



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

7TH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**REPORT ON THE MOTION ON ILLEGAL LITHIUM MINING IN UIS, DAURES
CONSTITUENCY IN ERONGO REGION**

February 2025

Report 2 of 2025

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Acronyms

EPLs	Exclusive Prospecting Licenses
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
TA	Traditional Authority
CRS	Corporate Social Responsibility
Hon	Honourable
(Pty) Ltd	Proprietary Limited
CDC	Constituency Development Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the committee's consultations regarding current lithium mining activities in the Daures Constituency. The committee engaged with key stakeholders, including the Daures Constituency Councillor, Traditional Authorities, Xinfeng Investment, Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd), local communities, and conservancies. Additionally, consultative engagements were held with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism.

During the consultations, concerns were raised by a community group regarding the Traditional Authority's handling of administrative procedures related to Xinfeng's operations. Allegations of corruption were made against the Traditional Authority, with communities and conservancies expressing frustration over being excluded from key consultations. Furthermore, small-scale miners voiced grievances about being denied their heritage rights and subsequently labeled as illegal operators.

Based on the committee's findings and a review of supporting documents from stakeholders and the two Ministries, no illegal mining activities were identified in the operations of the Joint Venture, at the time of these consultations. However, other significant concerns related to mining activities were noted. The committee has outlined recommendations to address these concerns, ensuring a more inclusive and transparent approach to mining administration and community engagement in the future.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Motion on the Current Lithium mining activities in the Uis District, Daures Constituency in Erongo Region was moved by Hon. Henny Seibeb on 5 April 2023, with the intention to find amicable solution to resolve the stand-off between the community, mining sector and the Traditional Authority. The Standing Committee received the Motion on 12 April 2023 which was subsequently referred to the Sub-Committee on Mining for further scrutiny. The Sub-Committee found it necessary to engage the stakeholders and gather facts on the matter. The public hearings were conducted in Daures Constituency with the Councillor, Traditional Authorities, Xinfeng Investment and Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd), Mining pits in Omungambu village and the entire community of Daures Constituency. Further consultations were done with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment, forestry and Tourism. The delegation comprised of Hon. Tjekero Tweya (Chairperson), Hon. Kletus Karondo, Hon. Maria Elago, Hon. Bernardus Swartbooi and Hon. Maria Kamutali. The public hearings took place from 8-10 May 2023.

2. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources has the duty to;

- (a) Consider any matter it deems relevant with regard to the Offices, Ministries, Agencies, and all State-owned Enterprises and Parastatals responsible for the following category of affairs which shall, inter alia, include: Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Environment, and Tourism; Fisheries and Marine Resources; Mines and Energy and Land Reform.
- (b) Monitor, enquire into, and make recommendations to the Assembly on matters that may directly or indirectly affect the natural resources of the Republic of Namibia and its people;
- (c) Operate with a vision to promote sustainable utilization of Namibia's natural resources;
- (d) Review and advice the National Assembly on the activities and matters related to the agriculture, water and forestry;
- (e) Ensure that government put restraint on environmental degradation and protect the environment;
- (f) Review and advice the National Assembly on matters related to mines and energy sectors;
- (g) Ensure a fair distribution of farming land and productive utilization of it in Namibia;

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to compile a comprehensive report, the Committee conducted public hearings with different Traditional Authorities and their respective communities namely; the Constituency Councilor, !Oe-#Gan Traditional Authority, Daure Daman Traditional Authority, Zeraeua Traditional Authority, Xinfeng Investment and Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd). The delegation also visited the Mining pits in Omungambu village and held a consultative meeting with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment, forestry and Tourism.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

The main objective for the visits was to conduct public hearings with relevant stakeholders involved and gather factual information on the Motion for scrutiny purposes and compile a comprehensive report as per the findings and recommendations.

