsuitable for the hot working environment of the plant.

In 2014, Dundee Precious Metals Acid Plants had promised employees a 2% shareholding in the company, but this promise never materialized. The establishment of an Employee Trust Fund also initially seemed promising, but former employees were later informed that the fund would only benefit current employees. The former employees also pointed out that since 2010, only five white people had been employed by Dundee PM, none of whom were stationed in the mine. They expressed concerns that the entire project was hazardous to the workers and locals and that Namibia lacked sufficient capacity to handle toxic mining and smelting of this nature. They worried about potential groundwater contamination from toxic waste, particularly as the waste plant had become old and unreliable.

In addition, they claimed that the Dundee PM Trust Fund had promised to invest in agriculture to benefit the local community, but instead, the company bought a farm in Stampriet, not in the Tsumeb district. This raised concerns that local water sources, like those of green farms, might be contaminated. The former workers requested regular testing of local fresh produce to monitor for contamination.

5.7 Meeting with Dundee Precious Metals

The Vice President and Managing Director of Dundee Precious Metals, Mr. Zebra Kasete, informed the delegation that DPM's corporate head office is located in Toronto, Canada. He provided an overview of DPM's acquisition of the Tsumeb Plant and outlined the company's operations, which included gold and copper projects in Southern Ecuador, Serbia, and Bulgaria, as well as a special smelter in Tsumeb, Namibia, where they hold 92% ownership.

He explained that the DPM Tsumeb Smelter does not have a mining license as it is registered as a manufacturer, but it does hold permits. The company submits two environmental reports every six months to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The plant processes raw materials (copper and gold concentrate) from outside Namibia and returns the processed materials through Walvis

Bay, to South America and Europe. During production, the plant also produces sulfuric acid, which is sold and transported locally to Tschudi and Rossing Uranium Limited.

The company outsources transportation of sulfuric acid, to independent contractors that are responsible for any accidents costs during transport. However, officials in the region have been trained in emergency response in case of exposure. DPM monitors arsenic exposure in the air and from urine samples, adhering to international and Namibian standards. Six Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) have been established to monitor air quality in various locations around Tsumeb.

There are no ambient air quality standards in Namibia for sulfur dioxide (SO₂), so emissions are evaluated using the South African National Air Quality Standard. In 2015, DPMT received around 369 complaints related to SO₂ exposure, primarily due to difficulty breathing and bad odors. However, after the commissioning of the Sulfuric Acid Plant in 2015, community complaints drastically decreased, with 2022 exposure levels below the Namibian Occupational Exposure Limit (NOEL) of 0.1mg/m³. By 2023/2024, DPMT planned to implement real-time exposure monitoring to enable quicker corrective action.

Regarding water consumption, Mr. Kasete pointed out that the company's water abstraction permit was initially set at 1.3 Mm³, which was challenging to meet. However, from 2020 onward, water consumption began to align with the permit limit, thanks to reduced raw water consumption. In late 2022, the company discovered biological contamination in the water but no chemical contamination. Following this, the company informed its employees and the community, and clean bottled water was provided.

DPMT has also constructed a hazardous facility to prevent contamination, and employees monitoring the facility wear protective equipment. There are sensors in place to warn workers if contamination occurs. In the case of heavy rainfall causing water contamination, DPMT conducts contamination tests, with the arsenic discharge limit set at 0.05 mg/l.

Mr. Kasete highlighted the company's corporate social responsibility efforts, including spending approximately N\$1.3 million to fund local learners and a Namibian doctor specializing in occupational health. The company also funds employee education upgrades and has purchased a farm in Stampriet, to support the local community's sustainability.

5.8 Courtesy Call on the Governor: Otjozondjupa Region

Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua, the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region, welcomed and thanked the delegation for conducting an oversight visit regarding natural resources in his region. He informed the delegation that the region has six mines contributing to the country's GDP. However, he raised concerns about the lack of value addition, as natural resources are exported in raw form, which results in a loss of job opportunities and wealth for Namibians. The region faces labor and safety issues in the mines, which are being addressed. During the COVID-19 outbreak, many mines were willing to assist the central government but were less forthcoming with assistance for the regional government through the Regional Development Fund. The governor emphasized the need for mining companies to assist the Road Authority with infrastructure development as part of their corporate social responsibility.

He noted the rising charcoal industry in the region but expressed concerns over unregistered producers, lack of fair remuneration, and poor protective gear for workers. There are also environmental issues, particularly non-compliance with regulations on cutting large trees. The governor confirmed that health inspectors and road traffic officers had been trained to handle sulfuric acid spills, but he emphasized that the region was not fully prepared to respond to such a dangerous substance. Regional councilors agreed with the governor's call for mining companies to take on greater corporate social responsibility, particularly in providing sports facilities and improving road infrastructure for local communities.

5.9 Meeting with Cenored

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Robert Kahimise, informed the delegation that Cenored was created by government legislation and had been fully regulated since 2006, but had since become an orphan. CENORED operated the electricity business of Okahandja in a joint venture with the Municipality, Omaheke Regional Council, and Otjinene Village Council under a Service Level Agreement. Effective from 01 July 2023, CENORED fully incorporated Okahandja Municipality as an additional shareholder, including Osona Village, and took over the remaining NamPower distribution networks and customers within the region. In the southernmost part of the Otjozondjupa Region, CENORED only supplied electricity to localities falling under the regional council, while NamPower owned and operated most of the medium voltage networks supplying farms.

