NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 8TH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

FINAL REPORT ON THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN SWAKOPMUND

REPORT N0.1 OF 2025

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MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE IS OUTLINED ON PAGE 31 AND 32 OF THE RULE FOR ESTABLISHING, FUNCTIONING AND PROCEDURES OF PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES

Which states that:

37. (1) The Committee on Natural Resources must exercise parliamentary oversight on behalf of the Assembly in pursuance of Article 63(2)(f) of the Constitution in respect of the Government Entities specified in Appendix 1, and for that purpose may consult and liaise with the Government Entities concerned.

(2) The Committee on Natural Resources has the duty to-

(a) monitor, enquire into, and make recommendations to the Assembly on matters that may directly or indirectly affect the natural resources of Namibia and its people;

(b) promote sustainable utilisation of Namibia's natural resources;

(c) review and advise the Assembly on activities and matters related to agriculture, water and forestry;

(d) ensure that Government puts restraint on environmental degradation and protect the environment;

(e) review and advise the Assembly on matters related to mines and the energy sectors;

(f) promote sustainable tourism;

(g) enquire into and monitor international protocols, conventions and agreements that may affect Namibia's natural resources, mines and energy and tourism and where necessary make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly;

(h) review the annual reports of Government Entities for which the Committee is responsible in terms of Appendix 1 and make recommendations to the Assembly on the improvement of their performance, accountability and transparency;

(i) assess and review the implementation and administration of laws administered by any Government Entity or by means of which any Government Entity has been established and make recommendations to the Assembly for the amendment of such laws.

(3) The Committee on Natural Resources after adoption of a report and recommendations by the Assembly, and after the Secretary has acted as contemplated by Rule 67 of these Committee Rules must report to the Assembly on the implementation of such recommendations at least once during a Session.

(4) The Committee on Natural Resources must perform any other functions, tasks, and duties relating to the parliamentary oversight of Government Entities in

pursuance of Article 63(2)(f) of the Constitution as may be directed by the

Assembly or in terms of an Act of Parliament.

- Monitor and enquire into all matters that affect the natural resources of Namibia and its people
- Promote sustainable utilization of Namibians Natural Resources

- Review and advise the Assembly on the matters related to mines and the energy sectors
- Promote sustainable tourism

Further, the Committee also has the duty/mandate to deal with the matters related to agriculture, water and forestry

CHAIRPERSON FOREWORD

It is my honour to present this report on the stakeholder workshop convened by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources, guided by its powers, that the committee must exercise parliamentary oversight on behalf of the Assembly in pursuance of Article 63(2)(f) of the Constitution in respect of the Government Entities and for that purpose may consult and liaise with the Government Entities concerned.

Various stakeholders were invited, particularly, the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and its Agencies; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform and its Agencies; the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and its Agencies, and the Chamber of Mines of Namibia.

These engagements provided a vital platform for open dialogue on the mandates, opportunities and challenges facing our natural resource and sectoral performance, which remain central to Namibia's economic growth and sustainable development. The workshop reaffirmed the importance of aligning sectoral strategies with our national priorities, particularly Vision 2030, the National Development Plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Presentations highlighted key themes including industrialisation, energy security, food production, land reform, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable exploitation of mineral resources. While each institution presented unique achievements and challenges, a common message emerged: the need for stronger collaboration, availing adequate resources, and policy support to ensure that Namibia fully harnesses its natural resources for the benefit of all its citizens.

As Chairman, I had to set the tone on behalf of the committee, because sometimes it may seem that MPs are holding stakeholder's engagements as a consultation or as an exercise of good will between Parliament and other state functionaries. Some institutions (including some private or governmental), which are usually being invited, by the Parliamentary Committees, sometimes think that they are doing a voluntary favour to the Parliamentary Committees. In fact some of the institutions avoid appearing before the Parliamentary Committees, and instead, they send staff with no accountability or executive powers over the institutions.

Stakeholders were reminded that the powers of Parliament, comes from the number one blue print, the flagship of our National Independence, which is the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which was adopted 35 years ago. "Now therefore, we the people of Namibia accept and adopt this Constitution as the fundamental law of our Sovereign and Independent Republic".

Article 95 Promotion of the Welfare of the People, by "(l) maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future; in particular, the Government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory".

Article 44 Legislative Power, is clear by stating that, "The legislative power of Namibia shall be vested in the National Assembly with the power to pass laws with the assent of the President as provided in this Constitution subject, where applicable, to the powers and functions of the National Council as set out in this Constitution". Article 45 Representative Nature The members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of their duties be guided by the objectives of this Constitution, by the public interest and by their conscience".

Article 41 Ministerial Accountability, "All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of their own Ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament". Stakeholders, were reminded that parliament will work together with stakeholders to effect efficiencies, but will not hesitate to act to hold officials accountable.

The committee on natural resources' responsibilities, is to safeguard our natural resources, and hold those responsible to account, particularly, I reminded the committee, that we must be unapologetic and intentional in safeguarding and maintaining strategic processes, biodiversity, natural resources beneficiation and ownership qualities for the long term benefit of the Namibian people, and in conformity with the Namibian Constitution and in the national interest.