5. MEETINGS HELD

5.1 Meeting with the Constituency Councillor of Daures Constituency, Hon. Kennedy !Haoseb

Honourable Kennedy !Haoseb welcomed the delegation to the Constituency, and outlined that Daures Constituency has a lot of small mining activities. Investors commenced with the exploration and/or mining after obtaining the Exclusive Prospective Licences (EPL) and Mining Licence from the Ministry of Mine and Energy without proper consultations with the Community through the Traditional Authority. Procedurally, EPL certificates are issued on the consent of the Traditional Authority on behalf of the community. Additionally, the investors do not rehabilitate the land after mining activities, pits are left opened and the community has been losing their livestock and wild animals by falling in the pits in search of water.

The Hon. Councillor noted further that the community was forced to coexist with persons (investors) they are not aware of and they do not benefit anything from the investors. Conservancies had lost their hunting rights due to the EPL ownership by investors.

The Constituency office informed the Ministry of Mines and Energy about the Xinfeng Investment Company that had started with mining activities between Omaruru and Okomahe. The Minister responded that he has taken note and will send Officials on the ground. The same Chinese Company later started with another mining activity in Uis with the same licence and during the Minister of Mines and Energy's address at the meeting he confirmed that the Xinfeng Investment operations in Omaruru were indeed legal.

The Hon. Councillor explained that Daure Daman community petitioned against this mining activities to the Governor of Erongo region, of which the communication was done via email and the Councillor's office was copied in. The Councillor reacted to the email by writing to the Governor's office and copied the Area Manager. The Area Manager referred the Hon. Councillor to the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Mines and Energy, thereafter the Commissioner informed them that the Hon. Minister will be on the ground to address the community. By the time the Committee visited the constituency, there was no written response received from the Governor's office.

The Hon. Councillor further informed the delegation that the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy has addressed the community regarding the mining activities in Uis on 24 March 2023, Omaruru on 25 March 2023 and Windhoek on 12 April 2023. However, he could not attend these meetings due to other official commitments therefore he does not know the outcomes.

Furthermore, the Honourable Councillor re-counted that on 19 April 2023, he was informed by a Member of the Constituency Development Committee (CDC) about mining activity that has commenced in Omungambu village but the community claims that they were not informed nor aware of any upcoming mining activity, they only saw trucks offloading and started drilling.

At the time of the visit the Honourable Councillor, confirmed that his office had no statistics of how many mining activities are in the Daures Constituency as it was challenging to keep track of legal or illegal mining activities unless the two ministries, Ministry of Mines and Energy, and Ministry of Environment and Tourism could be on the ground to monitor the activities.

5.2 Meeting with the !Oe-#Gan Traditional Authority

The delegation was addressed by the two Senior Headmen of the !Oe-#Gan Traditional Authority who narrated and explained that the investors in their area of jurisdiction left the pits sites not fenced which endangered live stocks. Some of the mining area only had caretakers on site who were employed on contract basis and they did not know which investor was mining where.

The Senior Headmen confirmed that previously, investors did not apply for the consent letter from the Traditional Authority for EPL certificate and since the community petitioned against the Lithium mining activity of Xinfeng Investment (Pty) Ltd, they have started to apply for consent letter from the Traditional Authority. In the community, the depth of small mining activities are approximately 11 to 13 meter and Environmental Impact Assessment was already done for small mining.

During the engagement with the delegation, the Senior Headman recounted that in Katora (Damara exploration) there was an investor who's mining activity were approximately 300 meter away from elderly residents and the company had the EPL licence issued from the Ministry of Mines and Energy which was granted without consulting the community on the ground.

The Senior Headman also narrated that, though the Ministry of Environment advertise for objections of awarding EPL in the newspapers, they are not accessible to the community on time. Also that Foreign investors do not engage the community or specific farmers about their mining operations and they can drill as deep as 300 meters. The Headmen expressed concerns that such deep drilling could contaminate the underground water. However, the mining activities are approved by the Chief of TA who resides in Windhoek on behalf of the community.

The Headmen narrated that they feel excluded in decision making process and treated like scapegoats. The Chief of the Traditional Leader has been signing consent from Windhoek without adequate discussions and consideration of facts on the ground and the involvement of the community activities.

