



2024 Mining Expo & Conference -- Welcome Remarks

Zebra Kasete

President, Chamber of Mines of Namibia

Windhoek Showgrounds, 7th August, 2024

Your Excellency, Madam Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice
President of the Republic of Namibia,

Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines & Energy,

Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public
Enterprises,

Hon. Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and
Land Reform,

Hon. Lucia Iipumbu, Minister of Industrialization and Trade

Hon. Dr. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry
and Tourism,

Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Director General, National Planning
Commission,

Presidential advisors present,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners
present

Hon. Tjekero Tweya, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources and other Members of Parliament present,

Your Worship the Mayor of Windhoek

Heads of State-owned Enterprises present (NamPower, NamWater, NAMCOR, ECB),

Heads of Tertiary Educational Institutions (UNAM, NUST, NIMT)

Mr. Penda Ithindi, Executive Director and other senior Staff Members of the Ministry of Mines and Energy,

Mr. Etienne Maritz, Executive Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security & Members of the Immigration Selection Board present,

Senior Government officials from other Ministries present,

Ms. Maria Mbudhi, Chairperson for the Public Affairs Committee, Namibia Petroleum Operators Association (NAMPOA),

Mr. George Botshiwe, 1st Vice President of the Chamber of Mines and Managing Director, QKR Navachab Gold Mine,

Mr. John Roos, 2nd Vice President of the Chamber of Mines and Country Manager of B2Gold,

Fellow Council Members of the Chamber of Mines,

Mr. Veston Malango, CEO, Chamber of Mines of Namibia and his Team,

Captains of the industry,

Mining Expo Exhibitors & Visitors,
Distinguished invited guests,

Members of the Press,

All protocols observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very warm good morning to all and welcome to the 11th Mining Expo & Conference. Today we are privileged and honored to have Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia to grace this occasion as Chief Guest of Honour. Madam Vice-President, I welcome you wholeheartedly to the 2024 Mining Expo and Conference.

Your Excellency, the Chamber of Mines is an advocacy body of the mining industry since its inception in 1969. The Chamber is therefore 55 years old but we embarked on hosting this annual event in 2010, starting at the Safari Hotel and later on moved to this venue.

I am pleased to note that this years' Expo has received overwhelming support from exhibitors, surpassing all previous records. We have 199 exhibitors occupying 317 booths this year, as compared to 162 exhibitors with 268 booths during the previous event in 2023. This resents an increase of 22.8% in exhibitors and 18.3% in booth uptake.

This event has attracted a large entourage of companies from the SADC region, 22 in total and 3 international companies. The rest are companies operating in Namibia.

Since inception, the main objective of the Mining Expo and Conference have remained the same, namely:

- a) To show case the Namibian mining industry to stakeholders and the citizens as the owners of the

- resource and provide information on what the industry really is,
- b) To provide a platform for Namibians and business entities to identify business opportunities in the upstream linkages – as local suppliers of mining inputs and services to the mining industry,
 - c) And lastly but not the least, to promote careers in mining related fields.

For these noble reasons outlined above, we have continued to make participation by individuals to be FREE of charge. The costs of hosting this event are covered by the support of exhibitors and generous sponsorships. As a result, we have been able to engage all stakeholders including the ordinary person on the street. This has made this annual event truly Namibian, for Namibians!

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

Reflecting on the remarkable achievements and trends in the mining sector, this year's Mining Expo & Conference will highlight the potential within Namibia's mining sector under the theme ***"Green Shoots for Namibia's Mining Industry: a Season of Opportunity and Growth to Drive Economic Expansion."*** This theme underscores the new growth and opportunities emerging in the industry, driven by a resurging uranium sub-sector, a new gold mine, growing potential in the oil & gas sector, and strategic investments to increase the life of mines of existing operations. As the mining industry plays a pivotal role in Namibia's economy, this event aims to spotlight these advancements and their potential to stimulate substantial economic expansion.

The green shoots for Namibia's mining sector are mostly hinged on a resurging uranium market as Nuclear energy is emerging as a prominent and sustainable source of baseload power worldwide. Over the past two years, the uranium market has seen significant growth, with prices surpassing the US\$100/lb mark in January 2024 due to the gradual depletion of utility stockpiles and stagnant supply levels. This positive trend is expected to drive increased production at Namibia's key uranium mines such as Rössing and Husab, as well as at Langer Heinrich mine which has restarted operations early this year. This is in addition to the development of new uranium mines, namely; Bannerman's Etango-8 project and Deep Yellow's Tumas project. These developments position Namibia as a critical player in the global nuclear energy market, contributing to sustainable energy solutions and economic growth.

Other avenues of growth are also being created by up-coming projects in critical minerals and precious metals. Notably, Namibia will soon see the development of its third gold mine, the Twin Hills project currently owned by Osino Resources. Osino Resources has accepted an offer by Shinjan International Gold Co. Ltd.(formerly Yinati Gold) to acquire and develop this project, which is pending the required approvals from the various regulatory authorities, particularly the Namibian Competition Commission. Once the transaction is finalised, the new owners will commence with development of the mine.

Namibia's mining industry continues to be a cornerstone of the national economy, contributing significantly to GDP and employment, as mentioned above. In recent years, the industry has seen robust growth, driven by increased production and new investments. The Mining Conference will be held this afternoon and tomorrow morning and will run parallel to the Expo.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

While the mining sector is posting a sterling performance as alluded to above, the question still remains as how mineral resources can continue to benefit the citizens beyond taxes and royalties in a sustainable manner. The answer lies in exploration to discover additional orebodies which may eventually become mines and also for extension of Life of Mines (LoM) for existing mines. Investments in exploration is what creates a pipeline of future mines, exploration is fundamental to the sustainability of mining.

I am of the firm opinion that government can assist Namibians to actively participate in the high-risk business of exploration, by empowering them with skills to raise capital just like any other exploration company from abroad. Government should not entertain the idea of establishing an Exploration Fund from tax payers' money, but rather equip Namibians with skills to raise high risk capital from financial capital markets in the World. The same should apply to the State owned Epangelo Mining company. This could unlock tremendous additional value and benefits to the citizens and the national economy at large. Epangelo should emulate the success story of a government company such as Vale of Brazil to broaden benefits from mining. I submit that this approach is a low hanging fruit as compared to calls for government free carry in mines, a policy proposal that is under discussions.

Your Excellency, the Chamber has maintained the tradition of allocating complimentary booths/stands for the 11th time now.

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

(NUA), the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT), Southern Africa Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) Namibia Branch and the Emerging Miners Association of Namibia (EMAN).

Let me take this opportunity to once again thank all exhibitors for supporting this event over the years, in tough economic conditions and now during rebounding mineral commodity markets and the resultant buoyant mining and exploration drive. Special acknowledgments and gratitude go to our anchor sponsor, RMB, who have generously supported the Mining Expo to bring enhanced value to exhibitors which include B2B facilities, B2B meeting rooms, the Supplier's Platform, and the Mining Expo Mobile Application. I also wish to acknowledge and extend special thanks to the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry who have provided a Bronze sponsorship, thereby contributing to the success of the event.

In addition to our sponsors, the Chamber is also grateful to **Emergenci ThreeSixty** for availing free emergency services and to **Rent-a-Drum** for helping us keep the environment clean through refuse and waste management, and lastly to Office Economix for sponsorship of furniture outfits.

The Chamber is grateful for yet another overwhelming support this year, without which we would not be able to achieve our noble objectives.

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

Thank you.
