

2022 Mining Expo & Conference -- Welcome Remarks

Hilifa Mbako

President, Chamber of Mines

Windhoek Showgrounds, 31 August, 2022

Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, Deputy Minister of Mines & Energy,
Your Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors
present,

Mr. Simeon Negumbo, Executive Director and other senior
Government Officials present,

Mr. Zebra Kasete, 1st Vice President of the Chamber of
Mines,

Mr George Botshiwe, newly elected 2nd Vice President of the
Chamber of Mines,

Fellow Council members and Chamber Team lead by the
CEO Veston Malango,

Mr. Klaus Endresen, Chairman, Namibian Petroleum
Operators Association (NAMPOA),

Captains of the industry,

Mining Expo Exhibitors & Visitors,

Distinguished invited guests,

Members of the Press,

All protocol observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A good morning and a warm welcome to the 9th Mining Expo & Conference. I wish to extend a special welcome to our Chief Guest of Honor, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy.

After two years of absence due to COVID-19, we are back with a bang! The response to the 2022 Mining Expo and Conference has been overwhelming, the event is oversubscribed.

I am pleased to announce that this year's event has attracted a huge turnout. We have 103 exhibitors occupying 163 stands this year, as compared to 88 exhibitors with 136 booths during the previous event in 2019. We are showcasing the entire extractive industry, from solid minerals to oil and gas.

We are delighted to note that a number of exhibitors are from the SADC Region. Eleven (11) companies are from South Africa and one (1) from Zambia.

At this juncture, I wish to acknowledge the presence of international delegations who have responded favourably to the Chamber invitation to the Expo as follows:

Indonesia

A 9-team delegation from the Republic of Indonesia lead by His Excellency Wisnu Edi Pratigny, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Namibia is here, welcome. The team consists of Executives of the giant tin conglomerate of Indonesia, PT Timah Tbk, and accompanied by the Embassy staff. Timah Tbk is already engaging our Uis Tin mine operated by AfriTin and exploring further areas of cooperation, particularly in further value addition by potential investments in tin smelting in Namibia. The Indonesian Embassy in Windhoek has been actively engaging the Chamber of Mines prior to this event and facilitated a visit to the Uis tin mine by a Timah delegation. This is already the second time Timah is coming to Namibia and hope that the Mining Expo will provide a platform to further consolidate this much needed cooperation.

India

The India High Commission in Namibia and the India Africa Trade Council in Namibia have facilitated the participation of a business delegation from India, a number of them being business houses with Mining experience. You are most welcome.

Finland

The Finnish Embassy in Namibia, working with the Chamber of Mines, has facilitated the participation of a strong Finnish delegation (14) from the private sector and the Finnish Geological Survey which has a long history of cooperation with the Geological Survey of Namibia. The Geological Survey of Finland is featuring on the Mining Conference program on the pertinent subject of value addition to Namibian minerals. I am glad to note that with the facilitation of the Chamber, the Finnish delegation has already visited some mines in the Erongo region (Rössing Uranium and QKR Navachab mines) since their arrival over the weekend.

I have already recognized the large contingence of exhibitors from South Africa, we are grateful for your support and collaboration. This is a follow up action to the recent visit of the South Africa business delegation as facilitated by our Namibian Embassy in Pretoria and the South African Embassy in Windhoek.

Allow me to say a few words about the exhibitor from Zambia, SCAW Limited. The company has presented a unique proposal to the Namibian mining industry, namely to supply grinding media (steel balls) and other casting products in exchange for scrap metal from our mines, essentially a batter trade.

This Expo offers a platform to cement these ideas. Ideally, Namibia needs a foundry to manufacture such items and reduce on imports and deepen the upstream linkages with industrialization and job creation.

The main objectives of the Mining Expo and Conference have remained the same since inception in 2010, namely:

- To show case the Namibian mining industry to stakeholders. It offers an excellent platform for local suppliers and SMEs to discuss and identify business opportunities in the supply of goods and services to the mining industry,
- To promote careers in mining related fields, and
- To provide information on what the industry really is, and thereby address negative public perceptions. For this reason, we have continued to make participation by individuals to be FREE of charge.

As a result, we have been able to engage all stakeholders including the ordinary person on the street. This is indeed unique to Namibia as events of this nature are normally on commercial basis and often at prohibitive entry fees.

Hon. Deputy Minister, I am pleased to report that our efforts to widen this event to include the oil and gas sector is intensifying, in light of the positive developments in the oil and gas exploration campaign.

Firstly, as per our standard practice over the years, we have again invited the Chairperson of the Namibian Petroleum Operators Association (NAMPOA), Mr Klaus Endresen to address us at this opening session and will soon be taking the podium after me.

Secondly, upon the request of MME, the Chamber has availed the Conference venue to be used for the 2-hour panel discussion on oil and gas during Thursday afternoon, after the Mining Conference has ended. This show will be broadcast live on NBC. This free gesture is complimentary to MME in recognition of the regulatory role that MME plays for the whole extractive industry. We anticipate that when Namibia enters the oil and gas production phase, we shall dedicate one entire hall to the new sector and christen it as the **Oil and Gas Pavilion.**

I wish to take this opportunity to announce that the Chamber of Mines has now registered the Mining Expo and Conference with BIPA as our Trade Mark.

This is to ensure that the intellectual property is solely used for the noble cause of showcasing the industry to the Namibian public and thus securing FREE entry to the public. This would not happen with traditional events management companies.

Invitations to this event were extended to all stakeholders including the general public through extensive media coverage that included print and electronic media, Radio, social media platforms and through our expo dedicated Chamber website

The Theme of this year's Mining Expo and Conference is: **"Breaking New Frontiers in a Post Pandemic Era"**. The Conference will be held during this afternoon and tomorrow morning and will run parallel to the Expo. We have lined up a total of 12 presentations to reflect on the industry performance during 2021 and to present the resurgence of mining and exploration in a rapidly improving commodity price environment.

Hon. Deputy Minister, the Chamber has maintained the tradition of allocating complimentary booths/stands for the 9th time now.

I am pleased to announce that once again, we have allocated complimentary booths to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (2 booths), UNAM, the Mining & Process Engineering Department of the University of Science and Technology (NUST), Namibia Revenue Authority (NAMRA), the Namibian Uranium Association, and the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT).

Let me take this opportunity to once again thank all exhibitors for supporting this event over the years, in tough economic conditions and now during rebounding mineral commodity markets and the resultant buoyant mining and exploration drive. Special acknowledgments and gratitude go to our main sponsors, RMB, who have generously sponsored the entire Mining Conference, the new B2B meeting rooms, the Supplier's Platform and our traditional cocktail evening

In addition to RMB, the Chamber is also grateful to **Emergenci ThreeSixty** for availing free emergency services and to **Rent-a-Drum** for helping us keep the environment clean through refuse and waste management.

I also want to thank our CEO, Veston Malango, his team and all supporting service providers for a job well done.

We are looking forward to a great Mining Expo and Conference.

I thank you.