Although the community attempted to stop mining activities in their vicinity which were uncommunicated, few attempts succeeded but in most cases the Traditional Authority was told by investors to liaise with the Ministry of Mines and Energy since they are responsible for issuing prospective licences.

5.3 Meeting with !Oe-#Gan Community

The !Oe-#Gan community confirmed that they did not observe any illegal mining activities in Okombahe yet, since mining activities in the area were still at the exploration stage. However, the community felt that there was an urgent need of awareness creation on what should happen after the explorations is completed. The community suggested that conservancies should have more say in issuing the consent letters just like the Traditional Authorities since they are directly involved and implicated. Furthermore, the community expressed their concerns that some Traditional leaders are giving away the resources to Foreign Investors.

The district is endowed with mineral resources and yet there are no good infrastructures in place such as tarred roads and school hostels in terms of the Mining Companies' Corporate Social Responsibilities. Roads are being damaged by the trucks on a daily basis.

The Community further alleged that once small miners' mining claims expired, they award them to other miners immediately without giving sufficient time for renewal. Another concern is that, small miners have to travel long distance to Windhoek to the Ministry of Mines and Energy for the renewal purpose of their mining claims. Moreover, there is no cooperation and coherence between the Traditional Authority and the community that contributed to all these illegal procedures with investors, and the Traditional Authorities were too reluctant on the matter and needs to be audited. The community requested the Mining Companies investing in the area to implement their Corporate Social Responsibilities fully.

5.4 Meeting with the Daure Daman Traditional Authority

The delegation was welcomed by Senior Headmen of Daure Daman Traditional Authority and informed them that many times, investors showed up with their signed licences from the Ministry of Mines and Energy without TA's consents. Small mining has been their inherited subsistence lifestyle from their forefathers and now it has been regarded as illegal mining. Lately, big Mining Companies acquire the EPL from the Ministry, but refused to give their consent for the small miners to mine under their EPL.

The Senior Headman further informed the delegation that in March 2023, the Commissioner of Mines visited the Traditional Authorities, and the TA advised the Ministry to decentralize the issuance of licenses by deploying official to train local people on how to demarcate the coordinates and issue them with EPLs on the ground. However, since the meeting no feedback was provided or received so far. The Headman alleged that when Environmental Impact Assessments officers goes to the area, they only talk to the EPL holder and not to the Traditional Authority. Thereafter, they will advertise for objection in Newspapers like the Namibian, New Era and at the local shops' notice board but those mechanisms are not easily accessed by the communities in Uis.

The Headmen informed the delegation that Xinfeng Investment (Pty) Ltd bought the EPL in Uis from the previous owner and requested the consent from the Daure Daman Traditional Authority for exploration of Lithium through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and not for mining and it was awarded as such on 05 April 2022 (**Annexure A**). The Traditional Authority said they do not know the quantity of Lithium ore to be prospected for explorations purpose. They witnessed approximately eighty (80) trucks from Xinfeng Investment transporting the ore every day for a period of three (3) consecutive months to Walvis Bay and these trucks damaged the roads.

The Traditional Authority denied the allegation of bribes from Xinfeng Investment said they received chairs, computer and some funds from Xinfeng Investment paid as Corporate Social Responsibilities (**Annexure B**). These funds were deposited into the TA Trust Fund for its administration and operations purposes as per the Traditional Authority Act. The Daure Daman Traditional Authority further acknowledged receiving approximately N\$500.00 for sitting allowance from the Xinfeng Investment as part of their agreement. (**Annexure C**). The Daure Daman submitted documentary proofs/evidence toward the alleged illegal mining in Uis and surroundings. (**Annexure D**)

5.5 Meeting with the Daure Daman Community

The Daure Daman Community alleged that there has been a lot of mixed up of mining claims and EPL numbers, especially for Xingfeng Investment. The community alleged that the company had an EPL application 8843 which is in Uis Area and that was still in its application process, an active Mining Licence on 243, and a pending renewal of EPL 7228, in Okombahe/Omaruru Area. However, the company wrote a letter to the Traditional Authority to be granted consent on EPL-8397 that belongs to Orange River investment, which was having a pending Environmental Clearance Certificate at the time of the visit. Furthermore, the community alleged that Xinfeng Investment was granted consent on two Mining Claims which were 70515 and 70516 that belongs to Townland Investment (Pty) Ltd, which is in EPL – 7248 and it belongs to Mount Brandberg Mining (Pty) Ltd.

