

## Chamber of Mines OF NAMIBIA

The quarterly newsletter of the Namibian mining industry



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## KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE TODAY AND NORROW.

At Namdeb, we always push boundaries and look for ways to do better. This applies to every aspect of our business including the most important; taking care of the men and women who make the good we do possible. We therefore, take pride in working safely and helping others to do the same, to ensure we all return home unharmed after every shift. We uphold our safety standards with the greatest regard, because through them, every person at Namdeb remains safe today and tomorrow.

GOOD TODAY. BETTER TOMORROW.

## Chamber of Mines OF NAMIBIA

## NEWSLETTER



ERONGO CAREER FAIR **FOSTERING** 



**CHAMBER OF MINES** 

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**VELOPING AND BUILDING SKILI** 

ABILITY OF OUR FIRST LINE LEADERS

#### ON THE COVER



Luise Latoka, an Instrumentation Technician, a Namibian working on B2Gold's Fekola project in Mali

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



#### "

I would like to wish all Chamber members and stakeholders a joyous, safe and restful festive season

VESTON MALANGO

The last quarter of 2017 has been a hive of activity at the Chamber offices, encompassing a number of highlights and achievements, with the sector's continued commitment to create opportunities for growth in a struggling economy.

Recent second quarter statistics showed contractions in most sectors and an overall negative growth rate of 1.7%. While general performance of the local economy was negative with a subdued outlook, mining was one of the two sectors that posted a strong growth in the same period, of 25.8% as compared to a decline of 19.4% in the corresponding quarter of 2016. The strong growth is attributed to favourable commodity prices of base-metals and a recovery in diamond production. The outlook remains positive, especially for copper with prices topping U\$7,000 per metric tonne in October.

Stakeholder engagement was a main highlight of the Chamber's activities in the last quarter of 2017, which among others, resulted in direct engagement with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources with the Mining sector. The first component consisted of mine visits by Committee members to familiarise themselves and understand the dynamics of Namibia's main mining operations. Furthermore, the Chamber of Mines delivered a presentation highlighting the importance of the mining industry to the Namibian economy, to equip MP's with the correct information pertaining to the industry and thereby enhancing the broader law making process. The engagements were well received which presented future channels of open dialogue between lawmakers and the mining sector. The MPs undertook to participate at the annual Mining Expo and Conference to keep abreast with developments in the sector.

The Chamber of Mines hosted and co-organised the Symposium of Chambers of Mines and other Mining Associations in Africa, from the 5th to 7th October in Windhoek at the Safari Hotel, in partnership with the African Union Commission. The deliberations sought to reach a consensus at a continental level as to how best African mining associations could harness efforts of the private sector to implement the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and the objectives thereof.

The main highlight of the Symposium was the signing of the Windhoek Declaration, which established a continental body titled the 'Association of Chambers of Mines and other Mining Associations in Africa'(ACMMAA) and the formation of an interim committee to oversee the formalisation of such a body. As the continental voice of the private sector, ACMMAA will mobilise the private sector in the extractive industry in Africa to work with AU to domesticate the Africa Mining Vision through reviews of mineral policies at national levels.

The Chamber of Mines of Namibia had assumed a pioneering role at a regional level in the establishment the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA) in 1997, a private sector body of Chambers of Mines in the SADC region. Twenty years later, the Chamber has again taken leadership in the establishment of ACMMAA as a continental body to foster socio-economic development from Africa's vast mineral potential. The Chamber is thus proud to be referred to and called upon as an exemplary industry organisation to other African countries and that Namibia was given the honour to host this unique initiative.

Lastly, I would like to wish all Chamber members and stakeholders a joyous, safe and restful festive season with this closing Newsletter edition for 2017.

Veston Malango CEO – CHAMBER OF MINES 20 NOVEMBER, 2017



## 25 & 26 April 2018

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## 25 & 26 April 2018

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### NUST MINING AND METALLURGY STUDENTS STAR AS REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Four students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) Department of Mining and Process Engineering (DMPE) recently took part in a Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's (SAIMM) Young Professionals Council (YPC) organized student colloquium held at Mintek in Randburg, South Africa. The competition, hosted under the banner, "14th Annual Student Colloquium", was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

A number of institutions offering mining, metallurgical and chemical engineering programs participated in the competition. These included, amongst others, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, North-West University, Tshwane University of Technology, Vaal University of Technology, University of Zambia, University of Zimbabwe and the Midlands State University. Traditionally, the colloquium was a preserve of the South African universities but the trend was broken by the entrance of NUST on the grand stage in 2013 when the university (then Polytechnic of Namibia) became the first non-South African university to participate in the colloquium. The colloquium has since grown to accommodate all the major universities offering mining, metallurgical and chemical engineering programs in the Southern African region. The panel of judges for the colloquium consists of industry leaders from selected leading mining companies and top academics in the minerals industry.

Charne Eimann, from NUST, emerged the best student in Mining Engineering with her presentation entitled "An investigation into the application of x-ray fluorescence technology to upgrade low-grade Zinc ore". She was supervised by Dr Mallikarjun Pillalamarry. Martha Amwele from NUST scooped the second prize in Metallurgy. Martha Amwele's presentation was entitled "Improving the leaching conditions of gold at Navachab gold mine". She was supervised by Professor Dick Groot. The first prize in Metallurgy was taken by Makua Lebohang from Wits University while Ndangana Ngonidzashe from University of Zimbabwe fell second to NUST's Charne Eimann in Mining. It was NUST's first time to compete in the metallurgy section. The other students from NUST who took part in the heavily contested colloquium were Kabuba Namukokoba and Leo Reinhold. Each category consisted of about nine contestants and amidst the tough competition from the traditionally recognized universities, NUST students managed to outperform fellow competitors,

placing NUST at the pinnacle of the prestigious contest.