The CEO presented that Cenored's shareholders were NamPower with 46%, Tsumeb Municipality 12%, Otjiwarongo Municipality 11%, Grootfontein Municipality 10%, Outjo Municipality 5%, Otjozondjupa Regional Council 5%, Khorixas Town Council 3%, Okakarara Town Council 3%, Otavi Town Council 2%, Kamanjab Town Council 2%, Kunene Regional Council 1%, and Oshikoto Regional Council 0%.

The company had inherited a network from Local Authorities that usually made losses, but it had been making a profit, although there had been a decrease. He indicated the following:

- a) The company recorded a profit after tax of N\$ 3.8 million for the year, compared to a profit after tax of N\$ 16.6 million in the prior financial year (2021).
- b) Revenue increased from N\$ 590 million (2021) to N\$ 624 million (2022), representing an increase of N\$ 34 million.
- c) The cost of sales increased from N\$ 377 million (2021) to N\$ 405 million (2022), representing an increase of N\$ 28 million, in line with the increase in revenue.
- d) Operating profit reduced from N\$ 19 million to N\$ 9 million. Although revenue increased by 6% during the 2021/22 financial year, an impairment loss of N\$ 15 million was recognized on JV intercompany receivables.
- e) The net profit margin reduced from 3% (2021) to 1% (2022). This reduction was attributable to the impairment loss on JV intercompany receivables of N\$ 15 million.
- f) The gross profit margin reduced from 36% (2021) to 35% (2022).

He further stated that the true cost of electricity was not in salaries or board memberships but in electricity itself.

The CEO specified that, in Oshikoto region, CENORED had electrified 145 households at an approximate cost of N\$ 1.8 million during the 2022 financial year, and 55 households (including

10 ongoing) at approximately N\$ 1.3 million. In Otjozondjupa region, 497 households were electrified at approximately N\$ 5.7 million during 2022, and 275 households at approximately N\$ 6.6 million during 2023, including ongoing projects. Most of the projects were awarded to external contractors.

He also discussed the national rural electrification project funded by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the two regions, highlighting the Omangetti OHL and Otumborombonga OHL projects. Omangetti Dune Settlement was connected to the national grid with a 45 km line that started on 5 April 2021 and was completed on 30 November 2021. The project was estimated at N\$ 40 million, with N\$ 18 million paid by MME and N\$ 16 million utilized by CENORED to date. Mr. Kahimise informed the delegation that during the implementation of this project, they had encountered resistance from Farm Okokure Close Corporation. The farm owner, Mr. Ausribel Ntema, refused a once-off servitude payment of N\$ 2,800.00 per hectare for the line to pass through his farm, demanding N\$ 90,000.00 per hectare with a 10% annual increment. After communication between CENORED and Mr. Ntema, he later allowed CENORED to proceed with de-bushing on the farm while awaiting a final compensation decision.

In terms of renewable energy, Mr. Kahimise stated that Tsumkwe and Gam were the only two off-grid solar plants within the Cenored district. The HOPSOL/ANIREP Solar PV Plant had a capacity of 5 MW, with expansion to 10 MW planned. A newly signed IPP (NGC Investments) had a capacity of 10 MW, and there was an envisaged plant for Okahandja with a capacity of 5 MW. The CEO mentioned that N\$ 5.1 million had been spent on Corporate Social Responsibility over the past five years, including aid to combat Covid-19. CENORED usually spent N\$ 1.1 million per year. Approximately N\$ 3 million had been spent on bursaries for students studying within SADC. During community events such as trade fairs or expos, CENORED provided free electricity units.

He further stressed that electrification faced numerous challenges, including material theft (especially copper), vandalism of electricity infrastructure, rapid peri-urban growth, and municipalities/village councils/settlements not being ready for electrification. Many areas were informal and might require relocation in the future. He expanded that the company faced power capacity constraints in Otjiwarongo, with an estimated upgrade cost of N\$ 45 million, and in Okahandja, with an estimated upgrade cost of N\$ 30 million. Additionally, there was a lack of funding, and old infrastructures, particularly timber, needed replacement. The fuel cost at Tsumkwe was very expensive (estimated at N\$ 20–N\$ 25 million), so extending the grid from Omangetti could be more sustainable, as the lifespan of the batteries there was nearing its end. Sustainable funding for electrification in the CENORED areas was estimated at N\$ 40 million, which included taking over Osona with Okahandja.

5.10 Meeting with Whale Rock Cement (Pty) Ltd /Cheetah Cement (Wrc)

The Managing Director, through his translator, informed the delegation that the company was 80% foreign-owned and 10% Namibian-owned, with a lifespan of 24 years. The number of Chinese employees had been reduced from 130 to 53, while there were 147 Namibian employees. Employees' Occupational Health and Safety checkups were conducted annually by a doctor, although no checkups were conducted in 2022. Prior to the commencement of mining activities, WRC had to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) in compliance with the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. An impact assessment was also conducted

prior to operations. WRC had a Service Level Agreement with Environam Consultants Trading (ECT) to conduct monitoring exercises, which were conducted quarterly.

