

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held at Swakopmund on 21 August 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Freddy Kaukungua, Office of the Mayor of Swakopmund

- MH The purpose of the meeting was explained against the background of the Rössing MEP.
- FK A presentation of the MEP to the Management Board would be appreciated.
- MH Requested information on who to contact in the Swakopmund Town Council and in the private sector with regard to the SIA component of the ESIA. This was provided.
- FK With all these mines opening, we are going to have a problem with schools. All the schools are full to overflowing. In Mondesa, most of the schools are teaching on a shift system, and most of them are adding classrooms. It is not only the employment issue that is causing overcrowding at the schools. There is a perception that the education standard in Swakopmund is relative higher than elsewhere. There are fourteen schools, not counting the pre-schools, and only four of these go to grade 12. There are three hostels (one for the Namib primary school) and they are all full. The regional officer, Mr Awaseb, can give details on the schooling situation.
- MH The situation with health services?
- FK We have one state hospital, one private and one state clinic. There are also a number of private consultancies. Staff complements are a bureaucratic decision – depending on the area it services, the government decides what level of service the health system will provide. I would not say we have a shortage of staff, but rather a shortage of capacity. The person to speak to is Dr Tshiteta, the Regional Director.
- MH Is there not a clinic in the DRC?
- FK No. Unfortunately the DRC people have to use the clinic in Tamariskia.
- MH How much housing stock does Swakopmund have? I understand that there is not much available.
- FK There are houses available but they are not being put up for sale right now. Prices are starting to fall because the market for such very high prices is not there. We would welcome it if a big company asked us for a piece of land and built a large number of houses. This would be a way of stabilizing prices.
- MH What is the current population of Swakopmund estimated at?
- FK According to the polio vaccination programme last year, there are between 40 000 and 42 000 people in town.
- MH And the unemployment rate?
- FK It's always difficult to state this because of the different ways in which unemployment is defined, but it is about 40%. Mr Ipinge will be able to give you a more accurate figure.
- MH What is the current population in the DRC?
- FK About 6000 people.
- MH Has it grown lately?

- FK There are definitely signs that the population has increased. We see more vagrants in the streets, and the crime rate is increasing. This is usually a result of unemployment.
- MH The economy of Swakopmund is based on tourism. Is there any other sector that makes a significant contribution?
- FK No – it is really a service economy, based on tourism. This is a fragile base, as tourism is very easily affected by crime. You can get the number of bed nights from HAN (Albie van Biljon at Alte Brucke) but remember that there are also some aspects that we cannot take into account. Flats are bought and rented out, and this is not controlled. Currently there are 137 self-catering apartments which are rented out, and this number is growing.
- MH What is the water situation like in Swakopmund?
- FK At a recent presentation Namwater stated that the idea is that there is water, but with the current growth it will not be sufficient, so desalination is becoming a reality. For those of us who get water from the Omaruru, the situation is stable for a few years, but the Walvis Bay water table is much lower than thought.
- MH Are there any other proposed developments which could impact on, or be impacted on, by a growth in large development projects? For example, one of the things we will need to consider for this particular project, and the significance will be increased by other projects, is an increase in traffic.
- FK Yes, two things are being talked about at the moment. The one is to move the railway station out of the town area, towards the airport. The other is to make a heavy-duty vehicle by-pass to Walvis Bay, one that will go behind the dunes, along the same route as the railway line. The current main road to Walvis Bay will then become a scenic route.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 24 August 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Rod Braby and Nathalie Cadot of Nacoma.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting: to introduce the project to Nacoma and to discuss the organizations perceptions and concerns.
- RB We are concerned about the number of desalination plants that are being talked about. There is an impact on the coast, but also a growing band of high impact along the coast towards the interior. How many jobs are we looking at, and where will the workers be housed?
- MH Decisions about housing, and the avoidance or mitigation of impacts, are among the critical areas of socio-economic impacts that will need to be carefully assessed. These will be addressed in the ESIA report. Apparently there is a waiting list for stands in the DRC. Do you have any experience of informal settlement in Swakopmund?
- RB Yes, informal settlers live in the river bed, in the Damara Tern breeding areas. This has been a problem for the last ten years. People are reporting it, and the authorities of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay are working together on the problem of squatting in the river. Some of them are dangerous, one is mentally ill, but there is no institution in Namibia for such people – it is a real social ill. You can contact Danie Holloway at the Stilts. He monitors the situation in the river bed. How is resource use going to be affected?
- MH Rössing already has programmes in place to reduce water consumption, but the solution seems to be desalination. The acid plant will produce 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the energy requirements. An increase in resource use caused by inward migration will be addressed in the ESIA. Do you envisage environmental impacts resulting from greater recreational use of areas like the dunes and the beaches?
- RB Yes, that is highly likely.
- RB How is traffic and road use going to be affected? Will there be an increase in transport requirements? And other mines? There is also likely to be increased traffic as a result of Botswana purchase of a piece of land on the Walvis Bay harbour, opposite Mola Mola. This is to use the harbour for their export needs, and goods will be brought by road via the Trans-Kalahari.
- RB Our primary concern is water. This is a hot issue.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Windhoek on 4 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Peter Tarr, SAIEA.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. A general discussion about the RU Project and discussion of a platform for addressing cumulative socio-economic impacts.
- PT Cumulative impacts are enormous. They have to be put into the ESIA.
- MH That is part of our brief. To address cumulative impacts will require co-ordinated responses. Socio-economic impacts include job creation (and potential job losses) with consequent demands for housing, social services, use of recreational facilities, growth and development of informal settlements. There is also increased resource use.
- PT These should be included in an integrated ESIA. How strong is RU on integration?
- MH In my experience on this project, extremely strong.
- PT How will the housing situation be resolved?
- MH An early take is that extra housing should be provided in towns with an already stable economy. They will be better able to withstand the impact of downscaling and closure and the subsequent loss of revenue.
- MH I'm concerned about fostering dependency. It's fine to build additional houses provided that, during the life of mine, economic activities are developed which will be independent of mine income. Usakos should do some as Karibib has done – develop its main road to capture passing trade, for example. Arandis, about 16 years down the line, has not successfully developed an independent economy.
- PT Talk to Tony Barber, who is doing the SIA for Valencia.
- MH I know him. Will do so. Now, about a forum for the discussion of cumulative socio-economic impacts?
- PT Yes, it is a very good idea. There are fora discussing other aspects, and some of these are driven through the Chamber. Wotan Swiegers would be a good person to talk to, and the Chamber would be a good driver. Who else did you have in mind?
- MH Ideally, all the mining companies, though this may not be possible. We also need the impacted parties and sectors represented – local authorities (Arandis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Henties Bay when Marinica comes on line) possibly Usakos and then also the marginalized groups, such as Spitzkoppe.
- PT There is another group who should be represented – the Topnaars. They have political traction. There are governance issues between the chief and the person who runs the Topnaar Development Trust, but you should be able to work through these.
- MH There are a number of sectors that are impacted. Tourism, for example, where environmental impacts in turn impact on livelihoods.
- PT Are you talking to them?
- MH Yes, Crispin Cowley and some others. This idea of a consultative forum is still very new. We need a forum that is large enough to be representative of the main players and implementers, but not so large that it becomes unmanageable, like having most of the people unavailable when you call a meeting.
- PT Rod Braby at NACOMA is a good guy.
- MH We need to have socio-economic impacts and mitigation measures managed strategically, just as all other components should be.
- PT Yes, this is a critical need. There is something which would tie in with a consultation