The community further informed the delegation that Long Fire Investment has 10 claim number namely 73409-73418 and these claims have been pegged for the purpose of semi-precious stones only, and that Mr. January Likulano, the owner of Long Fire Investment wrote a letter on the 21st July to remove Lithium and rare earth metals from his commodities. Yet the Environmental Clearance Certificate that was awarded afterwards gives the company provision to Mine Lithium. Furthermore, the community alleged that the ECC awarded was for Okombahe reserve and not for Uis/Erongo Region.

The community claims that Xingfeng Investment and Long Fire's operations are carried out without the community, and conservancy's awareness. They carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment without the Conservancies while the mining claims are within the Conservancy and they have already started mining under the consent of exploration. The community expressed further that the blasting of rocks disrupted the biodiversity in the area, which could be avoided if the investors could have consulted. The community further explained that Xingfeng was not mining sustainably, they were exploiting in a very short time in the cover of testing samples.

The community also questioned when the exploration report will be published? How about the other minerals hosted in the same pegmatites if any? When will Xingfeng pay royalties for those minerals if the little royalties paid was only for Lithium? The community alleged that Environmental Clearance Certificate for Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd) dated 16 September 2022 was a fraud that does not look anything like other ECC and it was used by Xingfeng under the claim numbers of (73410 to 73418). **Annexure E**

The community further indicated that the money paid to Daure Daman Traditional Authority from Xingfeng Investment was deposited into a Nampost account of Daure Daman which is an Operational Fund and not into the Trust Account as per the Traditional Authority Act, 25 of 2000. The community also expressed their views that Investors undermined their dignity through their practice of showing up and start drilling and rooting out the resources without considering everything involved.

5.6 Meeting with the Zeraeua Traditional Authority

The Traditional Leaders of Zeraeua Traditional Authority informed the delegation that they are aware of two mining exploration in the vicinity and two mining activities by Osino and Farpoint. Osino was prospecting in the area for more than 3 years by drilling and transporting the sand (pegmatite) to Omaruru for sampling. The Zeraeua TA said they do not recall granting their consent to Osino for mining but only for explorations.

The Traditional Authority shared their concerns further that where Osino mines was very rich with Gold, however mining companies has been changing EPL ownership after making profit. Initially the EPL was owned by August before changed to WestPot, then later owned by B2 Gold and at the time of the visit it was owned by Osino.

The Zeraeua TA informed the committee further that the foreign investors showed up with their EPL and the Map for coordinates issued from the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Windhoek while they were not approached for a consent. The Traditional Leaders sustained their concerns that why the law mandated acquiring of EPL as a must and did not say the same on Corporate Social Responsibilities.

The Zeraeua TA further alleged that the Ministry of Mines and Energy indiscriminately issued EPLs without considering that most EPLs were in communal areas, and by extension it affects communal grazing areas. Consequently, the communal farmers would appreciate benefits from the mining activities through shareholding once the mines are operational instead of the so-called CSR. The TA recounted that in 2019, there was an incident where Chief Zeraeua refused granting of a consent letter to Farpoint due to Conservancy and residential implications and later he was called by an official from Ministry of Mines and Energy ordering him to issue the consent saying the resources belongs to the State. Chief Zeraeua announced it on Otjiherero Radio Services of NBC and did not issue that consent. To their surprise, the consent letter was issued by the Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Windhoek.

5.7 Meeting with the community: Zeraeua Traditional Authority

The community of Zeraeua Traditional Authority expressed appreciation to the delegation for conducting the public hearings on the ground and informed them that the strike against the operations of Xinfeng investment's mining activities in Uis has led to the community stopping some of the illegal mining activities in the Okohelo.

