



Chamber of Mines OF NAMIBIA

The quarterly newsletter of the Namibian mining industry

NEWSLETTER



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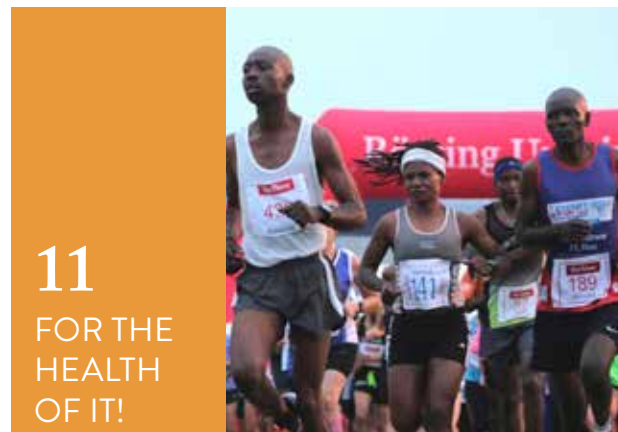
Chamber of Mines

OF NAMIBIA

NEWSLETTER



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ON THE COVER



New Minister of Mines and Energy
pays the Chamber of Mines a visit.

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CEO'S FORWARD

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The opening edition of the Chamber of Mines quarterly newsletter coincides with the renowned Mining Expo & Conference, scheduled to take place at the Windhoek Show Grounds on 25th and 26th April and will be widely distributed and read by all exhibitors and participants at this annual event.

Although our local economy is experiencing severe hardships at present, the mining sector recorded a robust growth in 2017 on the back of rising commodity prices, aside from uranium. The outlook for the sector in mining and exploration remains extremely positive as demand for base metals and other mineral commodities is expected to increase exponentially in the next few years. Demand growth is primarily driven by the evolutionary changes in the automotive industry, where electric vehicle technologies have proven to be more cost effective, efficient and environmentally friendly as compared to the conventional fuel powered vehicles. Furthermore, the markets for mineral commodities are likely to be propelled by advancements in renewable energy storage solutions and an improving global economic climate.

These are some of the aspects to be discussed at this year's Mining Conference, held in conjunction with the Expo, under the theme "Maximising the multiplier effect from Namibia's mining sector." The conference programme includes topics that will present where potential for enhanced local content in the mining

sector lie, especially in associated upstream linkages; as well as women in mining, targeted industry Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, insights into the status of the local Oil & Gas sector among others. To register for this conference, please visit our website on www.chamberofmines.org.na and participation is free of charge.

Each year at the Mining Expo & Conference, members of the mining industry, government representatives, service providers, potential investors and associated stakeholders, assemble under one roof from near and afar, to share sector opportunities and challenges, insights and perspectives. As the date of this prestigious event draws closer, I wish to welcome you to attend this annual event to learn more about this very important and dynamic sector.

Along with Mining Expo exhibitors and participants, I also look forward to receiving the newly appointed Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Tom Alweendo, and his team. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Honourable Obeth Kandjoze on his new appointment as Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission. We are grateful for your service to the sector over the last three years.

Veston Malango
CEO – CHAMBER OF MINES

“
Maximising the multiplier effect from Namibia's mining sector.

—
VESTON MALANGO



FROM SHACK TO SHELTER REALIZING A DREAM

Twenty members of the Shack Dwellers Federation Namibia (SDFN) officially received keys to their houses from the Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Silvia Makgone, at Otavi on 6 December 2017.

With an average of four people per household, over 100 people now have decent shelter and a place to call home.

The twenty houses are a direct result of the N\$6 million contribution by Ohorongo Cement, FNB Foundation Trust and Pupkewitz Foundation over the past 2 years, to enable the SDFN to accelerate the delivery of community driven housing for low income families countrywide.

“This is an important milestone for Namibia in its quest to ensure decent housing for all. Empathy for fellow Namibians and supporting Government initiatives are the driving factors which motivated the companies to join hands in the fight against poverty eradication, through supporting SDFN,” said Hans-Wilhelm Schütte, M.D. of Ohorongo Cement, speaking on behalf of the 3 partners.

The total contribution by the partners thus far has been cement by Ohorongo to the value of N\$ 2 000 000, building materials by Pupkewitz Foundation worth N\$2 000 000, while the FNB Namibia Foundation Trust contributed N\$2 000 000 in cash to SDFN. This partnership is further strengthened by Neo Paints who joined the initiative, and they committed products and skills training to the value of N\$350 000 over a 2 year period.

Hon Makgone applauded the partners for their support, saying; “It is not insurmountable if we as government, private institutions and the community pull our resources and efforts together and develop inclusive, equitable and innovative strategies such as this initiative.”

This partnership is a direct result on the plea for private sector and the public at large to assist in the provision of housing nationwide, in support of Namibia’s development policies aimed at leading the country towards prosperity, as contained in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. Since the launch of this Public Private Partnership initiative, the project moved forward with giant leaps, as bricks were being manufactured and foundations poured. Representatives of the three private partners also worked side by side with the Otavi community during the development phase, manufacturing bricks and digging foundations, showing true dedication.

The SDFN creates the opportunity for Namibians to improve their general standard of living. By taking personal responsibility, members are given the opportunity to build a personal asset, which not only improves their lives, but also creates personal wealth.

“You are an example to us all of what can be done in our ongoing struggle for economic independence. Through your efforts, you have shown that there can be a solution to problems that we are struggling with every day. Inequality and poverty is a stark and undeniable feature to our nation. Fortunately, there are reasons to believe that we can be successful in our search for better prospects for our people,” said the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region Hon. Otto Ipinge in a speech read on his behalf.

Thus far, a total of 91 new houses were built in Otavi, Tsumeb, Tsandi and Omaruru, and another 100 houses backed by this partnership are expected to be constructed in the towns of Katima Mulilo, Lüderitz, Mariental, and Keetmanshoop.

Together, they believe in effective partnerships for a sustainable future, aimed at viable, innovative and sustainable solutions, specifically aimed at the provision of housing.

CHAMBER OF MINES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH THE MINISTER AND HIS TEAM

Back row (Left to right): Mr Erasmus Shivolo, Mining Commissioner, Mr Simeon Negumbo, Permanent Secretary, Mr Veston Malango, CEO Chamber of Mines, Mr Zebra Kasete, 2nd Vice President Chamber of Mines.