As a committee, we are established to enhance sectoral productivity and efficiency, address challenges, promotes economic growth and development. Further, we will explore potential for Namibia to become number one, by using Namibia's natural resources to promote economic growth through sustainable solutions, therefore, the engagement truly came at an opportune time as the debate on Namibia's Natural resources has become ever more intense. I believe, we gained more insight in the progress made and milestones reached in areas of energy, electricity security, renewable energy, green hydrogen, meant to secure the future of Namibia. Further, we gained insights in the oil and gas, environmental, tourism, agriculture, land, mining, fisheries and marine resources just to mention but few.

Overall it was particularly very important for the committee to ensure that stakeholders are on the same page, as they carryout important national responsibilities and that in future, when the committee invites, Ministers, Accounting Officer, EDs, Directors and CEOs, the committee expect good cooperation, and that any abscond in the future, the committee shall use its "powers to subpoena persons to appear before it to give evidence on oath and to produce any documents required by it."

Lastly, the Natural Resource Committee, will demand for a people – centred, ethical leadership within the industry players operating in the natural resources sector, a leadership were captains are more people centred and not just profit mongers.

As Chairperson, It's a great honor to lead such a dynamic team of likeminded, brilliant Honourable Members of the National Assembly, and I wish to commend the participating OMAs, and stakeholders for their constructive contributions and commitment to advancing our national agenda. This report not only captures the discussions held but also serves as a roadmap for the Committee's continued oversight role in ensuring that the sustainable use of our natural resources translates into tangible benefits for present and future generations.

HON. DR. AUPINDI TOBIE OCEAN
CHAIRMAN: PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources convened a stakeholder workshop. Relevant and key line offices, ministries and agencies (OMAS) and relevant stakeholders were invited, such as the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME), the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR), the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), and the Chamber of Mines of Namibia. The workshop provided a platform for the stakeholders to present their mandates, strategic priorities, achievements, and challenges, while identifying areas for collaboration with Parliament in advancing national developmental goals.

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy's Executive Officer gave the high-level view of the Ministry's operations, while some of the Ministry's agencies that fall under the it's ambit namely, BIPA, NIDA, National Oil Storage Facility (NOSF) and Erongo RED also made their presentations. They highlighted on priorities in industrialisation, energy security, mineral beneficiation, rural electrification, and local participation in oil and gas.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform's Acting Deputy Executive Director, gave a high-level statement on the structure, operations key strategic objectives, policies, strategic framework, development plans, achievements and challenges. She emphasised food security, irrigation development, livestock production, land reform, and climate-smart agriculture as key drivers of rural livelihoods and economic transformation.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Deputy Executive Director's Deputy Executive Director, presented on the mandate, vision, mission, values, structure, key services, programmes, laws, policies and strategic frameworks as well as the progress made in conservation, forestry, tourism, and biodiversity protection, underscoring challenges of poaching, climate change, and human–wildlife conflict.

The Chamber of Mines gave an overview of Namibia's mining sector and its performance of 2024, the investment and exploration trends and mining sector outlook. He reaffirmed mining as the backbone of the economy, contributing significantly to GDP, government revenue, employment creation, and exploration investment, while calling for policy certainty and beneficiation initiatives.

Overall, the workshop underscored the need for legal and policy support, adequate funding, sustainable resource management, stronger stakeholder collaboration, strong and knowledgeable leadership to unlock the full potential of Namibia's natural resources. The discussions highlighted that Namibia's long-term economic resilience depends on balancing industrial growth, agricultural productivity, mining development, and environmental sustainability in line with Vision 2030 and the SDGs.

ACRONYMS

BIPA	Business and Intellectual Property Authority
EIF	Environmental Investment Funds
GS1	Global Standards 1
MPs	Members of Parliament
MIME	Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NACC	Namibia Competition Commission
NAMDIA	Namibia Desert Diamonds
NDTC	Namibia Diamond Trading Company
NEAB	Namibia Estate Agencies Board
NSI	Namibian Standards Institution
NTF	Namibia Trade Forum
NIDA	Namibia Industrial Development Agency
NOSF	National Oil Storage Facility
NAMCOR	National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia
OMAs	Offices, Ministries and Agencies
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources, held the capacity building workshop with relevant stakeholders from 14 to 18 July 2025. The workshop aimed at capacitating Members of Parliament (MPs) and staff serving the standing committee with the knowledge, skills and understanding related to the policies, regulations, and legislative mandates of line ministries and institutions falling under the Committee's mandate. The capacity-building workshop also served as a platform for knowledge exchange, as well as skills and capacity-building platform for the Members.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The main objective of the consultative meeting was for stakeholders to brief the Committee on their mandates, functions and duties.

2.2 To gain a better understanding of those mandates, including successes and challenges.

2.3 Promote cooperation between the Committee and the Stakeholders

2.4 Strengthen the capacity of Members and staff to understand relevant policies, laws, and institutional mandates

3. METHODOLOGY

The method applied to conduct the workshop was through presentations and discussions with representatives from line OMAs and relevant Stakeholders

4. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide a summary of what transpired at the workshop, and to present the recommendations that emanated from the engagements with various line Ministries for discussion and adoption by the National Assembly

5. DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

5.1 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy

5.1.1 The Ministry of Industries, Mines, and Energy is mandated to promote industrial development, manage the exploration and exploitation of mineral, including the midstream and downstream petroleum resources, safeguard Namibia's diamond industry, and ensure sustainable energy provision. The Ministry's vision is to facilitate inclusive economic growth by leveraging natural and mineral resources to improve livelihoods and the well-being of all Namibians.