Speaking at the colloquium, SAIMM president, Professor Selo Ndlovu, expressed satisfaction at the participation and enthusiasm from regional institutions. She described the colloquium as heavily contested as shown by the quality of projects that the students presented. She also described the colloquium as a unique opportunity for them to showcase themselves to prospective employers who attend to scout for outstanding talent at the colloquium. She reiterated the YPC's commitment to contribute to the creation of prosperous and empowered young professionals.

Since its maiden appearance at the colloquium in 2013, it has become a tradition at DMPE to send students to partake in the colloquium and the performance of the students at this year's colloquium marks the dawn of a new era of recognition within the region and beyond. DMPE continues to raise the bar of excellence and is highly appreciative of the support that it enjoys from the Chamber of Mines of Namibia through the Industry Advisory Board Chaired by Mr Veston Malango. Associate Professor Harmony Musiyarira, the Head of Department of Mining and Process Engineering, had this to say, "This milestone achievement is a culmination of years of dedication and commitment and input from all stakeholders (staff, students, the Government of Namibia, the Namibian mining industry). The crux of the Department's success is the unwavering support from NUST's top management and the collective effort of our staff members who make a vibrant team of qualified professionals, who are committed to excellence and advancement". •



# NAMDEB SAFETY PERSONALTY

### NAMDEB'S OUBAAS LOUW TALKS TO MAKING SAFE, RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION A REALITY

#### Kindly give us a brief background about yourself?

I am currently the Safety Lead for Namdeb. This is a position I have held since 2008.

I grew up and attended my primary school in Outjo and matriculated in the early eighties from Jan Mohr Secondary school in Windhoek. After completing two years of National service, I started my working career as a Personnel Clerk at the Central Personnel Institution and transitioned to the City of Windhoek. I left Windhoek in 1989 to take up the position in the Security discipline at the former CDM in Oranjemund.

In 2000, I was transferred to the Control gates as the supervisor of these areas. It was during this time that I developed a passion for safety. I have undergone various training and I moved to the Safety department in 2003.

I enjoy the interaction with people and it is also very pleasing to see how you can transform an area (housekeeping) and people (behavior) with a well implemented safety management system.

## How long have you been working for Namdeb and why the area of safety?

I have worked 28 years for Namdeb of which 14 years have been with the Safety department. My passion for Safety started in 2000 when safety became part of my responsibility as a supervisor. I then realised that I had the potential to make a significant difference in making sure that people remain safe in my area of responsibility. What does your work at Namdeb entail and do you enjoy it? Safety is Namdeb's number one priority and it is also a value. In my current role I am heading the Safety department at Namdeb. My role is to ensure that our current safety system at Namdeb is aligned with legislation and other requirements. Furthermore my team and I must ensure that the Namdeb safety system is implemented and maintained to standard. Awareness and training of all employees and contractors according to required standards also forms part of our requirements.

I enjoy my work, believe me there is never a dull moment in my life. Furthermore it is rewarding being able to contribute to building a proactive organizational safety culture

## Safety is an integral part of the any mining company's operations. Do you think the priority given to safety is justified and necessary?

Safety always comes first. We all need to return home safely to our families every day after a shift or day's work. Without safety we face the risk of impacting families, business requirements and in our case a licence to operate. Therefore a company is legally required to have a safety system in place to ensure the safety of all affected parties. At Namdeb, safety definitely receives the highest priority and a lot of effort and resources are dedicated to safety.

In some instances people view safety as an additional task but if you have a well implemented system which is aligned with the production processes it reaps a number of benefits. This is in support of us building a culture where we make Safe, Responsible Production a reality and as I said before, at the end of the day, the aim is to ensure that every person returns safely to his/her loved ones unharmed.

## How do you feel about the responsibility of ensuring an accident free working environment for a big company such as Namdeb?

In an organisation like Namdeb it is everybody's responsibility to ensure that you keep yourself and your colleagues safe. I cannot achieve a safe environment on my own and it thus requires a team effort. I am fortunate to have a great team behind me namely the Namdeb workforce that share the same passion as I do and this makes my role much easier.

At Namdeb, as part of driving the right safety behaviours, employees individually commit to the following:

I work safely and help others do the same to ensure we all return home unharmed every day by doing the following:

- I am responsible for my own safety and the safety of others
- I evaluate risks before doing a job
- I make sure safety controls are in place
- When things change, I stop and re-evaluate the risks.

## What would you say are the down side factors to your job and how do you manage that?

Unfortunately, people do not like change and safety is all about continuous improvement and requires change. It is therefore important when making changes to your safety system that the plan is rolled out as smoothly as possible without major interference.

#### How important is team work in your line of work?

In the context of an organization such as ours, one cannot create a safe work environment on your own; you need to do it as a team and have the same goal namely ZERO HARM.

Teamwork in the safety context entails:

- Stopping work if it is not safe
- Fixing issues identified as a team
- Planning tasks and activities for a successful safety outcome
- Reporting problems, hazards or risks
- Recognising and celebrating work completed in a safe productive manner

## Any safety tips that you might want to share with our readers?

When engaging in any activities at home or work - ensure that everything is well planned and you understand the hazards/ risks, ask yourself what can go wrong and implement measures to safeguard yourself and others.