Front row (Left to right): Mr Johan Coetzee, President Chamber of Mines, Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, Deputy Minister, Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr Hilifa Mbako, 1st Vice President.



NEW MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO CHAMBER OFFICES

WITHIN A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CABINET RESHUFFLE ON 8 FEBRUARY, 2018, THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY, HONOURABLE TOM ALWEENDO, EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO PAY A COURTESY VISIT TO THE CHAMBER OF MINES OFFICES. IN A GESTURE OF GOODWILL, THE HONORABLE MINISTER SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF DIRECTLY TO THE INDUSTRY IN AN INTERACTION NOT DOCUMENTED BEFORE. IN THE CHAMBER'S 49 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE VISIT WAS A FIRST IN THE HISTORY BOOKS OF THE ORGANISATION.

The visit was scheduled to coincide with the Chamber's first Council meeting for the year on 21 February 2018, enabling captains of industry to receive and welcome the newly appointed Minister and exchange introductory greetings. Zebra Kasete, Second Vice President of the Chamber of Mines, in his welcoming remarks, expressed what a great honour and privilege it was to receive the Honourable Minister on the Chamber's doorstep a mere two weeks after his appointment.

As co-custodians of the mining sector, Mr. Zebra Kasete noted how the Chamber of Mines has played a vital role in supporting Government in a number of ways to ensure that sustainable and best practices of the industry ensue while promoting mining sector growth. He expressed that the industry's full potential can be realised through building upon the existing foundation between the Chamber of Mines and the Ministry, a relationship which has been established over many years of constructive, inclusive engagement and out of good will from both institutions.

The Minister called on the Mining industry to hold hands with the Ministry of Mines to work towards the common goal of growing one of Namibia's most important sectors in the interest of all, while noting the importance of aligning the laws and legal framework governing the industry to support and advance economic growth.

The aim of the visit was not only to familiarise himself with the industry but also to call on the industry to help re-establish investor confidence in Namibia. Hon. Alweendo informed members that he has an open door policy and prefers to talk about issues frankly no matter how difficult the situation might be. On the issue of value addition the Minister called on the industry to assist Government to find a solution to the problem. He also encouraged the captains of industry to create environments in which workers feel part of organizations rather than them turning to Government to protect their rights. The visit ended with a light finger lunch during which Chamber Council members and staff engaged informally with the Honourable Minister and his team.

AREVA RESOURCES NAMIBIA REBRANDS TO ORANO MINING NAMIBIA

AREVA RESOURCES NAMIBIA HAS JUST ANNOUNCED ITS RENAMING TO ORANO MINING NAMIBIA, WITH A NEW BRAND IDENTITY THAT REFLECTS THE CHANGE INTERNATIONALLY FROM AREVA GROUP TO ORANO IN JANUARY THIS YEAR. THE LOCAL RENAMING FOLLOWS A LEGAL PROCESS WITH THE NAMIBIAN AUTHORITIES.

The name Orano has its etymological roots in the word “uranium”, from which nuclear fuel for low-carbon energy is produced. This reflects the fact that Orano is a group focused on transforming uranium into nuclear fuel for the production of low-carbon electricity. The group’s products and services cover the entire nuclear fuel cycle, from mining to dismantling, as well as conversion, enrichment, recycling, logistics and engineering.

Orano and its 16,000 employees around the world bring their expertise and experience in cutting-edge

technology to serve our customers in France and abroad. The group is committed to the highest standards of occupational and nuclear safety and permanently searches for innovative methods.

The name change will not have any effect on Trekkopje mine’s current care and maintenance status, given the prevailing depressed uranium market. However, the repositioning of the Orano group on international level, coupled with the continued commitment to the resources and assets of Orano Mining Namibia, gives a clear indication that Orano continues to regard the Trekkopje project as an important strategic asset for the future.

“We remain committed to Namibia, and we believe that once the uranium market recovers, we will be able to play an important role in the development of our nation and the Orano group as a whole,” says Hilifa Mbako, Managing Director of Orano Mining Namibia.



New Areva is becoming

orano

THE NAMIBIAN URANIUM INSTITUTE AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NAMIBIA INVESTIGATE

Groundwater in the Swakop and Khan Rivers.

PROJECTS OF AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NAMIBIAN URANIUM INSTITUTE (NUI) AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NAMIBIA (GSN), MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY, HAVE DELIVERED RESULTS THAT HELP TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND MANAGE THE AQUIFERS OF THE LOWER SWAKOP AND KHAN RIVERS.



▲ A wetland in the Lower Swakop River

Vegetable farmers on the lower Swakop River smallholdings have noticed for years that their water resources were not as reliable as they used to be in the past. The water levels in wells and boreholes appear to drop faster and the water seems to become increasingly saline. As a possible explanation for these phenomena, farmers suspect that uranium mines are polluting the groundwater and reducing its flow by pumping from wellfields at Rössing Uranium, Langer Heinrich Uranium, and Swakop Uranium (Husab Mine). Swakop Uranium's installation of production boreholes in the Swakop River caused an outcry even culminating in a protest march, although the company never abstracted water in any large quantity, and has since removed the installations. Such a situation represents a considerable risk for the uranium industry.

Some 10 years ago, when the uranium price boom resulted in worldwide rush for exploration and mining in uranium, the Chamber of Mines recommended that the Government conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Namibian uranium province, where exploration for uranium was also expanding rapidly. Subsequently, such an assessment was carried out by GSN in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders including the uranium industry.

During the SEA, the water issue was addressed for the first time

in a scientific manner. Water quality studies by independent experts from Freiburg University in Germany, using sophisticated technology such as isotope analysis, put to rest the concern about pollution from the mines. There is indeed uranium in the groundwater of the Khan and Swakop Rivers, but it originates from pockets of uranium ore in rocks that occur all along these rivers within the uranium province. The ore is just more concentrated at places like Rössing, Langer Heinrich, Husab, and where current mines are situated.