forum, and could possibly be reflected in the consideration of cumulative impacts in the ESIA. The possibility of an SEA has been out there for a year now. DIFD is keen to fund an SEA focusing on the uranium rush in Namibia (contact John Hobbs). This proposal has been taken to MET and Dept. of Water Affairs, but the political will to implement it seems to be lacking. The mining companies too, with one exception, were in favour of such a direction. Strong advocacy is needed to bring it back on the table, and it could be a mitigating factor for cumulative impacts. You should look at the guidelines DIFD has just put out, downloadable from their website: (Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment. Good Practice Guidance for Development Co-operation (OECD). I have spoken to John Hobbs lately, and the funding is still available.

MH These minutes will get circulated to RU and the ESIA team, and everyone takes out what relates to their area of concern or responsibility and needs to be pursued.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Windhoek on 4 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Ms Ulitala Hiveluah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting – to familiarize the Ministry with the project and to gain input on concerns and possible mitigation measures.
- UH Is there going to be a big increase in employment?
- MH Yes, especially if we take the employment created by all the new mines.
- UH Then, are you looking at training as well as what would happen if mines closed unexpectedly.
- MH Well, even if they went to the expected date of closure, we could still have unemployment. And yes, training is an important consideration.
- UK How are you going to handle training?
- MH We are looking at building it into the contract between RU and the contractors – that training must be done and ideally, particularly in the case of unskilled and semi-skilled workers, this training would put the workers in a position where they could be offered permanent jobs with the operation when construction is finished.
- UK That would be good, but the contract between the contractor and his worker should clearly spell out the training benefits. We find, too often, that training is promised in the contract, but that in the end, there are disparities between what was promised and what was done. It is the duty of the contractor to make training accessible to the workers, even if he can't provide it himself. Are you looking at other types of skills?
- MH Yes, mobile skills for alternative livelihoods will be proposed.
- UK What are you doing about housing construction workers?
- MH From the social aspect, we would like to see the construction workers housed in a construction camp. As many of them are migrants, they can impact severely on local communities, and it is better for both groups if there is not close contact. A management plan for a construction camp will be proposed.
- UK What will that include?
- MH It is to ensure that the contractors have a decent lifestyle, but also to mitigate any potential impacts arising from their presence. For instance, they will have to undergo an AIDS induction programme.
- UK When you do that type of thing, be sure that you treat them as human beings, not just as a bunch of workers.
- MH That is inherent in the management plan. Contractors will, as an example, be required to have programmes that, where relevant, comply with Rössing's standards, and these are very highly regarded. I would like to talk about retrenchment. Currently, Namibian legislation does not deal at any great depth with requirements for retrenchment.
- UK No, the legislation is not satisfactory.
- MH When is the new Act to be promulgated?
- UK That is hard to say. The Act has to go to the National Assembly now, so I can't really discuss it.
- MH Are you familiar with the South African requirements around retrenchments?

- UK No.
- MH What then, would you recommend should be put in place to guard against the impact of retrenchment?
- UK Training for skills outside the mining industry, and also redeployment where possible. Are you aware that large-scale unemployment will also have a national effect? All those employed people are currently paying into the social grant fund. If they don't have work, they will be drawing from it. This could have a big impact on the budget.
- MH Yes, there are other impacts that go beyond the region as well, such as remittances. The ESIA will make proposals for avoiding or mitigating these impacts. But to another matter – do you think there is room for a forum in which the cumulative socio-economic impacts of mining in Erongo could be discussed? And would your Ministry be prepared to be involved?
- UK The Ministry would be interested and happy to be involved, but the modalities will need to be looked at. Who are you looking at including in such a forum?
- MH This idea is very young, and much work will need to be done, but probably the convenors would look at impacted sectors and communities, experts, and representatives of all tiers of government as these are appropriate to such a forum.
- UK You should be careful of mixing local, regional and national government, as they all experience different impacts, have different priorities. Where do you see such a forum being located?
- MH It is too soon to say, but the suggestion has been put forward that the Chamber of Mines could be a good driver.
- UK As I said, the modalities would have to be worked out, but keep us in the loop.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Arandis on 5 September 2007 between Job Tjiho, Director, Rössing Foundation, Lloyd Ulrich, Assistant Director, Rössing Foundation and Marie Hoadley.

MH Introduced the project and explained that this was a brief meeting to update baseline information on education in Arandis and to discuss perceptions of potential impacts of the proposed expansion, together with ways of meeting the challenge. A more in-depth meeting would probably be required later in the project.

According to reports I have had, the standard of education in Arandis has dropped. Is this an accurate assessment?

LU Eighteen months ago it would have been correct. All the schools have picked up tremendously, to such an extent and students making it into NIMT. Kolin Foundation pupils are consistently scoring among the top students in Grade 12 examinations.

MH At the time of the baseline (2005) there were also some problems with teachers. How is addressing these progressing? Are the teachers using the RF Teachers' Centre?

JT Teacher capacity is still a problem – children can be upgraded quickly, with the teachers we also depend on self-motivation. We have some good teachers. Many right now are possibly are up to par. We are also working in Swakopmund. We expect, within a year, to turn schools around, and turn them into Centres of Excellence. We have targeted Arandis first but to turn a school into a centre of excellence is a decision that needs to be taken by all stakeholders and can not be taken by us in isolation. It does require a buy in with a big commitment from our partners.

JT We are building two maths centres at the coast – one at Arandis, one at Swakopmund. We are also going to build science centres and laboratories – one of these in Arandis. We are employing tutors and mentors to work with both teachers and learners. We have a higher benchmark than government.

MH Are you building capacity in ALL schools?

JT The brief of the Rössing Foundation has changed – our educational programme has been expanded to Swakopmund and Ondwangwa.