The community alleged that some of the Chinese investors employed local miners who operate on day shifts while the Chinese nationals operates night shifts. The community concerns were that the ore mined and transported night in sealed containers without knowing whether they were accounted for to the relevant authorities. The community reported further that they met with the Minister of Mines and Energy on 25 March 2023, were they informed him that often, mining investors do not provide sufficient information to the local population in terms of their exploration and subsequent mining activities including the transitioning from exploration phase into full scale mining.

Furthermore, the community alleged that the Environmental Impact Assessment reports were not published for communities to understand how the investors intend to mitigate against unintended impacts of the exploration and mining activities. Meanwhile, the community also alleged that the Traditional Authority issued consent letters to the investors without consulting the local people living in the mining operational area and that the Environmental Commissioner had failed to protect the community cultural heritage when issuing an Environmental Impact Assessment Clearance for the Otjivaya Mountain with one of the oldest Rock Painting in Namibia.

5.8 Meeting with Xinfeng Investment and Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd)

The Xinfeng representative Mr Frank Li informed the meeting that Xinfeng Investment (Pty) Ltd initially got a mining licence for Omaruru in July 2022 to mine Lithium for a period of twenty (20) years and in November 2022 the community started to complain about their operations. He explained that the matter was in the court therefore sub-judice. Mr. January Likulano the owner and Manager of Long Fire Investment Pty (Ltd) said that Long Fire was the owner of the (ten) 10 Mining Claim numbers (73409- 73418) in Uis.

Long Fire has a Joint Venture with Xinfeng Investment because Long Fire had no capitals to fund the project, therefore Xinfeng Investment was responsible for the operations, and EPL 8397 was owned by Orange River Exploration & Mining CC and they were working together. Long Fire Investment (Pty) Ltd notified the Ministry of Mines and Energy about their Joint Venture with Xinfeng telephonically and the Ministry requested for the written joint venture agreement/contract (**Annexure F**). After Long Fire submitted the agreement, there has been no response from the Ministry. Long Fire and Xinfeng commenced with mining exploration around August 2022 on Claim 73410 and the samples were exported to China for testing. After the exploration the report was submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy by Xinfeng Investments. The actual mining was at the initial stage the time of the visit. The Joint Venture planned to construct a processing plant on site and it was expected to be operational within the next 12 to 18 months from the visiting time.

According to the Site Manager, Lithium was mined through drilling open pit, blasting and crushing the ore. At the time, Lithium was analysed in the small lab on site and transported to China for processing. The Joint Venture has employed around 130 Namibians inclusive and up to 25 Chinese Nationals (**Annexure G**). The company did not have Medical Aid and no checks up for employees yet. According to Mr Likulano, they were in the process of implementing a policy on knowledge and skills transfer as most of the engineers on site are Chinese Nationals and most of them are not fluent in English language. They communicate and train Namibian co-workers through signs and body language while sometimes Namibians use their cell phones to translate.

Mr Likulano further informed the delegation that they had scheduled a meeting with the community on 25 May 2023 to brief them on the expected corporate social responsibility in addition to what the Joint Venture had planned. He explained further that the waste sand from the mining activities was used to maintain gravel roads. Meanwhile the company also planned to build a school hostel in Uis however, the company does not have a good relation with the community and himself feared for his safety. Mr Likulano alleged that someone used to mine illegally in Uis before Long Fire and Xinfeng started, that was when the individual started to instigate the community to strike against Long Fire and Xinfeng's legal mining activities in Uis. Documentations from the Joint Venture (**Annexure H**)

5.9 Visit to the Mining pits in Omungambu village

The Omatjete community informed the delegation about mining activities some 6km south-west of Omungambu village by JTD Mining Group that started with the excavations on 12 April 2023. The community expressed that the inhabitants of both Omungambu and Okondomba who were directly affected by the operations were not consulted and reported the matter to the Traditional Councillors.

The Headman indicated further that the Community meeting held on 21 April 2023, JTD Mining Group presented to the community that it was conducting exploration on EPL No. 6883. However, EPL 6883 expired on 07 May 2021; the EPL renewal application was submitted on 31 October 2022 and was still pending; Heritage Council of Namibia Consent letter also expired on 01 July 2022.