The consultants assisted Whale Rock Cement with compliance by conducting environmental monitoring and evaluations, ensuring adherence to the conditions of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). They conducted site visits once every quarter and compiled and submitted biannual reports to the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism every six months. To date, WRC blasted once a month up to nine meters below the ground in the presence of a geologist. Among all holes drilled, no groundwater was encountered, and no negative results in terms of long-term environmental impact were observed.

In terms of Corporate Social Responsibility, WRC employed Namibians as understudies and donated approximately N\$ 6 million (in materials and monetary contributions) during Covid-19 to the community, as well as for the construction of schools and churches. The compilation and costing of a detailed rehabilitation plan for electricity infrastructure was identified as a critical activity to be undertaken by Whale Rock Cement (Pty) Ltd. Environam Consultants Trading (ECT) had commenced with the rehabilitation plan, which was 80% complete, with the final document expected to be submitted by the end of March 2023.

5.11 Meeting with B2Gold Namibia

The delegation was informed by Mr. Ndama Fotolela, the Assistant General Manager, that Namibia held a 10% shareholding in the company. B2Gold employed a total of 1,177 employees: 790 permanent employees, 49 temporary employees, 338 contract employees, and 13 expatriates. The processing plant had one gyratory crusher. The gravity circuit accounted for 70%, while the leach circuit accounted for 30% of total gold recovered, making the total gold recovery among the best in the world.

Mr. Fotolela highlighted that, as part of B2Gold's Corporate Social Responsibility, the company had invested in a variety of activities, including the accommodation at the Otjikoto Nature Reserve, located approximately 13 km from the mine. B2Gold constructed the Otjikoto Education Centre to provide schoolchildren with a facility for learning outside of the classroom. The center included an outdoor classroom, overnight accommodation, physics laboratories, and a game reserve, and had hosted approximately 5,000 pupils to date. The company also offered internship attachments.

In the agricultural sector, the mining company operated four center pivots, each covering 15 hectares, at the Otjikoto Nature Reserve. They were farming maize and wheat and maintained a mine rehabilitation nursery and a horticultural nursery. The horticultural nursery supplied fresh produce to the mine canteen and the education center, with surplus produce sold to the Otjiwarongo Spar. The maize mill production was supplied to Namib Mills. Workers at the nurseries were local Namibians. In the same vein, an education center was established in the Oshikoto Nature Reserve for the children of mine workers and staff.

5.12 Meeting with Okanjande Graphite

Mr. Gerson Shipena, the General Manager, informed the delegation that Okanjande was a Canadian company employing 50 Namibians, along with 10 intern students from NIMT. The site was in phase 1 of relocating from the Okorusu processing plant, with plans to install new grinding mills to eliminate ore transportation costs. Previously, ore processing took place at the Okorusu Mine, but the mine was under care and maintenance, with no mining or exploration taking place at the time. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had been conducted, and the company would continue with the mining licenses from Gecko Imerys.

The planned mining pit was expected to cover at least 1 km to mine graphite, which is a non-toxic mineral. Okanjande planned to contract local SMEs for construction and the supply of materials and equipment. The mine was expected to reach full production capacity by December 2023, with a lifespan of 15 years. The mine also planned to use solar power for electricity, while negotiations with NamPower for a grid connection on-site were ongoing.

5.13 Courtesy call on the Governor of Erongo region

Hon. Neville Andre, the Governor, welcomed the Sub-committee and appreciated the visit, noting that it was the perfect time to oversee mining activities in the region. He assured the delegation that operations of companies in the region were growing, with new mining companies and investors emerging, and some mines that were on the verge of closure had revived activities after the Covid-19 pandemic. However, he was concerned about the lack of coordination among stakeholders in the mining sector, adding that this was affecting relationships between mining companies, local leadership, employees, and the communities, which led to the exploitation of mine workers.

The Governor emphasized the need to protect local companies to enable them to contribute to value chains and reduce the export of raw materials. During the meeting, some councillors suggested that Namibia should introduce a Mining Resources Fund, where all mining companies and investors would contribute. This fund could be accessed by the Regional Councillors through the Governor office to develop local communities according to their needs. The Governor expressed concern that Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) were being exploited by companies, particularly foreign investors, as they offered minimal contributions with no long-term impact.

He noted that while he was pleased with the growth of mining activities in the region and their contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), there was an urgent need for better coordination. Local communities, especially traditional leadership, were not equipped to negotiate long-term Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives that could benefit and develop the communities. He stressed the need for engagement between local communities, investors, and traditional authorities to define what locals could gain from mining investments through CSR, and to establish strategies for addressing challenges and mitigating impacts at the end of projects, particularly in terms of long-term benefits and environmental concerns.

The Governor further stated that regional leadership was unaware of many mining activities taking place in the region and noted the absence of sufficient mining inspectors on the ground. He informed the delegation that there were several labor-related issues in the region, particularly

in the mining sector. His office had received complaints about JTD Mining Company, which operates about 15 km from Usakos. Employees had been subjected to poor working conditions and inadequate accommodation. After his office intervened, the workers' accommodations were renovated, and air conditioning was installed. He recommended that the Sub-committee engage with JTD Mining Company during their visit.