5.1.2 The presentations from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MIME), along with its subsidiaries, Erongo RED, the National Oil Storage Facility (NOSF), and the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) outlined their mandates, strategic priorities, challenges, and collaborative opportunities with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Key themes included energy security, rural electrification, industrial development, and financial sustainability. Recommendations focused on policy support, funding, and stakeholder collaboration to achieve national development goals.

5.1.3 The Ministry is represented in all 14 regions countrywide, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It has 4 mining inspection offices in Lüderitz, Oranjemund, Tsumeb and Swakopmund, with twelve (12) public enterprises including national petroleum corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), NIDA, and Epangelo Mining oversees. The Ministry holds cross-cutting responsibility for Namibia's mineral resources, energy security, and industrial development through 6 operational directorates. Its strategic priorities are to increase electrification rate to 70% by 2030 (currently 50%), enhance local beneficiation of mineral resources, develop renewable energy capacity (solar, biomass, green hydrogen) and strengthen oil and gas local content participation.

5.1.4 The Ministry's role has a direct contribution to SDG6 which is (Affordable Energy), it supports the Industrialization Pillar of NDP6 while it implements the SWAPO' Manifestos rural development agenda through electrification programs. With a total budget allocation of N$939.4'87 million for the financial year (2025/26), broken down into N$522.667 million for operation and N$416.820 million for capital projects. It is further broken down in programme phases, as follows, Energy supply and security is allocated an amount of N$388.1 million (41%), Industrial and Business Development: N$50 million and geological resources: N$81.1 million.

5.1.5 The Ministry continues to enhance domestic energy security and diversify energy sources. This being achieved through the accelerated implementation of pipeline power projects, including renewable and green energy initiatives under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements. Notable achievements include the commissioning of the 20MW Khan solar PV project connected to the grid, commencement of construction on the 40MW Otjikoto Biomass plant, the 100MW solar PV project, and the issuance of bids for a 20MW solar PV project to Independent Power Producers. Additionally, the Energy Masterplan has been developed, and work on the Baynes Hydropower project, including the development of an access road, is underway.

5.1.6 The Ministry also prioritises beneficiation to ensure that Namibians derive greater value from mineral resources. Efforts include the enactment of a Mineral Beneficiation law, the establishment of a gold reserve in Namibia, and strategies to increase local ownership within the mining industry. In support of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), youth, and entrepreneurs, the Ministry has procured production machinery and equipment to boost production capacity and employment creation. Initiatives are also underway to enhance output, capacity, efficiency, competitiveness, and product quality within local industries.

5.1.7 Ownership and participation by Namibians in the oil and gas sector are being advanced through the establishment of an Oil and Gas Logistics and Supply Base on a Public-Private Partnership basis, using a Build-Operate-Transfer model. Furthermore, implementation of the Kudu Gas Power Plant and Namibia's first large-scale wind farm is progressing. Further, the local content policy was previously developed to enhance local ownership and participations. But more needs to be done, including, a legislative and policy clarity on the upstream.

5.1.8 The Ministry's core operations are carried out through specialised departments and directorates. The Department of Mines promotes the optimal exploitation of Namibia's mineral resources and integrates the mining industry with other sectors of the economy for national socio-economic development. The Department of Geological Survey supports the development of Namibia's geological and mineral resources while promoting sustainable practices with due consideration for environmental protection. The Department of Petroleum Affairs ensures an adequate supply of petroleum products to the nation, while also mitigating negative environmental impacts and ensuring value creation from petroleum activities.

5.1.9 The Directorate of Diamond Affairs is tasked with protecting Namibia's diamond industry from smuggling and illicit activities while promoting diversification and integration of diamonds into the broader economy. The Directorate of Energy implements energy policies, enforces compliance with energy legislation, and promotes research into new and renewable energy sources. The Department of Energy Funds administers subsidies and finances energy projects for the benefit of citizens through the National Energy Fund and the Solar Revolving Fund.

5.1.10 The Directorate of Industrial and Business Development promotes industrialisation, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship evaluate projects, conduct feasibility studies, and provide investor support. The Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme drives the country's green industrialisation agenda by leveraging solar and wind resources to produce competitively priced green hydrogen. The programme is designed to stimulate economic growth, create employment, and contribute to global decarbonisation.

5.1.11 The Ministry oversees several public enterprises and statutory bodies, namely, the Namibia Trade Forum (NTF), Namibia Estate Agencies Board (NEAB), Namibian Standards Institution (NSI), Business Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), Namibia Competition Commission (NACC), Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA), Global Standards 1 (GS1), Epangelo Mining, NAMCOR, Petrofund, National Energy Fund, Diamond Board, Namibia Desert Diamonds (NAMDIA), and the Namibia Diamond Trading Company (NDTC).

5.1.12 The Ministry has undertaken reviews and reforms to strengthen its policy and legislative environment. Current reforms include the review of the Petroleum Products and Energy Act, 1990, finalisation of the Diamond Act, 1999 review, and the drafting of the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill, the Minerals Bill, and the Consumer Protection Bill. Additional frameworks include the Local Content Policy, the Mineral Beneficiation Strategy, and the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy for Mining.

