

# MEETING MINUTES

FOR

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED SMALL SCALE MINING  
ACTIVITIES ON MINING CLAIMS NO. 68755, 70994, 72202, 76196, 76197, 76199, 70993,  
76201, 75115, 75116, 75117, 75118, 5119, 74997, 74998, 74999, 75000, 5001, 75002,  
76092, 76090, 76086, 76087, 76088, 76089, 76091, 75897, 75898, 75899, 75900, 75901,  
76114, 76115, 76116, 76117, 67118, 75010, 75009 NEAR OTJIU-WEST AND OTJAPIJAPI IN  
OPUWO AREA, KUNENE REGION KUNENE REGION**



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## 1. ATTENDANCE

**Venue:** Otjiu -West Communal Conservancy offices

- The initial venues as advertised was the Otjiu west Clinic. Upon arrival at the venue, the Ecowise Team met with some community leaders who advised that the venue should be moved from the Clinic to the Conservancy office as there was more space there since they were expecting a high turnout of people.

**Starting Time:** 12.38 Hrs.

- There was a slight delay in the starting of the meeting due to the late arrival of the Chief and the proponent's representatives and also the change of the venue. This was however not much of an issue as it also created time for more community members to make it to the new venue in time for the meeting. The meeting was initially scheduled for 11.00 am

The following people attended the public meeting:

**See Appendix A, Register**

## 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The representative of the chief, Mr. Greg Vekavirako Mbunguha, made the opening remarks. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and the traditional leadership present at the meeting. He then handed over the podium to Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc.

## 3. PRESENTATION

Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc made a presentation on the proposed project. The whole presentation was translated from English to Otjiherero by Mavekaravi Muharukua, a local community member sub contracted by Ecowise for this purpose. The following topics were highlighted in the presentation:

- The purpose of the public meeting
- Project Background
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Environmental Impact Assessment Phases
- Scope of EIA
- Identified positive and negative impacts of the project
- Management of the impacts
- Questions and comments

Some of the rules of the meeting were as follows:

- Silence was required during presentation
- Questions were to be reserved till after the presentation

- Participants were required to state their full names before asking questions or raise any comments.
- Only one person was allowed to speak at a time

#### 4. OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC MEETING

- To provide an opportunity for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to comment and raise their views and concerns regarding the proposed project.

#### 5. ISSUES, COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED AND DISCUSSED

Issues raised were as follows:

##### Meeting started at 1238 Hrs.

12.38 Hrs. **C. Mr. Vekavirako Mbunguha:** A member of the community, as the Master of ceremony, gave welcoming remarks.

12.42 Hrs. **A. Ruth:** Make a presentation highlighting the aspects of the proposed project and its potential impacts.

12.57 Hrs. **Q. Urimekoro Rukuma:** What happens to my garden before you start drilling?

12.59 Hrs. **A. Mr. Andre:** Minerals Act – You are not allowed to mine near a structure, grave etc., activities should be 100m away.

13.02 Hrs. **Q. Urimekoro Rukuma:** You came here 3 years ago & asked permission to operate in this area.

13.04 Hrs. **A. Mr. Andre:** This Company is for Namibians and they are the ones who will come to work in your area. If we come to work here in this mountain will engage locals. They are the ones who know the area better and they are the ones who will be employed.

13.06 Hrs. **Q. Urimekoro Rukuma:** What is the other benefit besides employment which we will get from the project?

13.09 Hrs. **A. Mr. Andre:** Does any of you know the difference between a mining license and a mining claim. ML is when you carry out mining activities on a large scale and the returns are also high so that the proponent can take up more social responsibility activities. A Mining Claim is when you peg a small area of about 18 ha to undertake small scale mining activities and as such the returns are also small and consequently the amount of social responsibility taken on by small scale miners is also small.

13.20 Hrs. **Q. Tjikombo Uariongombe (Councilor):** What happens to vegetation?

13.21 Hrs. **A. Mr. Andre:** Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting CC was appointed to over see the issue of environmental consequences and come up with an Environmental management plan to help conserve and provide mitigation measures.

13.22 Hrs. **Q. Tjiumbwa Matjiritjo:** What is the effect of opening up the ground and how do you deal with it after?

13.23 Hrs. **Q. Tjiumbwa Matjiritjo:** Does your excavation reach the water table?

13.25 Hrs. **A. Ruth:** Everyone is concerned about impacts on various aspects of the environment, they will all be addressed in the EMP.

13.27 Hrs. **C. Craig:** Explains to the attendants how the E.I.A process works

13.28 Hrs. **Q. Tjiumbwa Matjiritjo:** Asks for further clarification on the E.I.A process since he is concerned about the water table.

13.29 Hrs. **A. Craig:** Explains that the mining activities are small scale and there is little to no chance of these activities to affect the water table.

13.30 Hrs. REFRESHMENTS BREAK

13.35 Hrs. The MC makes closing remarks for the meeting since everyone seems to be satisfied with the responses to their questions.

13.37 Hrs. **C. Ruth.** Attendants are encouraged to fill-in and return the questionnaires handed out to them.

13.40 Hrs. **C. Urimekoro Rukuma:** Recommends that people discuss the matters at hand first before filling in the questionnaires.