It was only the ECC on EPL 6883 was valid until 09 December 2024. JTD Mining Group also presented a proof of consultation that was done in a different village, Omihana village. Ironically, Omihana village falls outside the boundaries of EPL 6883. The community decided to stop the excavations due to all the anomalies, on 21 April 2023.

The community was devastated because the deep dugouts were in the middle of livestock grazing area and one of the ditch was in the middle of the road. After the activities were stopped on 21 April 2023, two Namibian Operators remained on site but the pits were concealed.

5.10 Joint consultative meeting with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

The Deputy Executive Director for Ministry of Mines and Energy Mr Erasmus Shivolo and the Mining Commissioner Ms Maggie Shino briefed the Committee that the Exclusive Prospecting Licences (EPL) are granted before Mining Licence (s) and that it is granted based on the specific program and period. Once it expired and the prospecting company wish to renew the EPL, the company must apply for renewal and within 30 days present to the Ministry of Mines and Energy to motivate the renewal, progress made and if the company has been adhering to the regulations. The Mining Commissioner explained further that a Mining Claim cannot be issued without a consent and that Section 16 of the Mineral Regulations does not allow issuing of Mining Claims on someone's EPL unless the EPL owner gave his/her consent. The Exploration report becomes a public document when the EPL expired and published in the Ministry's Library at the Head office.

The Mining Commissioner established that initially EPL 8397 was owned by a Namibian individual who gave the consent for Mining Claims to be issued to Long Fire Investment (PTY) Ltd. At the time of the visit that EPL was owned by Orange River Exploration & Mining CC that works with the Joint Venture (Long Fire and XingFeng Investments), hence the ten (10) Mining Claims for Long Fire are within EPL 8397. Therefore, XingFeng Investment (Pty) Ltd was conducting explorations on EPL 8397 at the same time mining under the 10 Claims for LongFire as a Joint Venture.

The Mining Commissioner confirmed the following:

1. EPL 6883 was owned by JTD Mining Group (Pty) Ltd has a pending renewal.
2. There was no EPL 9495 in Uis, however there was a Non-Exclusive Prospecting License (NEPL) 9495. This are a gateway to pegging mining claims. The holder of a NEPL is not entitled to exclusive rights for any specific mineral group or area and it was issued for a year.
3. Osino Gold Exploration & Mining (Pty) Ltd was granted the EPL 6167 on 23 February 2017 with an expiry date of 21 November 2024, has been conducting exploration in Erongo. Thereafter found Gold deposit and was granted a Mining Licence 238 on 3 November 2022 with an expiry date of 2 November 2042.

The Deputy Executive Director explained further that small miners were termed illegal miners because they do not apply for Mining Licences. The Ministry of Mines and Energy through the office of the Mining Commissioner in collaboration with the UNDP had engaged with several communities on how to assist small scale miners to apply for the Mining licences and had advised them to consider conducting EIA on larger area that could cover all the small scale miners. The Ministry had also availed funds for such collaborations. However, the small miners did not take up the initiations.

The DED highlighted that the Mineral and Environmental Acts requires the companies/investors to have a Closure Plan, however there is no Financial police/ regulation to bid or mandate them into contributing toward their Closure Plans, hence when the economy gets tough for company the first program to be sacrificed/cancelled is the Closure Plan and the Ministry cannot hold them accountable.

Annexures: EPLs in Uis; NEPLs; Mining Licences, Licence fees (before and after review)

The Environmental Commissioner Mr Timo Mufeti informed the Committee that the Environmental Management Act 2007 was in the process for amendment to address all the shortcomings in terms of implementations. He pointed out that the public consultations were very limited and the law stipulated that the advisement for objections should be placed in newspapers, however the Environmental Commissioner acknowledged that not all communities has access to newspapers on time.

He recognised that the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism has only seven (7) Environmental officials against the approximately 150 applications received for EIA per month, hence there has been delays in the ECC review as well as the limited inspections, monitoring and attending to emergencies in terms of compliance enforcement.

