## **INFORMATION SHARING MEETING**

## ENVIRONEMNTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING ACTIVITIES NEAR EPEMBE, KUNENE REGION

Date	03 December 2024
Venue	Omuangete Primary School, Omuangete
Time	10h30 - 14h00
Purpose	<ul> <li>Present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed.</li> <li>Provide the description and overview of the proposed Project.</li> <li>Allow interested &amp; affected parties (IAPs) to provide input into the EIA process and EMP.</li> </ul>
Number of Attendees	86 Public and Omuangete Community Members
Facilitator	Immanuel Katali (IK)
Translator	Sharon
Client Representative	Gideon Kalumbu (GK) and Morne Du Toit (MDT).

#### **1 PRESENTATION**

The community elders opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and prayer.

IK the independent Environmental Practitioner, introduced himself and welcomed the community to the meeting, followed by an introduction by GK and MDT, stating their roles at Gecko.

IK outlined the meeting procedures and agenda and explained the aims and objectives of the meeting.

IK presented the project background/motivation as well as the description and location of the proposed project and various project components.

IK also presented the EIA process being followed and explained the potential key social and environmental issues that were identified as part of the initial stages of the EIA process. He ended the presentation by discussing the way forward regarding the EIA process.

#### 2 DISCUSSION

Any issues and concerns raised during the meeting have been recorded in Table 1. Where an issue/comment was given, the relevant response was also included in the table.

No	Issue raised/ comment	Respondent	Response
1.	Is this the meeting that you previously informed us that before you start with the mining, you are going to sit with the community and agree in principle on some issues?	GK	As Immanuel explained, this is an Environmental Impact Assessment that is a process conducted by Law before licenses are granted by the Mines and Energy. In simple, this is not a gecko meeting, this is an EIA meeting. Should we be granted the licenses, we will come back.
2.	Who are the people going to carry out the work for dust, waste management, noise pollution and tree clearing? Is it the community members?	IK	The project lead is Philip Hooks who will be undertaking the assessment of the environmental aspects. That is why we are having this meeting, to find out from the community on any significant environmental aspects in the

			area that may require a focused and detailed assessment.
3.	I know the other two gentlemen are from Gecko, however can you explain your role exactly? And in which capacity you are, so that you can distinguish yourself from Gecko.	IK	I am an independent environmental assessment practitioner, facilitating the public meeting on behalf of Philip Hooks, who is the EIA project lead for the EPL and mining claims. Both Philip and I are independent, with the purpose of assessing the potential environmental impacts in a fair and objective manner. Therefore, neither myself nor Philip are from Gecko
4.	Not all of us, are acquainted with the concept of environment. Our community has youth and people that require upliftment. Is there a platform to uplift and support the community?	IK	The EMP document will contain various measures that Gecko will have to adhere to once they commence with operations. One of the sections in the document is the social responsibility aspect, aimed at the upliftment of the community.
5.	We did not see any official documents or letters from you regarding your eligibility to conduct this type of meetings.	IK	I am an environmental assessment practitioner by profession. I have completed projects in the past, acceptable to the level required by the Ministry of Environment. Therefore, that confirms my eligibility.
6.	Are you going to be present as well when it's time to go to site for the assessment or is it only Mr. Philip?	ΙK	As I have mentioned before, I am only conducting the public meeting on behalf of Philip and gathering inputs/comments from the community members and share them with Philip. The overall assessment of the

			project will be conducted by Philip. However, use this platform to provide comments, issues or concerns you may have regarding the project.
7.	What will happen if you find other resources beyond the boundaries of the Mining License?	ΙK	Should Gecko find other resources beyond the site, then an application to MME for either an EPL or Mining claim will have to be submitted. If approved, then an EIA process will have to be conducted. The same as this.
8.	Why is the heading on the document written "Epembe", while we are in Omuangeti?	GK	Epembe is just a project name. The initial prospectors in the area that came in the early 2000s found the same rocks, which are traced from Epembe.
9.	I am still confused; you are saying you are not part of Gecko, but you are mentioning Gecko in your presentation. Can you clarify that?	ΙK	For Gecko to obtain the ECC, they need an EIA to be conducted by an independent party such as Philip and myself.
10.	Looking at the document you handed to us, only Philip's contact details are on, can we get yours as well?	IK	Yes. I will write my details on a piece of paper for you.
11.	Can Gecko take us to the Mining Claims because there are graves that we know of in that area.	ΙK	A Heritage/Archaeological assessment will be conducted and if there are any graves in the area, they will be assessed, and relevant mitigation measures will be developed.
12.	There are trees, grazing areas, wild animals, homesteads in the vicinity, graveyards. Those are the	IK	Well noted.

	things that are there and need to be considered.	
13.	What will happen to our grazing land that will no longer be there?	There is a compensation procedure we follow for that.



#### 1 DEADLINE

IK explained that the deadline for initial comments is 18 December 2024.

### 2 CLOSE

The community elders closed the meeting with a prayer.



# Annexure 1 Meeting Photos





## Annexure 2 Attendance Register

ATTENDANCE REGISTER - PUBLIC MEETING

Projects: Environmental Impact Assessment for Exploration and Mining Activities near Epembe, Kunene Region.

Exclusive Prospecting License 10007 Mining Claim 75205 Mining Claims 73580, 73581, 73582, 73583, 75209 & 75210 Mining Claims 73283, 73284, 73285, 73286 & 75208 Mining Claims 73584, 73585, 73586 & 73587

Date: 03 DECEMBER 2024, 10H30AM

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Venue: OMUANGETE PRIMARY SCHOOL, OMUANGETE

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