5.14 Meeting with Rossing Uranium

The General Manager briefed the delegation that the Rossing Uranium Mine was Namibia's oldest established commercial uranium mine. Uranium was discovered in the Namib Desert in 1928, and production started in 1976. In 2019, China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC) acquired a majority shareholding of 68.6% in Rössing Uranium. Other shareholders included Iran Foreign Investment Corporation with 15.3%, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa with 10.2%, the Namibian Government with 3.4%, and Independent Majority Shareholding with 2.5%. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Shaan van Schalkwyk, emphasized that the Namibian Government held the majority (50.06%) in voting rights. He also mentioned that Iran Foreign Investment Corporation was a passive legacy investor dating back to the 1970s when it financed the mine, while the Industrial Development Corporation had previously discussed selling its stake to the Namibian Government.

Additionally, it was reported that Rossing Uranium Mine exported half-processed uranium powder, which was further refined by buyers before reaching its final form. The uranium powder was transported in drums produced and imported from South Africa. The mine used railways for most of its heavy transportation, including the shipment of acid. A deal was concluded to purchase acid as a by-product from Dundee's Tsumeb copper smelter, which was transported by rail to the Rössing site.

In terms of power, Rössing was connected to the national electricity grid via a 120 kV line to a dedicated substation on site, equipped with two 40MVA transformers, with one on cold standby for redundancy. Onsite diesel generators provided 15MW of power for essential services in case of grid failure. The company had plans for an 18MW solar power plant for Phase 4, which would deliver 15MW. The mine was connected to the national water grid from Swakopmund and had water storage tanks with a capacity of 60,000m³, with an additional tank of the same capacity under construction to ensure continued water supply during interruptions.

Rossing Uranium Mine employs 901 people, including 11 non-Namibians. Only one of the non-Namibians worked under a work permit, while the others were either domiciled or permanent residents. The company held an Environmental Clearance Certificate valid until November 2024 and operational permits. According to the Chief Financial Officer, the main source of potential groundwater pollution was the tailings storage facility. The tailings solution was acidic and contained residual process chemicals, heavy metals, and radionuclides. To mitigate this, water from the tailings storage facility was reused in the processing plant and measures were in place to prevent seepage from entering the Khan River. A comprehensive water quality monitoring program was in place, with more than 150 monitoring boreholes, cut-off trenches. The open pit, which was over 300 meters deep, also prevented any flow from the processing plant towards the Khan River.

The Chief Financial Officer highlighted that, in 2023, the Rossing Uranium Mine continued to comply with all environmental regulations, particularly in securing an ECC for radioactive mechanical waste disposal on-site. The mine also advanced detailed design and construction trials for a passive reactive barrier. In addition, the CFO informed the delegation that the mine's lifespan had been extended from 2026 to 2036. The mine had maintained a Closure Management Plan (CMP) since 1992, with both technical and cost updates made in 2022. The total projected closure cost was N\$1.94 billion, up from N\$1.89 billion in 2021. Closure measures included fencing off the open pit, covering the tailings storage facility with rocks, and demolishing the processing plant. Groundwater seepage control and environmental monitoring would continue for 25 years after the project's closure. The Rössing Environmental Rehabilitation Fund provided for closure liabilities.

The General Manager also informed the delegation that the Rossing Foundation had been investing in communities across the country as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These activities included sponsoring the planting of 60 trees at three schools in Arandis for World Environment Day to promote environmental awareness, supporting the "Bigger-Than-Me" project in Okombahe at Willem Borchard School, installing a borehole for the Ûiba-Ôas Cooperative (Crystal Market), and donating N\$300,000 to the National Emergency Disaster Fund to assist with flood relief in northern Namibia in 2023. Moreover, the mine employed student interns from the Kavango West region. The GM further mentioned that while the company had previously offered bursaries to students, it had ceased doing so due to the anticipated mine closure in 2026. However, with the extension to 2036, there was a possibility of revisiting this decision. In terms of occupational health and safety, the mine had paramedics on-site for emergency response, a fully equipped ambulance, and arrangements for transferring serious cases to Dr. Strauss in Swakopmund.

5.15 Meeting with Husab Mine (Swakop Uranium)

Mr. Iryinne Simataa, the Operations Manager, informed the delegation that Swakop Uranium was 100% owned by Extract Resources, an exploration company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange since 2006. In 2011, China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGNPC), through Taurus Minerals, made a bid to acquire all listed shares of Extract Resources. Since February 2012, Swakop Uranium was jointly owned by the Namibian Government, through Epangelo, and China, through CGNPC and the China-Africa Development Fund. The construction of the mine cost approximately N\$82 billion. Swakop Uranium (Husab) Mine owned two EPLs, 3138 and 3439, and after the Environmental Impact Assessment was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Mining License ML 171 was issued. Construction of the mine then commenced, with the first drilling taking place in February 2014. The main part of the Husab project focused on the Rössing South orebody, located about 5 km south of the Rössing mine.

The Operations Manager further informed the delegation that the mine employed approximately 1,700 permanent employees and over 2,000 contract staff. The mine operated 24 hours a day, with three shifts per day. He highlighted that 96% of the workforce were Namibians, many of whom held technical positions such as geologists, laboratory technicians, diesel engineers, and drillers. In addition, 2% of the workforce was seconded

from the majority shareholder, while another 32% were expatriates from Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Swakop Uranium provided various types of training to its employees, including on-the-job training, a self-study assistance program where employees who had worked for at least 12 consecutive months were eligible to apply for interest-free loans to pursue formally-recognized tertiary qualifications, a graduate program, internal and external training, job attachment, and a bursary program.