5.1.13 The Ministry faces both external and internal risks. External risks include global oil and energy price fluctuations, geopolitical instability, and climate change. Internal risks involve limited capacity to implement energy projects in rural areas and regulatory bottlenecks. The mining and energy sectors continue to face challenges such as illegal mining, infrastructure deficits, and restricted access to capital for small projects. Industrial and SME parks face operational challenges that include poor management of facilities, non-payment of utilities, weak contract enforcement, insufficient maintenance, and aging infrastructure. Mitigation measures include contingency planning for external economic shocks, investment in local talent to address skills shortages, and strengthened regulatory frameworks.

5.1.14 The Ministry of Industries, Mines, and Energy envisions a Namibia where natural and mineral resources are sustainably harnessed to support inclusive economic growth and social well-being. Through interventions in energy security, mineral beneficiation, industrial development, and green industrialisation, the Ministry continues to position Namibia as a competitive and resilient economy, ensuring that the benefits of development are shared among all citizens.

5.2 Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA)

5.2.1 NIDA, a commercial public enterprise was established under the NIDA Act, No. 16 of 2016. With the overall mandate to drive the industrialization and developmental agenda in Namibia, as a key enabler for growing sustainable industries and investment facilitation. The mandate includes industrialization, public investment and promotion, and economic development. NIDA has an industrialization mandate to manage 148 properties nationwide, with key projects in Kavango, such as the cattle ranch that is worth N$15 million in sales, the Naute Irrigation Farm worth N$233 million.

5.2.2 However, more funding is required to sustain these projects with further funding of N$550 million capital injection is required for Integrated Strategic Business Plan and another N$29.7 million for utility arrears clearance which is affecting operations. The reflected amount is needed to rehabilitate and renovate property in the current NIDA asset register with a trending higher cost of utilities (69 Parks Electricity disconnected or blocked, 89 water disconnected, write off utilities bills for all parks, debt collector appointed to collect all outstanding Debt.) NIDA is experiencing industrial development bottlenecks which are policy implementation delays, resulting in the need to review of the Diamond Act which has been pending since 2019 and also the SEZ incentives which have not yet been operationalized

5.3 Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA)

5.3.1 The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), established under Act No. 8 of 2016, is mandated to facilitate business registration and protect intellectual property rights in Namibia. Operating under the Ministry of Industries, Mines, and Energy, BIPA is governed by a Board of Directors supported by executive management and specialized committees that are overseeing finance, human resources, strategy, and legal compliance.

5.3.2 BIPA's core functions include the registration of companies, close corporations, and external businesses, as well as the administration of intellectual property such as trademarks, copyrights, and industrial designs. Since inception, its development has progressed in three phases: Operationalization (2015–2021), Automation and Mandate Focus (2021–2025), and the current Digital Transformation and Impact phase (2025 and beyond), which emphasizes advanced technological solutions for improved service delivery.

5.3.3 To expand accessibility, BIPA has established regional offices in Walvis Bay and Ongwediva, with planned extensions to Rundu and Keetmanshoop. Its strategic priorities remain digital transformation, stakeholder confidence, and operational excellence, all aligned with Namibia's broader vision of promoting investment, economic growth, and innovation

5.4 Erongo RED

5.4.1 The Erongo Regional Electricity Distribution (RED) Enabling growth through innovative electricity distribution and supply to our communities and a mission to distribute and supply safe, reliable, sustainable, and accessible electricity. Itcommenced operations on 1 July 2005. It has a staff compliment of 311 employees. The Erongo RED has an operational Framework of services extended to 50,000 active customers in Erongo Region in residential, business and bulk of which 11,000 are being subsidised. It has a demand of 122.340kVA (18% national consumption). So far it the region has strategic objectives of achieving an 85%

regional electrification by 2027, it must also complete 20MW Solar PV Plant by 2028 while is envisages to reduce distribution losses to 8% (currently 11%).

5.4.2 As at 31 May 2025, Erongo region towns accounts are up to date. There has been no town or village in Erongo Red area which has been disconnected since inception. So far the electrification rate in the region accounts for 55% national 77% urban 19% rural and 74% rate accounted for at the Erongo region National. There is a critical need for Energy Security Imperatives, in that the region has a rural electrification deficit

5.4.3 As at financial year 2024, The Erongo RED has a financial revenue of a total amount of N$1.68 billion. It made a N$99.8 million profit after tax: However, an amount N$552 million in Electrification Investment to boost the electrification process. There are also challenges of copper theft crisis in the region, with r107 incidents reported in (2018-2024) which were worth N$5 million in damages. With this, the region required a specialized anti-theft legislation.

6 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR)

6.1 The Ministry derives its mandate from the Constitution of Namibia, national development frameworks and sectoral legislation. It is guided by Vision 2030, National Development Plans, the Namibia Agriculture Policy, Green Scheme Policy, National Land Policy, Communal Land Reform Act, Agricultural Land Reform Act, and the forthcoming Land Bill, among other instruments. Its mission is to promote sustainable agricultural development, food and nutrition security, and equitable access to land and natural resources, while its vision is to ensure a prosperous and food-secure Namibia supported by resilient ecosystems.