LU We are working with Atlantic Primary and Secondary School and Festus Gonteb Primary School in Swakopmund, to some extent with J P Brand a former Topnaar School outside Walvisbaai, and in Ondangwa with Shinime Shiivula Primary School, Olukolo Primary School, Oshitayi Primary School, Iihenda Senior Secondary School and Nangolo Senior Secondary School.

MH What is the current teacher: pupil ratio in Arandis?

LU I will send you spread sheets with this information.

JT When you look at teacher: pupil ratios you can't just look at Erongo. Because so many of the rural schools are undersubscribed, the ratio in the region looks good and the average staffing norm is below normal. You have to look at individual schools and towns. Swakopmund and Walvis Bay are overcrowded, the official staffing norm of 34:1 has been exceeded and it is getting worse. In terms of optimising socio-economic benefits and providing good schooling for

- workers' children, the biggest potential is in Arandis for accommodating pupils.
- LU Walvis Bay would not be a choice. The amount of time that it would take to transport children to Arandis for schooling would extend their working day too much. Transport-wise it would be cheaper to build five classrooms here than to commute from Walvis Bay.
- MH This option, of bussing children that distance, is not even under consideration. It is simply not practical. Our aim is for children to be schooled where they live.
- JT We could immediately start a programme of dedicated classroom building in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis. The problem is housing – affordable housing is not available, certainly not in Swakopmund, and accommodation is not available in Arandis and Walvis Bay.

Subsequent to this meeting, baseline statistics of schooling needs in terms of classrooms at all the schools in Walvis Bay, Usakos, Swakopmund and Arandis were sent.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Arandis on 5 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Lysias Uusika, Community and Sustainable Development Officer, Rössing Foundation.

MH Purpose of the meeting: to work in partnership with Lysias to engage with the farmers in the Swakop River, and to get his view of the potential impacts of the project.

LU I am new in this position. I have not yet engaged with the farmers, and the person who would know about them is unfortunately away for a week. I think we will have a problem with informal settlers. I lived in Mondesa for a month when I took this position, and there are large numbers of informal settlers living in shacks in back yards there. We could see an increase of this, and I think we will see this develop in Arandis.

MH What about Spitzkoppe?

LU I am not familiar with the current situation in that community. I was involved in the establishment of the conservancy, but that was some time ago. Housing is a huge problem in Arandis – there are no vacant houses. I am staying in Swakopmund because there is no house for me in Arandis. There are lots of people coming into town, contractors and people looking for employment.

MH Where do they live?

LU If they have friends or family in town, they move in with them. If not, they rent a room.

MH I know its early days, but what is your impression of the Arandis community?

LU They have little economic initiative. You see many people of working age just hanging around the street. They seem to lack initiative to do things for themselves, as if they are expecting somebody to come and find employment for them. As an example, look at all the bottles lying around. Nobody has thought of recycling these.

MH Let's talk about the logistics of meeting with the farmers in the Swakop Valley.

Summary of arrangements: MH to send emails to those who had addresses. LU to phone others – try to find a venue. Date set as 17 September at 09h00. LU to accompany MH for the meeting.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Arandis on 5 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Florida Cloete, CEO, Town Council of Arandis.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting: perceptions of the MEP in Arandis, and to get some baseline updates.
- FC She had been to the public participation meeting, and was aware of the project. If we look at the Council's ten-year strategic plan, Rössing Uranium undertook to support the ATC to realize this vision. This project means that they will still be here, and it makes the vision attainable. The Working Group is constantly assessing our strategies – how can we be sustainable and de-link economic growth from the mine? There is pressure on the LED strategy to do this.
- MH To what extent is new investment and interest in the town based on mining activity?
- FC A lot of investors are linking their investment to life-of-mine. Bank Windhoek has taken over home loans from Council, but the repayment period is 13 years, i.e. linked to life of mine. Developers ask how many people will be employed by the mines, and on that basis they decide how much building to do. Rössing has taken a decision that all contractors must set up a base in Arandis – this is very positive, but also dependent on life-of-mine. Employment often means a temporary alleviation – skills development is essential, and they should be skills for other forms of employment. The sudden activity is definitely the result of all the mining going on. Everyone asks about the life of mine.
- MH How does the community feel about the new developments?
- FC Positive, because of the changes of employment, but the dependency continues. The local residents want houses for free because ATC offer them for free. The arrival of new mines also creates an expectancy that they will get benefits such as houses for nothing. They also fear inward migration, largely because they can't face competition.
- MH Has there been much employment recently in the town?
- FC What there has been is largely from contractors, but if the new developments go ahead, more work will be created.
- MH What is the current availability of housing?
- We have nothing available and over 150 people on the waiting list. We have sold over 200 erven.
- MH What kind of people and businesses are coming in?
- FC Financial services, auditing services, ProLink, who presented a mixed development proposal – financing, development and marketing, has taken 80 stands. We are looking at upgrading the CBD. Many operators from Windhoek are also coming in. NIMT is quiet about progress with regard to hostel. There are also private people coming in – from Windhoek and from Swakopmund. They are not coming for job opportunities or to open businesses. They are simply coming to live here.
- MH What is the schooling situation like? Has there been an improvement since the baseline study was done?
- FC Arandis could be a Centre of Excellence in education. This is a particular focus

of the Rössing Foundation. There is capacity in the schools, but I don't have in-depth knowledge. The RF will be able to tell you more. However, we need to take care that the teaching and training must not focus on servicing the mining industry. Employment and careers in other economic sectors must also be catered for.

MH State health services have been very poor in Arandis. Has the situation improved? Will it be in a position to cope with extra demands?

FC Health services would not be able to cope, they would definitely have to improve. We do have a social worker now, who comes once a week and is fully booked. An inter-company initiative for occupation health is being established through the Chamber of Mines. Arandis will have a satellite facility. The town is to make provision for a site. Such a facility could be used in Arandis to serve the community as well.

MH Has the ATC developed a strategy to deal with inward migration?

FC Not yet. We did think of demarcating an area for informal settlement, but the concept was blown out of all proportion by vested interests.

MH Have you spoken with the NHE about low-cost housing in the event that you have to formalise informal settlements?

FC Not yet, but we will be.

MH The crime level in the town?

FC Still low, but possibly there is under-reporting. Vandalism is still a big problem, probably increasing. We are currently reviving the police-public relations forum.

MH The sewage system? I have heard reports that it is not functioning well at all.

FC We have an agreement with Rössing for assistance to prepare the plant to cater for ten thousand people.

MH That is a huge increase. Are there indications that the population is already increasing?

FC Yes. The population is now 5200 according to the polio vaccination campaign.

MH That is from 4500 in 2005. Where are the new people staying?