The Operations Manager pointed out that the mine had an onsite clinic with qualified nurses, and in cases of serious injuries, employees were transferred to Dr. Strauss in Swakopmund. The mine also operated its own sulphuric acid plant and did not need to transport acid, as it produced its own onsite. Furthermore, he informed the delegation that the mine experienced water scarcity and therefore used water ponds for storage, recycling, and reuse in the processing system. Swakop Uranium also planned to utilize more solar power to reduce the costs of electricity and diesel. According to the Electricity Control Board (ECB) regulations, entities were only allowed to implement up to 30% of their energy demand from renewable sources, and so far, Swakop Uranium had implemented 12%.

Swakop Uranium supported the Namibian economy through the payment of royalties and the local procurement of goods and services wherever practical. This included contracting local catering companies and car wash services for machinery and equipment onsite. While the mine initially purchased drums for transporting uranium compounds from a local company in Arandis, the quality of these drums compromised the U₃O₈ compound during shipping. As a result, Swakop Uranium began importing higher-quality drums from South Africa.

In terms of corporate social responsibility (CSR), the Operations Manager informed the delegation that Swakop Uranium made significant donations in 2022. These included the donation of prefabricated accommodation units to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety & Security to upgrade Namibian border posts; a donation to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism to support the Clean-up Campaign in the National Parks; sponsorship of the Erongo Governor's Cup; and the donation of sanitary pads and soap to underprivileged girls. However, the Operations Manager noted that Swakop Uranium had not yet made a profit and, therefore, had not yet paid taxes.

The Operations Manager confirmed that Swakop Uranium Mine complied with all relevant Namibian legislation and permits, including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), six Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs), a permit from the Forestry Department to relocate protected plants, a water conservation and dewatering permit for dust suppression (No. 11523), a permit to enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park, a Disposal Exemption Permit (No. 724), and an Environmental Management Plan.

5.16 Meeting with the Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty) Ltd

Langer Heinrich Uranium (LHU) mine was 75% owned by Paladin Energy Australia, with China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) Overseas Uranium Holding Limited, a subsidiary of China Nuclear Corporation, holding the remaining 25%. The General Manager highlighted that LHU operated an open pit within the Namib Naukluft National Park under EPL 140 and 142 and was the only operating open pit uranium mine in the world with cash costs below US\$30/lb. The

mine first began production in 2017, but went under care and maintenance in 2018, before reopening in 2020. At the time of the visit, on the 9th to 12th October 2023, the project was in the restarting phase and was projected to be fully operational by 2024.

The General Manager also noted that, during its operations, Langer Heinrich Uranium had mined 43 million tons of uranium, which was exported as U3O8. He informed the delegation that the mine had the required permits, licenses, and certificates from the relevant authorities, and expressed excitement over the recent renewal of Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) number 2300872, approved on 9 October 2023. He explained that the mine had actively undertaken land rehabilitation during the mining process and that the open pit was fenced off.

The mining process required a significant amount of water to wash uranium off the rocks, and the mine faced water shortages. LHU was connected to the Swakopmund water pipeline, which ran approximately 85 km. As an alternative, the General Manager mentioned that the mine had begun planning to recycle its water and had obtained an extraction permit to draw water from the Swakop River. In terms of power, the mine was powered by Nampower and had implemented some solar energy solutions on-site.

Since the mine was in the restarting phase, the organizational structure had not yet been fully outlined. For maintenance, Langer Heinrich Uranium employed 11,000 contractors, including one foreign company and approximately 95 Namibian employees. The company was fully committed to providing and maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy work environment, with the aim of achieving zero harm from occupational injuries in the workplace. By the end of the 2023 financial year, the mine had achieved 2,083 days Lost Time Injury Free (LTIF).

The General Manager noted that there was a clinic on-site with a paramedic, though no doctor was present. In cases of serious injuries, employees were transferred to Dr. Strauss in Swakopmund. He also mentioned that Paladin had plans to consider offering employees a shareholding percentage in the company as a long-term incentive. Additionally, he informed the delegation that before the mine went under care and maintenance, the company had purchased drums for transporting U3O8 from a local factory in Arandis, which had since closed down.

5.17 Meeting with Symphonie Stone Processing

The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Ye, the owner of Symphonie Stone Processing Company, and the Site Manager, Mr. Maveka. The Site Manager briefed the delegation that Symphonie Stone Processing Company was privately owned by a Chinese national. The company mined rocks and cut stones used in the construction industry, commencing operations in August 2021 under nine EPLs held by JTD (PTY) Ltd. By the end of 2022, the company had employed a total of 60 Namibian workers in various roles, including jackhammer operators, mechanics, drivers, and an administrative officer. However, due to the economic impact of COVID-19, the company retrenched some employees, while others voluntarily resigned. At the time of the visit, the company employed 43 Namibian workers and 4 Chinese nationals on work permits (Annexure).

The company offered pension and social security benefits, as well as free accommodation and food, but no medical aid. The Site Manager further informed the delegation that the company only used diesel in its operations, without employing any other chemicals. Employees were provided with protective clothing and training on how to handle diesel in the event of a spill. While there was a first aid kit on-site, there was no medical officer or paramedic available. The Site Manager reported that one employee, employed as a jackhammer operator, had sustained serious injuries in

two separate accidents while on duty. The employee was subsequently transferred to a cleaner position rather than being laid off, and was compensated by Social Security.