A groundwater study of the SEA also aimed to identify the causes of declining water levels and dwindling resources. A Groundwater Balance Model prepared by Freiburg University in cooperation with Namibian consultants found that the Von Bach and Swakoppoort Dams on the upper Swakop River catch most of the rainwater that would otherwise run further down the river. The reduced runoff frequency has had major social and environmental consequences, for example, boreholes running dry at Otjimbingwe and trees dying downstream of the Swakoppoort dam.

Almost a decade has lapsed since the SEA study was undertaken, and this decade has seen devastating draughts, as well as the 2011 exceptional floods. In 2016, NUI therefore asked the consultants to confirm the original results by updating the Groundwater Balance Model with the latest water level data. The outcome of the new version validates the previous model and it contains graphical output that is useful for stakeholder communication. It shows that pumping of groundwater at the mines has had no effect on the water levels in the farming area. Bedrock barriers that occur on average every 15 to 20 kilometres subdivide the rivers into compartments.

Each compartment is mostly filled up by recharge from floods, while inflow from upstream is balanced out by outflow to the next compartment downstream. Compared to floodwater,

groundwater flows very slowly, for the Khan and Swakop Rivers only a few kilometres per year.

A wetland adjacent to a marble ridge compartment boundary next to the Swakop River train bridge ►



The river aquifers currently contain over 50 million cubic metres of groundwater, which is more than the full capacity of the Von Bach Dam in comparison. The average annual recharge to the lowest three compartments of the Swakop River is around 12 million cubic metres, while the mines and the farmers together abstract less than 1 million cubic metres per year.

The GSN in cooperation with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, conducts a monitoring programme that includes water levels measurements and water quality sampling. The table below shows the results of the last five years (no measurements in 2015). The boreholes sites are arranged from downstream to upstream.

is noteworthy that all three uranium mines abstract substantially less water than is allowed according to their abstraction permits.

In conclusion, scientific results show, currently, there is no cause for concern. The problem of dropping water levels was experienced during a long dry period in the 1990s when a lack of flood recharge coupled with ongoing high evaporation and plant transpiration from extensive wetlands caused a significant decline in the stored water reserves.

River	Borehole no.	Locality	WL 2013	WL 2014	WL 2016	WL 2017
Swakop	WW201571	Rossmund		1.82	2.83	1.87
Swakop	WW201570	Gideon			3.76	2.73
Swakop	WW201569	Tannenhof		3.10	6.13	5.34
Swakop	WW200850	Birkenfels	3.99	3.01	3.49	3.01
Swakop	WW200413	Goanikontes	3.65	2.79	3.43	2.72
Swakop	WW41072	Etango	4.86	4.18	4.83	4.80
Swakop	WW41075	Palmenhorst	4.67	3.94	4.43	3.95
Swakop	SW2	South of Husab mine	2.30	2.54	2.99	2.25
Swakop	WW200898		2.42	3.01	4.20	3.80
Swakop	WW41181	Downstream of Langer Heinrich	3.66	3.38	4.16	3.59
Swakop	WW41182		2.94	2.70	3.67	2.84
Swakop	WW41184	Langer Heinrich	5.20	5.77	7.16	
Khan	WW200411	Downstream of Rössing	17.80		19.18	18.50
Khan	WW202082		11.79	11.86	12.14	8.01
Khan	BH4	Rössing	9.51	8.42	9.98	6.38
Khan	KEM3	Upstream of Rössing	8.92	9.32	dry	

Most water levels were higher in 2017 than in 2013 because the Khan River flowed in March 2017, for example at farms Birkenfels, Goanikontes and Palmenhorst. Only the levels at WW200898, WW200411 and WW41184 were slightly lower than in 2013. The water levels in the Swakop River has remained high since the aquifer was fully recharged in 2011. DWA's monitoring programme is also used to determine the allowable abstraction rates for the abstraction permits issued by DWA. It

However, this situation improved substantially during the recharge events of the new millennium. The new Groundwater Balance Model is a tool that can evaluate different scenarios, and in conjunction with the monitoring programmes of GSN and DWA, as well as the good cooperation of NUI, GSN and DWA under the Strategic Environmental Management Plan for the Uranium Province will ensure that the precious groundwater resources are managed sustainably.

Environment & Tourism Ministry Commends Langer Heinrich Mine

LANGER HEINRICH URANIUM (LHU) RECENTLY HANDED OVER FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY TOILETS AT BLOEDKOPPIE TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, REPLACING THE FACILITIES LHU INSTALLED AT THE CAMPING SITE BACK IN 2010.

Built at a total cost of N\$90 000, the facilities were received by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Acting Director for Parks and Wildlife, Johnson Ndokosho.

Ndokosho commended LHU and urged the Ministry staff members, who will be taking over the upkeep of the facilities, to ensure that they are kept clean at all times in order to give meaning to the important gesture by LHU.

"The Ministry would like to commend LHU for providing sanitation facilities to be used by our visitors to the Namib Naukluft Park, specifically those that visit Bloedkoppie. These toilets will ensure waste is disposed of in a manner that is consistent with the national policy on sanitation. LHU is indeed an important partner in environmental management and meeting the Government half way will go a long way in ensuring that our visitors have a wonderful experience", he said.

Environment Superintendent, Richard Kangumba who represented LHU at the handover highlighted LHU's commitment to

ensuring effective environmental management across all aspects of its operation.

"LHU is situated in the Namib Naukluft Park and has been enjoying a very good relationship with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. In 2015, LHU renovated the Park Ranger Station House in the Namib Naukluft Park at total cost of N\$380,000.

LHU has and strives to assist the Ministry in maintaining the park facilities to make it a safe place for its inhabitants and tourists. LHU hopes these facilities will enable the park visitors to enjoy their stay at Bloedkoppie", he said.

The facilities use zero water and treat waste through the natural processes of dehydration and evaporation with no contact or contamination of the waste to either the immediate or surrounding environment.

No electricity, power or chemicals are needed to function efficiently and effectively as they utilise wind and sun to operate.



WE MAKE YOUR BUSINESS A SUCCESS

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Gecko Drilling and Blasting (Pty) Ltd. is a 100% Namibian owned company specializing in the provision of exploration drilling and drill & blast services to the mining, quarrying and civil construction industries. The Company's main office and workshop facilities are strategically located at Nonidas, Swakopmund. Services include efficient and cost-effective exploration, drill & blasting as well as mining and geological consultancy. Gecko has a wealth of knowledge and experience gained over many years of operation on numerous projects across the African sub-continent. With the Company's dedicated and experienced team at hand, we are committed to ensuring that client's requirements and objectives are met effectively.