6.2 The Ministry operates through key departments responsible for agricultural development, veterinary and plant health, land management, resettlement, cadastral surveying, deeds registration, planning, business development and cooperative regulation. For the 2025/26 financial year, the Ministry anticipates a workforce of approximately 6,110 positions. The strategic focus is to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources, ensure animal and plant health, improve productivity and food security, adopt climate-smart technologies, promote value chain development, expand the blue economy, guarantee equitable land access, and enhance institutional capacity and governance.

6.3 In terms of development planning, the Ministry's budget is projected to increase from N$497 million in 2025/26 to N$714 million by 2027/28, covering agriculture, land reform, land administration and policy coordination. A total of 67 capital projects are underway across agricultural research, veterinary services, production and extension, irrigation schemes and land reform. The Ministry has operationalized nine Green Schemes covering 5,600 hectares, with 3,403 hectares currently under cultivation, as well as the development of new sites in Zambezi and Ohangwena.

6.4 The Ministry has released over 20 new crop varieties, distributed seeds and fertilizers to farmers, and capacitated more than 111,000 farmers in crop and livestock management. In the beef value chain, over 5,000 livestock producers have been supported through marketing infrastructure and fodder initiatives. In the beef value chain, 5,402 livestock producers were supported through infrastructure and fodder initiatives. Since the inception of land reform in 1990, the Ministry has acquired 601 farms measuring more than 3.5 million hectares, resettling 5,502 beneficiaries. The drafting of the Land Bill has been completed and the Namibian Council for Property Valuers Profession was established in May 2025.

6.7 Despite these achievements, the Ministry continues to face challenges, such as limited resources for land acquisition, delays in implementing the Flexible Land Tenure Scheme, illegal fencing and land sales in communal areas, outbreaks of animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, erratic rainfall leading to food insecurity, pest infestations, high electricity costs affecting irrigation farming, and delays in procurement processes. To address these challenges, the Ministry is fast-tracking Public-Private Partnerships for Green Schemes, building capacity for farmers and extension officers in climate-smart agriculture, promoting development partnerships, encouraging farmer-to-farmer mentorship, and expanding agro-processing. It further advocates for increased budget allocations, enactment of the Land Bill, and a review of the Resettlement Policy to ensure productivity and sustainability of resettled farmers.

6.8 The Ministry operates with an approved staff structure of 5,464 positions, of which 3,318 are filled, with 28 additional to the establishment, amounting to 3,346 filled positions. Vacancies stand at 2,146. Within the fisheries sector, 616 positions are approved, 503 are filled, two are additional to the establishment with 131 vacancies. The anticipated approved structure for 2025/26 is 6,110 positions. Key role players in the sector include the Fisheries Observer's Agency, the Water Regulator of Namibia, and the Water Advisory Council, alongside international partners such as food and agriculture organisations (FAO), european union (EU), united nations development programme (UNDP), African development bank (AfDB), and GIZ. Farmer unions, local authorities, and regional councils also play crucial roles in supporting implementation at community level.

6.9 The Ministry's core functions in the water and fisheries sectors are the provision of rural water supply, water resource management, bulk water infrastructure development, and enforcement of water and fisheries laws. For the 2025/26 financial year, the development budget amounts to N$610 million, with projections of N$737 million in 2026/27 and N$773 million in 2027/28. The bulk of funding is allocated to water infrastructure development, maintenance, and rehabilitation, followed by sanitation and aquaculture projects.

6.10 Vote 38 comprises a total of 28 capital development projects, including six in water resource management, 14 in water supply and sanitation coordination, and 8 in aquaculture. Notable achievements include the drilling of 249 boreholes, equipping 147, rehabilitating 33, and constructing 30 water harvesting infrastructures. Five bulk pipelines were rehabilitated, and a desalination plant was completed in Oshikoto Region. Major rural water schemes such as Onamatanga and Okanguati-Ohamaremba were completed, while the Ohangwena Aquifer development reached 80 percent progress. In the fisheries sector, the Total Allowable Catch for Monk was increased from 9,000 to 9,600 metric tons, benefiting 40 right holders and promoting value addition in Namibia.

6.11 Despite progress made, several challenges exist such as the hydrogeological conditions that complicate borehole drilling, theft and vandalism that continue to undermine infrastructure. Negotiating Namibia's fair share of shared watercourses is also an ongoing issue. Remote areas present logistical and accessibility difficulties, and procurement delays linked to contractor underperformance hinder timely project execution. In fisheries, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, weak punitive measures, intrusion by foreign vessels, high staff turnover, and limited scientific expertise undermine sustainability.

6.12 Interventions underway include strengthening contractor screening and oversight, reviewing key legislation such as the Marine Resources Act and the Inland Fisheries Act, and enhancing compliance with international obligations. The Ministry is also working to improve access for Namibian operators to fishing vessels and to strengthen bilateral agreements and regional cooperation for more effective operations. In conclusion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Land Reform continues to play a central role in ensuring sustainable water and fisheries management. With targeted investment, policy support, and enhanced collaboration across local, regional, and international stakeholders, the Ministry is positioned to overcome challenges and achieve its strategic objectives in support of Namibia's long-term development goals.

7 The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)

7.1.1 The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) is mandated by Article 95(l) of the Namibian Constitution, for maintaining ecosystems, protecting biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. its vision is to position Namibia as a leading nation in biodiversity conservation, environmental management, climate resilience and sustainable tourism development. Its mission is to ensure environmental sustainability, safeguard biodiversity and promote tourism growth for the equitable benefit of all Namibians. MEFT upholds accountability, innovation, professionalism, commitment and excellence in carrying out its mandate and serving the Namibian people.