The Site Manager also recounted that employees had previously complained about poor living conditions, prompting the company to implement a weekly site-cleaning campaign, which had improved employee behavior and living standards. The company had not yet recorded any profits since the onset of COVID-19, but there were plans to donate items such as school uniforms, sanitary pads, and stationery to schools around Skoppetopje by December 2023.

5.18 Meeting with Uis Tin Mine (Andrada)

The delegation was welcomed by the General Manager, Mr. Daniel Hattingh, who briefed them on the ownership and operations of Uis Tin Mine. He explained that 85% of the mine was owned by Andrada Mining Company, with the remaining 15% owned by local small-scale miners. The mine, discovered in 1911, was one of the oldest mines in the Erongo region. In 2022, the mine was renamed from Afritin to Andrada Mining Company. According to the General Manager, the main product was tin, but Uis Tin Mine had significant by-product potential for lithium and tantalum, making it highly scalable. Andrada Mining had an off-take agreement with Thaisarco in Thailand, so tin concentrate was transported by road from Uis to the Walvis Bay Port for shipment. The General Manager confirmed that the concentrates were transported in 13-tonne bags purchased from Oshitenda CC, a local company in Walvis Bay.

The Mine Manager, Mr. Efraim Tourob, informed the delegation that the mine had constructed and commissioned tantalum and lithium test facilities on-site, as these two minerals were part of the value addition and beneficiation project. At the time of the visit, tantalum was included in the tin concentrate shipments, benefiting the buyer, while lithium, as part of the tailings, was sent to the waste dumps. However, Uis had the potential to become a global lithium supplier. The Mine Manager noted that the total workforce, including contractors, was 445 employees, with 59 coming from the Uis community.

Uis Tin Mine held three valid mining licenses: ML134 in Uis, where the current pits and processing facilities were operational; ML133 Nai-Nais, 30 km towards Usakos on the Omaruru River, where Phase 1 exploration drilling had been completed; and ML129 B1C1, 15 km outside Uis on the C35 road towards Henties Bay, where Phase 1 exploration drilling had also been completed. This license was under renewal at the time of the visit. The company was also targeting its next exploration drilling program on EPL5445 in the Old Brandberg West Mine area. Uis Tin Mine had a water extraction permit for 150,000 m³ per annum and held a valid Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for all three mining licenses.

The Mine Manager indicated that monthly compliance audits were conducted by an EC consultant, and occupational health and hygiene surveillance was carried out by the National Environmental Health Commission (NEHC). The mine implemented dust buckets placed at strategic positions for monthly dust monitoring, and all hydrocarbon waste was taken to the Walvis Bay Municipality. Monthly borehole water quality tests were conducted, and potable water was sourced from Namwater through the settlement office. According to the Mine Manager, the Phase 1 Mine Closure Plan was finalized and shared with relevant stakeholders, but no rehabilitation had been done yet, as the project was still following the footprint of the old pits.

The mine is receiving electricity directly from Nampower, with a maximum demand permit of 2.6 megawatts per month. The Mine Manager confirmed that the mine had implemented renewable

energy to supplement its electricity usage and that negotiations were ongoing between Andrada Mining Company's management and Nampower to increase the demand limit.

Regarding Corporate Social Investment (CSI), the Mine Manager highlighted four focus areas: local clean-up campaigns, providing ambulance services to communities in emergencies, quarterly consultative meetings at the SDC for sponsorship requests, and promoting and supporting educational projects in the Daures Constituency, including the Daures Winter Schools and local schools. Small-scale miners benefited through an association with the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The mine had contracted Dr. Strauss in Swakopmund for occupational treatments, and a first-aid team, along with a fully equipped ambulance, was available on-site.

5.19 Meeting with Omusati Granite

Omusati Granite (Pty) Ltd was private owned company with 75% shares for German & China and 25% share for a Namibian individual. The company has been mining Marble for more than 10 years in Karibib district and export the Marble blocks to China and India. According to the Finance Manager around 2500 granite blocks goes to waist because they were not selected for purchase and were abandoned, the Ministry of Mines and Energy predetermined the selling price at 180USD per ton. However, the market average price has always been higher. Should the company priced more than that, the Ministry will not ensure the Export Permit for that shipment. The Finance Manager indicated that has not yet invested in major corporate social responsibility other than some monetary donations toward Karibib and had planned to donate Christmas food to locals with disability beginning of December 2023. The company employed 18 Chinese Nationals and 50 Namibian.

5.20 Meeting with Navachab Gold Mine

The Navachab Gold Mine was owned by QKR (Qatar Government and Citizen) that has a 92.5% shareholding and 7.5% owned by the Government of Namibia through Epangelo Mining Company. The Managing Director, Mr. George Botshiwe informed the delegation that Navachab mines gold and silver as a byproduct. By August 2023 the mine employed 754 direct employees and 354 Contractors.

According to the Managing Director, the company believed in empowering citizens either through the outsourcing of jobs to local companies with expertise, provision of employment or internships for mining graduates and revealed that Kodo was awarded a 4-year blastholes drilling contract at N\$125 million, NU Trading at N\$43 million, Landsberg N\$15 million, Stewardship Drilling N\$30 million and Oshikoto Transport N\$13 million. The only time procurement was sourced from outside the country was when it procures explosives, major equipment and spare parts.