FLEET OF DRILL & BLAST RIGS

- * Ingersoll Rand ECM 585,
- * Ingersoll 660 Drills
- * Reed Drill 400C
- * SCH 5000's Drills
- * Bohrmeister RC & DC 6x6 & 8x8
- * Atlas Copco D60, DM30 & T45's
- * Boart Longyear LF90DC
- * Bohrmeister RC & DC on tracks

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Gecko Drilling and Blasting owns and operates comprehensively equipped workshops and technical support networks. Field service technicians are available to maintain, repair, build and modify all equipment to ensure minimal operational downtime

CORE CAPABILITIES

- * Reverse Circulation drilling (120 - 152mm)
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- * Open-hole percussion drilling (up to 15"/320mm)
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- * Grade control drilling
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- * Tent-based camp facilities
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- * A large fleet of water bowsers, low-bed trucks & trailers

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CLIENT REFERENCES

NAMIBIA

- * Rossing Uranium
- * Kunene Resources
- * NAMDEB-Northern Coastal Mines
- * Langer Heinrich Uranium
- * UNIK Construction
- * Crushco
- * Namibia Construction
- * Imerys - Graphite
- * Celsius Resources
- * RTX - Rio Tinto Exploration

SOUTHERN AFRICAN EXPLORATION COMMUNITY

- * Glencore
- * BCL - Botswana
- * BHP Billiton Xstrata
- * Jindal
- * UMK (United Manganese Kalahari)



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RÖSSING LAUNCHES HAZARD TRAINING ZONE TO COMPLEMENT HSE TRAINING

Rössing Uranium is committed to ensuring that its employees work in a safe environment and are made aware of the different kinds of environments they work in and the risks associated thereof.

In addition to the health, safety and environment (HSE) training for new employees and contractors, as well as refresher courses for current employees and contractors conducted annually, the health and safety department launched a training area, named “Joe’s Hazard Training Zone”.

Long-time employee Joe Shaduka, a HSE advisor who came up with the idea of the hazard training zone to further improve the quality of the mine’s HSE training, now has a training area best suited for safety training.

Rössing’s managing director, Werner Duvenhage and the Chamber of Mines of Namibia chief executive officer, Veston Malango, officially launched the training zone late in 2017.

The purpose of erecting the hazard zone, situated on site, is for trainees to be able to practically conduct hazard identification exercises in the training zone - a controlled environment to learn to improve general safety awareness in various HSE areas.

The zone was constructed to imitate the workplace or

workshop and consists of various sections, portraying safety, health or environmental scenarios as well as physical hazards from items collected on the mine site.

Some of the examples of hazards on display at Joe’s Hazard Training Zone include

- Lifting gear - broken slings and chains may not be used for lifting loads;
- Vehicle and driving – defaults on vehicle may contribute to vehicle accidents;
- Scaffolding - scaffolds erected with defaults may expose a worker to fall from height;
- Tools and equipment - worn- out tools and equipment used by workers may lead to injuries;
- Waste segregation – correct treatment of various waste on the mine; and
- Confined space - silos, water- and other tanks may contain unsafe conditions/atmospheres which can cause suffocation.

The training facility is fully operational and well used as part of the HSE induction of newcomers and refreshers training for current employees and contractors.

For the health of it!

THIS YEAR WAS THE 27TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR THAT THE RÖSSING MARATHON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HOSTED. SPONSORED BY RÖSSING, THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR WAS “FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!”

Speaking at the marathon’s prize-giving event on Saturday 10 February, Liezl Davies, general manager of operations, said: “The aim of the marathon championship is to proudly associate Rössing with the promotion of healthy lifestyles in the mine’s neighbouring communities, whilst at the same time, fostering health, safety and teamwork exchanges among participants. Rössing strives to create positive social impacts where we operate, helping to improve living standards, health and wellbeing, and education in our host communities.”

Liezl added that the Swakop Striders Athletics Club is Rössing’s partner in hosting the Rössing Marathon annually. They use the funds generated today from entry fees to assist local athletes to further their sport careers. She said: “By participating today, you contributed directly towards coaching fees, running gear and equipment, as well as travelling costs, which enable talented, local athletes to compete outside Swakopmund. Funds are also used to register the athletes with the National Athletics Federation of Namibia, thereby guaranteeing them access to injury and accidental death insurance.

A popular event at the annual marathon is the 5km Fun Walk with close to 300 participants and as always, funds generated by the 5km Fun Walk and 10km Relay Run will go towards the support of cancer sufferers across the country through the Cancer Association of Namibia.

The first prize in the marathon is N\$10 000 each for the men’s and ladies open winners and each receives a further development bonus to the value of N\$20 000. These funds are aimed at assisting our winners to develop their careers as national marathon champions over the remainder of the season. We hope that this support will go some way in helping to develop Namibia’s sport stars in being competitive on the world stage and bring international glory to Namibia.

A new Namibia national marathon champion was crowned when Tomas Rainhold of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) sport club won the Rössing Marathon National Championship in a good time of 2 hours 17 minutes and 35 seconds. The marathon Ladies Open category was won by Anna Amutoko in 2 hours 53 minutes and 45 seconds.





NOHF Hosts Integrated Fall Protection and Communication Safety Workshop

During one of the Namibian Occupational Hygiene Forum (NOHF) meetings in 2017, an Integrated Fall Protection and Communication Safety Workshop was hosted in partnership with the Namibia Uranium Association.

This was the third workshop of its kind since NOHF was officially established. Local practicing occupational hygienists and safety professionals from mining and allied industries established the forum in 2017 to engage and collaborate with government and industry stakeholders, serving as a platform for increased interest in occupational hygiene and safety.

The workshop focused on the value of site specific fall protection planning when managing personnel working at heights. This focused on an integrated strategic approach to fall protection with communications that emphasise specifications, international standards and standardization. 3M's Dbi-Sala Protecta Fall Protection and Peltor Communications solutions were demonstrated with the active participation of attendees over the two days.