FC With friends and families, and they also rent rooms.

MH Is Woerman Brock definitely opening in Arandis?

FC Yes, by the end of the year.

MH Recovery for services – has there been any improvement?

FC No, in fact Namwater has taken over the management of the water supply. The non-payment and the payment of arrears are major issues. It has caused much conflict in the community, and the ATC has little support from the Councillors. Some of them are among the non-payers. Many of those who are not paying are in fact people who are employed.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Arandis on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Officer WA Nghwaamwa, Officer in Charge, NAMPOL, Arandis.

MH Explained purpose of meeting. Brief overview of project and potential impacts on Arandis, as well as establishing the capacity of social services to cope.

MH In 2005 the level of crime in Arandis was very low. Is it still so?

WN It is still very low, with the exception of assault and alcohol abuse, where the statistics are going up – I think this is the result of money as people get jobs. We get between 10 and 15 cases per month of assault and women and child abuse, 10-15. This is a change in the crime pattern. Housebreaking is on the increase, and armed robbery. About 16-25 cases are reported a month. Domestic violence is not reported. Violence against women is becoming a problem. Men need to be educated. When they have money, they just beat up their wives or girl friends. Commercial sex is making an appearance. At the end of the month, sex workers move into Arandis from Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. We have had an increase in crime and expect more.

MH Is the increase in crime recent?

WN Yes, quite recent – since last year. Since all the mining activity has started. A lot of new people are coming into the town.

MH What are the main types of crime?

WN Assault and alcohol related crimes.

MH Is any particular sector of the community involved in criminal activities?

WN Yes, the youth, and they are involved in so-called commercial crime. Before housebreaking was for food, but now they take safes and money. Foreign youths come in and commit crime, locals get drunk at the end of the month, and they indulge a lot in disorderly behavior. At the end of the month you can see the bottles littering the streets and men urinating in public. We lock those who are drunk up for a while and they pay a fine.

MH How much crime is being committed by people from outside Arandis?

WN Serious offences, such as robbery and housebreaking, are often committed by people from outside. With contract workers and the new mine, you will find a lot of drinking. There are also a lot of foreign contractors, but they are more disciplined and very seldom get locked up for a lack of discipline. Arandis people are getting jobs, but they drink their money out, so outsiders will get their jobs.

MH What impacts do you expect from inward migration and possible informal settlement?

WN An increase in crime and types of crime that we have only heard about in Arandis.

MH What is the current capacity of NAMPOL in Arandis?

WN 20 people, including administration, foot patrols and the 24-hour charge office. We have no traffic police although there is talk of opening a traffic office, Rössing does little for Arandis police. We have a high accident zone from here to Usakos, especially over holidays. Government is trying, but the private sector should help.

MH What is the area of your jurisdiction?

WN It stretches from Arandis to Trekkopje and includes the Valencia and Bannerman mine sites. To go to Valencia is about 200 kilometres as we do not have a four-wheel drive vehicle. So we usually ask Usakos to go there, and they pass the case on to us.

MH What is your relationship with the Arandis Town Council like? Are you working in partnership?

WN Yes, the partnership is working well. We work together on community issues, and have established the Police Public Relation Committee. This is a multi-stakeholder committee, and we meet to discuss daily crime in the town.

MH Have you managed to control the access of children to alcohol?

WN We are trying, and have had some success. Shebeens are not a big problem anymore. We have 9 registered, and no illegal ones.

END MEETING

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Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Danie van Niekerk of the Coastal Tourist Association and Nathalie Cadot of NACOMA.

MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. Tourism and mining are major economic sectors in Erongo, and the meeting was to gain insights into tourism's perception of the mining activities and also to find ways in which the two sectors could complement each other.

DvN Danie – from our side, we have had no problems with the mines up to now. We have had a number of meetings with Nacoma, and also with Bannerman. The mines are not situated in the area in which we operate. Our biggest area of concern is all the reports in the newspapers about the number of uranium mines that are opening, and the possibility that they will move closer to Swakopmund. The closer the mines move to Swakopmund, the more it will move into the area that we use for our tours. We operate in the Swakop River Valley up to Goanikontes. We do half-day desert tours, and in the Swakop River Valley we go off the main road. We frequently do night trips, camping and desert dinners. We use specific sites. At the moment, our main concern is the Bannerman concession, which extends right up to the plots. However, Bannerman has been very forthcoming and open, and they have told us that our operating areas are not really where they are interested in at the moment. Their hot spots are just outside our area.

NC From the first viewing platform at the moonscape you can hear the noise of mining activity.

MH Do you take tours up to Cape Cross?

DvN Yes. The road from Swakopmund to Henties Bay and the right into the desert to the Brandberg, which is one of the main tourism routes, for tour operators and for individual tourists. People like to go to the seal colony, but it is not one of the main attractions. At Wlotzkasbaken, where a big desalination plant is going up, there is an important lichen field (this falls into Nacoma's territory) and there are concerns that this lichen field will be damaged.

MH Are people very interested in the lichens?

DvN The lichens are just another interesting occurrence that people like to see. They always stop and look. Infrastructure affects game more than the mine does. Game crossings are not that effective. Game move down these rivers for nourishment. As it becomes drier in the interior, animals start walking west towards the sea and down the rivers. The Langer Heinrich pipeline is close to the river, and there is some doubt as to whether there are enough game crossings. Game has been seen on the road to Henties Bay. The government will have the final decision and there is not much we can do about it. The main reason people come to Swakopmund is because of the desert. Swakopmund needs tourism. Increasingly, incentive groups are coming in, and there are many spin-off economic benefits, such as entertainment.

MH How many tourists visit the Rössing pit?

DvN Namibl will be able to give you more detail on that, but the pit tours are not well marketed. We have had groups of people who wanted to go, but tours are not

run frequently. As far as I know, they are only run on Fridays, and then not every week.

MH What do you see as the best way to ensure that the two sectors work together and to prevent alienation between them?

DvN We must have consultation of the kind we have had with Bannerman, so that each knows what the other is doing. Mining tours would also be a good idea.

NC NACOMA has technical committees on various aspects of the environment. We could look at setting up a technical committee on uranium mining in Erongo.

MH Thank you, that sounds like an excellent idea.