The Environmental Commissioner explained further that after the ECC has been awarded, the MEFT still has power over them because they are all issued with conditions. He further confirmed that for any ECC to be issued the Closure Plan must always be attached. However, there has been a loophole regarding the implementation of the Closure Plan and all these challenges shall be addressed once the Environmental Management Act Amendment Bill 2022 is approved. The Environmental Commissioner established further that the ECC for LongFire Investment (Pty) Ltd that says “Okombahe Reserve” was an administration error and it has been rectified accordingly.

6. FINDINGS

The Committee’s main finding on the Motion are that:

The Joint Venture (Long Fire Investment (Pty) Ltd and Xinfeng Investment (PTY) Ltd presented legal documents on its Lithium mining in Uis under EPL 8397 and ML numbers (73409- 73418) in Uis. Hence their Lithium mining activities in Uis were proven to be legal.

Moreover, the following findings were also made during the consultations:

1. Xinfeng investment had offered to Daure Daman TA: 1 computer and 20 chairs, intended to renovate the gravel roads, employing local skilled and semi-skilled workers. To build facilities for prospecting work including living houses for local employees, renovating for fencing, water storage and purification units for work and living. Power system and processing laboratories and also hard gravel roads, non-removable devices of facility that will be preserved and kept on the farm after completion of the project to be handed over to the TA.

2. The Daure Daman TA responded and accepted the offer of: N\$10,000.00 per month as payment for the surface rights, with 20% increment after a year, 20 chairs, computer, five to ten rooms build from concreted iron/metal sheets and fencing.
3. Land Rental Payments of N\$40,000.00 (December 2022- March 2023) and N\$30,000.00 (April-June 2023) from Xingfeng Investment Pty Ltd to the Daure Daman Traditional Authority Standard Bank Account number: 60000357455.
4. A consent letter on the application for Mining Claims 73409 – 73418, South West of Brandberg from Daure Daman Traditional Authority dated 01 August 2022 and for Mining Claim 70515 – 70516 in Uis was issued.
5. Environmental Impact Assessment officials only speak to EPL holders and not to the Traditional Authorities nor affected communities.
6. Advertisements for objections only exhibited at shops, Newspapers of which ordinary people have less or no access to these communication methods.
7. Most Chinese engineers employed by the Joint Venture do not speak English and the communication between the Namibian workers is very limited.
8. The Daure Daman Traditional Authority requested for financial or in kind assistance from the Tsiseb Conservancy to hold the following meeting: Traditional Authority 28 February, Chief's Council 29 February 2023 and the Community on 3, 4, and 11 March 2023.
9. The Constituency did not have records of big or small mining activities in its district.

7. CONCLUSION

The delegation engaged with different Traditional leadership and communities in Uis District, Daure Daman Constituency and solicit facts against the operations of Xinfeng and Longfire investments. The delegation was also informed about other concerns in the mining activities such as EPLs being issued to investor by ministry of Mines and Energy prior the request of consent from TA, the communities and conservancies felt left out of consultations, and that Small Miners were refused their heritage rights and therefore regarded as illegal. Thereafter the delegations visited a site of trenches that was stopped by the community due to lack of legal documentations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism should enforce a Policy to ensure that each investors should create a separate account for their Closure Plan from the first day of production for rehabilitation upon the end of the projects.
2. The Constituency Councillor should liaise with the Ministry of Mines and Energy to create a data base of all Mining activities taking place in the Daures Constituency be it big or small.
3. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism should identify other methods of advertisements of objection that are more accessible to the communities in rural areas.

- ## 9. SIGNATURES

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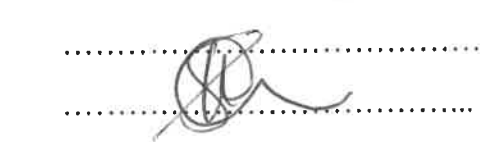
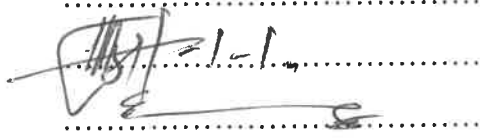
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