The Chief Inspector of Mines, Mr. Mathews Amungete, also attended the NOHF Meeting & Workshop to experience first-hand the 3M Integrated Fall Protection & Peltor Communication Safety Solutions, as safety for persons working at height has become extremely important in mining operations.



NOHF Members at an ERGONOMICS Workshop @ Rössing Uranium last year.



B2GOLD
NAMIBIA

LIVING OUR VALUES

HEALTHCARE



EDUCATION



LIVELIHOODS



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION



OUR FOUR CSR FOCAL AREAS

B2Gold's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme aims to promote responsible mining in a sustainable manner. The gold deposit at Otjikoto Mine belongs to the Namibian people and is a finite resource so we aim to invest in projects which have a long term, lasting impact. Our CSR strategy is based on an ongoing assessment of the socio-economic environment in which the mine operates and through regular meetings with stakeholders at local, regional and national level, we are able to understand and focus our support in the most effective manner. The CSR strategic objectives are in line with the Namibian government's development plans and Vision 2030. We support projects which aim to lead to long-term impacts that:

- contribute to economic upliftment and poverty reduction through skills training and livelihood development;
- promote educational opportunities, capacity building, innovation and technical excellence;
- promote health and well-being by complementing and supplementing government's efforts;
- empower communities, groups and entrepreneurs to help themselves;
- contribute to the sustainable utilisation of Namibia's renewable natural resources (energy, flora & fauna);
- improve environmental management and biodiversity conservation of indigenous ecosystems and endangered species.



SAVE THE RHINO TRUST (SRT)

B2Gold Namibia has sponsored SRT with a record-setting N\$3 million over a three-year period (2015 to 2017). During a recent field visit B2Gold generously contributed a further US\$50,000 – US\$25,000 from the Vancouver head office and a US\$25,000 personal donation from Clive Johnson, President & CEO, B2Gold Corp.



WE CAN DO IT

This is a B2Gold employee initiative to support vulnerable people living in Otavi, Otjiwarongo and Windhoek. Every employee is encouraged to bring one can of food every month after payday and B2Gold's CSR department matches the cans collected. Employees nominate the monthly beneficiaries of the can collection.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

The goal of B2Gold's Holistic ECD Programme is to complement government efforts to improve quality early childhood care, development, and education through a holistic community-driven approach – at home and at ECD centres in the towns of Otavi and Otjiwarongo. This is done in partnership with Lifeline Childline.



OTJIKOTO NATURE RESERVE (ONR)

The ONR offers learning opportunities to schools on a variety of subjects, based on the government school curriculum: physics, environment, conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, recycling, alternative energies and responsible living. ONR has formed smart partnerships with local institutions of higher learning for research and development studies.



THE LITTLE SHOP OF PHYSICS

The Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) programme takes complex physics concepts and theories and demonstrates them in creative ways, using every-day materials. The focus is on training teachers in the LSOP methodology, as well as showing learners that physics and science can be fun.



DONATUS AND NAMIBIA PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Donatus Primary School in Otjiwarongo received a fully-fledged computer laboratory with cutting edge IT hardware. Namibia Primary School in Windhoek inaugurated their boundary wall in November to ensure their children and teachers enjoy a safe and secure environment.



PRINT SPONSORSHIP: 99FM MYD JOURNAL

"99FM's Master Your Destiny (MYD) programme restored our faith in humankind, the strong fibre of the Namibian community, and the integrity of our fellow human beings." *Christine Hugo, Director: 99FM*



PHARMACCESS MOBILE MISTER SISTER CLINIC

This B2Gold sponsored mobile clinic delivers a full range of primary healthcare to patients in informal settlements around Windhoek. The clinic also teaches parents about the critical importance of a child's early development – the first 1,000 days of life, from conception to two years of age.

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MEET SWAKOP URANIUM'S NEW CEO



Firstly, congratulations on your appointment as CEO of Swakop Uranium. Please tell us about yourself, who is Mr. Cai Yusheng, where did you study and where did you grow up?

I studied in Tsinghua University, one of the best universities in China, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree. Then I went to the University of Tokyo in Japan and obtained a Masters degree. I was born in a small village beside the Yangtze River in central China. There you can see ships navigating above your head because the water level is so high in the summer time. One of the things I love about my village is the peacefulness. The tranquility of Swakopmund reminds me of my village, leading me to wonder whether fate brought me to Swakopmund, 30 years after I left my hometown.

Can you tell us about your work history before joining Swakop Uranium?

I started working for a Chinese nuclear giant in the area of nuclear fuel fabrication for seven years after completing my studies. After my graduation from the University of Tokyo, I joined a Japanese company and worked in Myanmar and Cambodia.

When I returned to China after several years of overseas experience, I was recruited by CGN, the majority shareholder of Swakop Uranium, to develop the uranium business. I have been involved in Swakop Uranium's business since the very beginning when CGN considered acquiring the Husab project.

Can you share with COM Newsletter your thoughts on what challenges the Mine faces for the next two years and what are the key things that Husab should concentrate on?

The top challenge is how we can improve our organization in terms of accountability, efficiency, inclusiveness and so on. Let us suppose multiple people operating one machine together. With synergy, they can operate the machine to the best performance it is capable of. But without synergy, things will be chaotic and they may end up breaking the machine. That's the reason why good organization is so important. This is particularly true for us, because our Husab mine is still a new organization in terms of system, procedure and culture. Organization building is even more difficult when it is composed of people of diverse culture groups,

of different nationalities and from varying backgrounds. But this is what we have to do to realize a sustainable operation. The second most important challenge relates to operational issues. These issues are not with the processes and equipment themselves because they are standard processes and equipment widely used in the industry. The real challenge is how to organize our resources quickly and use them correctly. On top of that, we also have a lot of time pressure. But the key to solving our problems is organizational by nature.

We should focus on building our organization, operating the entire facility to the best in its current state and building our core capability to get ready for refining the facility in the future.

What is your guidance to Husab employees?

- Get the basics right
- Care for each other;
- Be accountable

Swakop Uranium is a multi-cultured organization, any thoughts from you on how to strengthen multi-culturism in the workplace?