Taking into consideration road fatalities in Namibia - make sure that you plan your trip which must include things like the route, condition of the road, possible weather conditions, rest points, always be aware of other road users and obey the rules of the road.

Always only have one goal in mind and that is to return unharmed to your loved ones and that you can only achieve if you behave in a safe manner at all times. •



Tuutaleni Zefelinu (on the right), a Multi-Skilled Operator.

## B2GOLD SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

### NAMIBIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FEKOLA PROJECT IN MALI

B2GOLD NAMIBIA'S OTJIKOTO MINE POURED ITS FIRST GOLD IN DECEMBER 2014, FOLLOWING A FAST-TRACKED CONSTRUCTION PHASE THAT KICKED OFF BARELY TWO YEARS PRIOR IN JANUARY 2013.

Otjikoto produced a quarterly record 55,151 ounces of gold in the third quarter of 2017, 14% (or 6,793 ounces) above both (original) budget and reforecast production, and 16% (or 7,587 ounces) higher than the third quarter of 2016.

The average gold grade processed in the quarter was 1.99 g/t compared to budget of 1.85 g/t and 1.66 g/t in the third quarter of 2016. Grade exceeded budget due to the higher amount of high-grade ore being sourced from Wolfshag which increased the overall average mill feed grade at Otjikoto. Mill throughput for the quarter was 873,516 tonnes compared to budget of 832,784 tonnes and 910,036 tonnes in the third quarter of 2016. Mill recoveries remained high and averaged 98.5%, slightly above both budget and the prior-year quarter.

During the first nine months of 2017, the Otjikoto Mine produced a year-to-date record 139,088 ounces of gold, 16% (or 19,148 ounces) above (original) budget and 5% (or 6,793 ounces) more than reforecast production, and 16% (or 19,649 ounces) higher compared to the same period last year. For full-year 2017, Otjikoto's gold production is on track to meet or exceed the high end of its revised production guidance range of between 170,000 to 180,000 ounces of gold (original guidance was 165,000 to 175,000 ounces), at cash operating costs of between \$480 to \$520 per ounce and AISC of between \$725 and \$765 per ounce.

No project on the scale of Otjikoto can be successful without the people who make it happen. Otjikoto was no different, and the workforce for the construction phase of the project included a large Namibian workforce, with guidance and support from expats from as far afield as Canada, USA, Mexico, Russia, Ghana, Nicaragua, South Africa, and Australia.

B2Gold Corp. works with its own construction group on projects around the globe. The primary focus of this core group of individuals is to hire and train locals to do work of an international standard. B2Gold believes that all employees should be able to work at any project that B2Gold has, anywhere in the world. The Company is not only investing in the project itself; the aim is to leave a legacy for a solid operational group in the country.

The hiring strategy for the Otjikoto construction phase aimed to make an impact on local communities first and, wherever possible, the workforce was recruited from the neighbouring towns of Otavi and Otjiwarongo. If this proved unsuccessful, the net would be thrown wider with a countrywide search. Expatriates were only hired when a specific skill could not be identified within Namibian borders.

According to some of the top construction managers on the project, finding skills in Namibia was initially identified as a challenge for a project like Otjikoto. On a big project like Otjikoto, one needs to bring sufficient trade skills to the table in order to finish on schedule; add to this that Otjikoto was a fast-track project and it becomes even more challenging. The B2Gold team was impressed with the skills found in Namibia.

This has been borne out with the recruitment drive for the Fekola Project in Mali – B2Gold Corp.'s newest construction project which will become the company's fifth mine. Skills development during the construction phase of Otjikoto was so significant and successful that, since civil construction work started on the Fekola Project in Mali in January 2015, close to 100 Namibians have been involved in the Fekola construction phase. Namibians who worked at Otjikoto have been recruited to work in Mali. All of these workers were recruited based on the personal recommendations of expat construction managers who worked at Otjikoto and who went on to work on the Fekola Project. The trainees have become the trainers – passing their skills onto the Malian workforce.

The trades of these Namibian workers include: batch plant operators, boilermakers, truck operators, carpenters, cement finishers, concrete workers, construction surveyors, crane operators, diesel mechanics, procurers, fitter and turners, health and safety personnel, iron workers, construction camp personnel, masons, inventory analysts, mechanical engineers, multi-skilled operators, trainers, refrigeration technicians, admin/finance personnel.

Many of these artisans were trained at the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT). Since 1991, NIMT has produced artisans and technicians of world-class quality in various disciplines. Eckhart Mueller Director of NIMT alluded to the commendable work of the students as well as their lecturers, who have gone on to excel in their different trades locally and abroad.

Fekola construction has been completed and processing of ore commenced more than three months ahead of schedule in September 2017. The first gold pour was achieved on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. •





### INNOVATION HELPS LANGER HEINRICH URANIUM SURVIVE IN ECONOMIC DOWNTIME

anger Heinrich uranium (LHU) is home to what is believed to be the world's first nano filtration membrane plant in the uranium industry to recover sodium bicarbonate from a uranium concentrated eluate stream.

LHU's Metallurgical Superintendent Tyrone Kotze revealed this during his presentation at the International Uranium Conference hosted by the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) in Swakopmund recently.