The Managing Director further highlighted the high water and energy costs as the two biggest challenges affecting profit. He added that innovation was at the centre of its operations and that plans were afoot to construct an own solar plant to help reduce the cost of production. He noted that the mine was at a low grade mine and therefore required innovation to continue running profitably specially to get affordable water and energy. As such Navachab Gold Mine was the first mine in the world to use the XRT technology in gold processing in order to reduce costs. The Managing Director further confirmed that the mine drilled up to more than 3000km deep and had not intercepted with underground water to cause any contamination.

The Managing Director reported that as part of its social corporate responsibility, the mine drilled over 12 boreholes in the regions of Kavango West, Zambezi, Kunene and Omaheke at a

combined cost exceeding N\$5 million benefiting over 700 households and over 15 000 livestock. The company has ongoing plans to construct a medical centre in Karibib. The medical centre which is envisaged to help the local community to have easy access to medical care, will be constructed in phases for a period of 5 years at a cost of over N\$180 million. Another project was for breeding Karakul sheep and donated them to a group of single mothers around Karibib, however most of the sheep succumbed due to drought. Moreover, the company has an ongoing project of construction of a mortuary facility in Otjimbingwe.

Navachab Gold Mine also offers internships to graduates as part of its efforts to impart the necessary skills to enable them to be absorbed in permanent employment. According to the Managing Director, the company has taken a deliberate decision to accommodate mining engineer students in internships to lessen the burden of unemployment and put on hold the bursaries instead. The company also implemented a housing scheme were by the employer contribute up to 25% and employees 75%. According to the Managing Director, the mine has an ongoing rehabilitation plan for the open pits at the end of the project, the materials for rehabilitation were being placed alongside the pits.

The Managing Director related that the mine does not give preference of employment to the Karibib community only but to Namibians as per the Labour Act 11 of 2007.

5.21 Meeting with the African Granite (Pty) Ltd

The Managing Director Mr. Ivanton Marshall, informed the delegation that African Granite was established in 1988 and has changed ownership in February 2017. According to the Managing Director the company was in the process of acquiring relevant documentations such as the renewal of the Mining License ML50C with the Ministry of Mines and Energy since 2017 before operations starts. He further indicated that the granites were of good quality and proposed for the government to joint venture with African Granite and create more job opportunity for the citizen. The company owns a granite quarry in Erongo region, Spitzkoppe area with 3 types of Granite namely: Namibian Pearl, Kalahari sand and Tropical Sun.

5.22 Meeting with Erongo Marble and Granite (Pty) Ltd

According to the General Manager, Dr. Klaus Rheinschmidt Erongo Marble and Granite (Pty) Ltd was privately owned and the shareholders were Dre-Nam (Pty) Ltd 45%, Marvest Marble 45%, Ms. Menneth Haipinge and Mrs Charne' Beukes 5% each. According to the General Manager he bought the farm in 1992 for cattle and small stock farming. Due to drought he decided to sell the cattle's and small stock to focus on a quarry of marble and granite on the same farm.

Dr. Rheinschmidt confirmed that the company employed 11 Namibian workers since. The quarry does not make use of any chemicals except water and diesel, the company transport the marbles and granite blocks via public road to Walvis Bay for shipments to India, China and Italy. The General Manager also pointed out that the company did not invest in the renewable energy yet and should plan to in the near future since diesel and electricity were very costly.

According to the Finance Manager, Charne Beukes the company has an ongoing construction of a Kinder garden at Onawa in Omusati region, other than that they were not aware of Corporate Social Responsible toward the community until the visit. She further on shared that the market for Granite has been slow especially when countries like India were set to produce their own granite.

5.23 Meeting with Norasa (Valencia) Uranium

The Project Manager informed the delegation that the new leadership had acquired the Valencia deposit in 2007/2008 and was awarded Mining License (ML) 149 for 25 years in 2009. By 2012, the company had fully acquired the Namibplaas deposit and subsequently released a Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) in March 2015. Following this, the site entered a care and maintenance period from 2016 to 2021. In 2022, the company appointed a Namibian leadership team and applied for the Namibplaas Mining License (ML 251) in September 2022. However, the Project Manager expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Mines and Energy over the prolonged delay in issuing the mining license.

The Project Manager shared that the company planned to update the DFS by 2024 and begin the construction of Quarry 2 by 2025. He further noted that the new quarry was expected to provide permanent employment for approximately 1,000 Namibians. In addition, he explained that a rehabilitation plan was in place to proactively start site rehabilitation, and the company was ready to commence production as soon as the mining license, water permit, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were granted by the relevant ministries.

Norasa had received assurance from NamWater (Namibia's national bulk water utility) regarding the water supply needed during the construction phase of the project. This would involve installing a 31 km temporary pipeline extending from the Rössing reservoir to the construction site. Norasa would design and construct this temporary pipeline, with a capacity of 300 m³/day, to service the construction camp and construction activities. The pipeline was planned to be installed adjacent to the completed access road. For production, Norasa would need to construct a permanent 31 km main pipeline to replace the temporary line, linking the site to the Rössing reservoir. The company was working closely with NamWater, which was responsible for tendering and constructing the water pipeline. Moreover, much of the water supply infrastructure would require upgrades to accommodate Norasa and other operations' expansion plans. Norasa had requested an annual water allocation of 3 Mm³ to meet its operational requirements.