My experience working in a Japanese company is quite valuable. I learned from that experience that the most important thing is to value respect in all areas; to have respect for people from different cultures and backgrounds, respect for organization rules and for marginalized groups. Respect is the foundation to build multi-culturism.

What characteristics do you feel an "ideal Husab employee" should display?

The three characteristics the ideal employee should display are the three 'D's' diligent, disciplined, and dedicated. With approximately 2,000 people united at Husab Mine, nothing is impossible.

What do you think of Namibia as a country and its citizens?

Namibia is a beautiful country. I like its peace, its geographic wonders, its food and its people. My personal perception of Namibian people is that they are kind, strong, smart and have great potential. That is why I firmly believe that together we can achieve great things.

WALVIS BAY SALT REFINERS EXPORTS SALT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Growing the number of clients for salt supply beyond the traditional African market, Walvis Bay Salt Refiners (WBSR) exported 50,000 tonnes of salt to the USA in mid-January. It took six days to load the freight ship 'Condor' with the 50,000 tons, which is the biggest single salt shipment from Namibia.

After years of intense marketing in North and South America, WBSR secured its first shipment of salt for supply to the US, they are proud to announce that the first shipment of about 50 000 tons were loaded for the US East Coast. After intensely analysing the international salt export market, the company recently invested in expanding its production capacity.

WBSR's Managing Director Mr. Andre Snyman highlighted that WBSR completed the salt field expansion programme in 2016, which increased annual production

from 700,000 tonnes to about 1,000,000 tonnes of product.

Salt is used in various applications such as water treatments and chemical plants. It is, however, quoted by the Salt Institute that there are currently more than 14 000 known uses of salt.

Being the largest salt mine in sub – Saharan Africa, WBSR enjoy economy of scale benefits in its production processes. However, Snyman confirmed that WBSR will remain mindful regarding the ever increasing customer demands in terms of differentiated product specifications, hence the company is consistently looking at ways to improve its production efficiencies and also the quality of the product they supply to their clients. The company is ISO 9001 certified.

Walvis Bay Salt Refiners is part of the wider Synchem Group.





NAVACHAB GOLD MINE RESTORES “BLACK DIAMONDS” TO THE ERONGO

Namibia's gold mining giant, QKR Navachab, is restoring the age-old karakul farming traditions back to the Erongo region. During a recent visit to more than 10 of the 24 farmers who benefited from the QKR Navachab Karakul project, Chris Movirongo, the mine's Director of External Affairs said that “CSR is more than just providing needy communities with temporary solutions. “It's about sustainability and self-reliance in the long run”

The project was initiated by QKR Navachab Gold Mine in 2014 and carries the blessing of the Erongo Regional Governor, Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Twenty-four small-scale subsistence farmers, who showed an interest in venturing into this unknown project, were trained on various aspects of karakul farming. Participants, who succeeded in training, were provided with 24 karakul sheep, including a ram each. The animals were transported to their various destinations across the Erongo Region to commence farming activities in November 2015.

Although for many, this was a completely new venture from traditional goat and sheep farming, it was a great challenge which is beginning to bear fruit. Lee Kariko is an experienced farmer who has diversified his traditional farming methods to include karakul. He sees this as a new opportunity he cannot let slip through his fingers. “Although I have lost some of the karakul to drought, I am keeping the lambs so as to increase my herd. In fact, I am going to sell some of my cattle and increase my herd

even further. This is the way forward and I am embracing this with both hands...”, he says.

The recent drought in Namibia, seen by many as the worst in recent memory and threatened to undermine the success of this project as many farmers experienced losses to their herd as a result. However, QKR Navachab invested close to N\$ 1 million in the provision of drought relief feed which included bales of high quality lucerne to each farmer and was the saving grace for many farmers' first venture into this unique method of farming.

Anastasia Kapepu is another eternally optimistic beneficiary of this project. She has already harvested ten karakul pelts and sold it through Agra to the international market. “Agra pays us an advance of N\$500 which is then graded and put into batches for sale. When they are sold, we are paid the remainder depending on the price which the individual pelt fetched at the market”, she explains. For someone whose subsistence farming was ravaged by the drought, she now sees a way out of the misery the drought has created. “Now we can start living. These creatures are our saving grace,” Anastasia says.

All the farmers are confident that once the rains come, their troubles will be over, each having his or her own game plan, how to make this new karakul venture a success.

Daniel Gurirab is a young farmer in Otjimbingwe - not on the outskirts. He is an “urban farmer”. He says the drought and other challenges such as theft has forced him

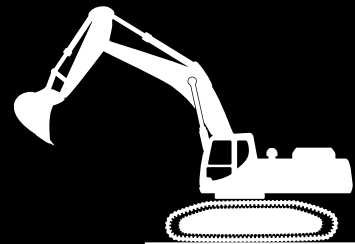
to keep his “black diamonds” in his kraal in Otjimbingwe. For him, this option is working better because he can feed them at home and keep an eye over them. A go-getter farmer who moved from the bright lights of Windhoek to continue his parents’ legacy, Daniel also plants his own lucerne, which he says helps in supplementing QKR Navachab’s drought relief efforts. “I am involved in mixed farming - a little horticulture, some goats, chickens and now the black diamonds. All we are trusting on now is

God to open the floodgates of heaven and all will be fine,” Gurirab concludes.

“We have a responsibility towards our local communities. They must be better off for QKR Navachab being there. This is one such project which we can confidently say that we are empowering farmers to become self-reliant and grow their farming business sustainably,” says Chris proudly.



BANNERMAN RESOURCES DIGS DEEPER



TO HELP BUILD NAMIBIA

RMB. Solutionist Thinking.

Bannerman resources achieves 5% Namibian ownership with RMB as sole adviser. RMB is proud to have advised on the sale of 5% equity in Bannerman Mining Resources (Namibia) to the One Economy Foundation. This deal supports Bannerman Resources, alongside the One Economy Foundation, to build enduring and mutually beneficial relationships and communities in Namibia.