According to him, the Bicarbonate Recovery Plant (BRP) reduces the use of new bicarbonate by recycling the reagent back into the process, thereby making the process much more cost effective.

Designed by BMS Engineers, the BRP was commissioned in 2015 with the primary aim of reducing the total amount of sodium bicarbonate, one of the required chemicals used during uranium processing at LHU.

Undertaken during a period of steadily declining uranium prices and capital scarcity, the BRP demonstrates the notion that with calculated risks comes greater rewards. The BRP has contributed to LHU's direct saving on sodium bicarbonate costs which fell from US\$13 per pound to just over US\$6 per pound and also reduced process operating costs significantly

Namibia is currently ranked the fifth-largest producer of uranium in the world and is set to become the world's second-largest producer once Swakop Uranium's Husab Mine is fully operational. This will undoubtedly position Namibia as a major uranium mining hub and will see the industry playing a more significant role in the national and regional economies.



## THE NAMIBIAN OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE FORUM

The Namibian Occupational Hygiene Forum (NOHF) was formed in 2016 by a group of local practicing occupational hygienists and safety professionals from the mining and allied industries; with the aim of collaborating and co-operating with both government and industry stakeholders to create a platform for increased interest and participation in occupational hygiene and safety within work communities at all levels.

Occupational hygiene is the field of science dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, communication and control of health hazards in work places that may result in illness or impairment of a worker. NOHF aims to promote this awareness and practice by encouraging all stakeholders to embrace educational training with the sharing of information or ideas through networking with relevant institutions and associations. The NOHF is fortunate to be recognised by both the Namibian Ministry of Health & Social Services, and the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH), whilst the Ministry of Mines & Energy together with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment Creation are also engaging with the forum.

Workshop and Guest Speaker sessions for topics of interest are regularly arranged by and through the NOHF, such as the recently held discussion hosted by Rossing Uranium on "Ergonomics and Dermal Exposure Risks & Control Management" in August this year.

The NOHF may be contacted through the forum's secretary Juno Claasen on email <u>j.claasen@dundeeprecious.com</u> for further information.



#### THE NAMIBIAN URANIUM ASSOCIATION AT THE SWAKOPMUND INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXHIBITION (SWAITEX) 2017

#### THIS YEAR, NUA PRESENTED ITSELF AT THE ANNUAL SWAITEX IN AN INTERACTIVE FASHION. VISITORS TO THE BOOTH HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT MEASURING RADIATION, AND A NUMBER OF ORE AND ROCK SAMPLES WERE ON DISPLAY.

Visitors were also treated to "yellowcake", however, only if they participated in a crossword puzzle competition. To be able to complete the crossword, one had to read the text on the panels of the booth carefully. Every afternoon, the day's winner was drawn from amongst the correct entries, and presented with a hamper full of corporate gifts from NUA members.

Visitors could also partake in a selfie competition by submitting a selfie taken at our booth. The lucky winners will be treated to a VIP visit of the Rössing open pit. The activities at the booth generated a lot of interest, allowing NUA to provide information about the Namibian uranium industry. As the most prominent visitor, the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, graced the booth with her presence.



The winners of the selfie-competition. Introducing the NUA career booklet



One of the lucky winners of the crossword competition



Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah measuring the radiation of ore samples



Completing the crossword competition



The interactive NUA booth



Namibian Uranium Association booth



# Living **Our Values**



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.



EMPLOYEE PARENTING SKILLS Over 90 B2Gold employees have attended parenting classes for their zero to six-year-old children with the BrainBoosters Programme.

#### SAVE THE RHINO TRUST

B2Gold is contributing N\$3 million to Save the Rhino Trust to adequately compensate and equip SRT's rangers to reduce wildlife crime and to ensure the long-term security of desert adapted black rhino in Namibia

KAYEC'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN OTJIWARONGO B2Gold enables the Otjiwarongo KYD programme to provide after-school support to help 188 disadvantaged teens (of which 50% are girls) to stay in school and build their life skills.



#### BUILDING CLASSROOMS Some of the pre-fabricated

accommodation blocks in the B2Gold construction camp have been converted into 16 classrooms at three schools in Otavi.



**SMES COMPETE** OFFICE IN OTJIWARONGO SMEs Compete routinely provides advice, mentoring and training to improve the entrepreneurial, management, marketing, and IT skills of 80 SMEs in our focal towns of Otavi and Otjiwarongo.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

complementing government efforts to

in kindergartens in our focus towns of

improve quality early childhood care

With Lifeline/Childline, B2Gold is

Otavi and Otjiwarongo.





#### THE NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT

The Namibian Chamber of Environment is the brainchild of B2Gold and has been handed over for democratic management to the environmental fraternity. B2Gold has provided seeding capital of N\$1 million to the NCE.



#### 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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## OHORONGO CEMENT AVAILS N\$9 MILLION FOR EMPLOYEE HOUSING

Employees of Ohorongo Cement received their Deeds of Sale for land allocated to them by the Otavi Town Council on 3 October 2017. The company availed N\$9 million for the purchasing of land and cement contribution, for the construction of employee houses.

"This is certainly the biggest highlight in the history of our company. Today we created the first of many real and lasting legacies, for the welfare of our colleagues. What we did today, will hopefully restore their human dignity," said the Managing Director of Ohorongo Cement Mr Hans-Wilhelm Schütte.