7.1.2 The Ministry's work is guided by laws and policies, such as the Environmental Management Act of 2007, the Forest Act of 2001, and the Controlled Wildlife Products Act of 2008. In addition, a new Wildlife Bill is currently awaiting parliamentary amendment and review, while Namibia's first Bioprospecting Policy and an Extended Producer Responsibility framework for plastics are being finalized. These evolving frameworks ensure that Namibia remains equipped to respond to emerging conservation challenges while promoting sustainable development.

7.1.3 MEFT operates through specialized directorates that collectively manage conservation, tourism, and environmental sustainability. The Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks oversees 21 protected areas, including Etosha and Sossusvlei, with 648 rangers safeguarding 13 million hectares. The Directorate of Environmental Affairs ensures sustainable development by processing environmental impact assessments and monitoring industry compliance. Tourism Development, regulates over 1,200 establishments while promoting community-owned lodges that support rural livelihoods. Forestry strengthens sustainable resource management by training community groups to combat illegal logging and encourage responsible use of forest resources. Together, these directorates provide coordinated action from policy formulation to on-the-ground implementation

7.1.4 The Ministry implements programmes on protected areas and wildlife management, species and habitat protection, tourism development, natural resource protection, infrastructure development, and institutional support. Its work is guided by laws and policies such as the Nature Conservation Ordinance, Environmental Management Act, Forest Act, Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill, national policies on human-wildlife conflict, community-based natural resource management and tourism, as well as park management and infrastructure development plans.

7.1.5 Namibia's success in conservation is rooted in its ability to combine biodiversity protection with community empowerment. Since its launch in 1996, the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme has grown to 86 conservancies, generating N$142 million annually for rural communities. These conservancies employ more than 5,600 Namibians and have significantly improved wildlife numbers, with populations on communal land rising by 23 percent.

7.1.6 The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the largest of its kind in Africa, has played a vital role in restoring wildlife corridors across borders. Since 2020, elephant numbers in the region have grown by 14 percent, eight new community lodges have been created along migration routes, and rhinos have been successfully reintroduced to the Zambezi Region. Specialized species protection programmes have also achieved notable progress. The population of black rhinos in the Kunene Region has increased to 200, the desert-adapted lion population has stabilized at 120, and 34 new bird species have been recorded in national parks. While these achievements have strengthened Namibia's position as a global conservation leader, challenges such as human-wildlife conflict remain a pressing concern.

7.1.7 Namibia's forestry resources cover 8.5 million hectares, and their management requires balancing sustainable use with conservation. In the past year, 1,245 forestry permits were issued under strict quotas, and 32 community groups were trained in sustainable harvesting practices. These efforts have contributed to an 18 percent reduction in illegal logging. MEFT has also advanced research and innovation in forestry. New drought-resistant acacia tree varieties have been developed, 4.2 million hectares have been mapped for fire prevention, and the introduction of mycorrhizal fungi is enhancing tree growth in dry regions.

7.1.8 Forestry makes a direct contribution to the economy by employing more than 12,000 workers. The harvest of devil's claw generates approximately N$15 million annually, and eight new wood processing plants have been established to boost value addition within the sector. These initiatives show how forests can sustain both ecosystems and livelihoods when managed responsibly. The Ministry is committed to protecting Namibia's fragile ecosystems and strengthening climate resilience. Through a comprehensive regulatory framework, 412 environmental impact assessments were processed, 187 clearance certificates were issued, and 83 non-compliant mining operations were suspended to ensure adherence to environmental standards. Twelve wetland restoration projects have also been initiated to protect critical habitats.

7.1.9 In the area of climate resilience, 320 farmers have been trained in climate-smart agriculture, solar water schemes have been established in eight drought-prone regions, and a framework for carbon credits in communal areas has been developed. These initiatives support adaptation while creating income opportunities for communities. Waste management remains a national priority. To date, 28 percent of urban waste is being recycled through 14 newly established plants. The use of single-use plastics has been banned in protected areas, and e-waste collection points have been set up nationwide. These initiatives not only mitigate environmental degradation but also contribute to job creation in the green economy.

7.1.10 For the 2025/26 financial year, the Ministry has been allocated a budget of N$797 million. The largest portion of this allocation, N$382 million, is dedicated to personnel costs for the Ministry's 1,742 staff members. Additional allocations include N$89 million for park maintenance and N$76 million for conservation programmes. Despite this allocation, the Ministry faces critical funding gaps. An additional N$45 million is required for anti-poaching equipment, while a backlog of N$120 million remains for park infrastructure upgrades. Furthermore, only 35 percent of climate adaptation funds have been secured. To increase financial sustainability, the Ministry has proposed a 15 percent increase in tourism concession fees, the introduction of biodiversity offset mechanisms, and the strengthening of partnerships with the private sector for conservation financing. Strategic investments in these areas could significantly increase the Ministry's impact.

