



## Namibia's President tours Rössing

By Jerome Mutumba and Shoombe Shanyengana



His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba discussing with employees about their work at Hill Jim view point.

The President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba and the First Lady Penehupifo Pohamba, visited the mine on Saturday morning to familiarise himself with the operations of the mine given its significance in the Namibian economy. His visit was a response to the company's invitation for him to get first hand experience of the company's world class operations.

The President was given an overview of the company's operations and he visited the Mine Monitoring and Con-

trol (MM & C), had a view of the open pit from Hill Jim and he also visited the Central Process Control (CPC) before making a brief stop at the Management building on his way to Arandis.

During the visit the President had interactions with members of the management team and employees, who received him with excitement. He was impressed with the company's operations and activities and commended the company on its commitment towards human capital development in the country.

He further urged the company to double its contribution to training to ensure that the company and the country in general have a skilled workforce to realise Vision 2030.

The President was accompanied by Honourable Samuel Nuuyoma, Governor of Erongo Region, His Worship Daniel Utapi Muhuura, Mayor of Arandis; Rehabeam Hoveka, Chairperson Rössing Board of Directors, Mike Leech, Managing Director and other members of management.

Employees also had an opportunity for a one-on-one talk with the President about training opportunities and facilities, radiation safety measures, income and working conditions at Rössing.

In his briefing with employees, the President encouraged them to contribute positively to nation building and development through their work as miners, in order to uplift their communities. "We are now fighting for development and productivity", said His Excellency.

One of the employees said, "We would like to urge the Government to consider incorporating Rössing's safety procedures outside the mine".

"In Namibia, we do not support the building of weapons of mass destruction and our uranium should only be used for something that will bring development to mankind", said the President.

In support of this commitment, the Managing Director, Mike Leech assured the President that Rössing only sells its uranium to companies using uranium for power generation and other peaceful purposes which are located in countries which are signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Namibia is also a signatory to the Treaty which is monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). All Rössing's sale

agreements are approved by the Government through the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

In his remarks at the end of his tour, the President commended Rössing for having a considerable number of young Namibians who occupies strategic positions in our company.

He also visited the Rössing Foundation's Maths and Science Centre in Arandis where he was briefed by Rehabeam Hoveka and Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council and Regional Councillor of Arandis constituency, as well as by Rössing Foundation personnel.



Mining employees photographed with His Excellency President Hifikepuno Pohamba and Her Excellency First Lady, Penehupifo Pohamba.

Briefing the President, Rehabeam said that the Maths and Science Centre in Arandis is a successful project."

His Excellency congratulated and encouraged the Arandis learners, who recently won the Erongo Regional Science Fair, to take sci-

ence as a career because of the demand for scientists in Namibia. Expressing his views on the President's visit, Willem van Rooyen General Manager, Operations thanked the management of Rössing, the Rössing Foundation and employees for making the President's visit a success. Willem

said, "We were most impressed with the President's willingness to engage with employees. We highly appreciate and thank the president and distinguished guests for making time to visit our company.

He concluded that, "it is imperative that the President of the Republic

of Namibia has first hand experience of our world-class operation, given the company's significant contribution to the Namibian economy. This visit allowed us to share our challenges within the current economic climate, whilst we were able to demonstrate how the application of high-tech solutions aids the mine in realising further opportunities and extend the life of the mine".



The President talking to Processing employees.



Willen van Rooyen, General Manager Operations (left) and Mike Leech, Managing Director (centre) having a short a briefing with the President.



Alex Shakapa, Acting Superintendent CPC and Bernard Morwe, Manager Processing (right) explaining the uranium extraction process.



The President with Arandis learners who won medals at the Erongo Regional Science Fair. Also in the photo is Daniel Utapi Muhuura, Mayor of Arandis and two Rössing Foundation employees.