Ohorongo Cement entered into an agreement with the workers union, to assist employees in acquiring land for housing in Otavi and Tsumeb. The focus is on first time property owners. This is in support of the national drive for housing provision as described in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. The target is to acquire 120 ervens, subject to the approval of funds, cost and availability of serviced land. Otavi Town Council allocated 30 serviced ervens, measuring an average 375m<sup>2</sup> for the average cost N\$26,000 in Extension 5.

Now that the land has been availed, Ohorongo Cement will provide cement for the construction of standardized one- and two-bedroom houses. The building material will be paid for by the employees through loans from financial institutions.

To ensure that the houses are of superior quality, a building contractor has been appointed and will deliver the housing units over a specified period. The employees will be the sole owners of the properties, even though the company has contributed towards acquiring them, as Mr Schütte explains.

"Our colleagues will be the direct owners of these properties. This is why they signed the Deeds of Sale directly with the Otavi Town Council and the respective financial institutions. Our contribution is only to ensure that all our colleagues enjoy quality of life and living conditions," he said.

During the 2016 wage negotiations, the workers union negotiated for assistance towards property ownership for the employees. "We felt that increasing the housing allowance didn't solve the problem of lack of housing. That is why we opted for a permanent solution for us and our families to have dignified homes. Therefore, we thank the company for this good gesture that will truly secure futures," said Brazzo Zamuee the Namibian National Labour Organisation, Branch Secretary.

Her Worship Cllr Martha Shipanga, the Mayor of Otavi Town Council, handed the Deeds of Sale over to the Ohorongo Cement employees and described the initiative by the company as a step in the right direction to alleviate poverty.

"We will try to make sure that families have dignified homes. My hope is that many more employees of Ohorongo Cement will seize this opportunity to acquire a home. Congratulation to those who received Deeds of Sale today and we look forward to the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of your houses," the Mayor said. Otavi Constituency Councilor Hon. Laina Nekundi and councilors of the town of Otavi as well as the Acting CEO Pesella Nunda witnessed the handover of the Deeds of Sale.



### THE NAMIBIAN URANIUM INSTITUTE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS MAINTAINING A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN THE HUMAN NEED TO IMPROVE LIFESTYLES AND FEELING OF WELL-BEING ON ONE HAND, AND PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS, ON WHICH WE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS DEPEND." (GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE)

The concept of sustainable development is one of the cornerstones on which Namibia's Constitution is built. More recently, the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted as the basis for Namibia's fifth National Development Plan, NDP5. In addition, Namibian uranium mining companies subscribe to the International Council on Mining and Metals' interpretation of sustainable development for the mining and metals sector, namely that investments should be technically appropriate, environmentally sound, financially profitable and socially responsible. It is therefore essential to integrate environmental, economic and social aspects through all phases of mineral production from exploration through construction, operation and mine site closure.

As a result, the Namibian Uranium Association (NUA) has established a Sustainable Development (SD) Committee under the auspices of the Namibian Uranium Institute, in order to assist the organisation in promoting best practices with regard to health, environment, and radiation safety and security; and investigate any issue which could potentially negatively impact on Sustainable Development. The SD Committee's duties also include the assessment and monitoring of all risks associated with the uranium industry, and making recommendations to NUA in relation to risk management. The SD Committee is a standing committee, and has appointed four Working Groups to assist with specific topics. The Services WG was formed to enhance the uranium mines' focus on power and water supply issues. Intermediate and long-term power supply security and the sourcing of sufficient quantities of bulk water at viable and cost-effective tariffs are they key issues addressed by this WG. The Radiation Safety WG was established to address the challenges associated with building and maintaining capacity in radiation safety in Namibia. The WG identifies issues relating to radiation protection that may potentially pose a risk to the industry; develops and promotes best practise guidelines for radiation protection in the uranium industry; and suggests initiatives to promote awareness about radiation protection.

The Water and Air Quality WG assists the uranium operations in safeguarding their reputation as a safe and responsible industry. The WG fosters greater awareness of water and air quality risk management aspects at all levels in the uranium industry, which calls for the identification of risks and the understanding of pressing issues and their effects in the longer term. The Swakop River Farmers' WG was put in place in order to address concerns of this particular stakeholder group, undertaking farming in the immediate vicinity of the mining and exploration activities, and advise the SD Committee accordingly.

With the assistance of its committed SD Committee and the very active Working Groups, NUI stands ready to support new developments and promote knowledge generation and capacity building in the fields of environmental management, radiation safety and health. •



### **B2GOLD** RAISES THE BAR FOR INDUSTRY IN SUSTAINABILITY SPHERE

ON THE 12<sup>™</sup> OF SEPTEMBER, B2GOLD NAMIBIA HOSTED A SUSTAINABILITY NETWORKING EVENT TO LAUNCH THE B2GOLD CORP. 2016 RESPONSIBLE MINING REPORT – ENTITLED "RAISING THE BAR". THE EVENT WAS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE OTHER SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT (NCE) AND TOTAL NAMIBIA.

Launch of B2Gold Corp. 2016 Responsible Mining Report In the Responsible Mining Report launch presentation, Gretha du Plessis (B2Gold Public Relations Manager – Africa) explained that B2Gold's commitment to social responsibility and environmental stewardship (combined with rapid growth) has made it crucial for the company to review its status as a responsible miner and to take a step back and critique its performance in this regard. The company took on the challenge to produce its first Responsible Mining Report – a report based on internationally-respected Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines.