13.41 Hrs. **C. Ruth:** The questions on the questionnaire are explained to the attendants before they fill them in.

13.45 Hrs. **Q. Urimekoro Rukuma:** If we have our own claims do they become part of the proposed activities.

13.47 Hrs. **A. Ruth:** No this is an independent project concerning only the mining claims shown in the BID.

13.50 Hrs. **A. Mr. Andre:** Closing Remarks

## 5 SUMMARY

It is essential to note that all of the respondents welcomed the development. However major issues which were highlighted during the meeting include concerns about the preservation of vegetation, effects on the water table and the overall benefit of the proposed project to the local community. All concerns were answered and upon satisfaction of the attendants, the community members then proceeded to fill in the questionnaires.

## 6. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS

### 6.1. MINUTES OF MEETING

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were notified that the minutes of the meeting will be available upon request from Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were further notified that they will have fourteen (14) days after the date of the public meeting to submit their comments and concerns to Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting Public Participation Officer.

## **6.2 CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr Andre Neethling, a representative of the proponent gave closing remarks telling the community members that they could contact the EcoWise team for any clarification or additional information that they may require pertaining the project.

**Closing Time 13:50Hrs**

**The comments can be submitted via:**

Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc  
Public Participation Officer

**Mail:** P. O. Box 40168, Windhoek

**Cell:** +264 81 382 6460

**E-mail:** [info@ecowiseec.com](mailto:info@ecowiseec.com) , [ruth@ecowiseec.com](mailto:ruth@ecowiseec.com)

## **MEETING MINUTES AT OTJAPITJAPI VILLAGE**

### **FOR**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR PROPOSED SMALL-SCALE MINING ON MINING CLAIMS 68755, 70994, 72202, 76196, 76197, 76199, 70993, 76201, 75115, 75116, 75117, 75118, 75119, 74997, 74998, 74999, 75000, 75001, 75002, 76092, 76090, 76086, 76087, 76088, 76089, 76091, 75897, 75898, 75899, 75900, 75901, 76114, 76115, 76116, 76117, 67118, 75010,75009 NEAR OTJIU-WEST AND OTJAPIJAPI IN OPUWO AREA, KUNENE REGION**



- **ATTENDANCE**

**Venue:** Otjapitjapi Primary School, Otjapitjapi village

**Starting Time:** 17.00

The following people attended the public meeting:

**See Appendix A for meeting Register.**

## **2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ruth from Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc made the opening remarks. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all parties.

## **3. PRESENTATION**

Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc made a presentation on the proposed small scale mining project. The whole presentation was translated from English to Herero. The presenter was Ruth from Eco-Wise and the translator was Mr. Kakuva. The following topics were highlighted in the presentation:

- The purpose of the public meeting
- Project Background
- Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Identified positive and negative impacts of the project
- Management of the impacts
- Questions and comments

Some of the rules of the meeting were as follows:

- Silence was required during presentation
- Questions were to be reserved till after the presentation
- Participants were required to state their full names before asking questions or raise any comments.
- Only one person was allowed to speak at a time

## **4. OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

- To provide an opportunity for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to comment and raise their views and concerns regarding the proposed project.

## **5. ISSUES, COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED AND DISCUSSED**

Issues raised were as follows:

NAME	COMMENTS/QUESTIONS	RESPONSE
Kapandekua Katjiku	<b>Question:</b> What are you going to do where there is no accessibility	<b>By: Ruth,</b> where there are no roads, cut lines will be established to allow accessibility of the vehicles.
Appy Kavari	<b>Question:</b> I am from Otjomauru, I have a mining claim and would like to join	<b>By: Mr. Silas,</b> it is no longer possible given that we are already processing for an environmental clearance for the available mining claims. You must also ensure that your mining claim is registered with Ministry of Mines and Energy.
Appy Kavari	<b>Question:</b> Most people here don't have registered claims, how are you going to help with that?	<b>By: Andre,</b> you must register first your mining claims with Ministry of Mines and Energy
Uemuramanga Herunga	<b>Question:</b> The project will create pits which can end up being traps for livestock.	<b>By: Andre,</b> the areas will be fenced.
Justus Muteza	<b>Comment:</b> There is need of open communication and relations between the proponent and the community.	<b>By: Andre, we will try</b> to keep good relations with the community. We will also communicate with the headman before working in their area.

## 5.1 SUMMARY

It is essential to note that, all of the respondents welcomed the proposed activity. Major issue raised was on how to join, so that they can also start mining.

## 6. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS

### 6.1. MINUTES OF MEETING

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were notified that the minutes of the meeting will be available upon request from Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were further notified that they will have fourteen (14) days after the date of the public meeting to submit their comments and concerns to Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting Public Participation Officer.

## **6.2 CLOSING REMARKS**

Ruth made the closing remarks. She thanked all the participants for their contributions and attendance.

**Closing Time 18:54**

**The comments can be submitted via:**

Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc

**Mail:** P. O. Box 40168, Windhoek

**Cell:** +264 81 382 6460

**E-mail:** [info@ecowiseec.com](mailto:info@ecowiseec.com) , [ruth@ecowiseec.com](mailto:ruth@ecowiseec.com)