END MEETING

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MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and L//Garoeb, Chief Regional Officer, Erongo Regional Council.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. Introduced the Mine Expansion Project. We need a broad overview of perceived impacts on and benefits for the region. Looking for suggestions on how to maximise/minimise benefits and impacts.
- LG You touch on an issue which is very important and pertinent. Economically, mining is very good; it will create employment and income. But there are many mines, and it comes down to the need for housing, water, infrastructure, and also the impact it might have on the environment. We have well-protected dunes and plants. We don't want these destroyed. All stakeholders should really be involved in mining developments that are coming up. There should be a conference where all the mines in the Erongo look at how we can get the best out of these benefits and minimise the negative impacts.
- MH One of the aspects that Rössing will need to take into account when making decisions about accommodation for employees is schooling. What is the position with regard to schooling in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Arandis? Do the schools have the capacity to take in a significant number of extra learners?
- LG We already have problems with schools in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. Especially with secondary schools, there is no place in their yards to put up extra classrooms. This is where mines come in with their social responsibility programmes. Look at Arandis as an alternative for good schooling. If you want people in a certain place, look at the schools, the health services and consumer services. We are pushing for more schools in Arandis and in Henties Bay. We have to look at Arandis.
- MH And housing? There is going to be a great need for extra housing. What is the position in the coastal towns like?
- LG There is a serious need for housing in all the towns and they must be affordable. If people cannot afford the houses, they will squat, and we then have to cope with the social evils that result. If we do not plan proactively, then we have to expect all these evils. Inward migration is going to have a huge impact on social life and criminal activities. We must not make the same mistake as Windhoek. Municipalities have to be involved – we need to know what their future plans are. They must make erven available.
- MH If employees are housed in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay, there will be an increase in commuter traffic, and there is likely to be a growing number of trucks on the roads as a result of all the activity around mining. What is the road infrastructure like? Will it be able to take much extra traffic?
- LG Infrastructure – when we talk about roads, there will be more pressure on our tarred roads. These roads were built at a specific time; nobody took the possibility of so many mines developing into consideration. Commuter traffic is already heavy. It will be advisable for all the role players to come together to look at these aspects. The municipalities must come to us and tell us what they are planning and what they need. We must have a conference around mining development.

- MH What other impacts do you anticipate for the coastal towns?
- LG There will be a real strain on service providers in Swakopmund. In Walvis Bay, they have requested funding to upgrade/replace the sewage system. You do really need to look at Arandis.
- LG Arandis needs businesses to persuade people to buy there. The mines need to get together with businesses and tell them how many people they are prepared to employ in Arandis, then investors can put up services for consumers, such as supermarkets. To get other industries into Arandis, they should talk to relevant ministries. MTI can also be approached. International investors can also be approached.
- MH It is doubtful whether, currently, Arandis has the service structure in place to cope with a larger population. The health services are an example.
- LG The health services in Arandis are very poor. This is because we depended on the mine in the past. We must not make the same mistake again. We want to protect Swakopmund and make sure that it stays a tourist destination.

END MEETING

## RÖSSING URANIUM

### MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Mr Mike Ipinge, General Manager: Community Development Services, Town Council of Swakopmund.

MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. To introduce the Mine Expansion Project and to gain information on Mr Ipinge's views on possible impacts and benefits, and of ways of addressing these in the ESIA Report.

MH What is the extent of your portfolio?

MI We deal with community development services, housing in the lower income category, shelter for those who do not have accommodation, empowerment of community members, the development of SMEs and issues of tourism. We are trying to promote Swakopmund as a top tourist attraction.

MH Do you think mining will impact on the tourism sector?

MI There is the possibility of them complementing each other. Mining house executives will come, and they will spread the word about the scenic beauty of the area.

MH What about the possibility of environmental impact? Most tourists come because of the environment.

MI What is important is that any development will change the face of an area. However, pre-planning, EIAs and precautionary measures are crucial. One can not take away the benefits that will accrue to the community and country from mines – proper measures must be taken beforehand to assess the possible impacts. With careful planning, you will find that benefits outweigh negatives.

MH Do you envisage any impacts from the mine expansion plan?

MI With so many mines opening, people will come and look for jobs. The biggest challenge for the Council is that they need accommodation, which is not readily available. These people end up creating improvised shelters to survive.

MH Is there the capacity within the Council to cope with these challenges?

MI The capacity to mitigate the challenge is there in the municipality. It is in a position to try to provide services, but some of the people are not able to afford the services. Maybe for those with jobs it is better, but some have little or no income.

MH If there is a significant influx of people, will recreational facilities cope?

MI Money could be a problem if there is a need to expand recreational facilities.

MH How many people are currently living in the DRC?

MI We can't talk about people, we should talk about households. There are 1300 erven in the DRC, of which over 1000 are currently occupied.

MH What is the unemployment rate in the DRC?

MI That part of the community is fluid – they move around after jobs, and will go anywhere, so it is not possible to give accurate statistics. However, it is true that the unemployment is very high. The income level is also lower than Mondesa, which is a lower-income community.

MH What initiatives does the Council undertake with regard to these communities?

MI We have a two-pronged plan. The first is to provide basic services and amenities. The second intervention is by way of economic development, to see

where people can be empowered to generate income for livelihoods. We place importance on skills training.

MH Has this intervention been started?

MI It has been, but on a piecemeal basis. We have built various market stalls and open markets for small-scale businesses. The initiative is ongoing, but we want to make it holistic and integrated, make it more formal.

MH Where are most of the backyard shacks being put up?

MI Mondesa cannot cope – every second house has a shack in the backyard. If you drive towards the DRC, you will see over 800 erven being developed. We want people living at the DRC and in backyard shacks to move there. There are at least 4000 backyard shacks. These new stands will be fully serviced. We are talking to NHE to see if they can provide some financing. We are trying to get away from the impacts of shacks for reasons of safety, health and congestion. At the same time, we want to try to allow the landlord to keep his income. We are promoting the building of decent rooms for people living in backyards. This will be better for them, and it will also improve the value of the property. We need more consultation around this, as the shack culture is entrenched. The way people are living at the moment, access to services is inadequate. Shacks are burning down in both Mondesa and the DRC. It is a big problem.

MH How would you suggest the impact on housing and services could be avoided?

MI Firstly, if the municipality is not informed in advance of the developments, it will be very difficult to cope with the challenges. All the developers must stay in touch with the municipality and inform it of their possible needs. We don't know what their needs are. Inward migration will be temporary – people do not leave their local places forever. What I can guarantee is that the word of possible job opportunities will spread like wildfire – in one day people will arrive very quickly. Secondly, you should look to housing in Arandis.

MH We are concerned about creating further dependency on mining in that town.

MI The approach must be two-pronged. You should try to bring in other industries, and using Arandis should go hand-in-hand with economic development.

END MEETING

## RÖSSING URANIUM

### MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Bernadine Potgieter, Environmental Health Officer and Clive Lawrence, General Manager, Health, Municipality of Swakopmund.