The report content is based on a structured analysis of responsible performance within a selected number of aspects and indicators from the Economic, Environmental, and Social categories. "Through the process of compiling and writing the report, we also came to the realization that, year-on-year, it will allow us to raise the bar for ourselves and to track how we perform against these targets", Du Plessis said.

Signing of MoU, B2Gold Namibia and Total Namibia The Company also announced and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Total Namibia. In the MoU, with signatories Naftal Kakwambi (Managing Director, Total Namibia) and Mark Dawe (Country Manager and Managing Director, B2Gold Namibia), Total has committed to donating two cents for every litre of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) sold to B2Gold Namibia, to the Namibian Chamber of Environment. "We have decided to do so as we believe that the goals and objectives behind the formation of the NCE are critical if we are to protect our environment and promote sustainable growth" said Kakwambi in his statement.

#### "Re-Wilding the Future" concept launch

As a highlight towards the end of the evening, Mark Dawe announced and presented a ground-breaking initiative that B2Gold and NCE are spearheading – a potential public private partnership (PPP) that will enable B2Gold and partners to leave a lasting legacy long after B2Gold ceases operations at the Otjikoto Mine. The "Re-Wilding the Future" concept was presented as a documentary film produced by B2Gold Namibia.

There has been a dramatic decline in the productivity of farmland in Namibia over the past century – a result of bush

encroachment and the loss of perennial grasses. This has been exacerbated in the past few years by drought. In the years ahead, the situation is likely to deteriorate further as the impacts of climate change become more severe.

Namibia has a global competitive advantage: its wildlife, its natural ecosystems and its landscapes. It also has an extremely good policy environment. Namibia stands head and shoulders above all other countries in terms of its green economy potential. This is because of its good mix of biodiversity, open landscapes, rich cultures, good policies, infrastructure, service industries, stability and privatepublic collaboration. The only thing lacking are innovative



models to demonstrate how the full complexity of Namibia's green economy can be harnessed and developed (with value addition) to make the land more productive and to create jobs.

A smart PPP approach is now being explored to develop such a model, involving B2Gold Namibia, the Ministry or Environment & Tourism, and the NCE. The target area is the Waterberg, with a vision to link B2Gold land and the Waterberg Plateau Park into an integrated conservation and wildlife management landscape that optimises biodiversity protection as well as unleashing wildlife and landscape values through tourism, wildlife use and vertically integrated value chains.







### ERONGO CAREER FAIR FOSTERING AWARENESS

he Erongo Career Fair attracted around 1,100 learners from various secondary schools in the region during the two-day exhibition on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Swakopmund Municipality Multi-Purpose Centre. The career fair aimed to create career guidance and awareness for school-going and out of school youth, as well as to inform the community about different job and training opportunities in various career fields. Despite a late start and limited funding due to the current economic challenges Namibia is facing, the Erongo Region Directorate of Education in partnership with the Namibian Uranium Association (NUA), the Swakopmund Municipality and the Swakopmund branch of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) hosted a very successful Erongo Career Fair.

The theme for this year was "Fostering Awareness" and a total of 33 exhibitors in various fields participated, such as NAMPOL, NIMT, COSDEC, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and other training and government institutions. The Mayor of Swakopmund, Her Worship Paulina Nashilundo, had an inspiring message for the learners in her opening address, saying that the leaders of tomorrow need to be aware and understand the dynamics of the economic sectors, so that their choice of a career can be based on an informed decision.

During the official opening of the career fair, a career booklet compiled by NUA was launched. The booklet informs about careers in the mining industry, and assists learners in making their choice for the most suitable career path. Getting learners interested in a mining career could supply the mining sector with specialised skills in the long term, and will lead to the development of Namibia, which means that NUA members such as the uranium mines and uranium exploration companies make a very positive contribution to the society in which they operate.

The career fair ended with a well attended panel discussion on drug and alcohol abuse, specifically highlighting the prevention strategies for young people. A number of key speakers were on the panel, namely law enforcement officers, community leaders, social workers, and four inmates from the Coastal Offenders Drug Awareness Campaign (CODAC).

The parties involved in this year's event have already committed to hosting a similar event next year, thus joining hands in a true public-private partnership for the benefit of the youth of the Erongo Region, and the region's future economic development. Please consider joining us next year to make this initiative even greater. For further information contact the Namibian Uranium Association. •





#### NOSA AWARDS LANGER HEINRICH URANIUM (LHU) FOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Langer Heinrich Uranium was recently awarded by NOSA for achieving second place in the Open Cast Mining Category at NOSA's annual NOSHCON conference and awards held at the prestigious Spier Winery in Cape Town 2017 where companies and individuals were recognised for achieving excellence in safety, health, and environmental practice.

According to LHU's Safety, Emergency Services & Security Superintendent, Jaco Haasbroek, who received the awards on behalf of LHU, the company qualified for the awards because of subscribing to the NOSA Five Star Integrated System which assists companies to manage risks and improve both sustainability and business performance within the field of occupational health, safety and environmental management.

In outlining what the award meant for LHU's safety performance, he lamented that "LHU's safety performance has increased marginally and that incident rates need to drop should LHU aim for first place." Jaco added that he also met some of the role players in the industry at the event and has obtained some valuable information that can assist in improving the safety at LHU. South Africa based Idwala Industrial Holdings took first place while Walvis Bay Salt Holdings took third place respectively. The audit score outcome is used as a measuring tool for the awards. To qualify, companies had to meet the below criteria during the exposure period (in this case 2016):

- 1. Be on the NOSA Integrated Five Star System and achieve a valid 4 star rating.
- 2. No fatal accidents.
- 3. Achieve the highest effort score.