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MEET DEBMARINE NAMIBIA'S FIRST LADY GEOLOGICAL OBSERVER AT SEA

SHE GREW UP IN ONYAANYA VILLAGE IN OSHIKOTO REGION, COOKING, LOOKING AFTER THE GOATS AND DOING OTHER HOUSE CHORES THAT HER GRANDMOTHER ENTRUSTED HER TO DO WAS AN ORDER OF THE DAY. ELINA AMUTENYA WAS AN ORDINARY VILLAGE GIRL AND THANKS TO HER GRANDMOTHER WHO INSTILLED THE ETHOS OF TAKING HER SCHOOL SERIOUSLY, A LESSON THAT WOULD LATER GIVE BIRTH TO DEBMARINE NAMIBIA SEEING ITS FIRST LADY GEOLOGICAL OBSERVER WORKING AT SEA.

Elina beamed, narrating her experience working at sea as an honour and privilege as she set a good standard for the current ladies working at sea at different levels. Armed with a Bachelor Degree in Geology from the University of Namibia obtained in 2005, she took a leap of faith and applied for a Junior Geological Observer at Debmarine Namibia. "Mining is an industry which has always been male-dominated, regardless of geographical location let alone working at sea. I had doubts when I applied for the position and I did not know what to expect", said Elina.

She fondly recounted on how she had been the only woman among 60 to 70 men on the vessel. "It was not a smooth sailing journey, there were a lot of doubts whether a women will cope within that environment, deliver and so forth.

I needed to work harder to prove that as a woman in my profession I could equally contribute to the company's goals in any environment. It was just up to me to show them that I was actually capable. After a few months, my male colleagues no longer viewed me as an ordinary woman, but started to see me as

their colleague".

Eleven years and counting at Debmarine Namibia, Elina grew within the Company. She started as a sea going Geological Observer (Junior Geologist), promoted to a Geologist and subsequently to a Senior Geologist at the Head Office in Windhoek.

She is inspired mostly by the marine geology and mining experience that she does every day. "What I enjoy most in my position as geologist is "unlocking the sparkles". Being part of this dynamic operation that involves determining the optimum resource for different vessels, defining the optimum tool deployment strategy, mining the resource in a sustainable and responsible manner; and eventually achieving the set targets really keeps me inspired", said Elina.

Elina attained her Hounour's Degree in Geology at the University of Pretoria in 2009 and is currently completing her Master's Degree in Geology with the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Elina feels privileged to work for her ideal company, while setting an example to the new female Geological

Observers currently working at sea. She commended Debmarine Namibia for looking beyond gender and focusing on professionalism.

Elina finds strength and joy through her children “I am a wife and a mother of two girls and a boy. I also enjoy social activities which are focused on families, community and church, especially singing for the church choir”.

Encouraging ladies that are interested in mining careers, Elina has this to say “I am encouraging you to follow your dreams. My advice is that marine mining or mining in general has always been a male dominated environment. Do not join the mining career to compete with men, rather go there to live your dreams alongside theirs, and if you can beat them in the game, excel at it. As a professional woman, you have got all it takes to perform your duties in any environment. You just need to focus, work hard, and aim high.”



Elina Amutenya at work during her time working as a Geological Observer at sea.



TSX-V: OSI



Growing Gold Resources in Namibia



Osino Resources Corp. is a Canadian company focused on the acquisition and development of gold projects in Namibia. Osino's Namibian interests comprise a large portfolio of licenses which we are actively exploring with the aim of finding Namibia's next significant gold deposit. Osino is proud to be contributing to the development of Namibia's mining industry.

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WOLLEN NELL

WOMEN IN MINING ADVOCATE

Wollen Nell joined Namdeb as a Metallurgy bursar a few years ago. She has successfully progressed over the years in her career and currently leads a technical area with a strong female team as Namdeb's Plant Manager for the Red Area Complex. She has also just recently completed her MBA. Wollen uses her personal story and shares insights to promote the Women-In-Mining agenda both in and outside of Namibia's borders. Namdeb's Corporate Affairs Manager team took some time to interview Wollen.

What first got you interested in Namdeb?

As a grade 12 student I had to decide whether to become a doctor or an engineer. I had read about the Namdeb operations in the newspapers. I knew a few people who worked for Namdeb and they only had good things to say about the company. In 1998 when I saw the advertisements for a bursary in the newspapers, I knew that I wanted to join the Namdeb Family and knew that engineering was the direction that I should take.

What was your first job at the company?

As a Bursar I had to work at Namdeb during the December holidays as an Operator Assistant in the Plant. I had to clean up spillages, off-load conveyors when chutes were blocked and I enjoyed it because I learned so much working with the shift people.

On completion of my studies, the Metallurgy discipline had a strict training program that one has to comply with, thus I joined as a Metallurgist- in-Training.

I have to give credit to the training program that I followed. My training exposed me to both Namdeb and Debmarine Marine Namibia. I was appointed in 2003 as a permanent employee and was promoted to Senior Plant Metallurgist upon completion of the training program.

Tell us about your current position and what it involves day to day.

As the Red Area Complex (RAC) Manager I need to focus on safety, production and security. My work area includes sampling and production. We work in an environment that requires strict safe work procedures, thus I conduct risk assessments daily, and as such high risk activities are important.

One of our key performance indicators for RAC is efficiency. Therefore on a daily basis we go through our statistics to ensure that our equipment delivers the required performance.

Our production schedules require detailed planning as RAC provides a service to two production plants. Hence 20 percent of my time is allocated to ensuring that our schedules are in line with business requirements.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I have a collaborative approach when we discuss problems in the plant. I believe in new economy management style, however I do not compromise on standards and when required I make quick decisions to ensure success.

I believe that women tend to be strict by nature which describes some of my leadership style. This is probably related to the environment I operate in.

I believe in developing people and sharing knowledge. I also believe one must celebrate small achievements and when my team members excel I praise them for the work they have done. I challenge my colleagues to develop themselves not just as professionals but on a personal level as well.

What job would you like to be doing in ten years' time?

I don't measure my growth in decades; I prefer a five year period. I completed my MBA qualification this year as this was one of the goals I set out for myself on a personal development level.

I've always thought I would specialize in a Mineral Economics role but general management is part of my DNA; however I have developed a key interest in Risk Management through the work that I have been doing on an operational level.

At Namdeb the options is managing a Mining area or

I could be the next Chief Operations Officer, the sky is the limit. Namdeb provides good development opportunities that allow you to grow into any positions as long as you perform.