- MH Purpose of meeting: to introduce the Mine Expansion Project and to gain information on the Department of Health's views on possible impacts and benefits, and of ways of addressing these in the ESIA Report.
- CL With regard to most important impacts resulting from increased employment at Rössing, I can't really express an opinion on that, as that falls under the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I don't know how it will impact on their capacity. From past experience, we have not had concerns raised about bed shortages, but the shortage of ambulances is a problem and the discarding of medical waste. We are concerned about the way they discard their waste.
- MH Does your department deal with housing at all, especially if housing raises health issues?
- CL The Health Dept does not deal with housing, so I am speaking under correction. The Council envisages that we will keep DRC as an informal reception area, even though it is on the verge of developing between 200 and 500 erven in the Progressive Development Area so that people from the DRC can move into a more formalised area. A major constraint is the availability of electricity services, and the Council is currently in discussion with Erongo RED.
- MH How are these erven allocated?
- CL You need to register with Community Development Services. The Council is open to proposals from the private sector if developers are looking for premises to build on. Developers can develop their own type of housing if so desired. A new concept of distributing land for development has been introduced, whereby private developers were brought in and shown all the open spaces in town that can be developed, so for the next four to five years the provision of housing will not be a problem. Private companies will develop on behalf of the Council. That ranges from the affluent to the more informal. We have identified five areas that can be developed in this way. Some are not serviced. The PDA area is fully serviced except for electricity. Marco Swartz is the GM Corporate Services, he deals with properties and the layouts are done by the Engineers Department. From a health point of view, it is desirable that people move from the DRC moved to the PDA. Possibly the mines could help by assisting people with funding to build.
- MH The DRC – is there a waiting list?
- CL It is really a registration list.
- MH And informal settlers in the Swakop River?
- CL Yes.
- MH Inward migration – it is likely that many unemployed people will settle in the DRC? Even employed people, if they are paid a living-out allowance, could settle there and use the money for something else.
- CL Housing allowances must be managed properly. A housing subsidy is a better way to go.

MH Are clinic facilities adequate?  
CL There is only one clinic, and a major need for another, for additional staff, equipment and First Aid training. We really need that, with the number of shacks that get burnt down in the DRC and Mondesa. There is no electricity in the DRC, so they use candles. In Mondesa, they overload the power supply, which burns out. We are trying to limit shacks in back yards. These shacks are a big problem. People are paying excessive rentals for poor living conditions. This has economic impacts. The social impacts on formal residential areas, particularly Mondesa, are also high.

MH Do you have an idea what the TB and HIV prevalence statistics are?  
CL The regional office will be able to give you TB stats. For HIV/AIDs as well. The last survey of pregnant women indicated that there had been quite a decrease in the prevalence rates. This could be because of the counseling centre in Mondesa, and because there is a voluntary test centre.

MH In your experience, do you expect an increase in prevalence rates with an influx of people?  
CL There will definitely be an impact. Prevalence will definitely increase. We have sufficient resources in Swakopmund to cope with this problem. In addition, many companies have their own workplace programmes.

MH Commercial sex?  
CL Not bad. We still have two or three diehards.  
MH Alcohol abuse?  
CL That is still a big problem, particularly in the DRC. There are more than thirty illegal shebeens there. In Mondesa, there has been a public outcry against the number of shebeens operating. People are starting to query the ease with which shebeens get licensed. Police have now employed a Public Relations Officer, one for Erongo. Socio-economic issues are addressed at public meetings. We are trying to raise a sense of civic and social responsibility in shebeen owners. We had a real struggle to get them to accept that, once you sell liquor, no one under 18 is allowed on the premises, even if you sell bread as well and that is all they want to buy.

MH What, if any, impacts do you envisage for the Dept of Health?  
CL A constraint for us is the availability of staff in the cleansing section – we struggle to get people appointed due to budgetary constraints. We have established public/private partnerships so that the service can be privatized. The current cleansing systems are not working well. We need a waste plant for Swakopmund instead of a solid waste dump. This will curb pollution in the desert, and also put an end to the scavenging on the waste dumps by people from the DRC.

BP Project Shine is sponsored by a multi-partnership which includes Rössing. Workers on the project clean the road reserve by picking up bottles and glass.  
MH Do you recycle?  
BP No, the quality of the glass is too poor. Where possible, we do recycle and have about twelve recycling banks for glass and one paper bank in town. All office paper of the Municipality is also recycled and collected by a local Recycler.

MH Vandalism?  
CL Not much. From our point of view, the major impact will be on waste removal. We wanted to implement skips for the DRC, but an efficiency audit, of which the

draft is out, is emphasizing the shortcomings and constraints of the system. The recommendations in our report are not looked on favourably. Arandis also uses skips. Management of deposited waste, the storage and control at the dumping site is a real problem and the lacks of equipment to improve concurrent operations are the main constraints. Waste is a real problem. The idea is to have the service privatized, but the Council needs funding to implement the system.

BP We have a growing problem with street kids. Currently there are about 8-15 and we would like to do something about them. We are also getting a lot of AIDS orphans. We need a facility where the two categories can be combined – we are trying to work on a Centre. At the moment they stay with families and in a house of safety.

CL More and more springboks are coming onto the road, onto the Henties Bay road as well. Game could be using the new road to Langer Heinrich to cross the main road.

MH Any other relevant developments in Swakopmund?

CL An open market and multi-purpose community centre are being developed in Mondesa next to the taxi rank.

MH The sewage system – is it functioning well.

BP In the DRC they have a dry system (Jo-Jo) but this is not being used properly and the Council still has to provide a service. The impact on the current sewage system will be huge. It will not be able to cope with big influx; it can't cope in December as it is. In the Council's long-term plan a possible reed-bed system and or an additional sewage plant is envisaged is mentioned.

END MEETING

## RÖSSING URANIUM

### MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 6 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Amanda Horn, Community Relations Officer.

MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. This is a preliminary meeting to gain some insight into key health aspects. There would need to be further meetings. I have been told that the hospitals in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay have adequate bed space, but are somewhat lacking in capacity. What is your impression?

AH Yes, I would say that that is an accurate assessment.

MH Would they be able to cope with increased demand on their services? For example, if Rössing employs just 200 extra people, using a conservative multiplier of 1:5, we are looking at a possible 1000 people who may require health services.

AH That is something you will have to ask Dr Shiteta.

MH I have been told that there has been quite a significant drop in the prevalence rates in Swakopmund. What do you ascribe this to?

AH It is hard to say. It could be the result of awareness-raising and the Government's and NGO's/CBO's programmes, but it could also be because those people who were already to far advanced could not be help by programmes and have died. An important aspect for your study is that this region has been red-flagged as a high prevalence HIV/AIDS area because of the presence of the mines and the harbour. We (meaning Namibia) are actively trying to get additional Global Funding to be more proactive and also trying to ensure that government programmes are aligned. A matter for concern is that Swakopmund does not have a hospice.