LHU's Jaco Haasbroek also walked away with the second place for SHE Risk Officer/coordinator of the year: Mining 2016.

NOSHCON is a well-established and renown annual occupational risk management conference and exhibition. The conference affords local and international risk management professionals and practitioners the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise on the latest developments in the pursuit of a risk-free workplace for all employees. NOSH-CON explores the latest in risk management products and services, while show casing practical solutions and best practice risk management concepts to a host of industries.



## OHORONGO CEMENT OPENS NEW DEPOT

The Governor of Oshana Region, Hon. Clemens H Kashuupulwa, recently opened the Ohorongo Cement Ondangwa Depot, which will distribute cement to the four Northern regions, and if feasible, export markets to South Angola.

The Governor commended Ohorongo Cement for its bold decision to make this N\$4 million investment, despite the current economic trying times. "It is very pleasing to see Ohorongo Cement being optimistic to continue commit to capital projects, as it will position them well for future endeavours. As for their presence in Ondangwa, I believe it will support entrepreneurial drives in the four Northern regions," the governor said.

The new depot is the result of a Private Public Prtnership Agreement with TransNamib to lease land at Ondangwa railway station, and is part of the Northern Railway Extension project, which extends from Tsumeb to Oshikango. Hon. Kashuupulwa said the partnership between Ohorongo Cement and TransNamib is a lesson for all, "as these two entities have proven to us that the Northern Railway is a good investment by our Government that could bring positive changes to this part of the country. Thus, both the public and the private sectors need take advantage of its strategic location and close proximity to Regional and International markets."

Ohorongo Cement invested N\$4 million into this infrastructure for the distribution of various cement types, including the CEM II 42.5 N, CEM I 42.5 R, CEM II 32.5 N B-LL. These are for the local market, while CEM II 42.5 N, Portuguese labelled, will also be available for the export markets in neighbouring Angola.

"We are taking this opportunity to expand whilst building local value chains and solid business relationships. We believe that the spins for this investment toward local entrepreneurs, especially the transporters, will be great," said Hans-Wilhelm Schütte, Managing Director of Ohorongo Cement.









From left - right: Saima Namukwambi, Deputy Mayor of Ondangwa Town, Regional Governor, Hans-Wilhelm Schutte (CEO of Ohorongo Cement), Ismael Namgongo, CEO of Ondangwa Town and Andreas Kalumbu, Chairperson of the management committee of Ondangwa Town



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- Grade control drilling
- Water well drilling up to 254mm diameter
- Grouting, gravel packing and cement seals Auger drilling

#### **BACKUP AND SUPPORT** EQUIPMENT

available to maintain, repair, build and modify all equipment to ensure minimal operational downtime. **CLIENT REFERENCES** 

#### NAMIBIA

- B2Gold
- Kunene Resources
- \* Rossing Uranium \* Husab Uranium Langer Heinrich Uranium \* NAMDEB
- SOUTH AFRICA Glencore \* BHP Billiton Xstrata \* Umcebo Mining
- UMK (United Manganese Kalahari)\*Jindal
- BOTSWANA

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## DEVELOPING & BUILDING SKILLS CAPABILITY OF OUR FIRST LINE LEADERS

HEN IT COMES TO TRANSLATING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES INTO RESULTS, SWAKOP URANIUM (SU) HAS BECOME A TREND-SETTER IN NURTURING, DEVELOPING AND CULTIVATING THEIR FIRST LINE LEADERS. IN LINE WITH SU'S HIGH PERFORMANCE CULTURE INITIATIVES, THE COMPANY DEVELOPS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS WHO ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR MOTIVATING AND INSPIRING THEIR TEAMS TO DELIVER QUALITY OUTPUT AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH SAFE WORKING PRACTICES.

Our First Line Leadership programme was designed and tailormade for SU's unique environment and culturally diverse workforce. The First Line Leadership programme kicked off in 2016 and has been running for two consecutive years, which has empowered and built the capacity of about 88 Team-leaders within various disciplines. They are now equipped with the necessary tools and practical knowledge to effectively lead while achieving results through people.

The First Line Leadership programme is fully supported by SU Senior Executives. The Deputy CEO, Mr Cai Yu Sheng, sums up the programme in two key words "First Line" and "Supervisor". He shared valuable insight with the participants in that "First Line" means being in the frontline of production, an vital aspect of a company's production plans. In order to carry these out effectively, Supervisors must understand the full scope of the production process.

He further emphasised that as Supervisors, they need to be careful planners, skilled coaches and fair arbitrators. They must use tact and good judgment with employees, "directing them to do the right thing the first time".

The segments of the programme focus on self-management, relationship management, fundamentals of management and performance management. Practical activities were used that will enable Supervisors to translate their new acquired skills and knowledge back to their respective workplaces.

The Chief Operation Officer, Mr Angula Kalili shared his personal experiences with the participants, and explained that managing a diverse Team can be challenging, however, can be dealt with by practising self-awareness as a toolto manage and lead your team more effectively.