7.2 Environmental Investment Funds (EIF)

7.2.1 The Environmental Investment Fund (EIF, was created through Act 13 0f 2001) it operates under a structured governance framework, with leadership spread across four key departments. Its Board of Directors brings together expertise from government, finance, legal, and private sectors, ensuring effective oversight and strategic direction. This inclusive model enables the EIF to balance environmental priorities with financial sustainability. The EIF's core mandate and investment focus serves as Namibia as a financial engine for environmental sustainability, directing resources into four priority areas namely, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, waste management, and combating land degradation. These efforts support vulnerable communities, protect the ecosystems, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable land use. To continue support individual projects and communities that ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

7.2.2 EIF is strategically positioned with accreditation from major international funds such as the Green Climate Fund and an A+ financial rating from AADFI, the EIF has established itself as a trusted manager of large-scale climate finance. This positioning strengthens Namibia's role in global environmental agreements while aligning with national development priorities. The EIF has delivered measurable results through projects such as the CRAVE initiative, which improved agricultural resilience in northern Namibia, and Empower to Adapt, which integrated climate considerations into community-based resource management. The Green Impact Facility has supported 260 green SMEs, while the SUNREF program has attracted significant private-sector investment in sustainable technologies.

7.2.3 The EIF's funding model blends domestic revenue, generated through environmental levies, with international financing from multilateral partners. This approach ensures both immediate project impact and long-term sustainability. Having managed close to N$5 billion in environmental financing, the EIF plays a central role in advancing Namibia's green development agenda. The Ministry benefits from several international partnerships supporting projects on wildlife protection, waste management in national parks, community conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, climate resilience, sustainable land management, bush control and biomass utilization, and dryland management. These projects are funded by the German Government, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

7.2.4 High costs in combating wildlife crime, human-wildlife conflict, veld fires, sand mining, waste management, limited operational budgets for transport and infrastructure, lengthy procurement processes, the growing impact of climate change, population pressure near protected areas, poaching, and outdated equipment and vehicles were highlighted as challenges being experienced.

7.3 Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR)

7.3.1 It is a state-owned company that manages hospitality services in Namibia's national parks. It operates lodges, resorts, and campsites in key destinations such as Etosha, Namib-Naukluft, Bwabwata, Skeleton Coast, and /Ai-/Ais Richtersveld. From 2018 to 2024, the company's performance was affected by COVID-19, which caused revenue losses and reduced occupancy. However, NWR returned to profitability in 2023 and 2024. The company employs 559 permanent and 206 fixed-term staff, with women making up 60% of the workforce.

7.3.2 Activities

NWR provides accommodation, catering, guided tours, and other tourism services. Its premier lodges are designed to offer exclusive guest experiences, with bookings available directly, online, or through tour operators. These operations support tourism development, create employment opportunities, and contribute to Namibia's economy.

7.3.3 Challenges

- Many skilled staff left the company through voluntary separation programs.
- The infrastructure is old and requires urgent repairs and upgrades.
- Limited involvement in concession policy, reducing fair access to tourism opportunities.

7.4 Chamber of Mines of Namibia

7.4.1 The mining sector continues to be the backbone of Namibia's economy, contributing significantly to national income, employment, and government revenue while supporting local businesses through procurement and social investment. The performance of the mining sector in 2024, its contribution to the economy, investment and exploration trends, employment creation, community development initiatives, and future opportunities such as marine phosphate development was highlighted.

7.4.2 Overview of Namibia's mining sector which is richly endowed with a wide range of mineral resources such as the uranium, diamonds, gold, zinc, copper, graphite, lithium, tin, iron ore, and industrial minerals such as salt. As one of the world's top uranium producers and emerging as a supplier of minerals that are vital for the global energy transition, in 2024, the mining sector contributed 13.3% to Namibia's Gross Domestic Product 9GDP). This marked a contraction of 1.2% compared to the strong growth of 19.3% achieved in 2023. The mining sector generated revenue of N$51.38 billion in 2024. Importantly, 80% of the revenue remained in Namibia through wages, procurement of goods and services from local suppliers, taxes, and social responsibility initiatives. The government received N$7.32 billion in revenue from the mining sector through corporate income tax, royalties, export levies, and pay as you earn (PAYE). This accounted for 14.2 percent of total government revenue. Over the past six years, the industry has contributed N$31.4 billion in taxes to the national treasury, underscoring its role as one of the largest and most reliable contributors to state finances.

7.4.3 Exploration activities in 2024 reached N$1 billion, the highest expenditure in Namibia's history, and a sign of investor confidence in the country's mineral potential. However, fixed investment declined by 4 to N$5.69 billion. Despite this decline, Namibia remains an attractive destination for mining investment due to its high-quality geological data, stable political environment, reliable infrastructure, and sound legal framework. Fiscal incentives such as tax deductions for exploration and accelerated write-offs on capital expenditure further enhance this competitiveness and encourage ongoing exploration. The mining industry remains one of Namibia's largest employers. In 2024, employment in the sector increased by 14.6 percent, creating new opportunities for Namibians across different regions. The sector also stimulates business growth by sourcing goods and services from Namibian companies, ensuring that the benefits of mining extend to local industries and communities.