MH TB is quite high in the coastal areas. Do you have any statistics?

AH No. That you will be able to get from Sister Slinger at the TB Clinic in Walvis Bay. She will also be able to give you statistics on HIV/AIDS. Through the Improving Performance together programme Rio Tinto is developing a more concerted programme. We are identifying funding for HIV/AIDS and developing a strategy for the Business Units in the southern region. Quite recently Rössing made a donation to the UNAIDS administered Small Grants Fund on HIV/AIDS which goes into rural areas supporting CBO's with funding to run HIV/AIDS programmes. This because we get labour from these areas but simply do not have the capacity to directly access these communities.

MH Is there any co-operative action between mining companies and/or other stakeholders around HIV/AIDS?

AH No, currently there is none on community relations. One area in which there is co-operation is directed by Dr Swiegers of the Chamber. All the mines are participating in the Health, Environment and Radiation Safety forum. In general cooperation on Health, Environment and Safety is quite high.

MH We will need another and more in-depth meeting.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Windhoek on 7 September 2007 between Roswitha Lowe and Tristan Cowley, Tour and Safari Association, Namibia, and Marie Hoadley.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting. Tourism and mining are major economic sectors in Erongo, and the meeting was to gain insights into tourism's perception of the mining activities and also to find ways in which the two sectors could complement each other.
- RL Rössing is not really on the tourist route, so it does not cause us concern. How can we avoid these big operations and the huge number of them? We are concerned, but the MME just gives more licenses and does not see the extent to which they are a threat to tourism and the environment. They don't consider the impacts, and these could last for a long time. The tourist sector has never got the priority it deserves. It just has to accept the consequences or implications.
- MH You should be talking to MET. That is the ministry who reviews and approves Environmental Impact Assessments before a mining licence is granted.
- RL Just about every tourist who comes from Windhoek goes to the coast at Swakopmund. The feedback from the coast is that they have had consultations with Bannerman, who told them what they wanted to do. They asked the tourism association what their concerns were, and what could be done about them. A lot of the consultation had to do with routings of trucks and heavy vehicles through the area.  
There are mines everywhere; it is alarming, but the best way of dealing with this is through consultation.
- MH Has anyone considered doing a mining tour? There are a number of very interesting sites, at Trekkopje, the Kahn River, Rössing Mountain.  
Together with CTA, that could be a good idea. But no idea should be a compromise or a trade-off for destroying the environment.
- TC In the area we use – the moon landscape and Goinakontes, there could be severe impacts from heavy vehicles. The placing of the actual mine is also important, it should be well-placed. There is no way around the drilling that is done for exploration, but once the final locations are established, it will ease up. We have other concerns as well. Desalination will cause increasing traffic on the Henties' Bay Road. Every tourist goes to the WCRA; they are very interested in the lichens. It is important to see the benefits of mining. The Road in the Namib Naukluft has been bad for a long time. MET is supposed to maintain these roads, but it is cash-strapped. The mines could take over the maintenance of the roads and signage in return for being allowed to mine in the Park. The mines could take this over.
- RL Rössing tours are not known any more. They used to be well-advertised. Who do we contact about this? We often have tourists who want to go there.
- MH Why do people come to Namibia, specifically to the area around Swakopmund?
- JT They come for the uniqueness of the Namibian environment. Five key words selected to 'brand' Namibia as a tourist destination included "rugged" and "solitude". People are happy to see the game if it is there, but don't come to

look at it specifically.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Windhoek on 7 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Helge Denker, Director, Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting.
- HD NEWS has not responded to many of the documents disseminated, but the organisation was busy restructuring and somewhat stretched for capacity. However, I have read the PID, and have made a note of some questions I would like to ask.
- MH I may not be able to answer the technical questions, but they will be answered by members of the ESIA team.
- HD Before we start, I have not seen the Rössing pit. I am concerned about the local impact of increasing the footprint? Would it be possible to visit the pit?
- MH I will find out what the procedure is and let you know.
- HD To what extent will the specialist studies cover radiation and ground water pollution – what area is covered, which coastal towns?
- MH I'll note that one for a future response.
- HD Is there data available of the levels of material dispersed by wind to the coast?
- MH All these aspects – radiation, water and air dispersion – are the subjects of specialist studies. I will get responses to your questions.
- HD The mine must use quite a lot of water for dust suppression. How much water are they using, and where is it coming from.
- MH I can't say how much they use, but Rössing has excellent programs in place to reduce their water consumption. As far as I know, the water for dust suppression comes from boreholes. The water is very saline, and not potable.
- HD Will the ESIA be looking at both direct impacts and cumulative impacts?
- MH Yes, looking at cumulative impacts is a specific part of our brief.
- HD Are we looking at the bigger picture? Are we looking at the period of benefit in relation to the period of impact?
- MH Yes. Sustainability is inherent in ESIA studies, and in terms of that concept, the benefits need to be structured so that they outlast both the impacts and the mine itself.
- HD Let's go one step bigger – the general standpoint is that uranium is mined for two purposes – for nuclear power, and for nuclear weapons. What is Rio Tinto's standpoint in this regard? And with regard to the generation of waste.

- MH Rio Tinto's statement of business practice, *The way we work*, applies to all Rio Tinto managed businesses and is further supported by specific guidance documents and codes of conduct. The Mine's uranium is sold through Rio Tinto uranium, which markets uranium for Rio Tinto from Rössing as well as from Energy Resources of Australia, Rössing's sister mine in the Northern Territories. Rössing's uranium is sold to European, United States, Japanese and Asia-Pacific nuclear power producers. Rössing sells uranium oxide only to power utilities in countries which are signatories of the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Namibia is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and additional protocols signed by Namibia. These require reporting on the production and transport of radioactive materials leaving Namibia. The Treaty facilitates cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy under IAEA safeguards, and signatories have to accept audits and on-site monitoring of their nuclear activities and materials to verify that they are not being used for nuclear weapons.
- HD The most direct impact on tourism will be the visual impacts. These will reduce the attractiveness of the area. Another thing – internationally, especially in Europe, people are wary of uranium and contamination. The cumulative impact of a number of mines will make them reluctant to visit the area. These impacts could be addressed by alternative land-use considerations. What impact does mining have on the long-term use for tourism?
- MH A visual impact assessment will be done as part of the SEIA. The ESIA team will also be talking to the tourist sector to get an insight of that sector's perception of the mining activities in the areas where they operation.
- HD Too much planning is done with hindsight. To what extent is there a strategic plan for addressing the mining of uranium in Erongo?
- MH The need for an SEA has been expressed by a number of stakeholders. It is something that should be looked at as one way of addressing cumulative impacts.
- HD Please keep us informed, even if we are not always able to respond.
- MH We will. Stakeholder engagement is also very much about information sharing and awareness raising.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Arandis on 18 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Edkhardt Muller, NIMT.