The participants expressed their overwhelming support and dedication to make Swakop Uranium the Company "to work for, and being an employer of choice". •



## TRIBUTES AWARDED TO RÖSSING'S 30, 35 AND 40 YEAR LONG SERVICE EMPLOYEES!

Rössing celebrated the memorable careers of 24 longservice employees on 22 September in Swakopmund during a Cowboy-themed gala dinner at the Strand Hotel.

Managing director, Werner Duvenhage called the event - during which altogether eight 40-year service, twelve 35-year service, and four 30-year service employees were honoured - "one of the biggest annual highlights of Rössing."

During his keynote address, and looking like a real western cowboy himself, the MD said: "It remains a special honour for me to share this significant event with some of the most valuable assets of our Company - the long serving employees of Rössing Uranium. Many of the award recipients have been with the Company from the start-up days in the 1970s, the boom years of the 80s, the bust years of the 90s and the great years of the early 2000s. You were here when Rössing approached the end of its initial life span, through the eventual extensions of the life of the mine, through periods of restructuring and periods of growth and tonight you can still sit here and say: 'I'm an employee of the longest-running open-pit uranium mine in the world' - which is a truly inspirational achievement."

Rössing general manager Operations, Martin Tjipita, said during his address to the award recipients: "It is indeed humbling to be in the company of so many individuals who played and will no doubt continue to play such huge roles in ensuring our success as a uranium mining company that we can all be proud of."

Many of the long-service employees entertained the invited guests with hilarious stories from their extraordinary careers at Rössing:

Leon Beukes (35 years at Rössing) recalled the days of dog training at Rössing. That was once part of his job. He also

jokingly shared how they were once caught sleeping on the job (guard duty), because the colleague that was supposed to 'stand guard' also fell asleep!

Jacob Naoxab (40 years at Rössing) described his eventful journey at the mine from tea boy to motor mechanic! He thanked the mine for the support to build his career over many years.

Popeye Olivier (35 years at Rössing) told guests about playing dominoes in the bus every Friday, how artisans were once selected as team members based on their soccer skills, and about the stop-overs for get-togethers at the old constructors camp (E-Camp) back in the days - managers and all.

Rössing's chief financial officer, Shaan van Schalkwyk, thanked the long-service award recipients for the great example they have been to generations of workers. He said: "A hearty congratulations to each and every long-service employee on your fantastic career milestones. May your successes in work and in life only increase and may we continue to learn from you and look up to you to show us the way through the challenging times, the good times, and the great times ahead!"

With such a legacy at the mine, MD Werner encouraged all employees to spend some time with our esteemed longservice award recipients whenever they get a chance - to hear more amazing tales from the heydays of Rössing! He said: "The combined years of experience of our 24 longservice employees equal 860 years! All of you have left your mark on Rössing. You've touched someone's life, you've helped shaped someone's career, and most importantly, you've kept Rössing moving forward as an employer of choice and responsible corporate citizen in Namibia." •



## OHORONGO CEMENT APPOINTS NEW PLANT MANAGER

t the age of 30, Estelle Alberts become the youngest Plant Manager for Ohorongo Cement beginning 1 July 2017. Alberts joined Ohorongo Cement in July 2013 as a Divisional Production Manager: Grinding and Burning, responsible for the clinker and cement production part of the plant.

Alberts, who grew up in Grootfontein, is the first Namibian female to assume such a role, taking over from Mr. Manfred Pirker who has been appointed as the Executive Adviser to the cement manufacturing plant. Mr. Pirker, one of the few remaining expatriates in the company, was the Plant Manager for the past three years. He was instrumental in the construction and commissioning phases of the cement manufacturing plant. During his tenure, the plant went from strength to strength with significant improvements in energy efficiency, quality management and capacity expansion. Mr. Pirker was the main driver on site, behind the development and introduction of alternative fuels as well as the ongoing solar PV project.

"I am honoured to be chosen for this role and look forward to the challenges ahead. Over the last years the cement manufacturing plant has been optimised and expanded through the implementation of several projects. At the same time a significant effort was spent on establishing and developing the team that operates and manages the plant," says Ms. Alberts.

In her new role, Ms. Alberts, will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Ohorongo Cement plant near Otavi. Her duties include all production, maintenance and quality assurance activities as well as ensuring a safe and healthy working environment.

She will also be responsible for mid-term planning and coordination of all the functions directly related to the cement production process, as well as optimization activities. Mr. Pirker says, Ms. Alberts' appointment is proof that Ohorongo Cement and Namibia has an excellent team of employees that, combined with the latest technology equipment, will supply a world-class cement for Namibia and beyond.

"Ms. Alberts will take the lead of this great team in her new role, a move that will see Ohorongo Cement deliver a quality world class product for this country. I wish her great success in this position and many great achievements with the team of Ohorongo Cement," said Mr. Pirker.

Ohorongo Cement's Managing Director Mr. Hans-Wilhelm Schütte says: "We are very excited to have Ms. Alberts as the new Plant Manager, we look forward to her continued impact on the Ohorongo family, the mining and manufacturing industry in this new role. She has shown great potential in her previous capacity especially in the process of alternative fuel and we will greatly support her in every aspect for her to bring out the best for Ohorongo Cement and Namibia."

"It has always been the Schwenk family's intention to one day handover the plant operations to Namibians that is why we are not shy to share expertise, knowledge and transfer of skills," says Gerhard Hirth, Ohorongo Cement Board Chairperson.

Ms. Alberts holds a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), a Master of Science in Engineering (MScEng) and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) qualification, all obtained from Stellenbosch University. •

## INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL NAMIBIANS

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