5.24 Visit to the XN Marble Factory in Karibib

The delegation visited the XN Marble Factory in Karibib and were informed by the Factory Manager, Mr. Li, that the factory was privately owned by a Chinese national and had started operations in 2020, focusing on value addition by cutting marbles into tiles, kitchen countertops, and custom-made blocks for both local use and export. The company purchased marble blocks from local quarries and cut them at the Karibib facility. The company imported machinery, mostly from China, and trained Namibian workers to operate it. According to Mr. Li, the production process did not involve any chemicals, only a large amount of water, which was reused in the process, along with diesel and electricity.

6.FINDINGS

1. Dundee Precious Metal Plant outsources independent transport services for sulphuric acid, and the transport providers bear full responsibility for any accidents or spills that occur during transit.
2. The contaminated water identified by Dundee PMT at the end of 2022 was biologically contaminated but showed no signs of chemical contamination.
3. The hazardous facility at Dundee PMT was deteriorating and required renovation.

4. The implementation of renewable energy is progressing slowly, particularly in the Oshikoto region.
5. Sand miners in the Oshikoto region do not rehabilitate the extraction sites.
6. Mining and energy companies in the Otjozondjupa region responded positively to the central government but did not prioritize local community development.
7. Rural electrification projects funded by the Ministry of Mines and Energy were satisfactorily completed.
8. Charcoal production is increasing in the Otjozondjupa region, yet many producers remain unregistered.
9. Whale Rock Cement (Pty) Ltd did not have a rehabilitation plan in place.
10. Symphonie Stone Processing Company demonstrated adaptability in its operations, emphasizing employment creation and adding value to local resources.
11. Employees at Symphonie Stone Processing Company manually handled heavy objects, yet there was no Medical Aid benefit provided.
12. The Namibia Central Government does not hold any ownership in the mining company that was visited.
13. The waste stockpiled at B2Gold was intended for site rehabilitation and, according to the company, did not contain hazardous chemicals.
14. Uis Tin Mine (Andrada Mining) had the potential to become a global lithium supplier. While tantalum was included in tin concentrate shipments to benefit buyers, lithium, present in the tailings, was discarded as waste.

7. CONCLUSION

The Sub-committee visited different Mines and Energy Companies in the two regions to learn about all issues pertaining to mining projects as well as the implementation of rural electrification and renewable energy. The delegation engaged with Regional Councillors from the two regions, Nampower, Cenored, staff from Electrification Department in the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Dundee Precious Metal Tsumeb, B2Gold, Whale Rock Cement and Okanjande Graphite. The Members also got an opportunity to meet with the former employees of Dundee Precious Metal. Many challenges have been experienced such as vandalism and theft of Copper wires in the regions.

Companies such as Rössing Uranium, Swakop Uranium, and Langer Heinrich Uranium have implemented comprehensive environmental controls, engaged in water conservation efforts, and planned for long-term mine rehabilitation. Similarly, the Symphonie Stone Processing company showed adaptability in their operations, with a focus on providing employment and adding value to local resources. Uis Tin Mine, rebranded as Andrada Mining, highlighted its diversification into lithium and tantalum, showing the potential for increased global competitiveness.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation should require Whale Rock Cement to provide proof of all Namibian understudies employed, along with details of schools and churches constructed, for verification purposes.
2. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should conduct a health inspection of the hazardous facility at Dundee Precious Metal Plant.
3. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation should deploy Labour Inspectors at regular intervals to farms in the Otjozondjupa Region to address employee labour relations concerns.
4. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation should inspect the working conditions and employee benefits at Symphonie Stone Processing Company.
5. The Ministry of Environment, Tourism, and Forestry should ensure that all mining companies have a Rehabilitation Plan in place before granting them Environmental Clearance Certificates.
6. The Ministry of Mines and Energy should review the predetermined granite selling price of USD 180 per ton and adjust it to align with the market average.
7. The Ministry of Mines and Energy should develop a strategy to maximize the economic potential of lithium and tantalum by-products at Uis Tin Mine.
8. The Ministry of Mines and Energy should encourage mining companies to invest in local community development initiatives, with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs focusing on infrastructure, education, and employment opportunities.
9. The Namibian Government should reconsider its current approach to mining ownership by exploring reasonable shareholding options rather than relying solely on royalties and taxes.

9. SIGNATURES

Hon. Tweya Tjekero (Chairperson)

Hon. Kafula Agnes Mpingana (Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Auchab Apius

Hon. Dr. Kashikola Daniel

Hon. Elago Maria

Hon. Hamata Nghidipohamba

Hon. Hengari Koviao

Hon. Ithete Natangue

Hon. Kambayi Rebekka

Hon. Kamutali Maria

Hon. Kandjimi Johanna

Hon. Karondo Kletus

Hon. Karupu Sebastiaan

Hon. Kasuto Gotthard

Hon. Kooper Paula

Hon. Mareka Vincent Joseph

Hon. Masua Patience

Hon. Mootu Utaara

Hon. Mukapuli Hilaria

Hon. Nanyeni Fenni

Hon. Nekongo Ephraim

Hon. Shekupakela Kennedy

Hon. Sikerete Annakletha

Hon. Tjiveze Herlinde L.

Hon. Venaani Mike

Hon. Vries Diederik

Elago

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Kandjimi

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