



**MOTIVATION SPEECH BY HON NATANGUE
ITHETE, MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE
SKELETON COAST IN ERONGO AND KUNENE
REGIONS FOCUSING ON POSSIBLE DIAMOND
DEPOSITS
HELD IN AUGUST 2023.**

April 2024

**Parliament Chamber
WINDHOEK**

exploration that has been abandoned since early 1970, were left behind by the mining exploration companies

- There is no synergy between Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism in terms of the activities taking place at the Skeleton Coast Park.
- Members found that the EPL licenses at Mowebay were still active and would have expired in October 2023. However, as observed at Toscanini, this area is also not fenced off and there is no security measure in place.
- The gate at Mowebay and Ugab does not have diamond detector machines although the Park receive many visitors daily.
- Absence of accommodation and office space for the Ministry of Mines and Energy Officials within the Skeleton Coast Park. Members were informed that the inadequate security measure at the park is linked to the absence of accommodation and office space for the Ministry of Mines and Energy officials within the Park.
- Among all the EPL sites visited by the Members, it was found that all the exploration companies did not find diamonds that are of economic value.
- Police Officers find it difficult to conduct patrol of the Park sometimes due to lack of fuel.
- There are network constraints at the Skeleton Coast Park, some areas only have Wi-Fi.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I rise to motivate the Report on the Oversight Visits to the Skeleton Coast in Erongo and Kunene Regions focusing on Possible Diamond Deposits held in August 2023.

The report highlights the findings, Committee observations and recommendation of the oversight visit.

The following were some of the findings and observations of the Committee:

- Although the Skeleton Coast Park is declared an environmentally sensitive area, during the visit to the Toscanini site, Members found that the site is accessible to tourist because the area is not fenced off and there are no security measures in place.
- There are inadequate security measures at the diamond exploration sites apart from warning signs, which fails to prevent tourists from accessing the site. Officials of the Ministry only issue fines when a person is found in the restricted areas.
- Members found that companies awarded with exploration licenses were not adhering to the rules and regulations on rehabilitation when their licenses expired. Rusted and dilapidated mining equipment, accommodation facilities and sampling equipment as well an old oil-ring for oil

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy,

**Honourable Minister of Environment, Forestry and
Tourism,**

The recommendations in the report are self-explanatory, therefore I will not read it out again in the interest of time management.

With these remarks, I now have the honour to submit the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration to this august House for consideration, discussion and adoption.

I SO MOVE HONOURABLE SPEAKER,