What advice do you have for women wanting to enter the mining industry?

I have been promoting Women in Mining since 2014 through the Chamber of Mines, with support of Namdeb, thus I strongly believe women should not be afraid to pursue challenging roles. Mentorship is important and women should get mentors earlier in their career to help them through the obstacles as it is a tough environment to work in. The best choice I made was to get both a male and female mentor.

I am willing to listen to criticism but I have realised the benefit especially when it is constructive and because I trust my mentors. Selecting the right person is key when choosing a mentor and establishing trust with the person is essential.

I believe that it is about knowing your subject field and working hard to achieve great heights. One should not expect things to fall onto your lap because you are a female. We all need to work hard to get where we are; regardless whether we are male or female.

What interests do you have outside work?

Family is important to me. My husband, David, and two sons Noah and Tristan love farming so we will spend most of our time on the farm we lease with my parents, Marisa and George. I love leaving my cellphone at home and just enjoying nature. We love Formula One and rugby. My sons participate in a lot of sports so we spend our weekends around a field or swimming pool.



Skorpion Zinc boasts a State-of-the-Art Laboratory

THE LABORATORY IS SITUATED AT THE SKORPION ZINC SITE AND FORMS PART OF THE REFINERY DEPARTMENT. IT PROVIDES A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO ANALYTICAL WORK WITH A HIGH STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE, SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AND EXPEDITED TURNAROUND TIMES. THE LABORATORY IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO SERVICE THE NEEDS OF SKORPION ZINC'S MINING AND REFINERY OPERATIONS – BY MEANS OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART INSTRUMENTATION AND ALSO COMPREHENSIVE DATA MANAGEMENT.

Skorpion Zinc's laboratory, first obtained the ISO 17025 accreditation status in 2008 on four in-house analytical methods and ever since then, it has upheld this esteemed accomplishment. The laboratory also bears the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Logo (ILAC) on its final metal certificate. This venerated symbol of achievement provides confidence in our Certificate of Analysis and is recognized in all ILAC affiliated countries (more than 90 countries).

Technology employed in the laboratory provides rigid quality control testing and an accessible reporting system. Skorpion Zinc makes use of the following instruments:

1) SPARK – OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY (FULLY AUTOMATED)

This makes use of a high-energy spark discharged onto a clean metallic surface of the sample and the plasma is generated. By detecting the created plasma, and analyzing the spectrum, the composition of the metal can be determined.

This analytical technique/method is employed for the final metal determination and has always achieved an exceptional z-score (standard score) of less than 2 in the conducted Proficiency Testing (PT) scheme. This PT scheme involves international laboratories and include LME (London Metal Exchange) approved laboratories.

The spark analysis is a quick, reliable and reproducible method of identifying metal composition and covers a wide range of elements. It is the best suitable analytical technique for the analysis of metals

2) THE LATEST METROHM 884 VA (VOLTAMMETRY/ POLAROGRAPHY)

This instrument is used to determine trace contaminants, and covers a wide range of elements in all electrolyte samples.

Skorpion Zinc uses stripping voltammetry for the determination of trace contaminants. The benefits of using stripping voltammetry include:

- High sensitivity
- Extremely low detection limits (parts per trillion levels)
- Ability to do speciation of free/complexed metals
- Calibration with each determination, due to standard addition technique
- Low capital outlay
- Low running costs compared to other conventional instruments

3) INFRA RED DRYER

This is the latest technology in drying solid samples using infra-red radiation without tempering the integrity of the sample. This technology significantly reduces reporting times of solid samples in comparison to the conventional industrial ovens.

The Laboratory has also maintained an excellent Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) standard. There have been no medical treatment cases since inception, zero health related incidents and no Level 2 Environmental incidents.



▲ The Skorpion Zinc Laboratory Team



▲ Metrohm 884 VA



▲ Infra Red Dryer



▲ The Skorpion Zinc Laboratory Team



▲ Spark – Optical Emmission



A NAMIBIA DE BEERS PARTNERSHIP

BRILLIANCE HAS MANY FACETS. CELEBRATING THE POWER OF WOMEN IN MINING TODAY, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

Exceptional things happen when women participate in a workforce to the best of their abilities. In their respective roles, they do more than just contribute to the growth of the company, they inspire and lead by example. This is because skill, passion and leadership are not gender bound qualities. Therefore at Namdeb you'll find some of the challenging positions occupied by women who've proven that they can inspire today, for a better tomorrow.

**GOOD TODAY.
BETTER TOMORROW.**



SKORPION ZINC

A JEWEL IN THE DESERT

TRANSFORMING OUR BUSINESS, PEOPLE,
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES

MINING



REFINERY



PEOPLE



SUSTAINABILITY



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY



Skorpion Zinc Mine is an integrated world-class mining and refinery operation employing state-of-the-art technologies with the skills of a highly motivated workforce . Acquired in 2010, it is wholly owned by Vedanta Limited and managed by Zinc International. It is the only zinc refinery in Africa – ore to finished metal beneficiation is done on-site in Namibia. Open-cast mining and hydrometallurgical systems (licenced technology from Technidas Reunida) are used to mine and refine zinc oxide to produce refined Special High Grade Zinc (SHG) metal. The nameplate capacity of Skorpion Zinc is 150,000 tons of SHG zinc per annum.

The SHG product is highly sought after, in the SACU region, Europe, and Asia, specifically for use in the galvanizing industry as well as production of pharmaceutical products.

Skorpion Zinc aims to be a leading player in the zinc industry by operating in a responsible and sustainable manner. Its approach to sustainability is based on a holistic view of Prosperity (Profits), People, and Planet. This means that the 3Ps are an integral and balanced part of its business decisions, strategies and processes to ensure value addition for its all stakeholders.

With a vast local and international stakeholder network which includes its employees, the company places stakeholder engagement as key to realizing its actions towards Adding and Sharing Value (ASV). This stance on engagement allows for Skorpion Zinc to be relevant, complete and responsive in addressing and understanding issues of material concern to and with stakeholders.



CELEBRATING OUR INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

We applaud and celebrate phenomenal
women in marine diamond mining.

International Women's Day, 8 March 2018.

BRILLIANCE HAS MANY FACETS

 **DEBMARINE NAMIBIA**

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