7.4.4 The sector invested approximately N$260 million in corporate social responsibility projects during 2024. These projects targeted education, healthcare, infrastructure development, environmental conservation, food security, and the growth of small and medium enterprises. For example, B2Gold Namibia constructed the Ombili Clinic at a cost of N$6 million and invested in the Erhardtshof Agriculture Project, which produced 1,700 tonnes of maize in 2024. Rössing Uranium funded the construction of a new police station in Swakopmund at a cost of N$20 million and supported upgrades to health facilities in the Erongo Region. Orano invested in water security through its N$2.5 billion desalination plant, while Sinomine committed N$140 million to employee housing, education support, and SME development. Namdeb and Debmarine invested in renewable energy, education, and sports development. In addition, long-standing legacy projects such as the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) and the Rössing Cottage Hospital continue to provide lasting benefits to communities.

7.4.5 Namibia has one of the world's largest undeveloped marine phosphate deposits, estimated at 3.4 billion tonnes. This resource could sustain production for more than 100 years. Developing a marine phosphate industry would have significant economic benefits for the country, including ensuring affordable access to fertilisers for local agriculture, reducing reliance on imports, enhancing food security, creating jobs, and establishing new industries around fertiliser production. The Sandpiper Project, which forms part of this development, is currently awaiting an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Environmental Commissioner. Once approved, it has the potential to unlock large-scale investment, industrialisation, and employment opportunities, particularly for the youth.

7.4.6 Namibia offers a stable and predictable environment for mining investment. The country is known for its political stability, the rule of law, and the constitutional guarantee of security of tenure for mineral rights holders. Partnerships between government and the Chamber of Mines remain strong and provide a framework for continuous collaboration in policy development and implementation. Important guiding frameworks such as the Blue Economy Policy and Marine Spatial Plans also provide clarity on how resources can be sustainably developed. However, there remains a need for regulatory certainty, especially regarding amendments to the Environmental Management Act of 2007, which will help provide investors with clearer guidelines for sustainable mining activities.

7.4.7 Namibia's mining industry is positive. The country is well positioned to take advantage of growing global demand for critical minerals used in renewable energy technologies and the transition to a low-carbon future. Going forward, the sector will continue to focus on enhancing value addition through local beneficiation, expanding exploration activities, strengthening community and social investments, and unlocking new industries such as marine phosphate. By doing so, the mining sector will continue to play a central role in driving economic growth, industrialisation, and sustainable development. The stakeholder workshop highlighted the critical roles of industry, agriculture, environment, and mining in Namibia's sustainable development. Key challenges, including funding constraints, policy gaps, and climate impacts, were identified, alongside opportunities for collaboration and local empowerment. The Committee will use these insights to guide oversight and support policies that promote inclusive growth, responsible resource management, and long-term national prosperity.

8. CONCLUSION

The stakeholder workshop highlighted the critical roles of industry, agriculture, environment, and mining in Namibia's sustainable development. Key challenges, including funding constraints, policy gaps, and climate impacts, were identified, alongside opportunities for collaboration and local empowerment. The Committee will use these insights to guide oversight and support policies that promote inclusive growth, responsible resource management, and long-term national prosperity.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourismand to strengthen inter-ministerial and stakeholder collaboration to ensure integrated planning and resource management.

9.2 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to provide adequate funding and timely allocation for priority projects in energy, agriculture, fisheries, water, environment, and mining sectors.

9.3 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to accelerate policy and legislative reforms to support industrialisation, mineral beneficiation, land reform, fisheries management and sustainable resource use.

9.4 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to promote local participation and capacity building in natural resource sectors to enhance skills, ownership, and economic inclusion, particularly in green hydrogen, oil and gas.

9.5 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to enhance monitoring, oversight, and compliance mechanisms to address environmental risks, illegal activities, and operational inefficiencies.

9.6 Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, to support climate-smart initiatives and sustainable practices to safeguard ecosystems and strengthen resilience to climate change.

10. SIGNATURES

1. Hon. Dr. Aupindi Tobie Ocean, Chairman,	15-10-2025 Date
2. Hon. Tuulikki Abraham, Deputy Chairperson	15-10-2025 Date
3. Hon. Ephraim T. Nekongo, Member	15-10-2025 Date
4. Hon. Ferdinand Hengombe, Member	15-10-2025 Date

15-10-2025

5. Hon. Armas Amukoto, Member — Date

15-10-2025

6. Hon. Immanuel Nashinge, Member, — Date

15-10-2025

7. Hon. Rodrick Likando, Member — Date

15-10-2025

8. Hon. Ottilie Haitota, Member — Date

15-10-2025

9. Hon. Vetaruhe Kandorozu, Member — Date

10. Hon. Fenni Nanyeni, Member — Date

11. Hon. Aina Kodi, Member — Date

Coetzee

15-10-2025

12. Hon. Clemencia Coetzee, Member — Date

15-10-2025

13. Hon. Elder Filipe, Member — Date

15-10-2025

14. Hon. George H. Kambala, Member — Date

15. Hon. John Likando, Member — Date

15-10-2025

16. Hon. Modestus Amutse, Member — Date

15-10-2025

17. Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu, Member — Date

15-10-2025

18. Hon. Willem Amutenya, Member — Date

19. Hon. Ester Haikola-Sakaria, Member — Date

15-10-2025

20. Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Member — Date

21. Hon. Uahekua Herunga, Member

15-10-2025
Date

22. Hon. Marius Sheya, Member

15-10-2025
Date

23. Hon. Longinus Iipumbu, Member

15-10-2025
Date

24. Hon. Diederik Vries

15-10-2025
Date