- MH Explained the purpose of the meeting: to discuss the increased requirements for skills by this initiative and the opening up of other mines. To discuss the capacity of NIMT.
- EM NIMT's capacity is over-utilized. The Institute puts 1100 people through the system over a four-year cycle. Currently there are sixty trainees in Ongopolo, and the next phase will commence in 2008 with fifty trainees. The third phase will be training in hospitality and tourism.
- MH How many of the mining companies in the area fund students at NIMT?
- EM Funding is a big problem – government financial assistance has reached its limits. Rössing is the only mine in the area funding students. We have 4 students from Fluorspar. Namdeb funds 25 and Rössing 82. We receive no direct donations.
- MH How has the curriculum at NIMT changed since the baseline in 2005?
- EM We have added hospitality, rigging and autotronics.
- MH The proposal to add a school of mining – how has that progressed?
- EM Nothing has happened, we need a donor.
- MH Small-scale miners – are they being trained?
- EM There are proposed short courses but nothing has happened.
- MH Where are students coming from, and how are they funded? Are companies trying to retain their bursars?
- EM Yes, some students have job attachments. Some companies have a contractual obligation, which means that the graduate has to apply there first if a position is available. We only have Namibian students – there is no room for anyone else.
- MH The new companies, have they spoken to you?
- EM Yes, they have, but nothing has come of it so far.
- MH How is the textile unit doing?
- EM We are having a problem with trainees. The sector is not big enough to provide job attachments. This would be a very good course for women to enable them to start a domestic industry.
- MH Do you have any strategies yet to accommodate students from Arandis, for example with bridging courses?
- EM No, and we will not be running bridging courses.
- MH Are you working with the RF on their educational programmes? Any partnership here, any alignment of objectives?
- EM We are a member of their educational forum. They are planning a large upgrading, an educational, multi-functional media centre in Arandis. They should first look at the schools.
- MH NIMT was going to provide hostel accommodation in Arandis for its students. Has this progressed?
- EM Yes, we have to talk to Rössing Uranium, and at the moment time is against it. Rössing wants to build a hostel for 300 students.
- MH What challenges do you think are posed to the region, in particular the area in

which all the uranium mines are opening?

EM We must strive to have a balanced society, not a mining mentality society. Together with housing, the whole infrastructure in Arandis has to be updated. There are no recreational facilities. We can expect an increase in social ills and crime. NIMT is developing its own health centre/clinic because of the poor services in Arandis. This has to be registered with the government. We have a sister on board and will provide health care for staff and students.

MH Do you see inward migration as a possibility?

EM Definitely, and there will be an increase in crime.

MH Briefly, what training facilities are available?

EM Apprenticeship/Vocational Training, skills upgrading, special training (practical and no theory). Recognition of Prior Learning is particularly important for skills upgrading. And we have special training, where students do only practical and no theory. The latter is only available for Kunene at the moment.

MH Could it be extended to other regions?

EM Yes, but the mining companies would need to fund the additional facilities. At the moment the mining sector in Namibia needs 500 trained artisans. Expectations of NIMT are high, but no capacity or resources are provided by those making use, or wanting to make use, of its facilities. Some of the large companies are taking our graduates to work in South Africa.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 18 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and J Awaseb, Regional Director of Education, Erongo Region.

- MH Explained the project and the purpose of the meeting. It is part of a series of meetings to establish the capacity of various social services, to gain insights into the perception of potential impacts and how to avoid or mitigate these.
- JA If you are looking for schools with space, Usakos has a lot of space. Henties' Bay, which goes up to Grade 10 also has capacity.
- MH What is the capacity in Swakopmund schools like? Are there spaces available?
- JA No, very little capacity. These schools are very full.
- MH And in Walvis Bay.
- JA The same applies. However, there is capacity in Arandis, Usakos and Henties Bay. Henties Bay only goes up to Grade 10.
- JA The situation is that, for e.g. in Swakopmund, two schools are running two sessions (in the morning and in the afternoon) for Grade 1. Then, up to Grade 7 we don't encounter any problems. Grade 8 is again overcrowded, with 40-45 learners in some classrooms. Grades 9-12 are okay, we have enough spaces in those grades. We have encountered problems in Grade 8, and have linked principals to talk about a strategic plan to cope with the big increase in demand for spaces between Grades 7 and 8. Children from outside Swakopmund stay in hostels: we have 2 secondary and one primary hostel. These are full but not overcrowded, and we want to make sure they do not become so. We get many applications from outside the area, and we have a policy of local preference, so schools will first enrol local learners, and then look at those from outside the region. In Walvis Bay there is not really a problem in the secondary schools, and Grade 8 is fine, there are some spaces available. Grade 1 is a problem. We have hired a building from the municipality to open new Grade 1 classes. We are hoping that next year we will only need one or two new classes, otherwise we will need new buildings. In Walvis Bay children from out of town stay in private homes.
- MH Is it quite easy to get staff? And are all your teachers fully qualified.
- JA Yes, although accommodation can be a problem. Arandis has housing, and some teachers commute from Swakopmund. All our teachers are fully qualified, and the Rössing Foundation is assisting with capacity building. I cannot tell you at the moment how many more we can accommodate, but we certainly cannot accommodate a large number. With central government funding we can only build two classrooms a year in Erongo, and that money is already committed to Walvis Bay for the next three years to 2010.
- MH What are school fees at the moment?
- JA There are some differences between the schools, but primary school fees range between 4 and 5 hundred dollars a year, high schools average around N\$ 700.
- MH Do the schools offer a good range of sporting activities?
- JA Yes, schools all over the region are very active in sports, rugby, soccer, tennis and athletics.
- MH Reports state that there is a problem in Arandis with illiteracy in students at the higher grades. Does this apply in Swakopmund?

JA Yes, but we are bring in the Rössing Foundation to help with this. Reading is a problem in the region.

MH What about provision for technical subjects at secondary level?

JA Only two schools in the region are offering those subjects. Maths and science remain a problem, although these subjects are offered by all schools. The Rössing Foundations is also helping out here, as well as in English, but we need them to extend the assistance to other schools. All schools offer maths and science. RF is helping with those two, as well as English, but we still need them to extend to other schools.

MH It is likely that many of the students coming in will not be fluent in English. What is the policy with regard to mother tongue education?

JA From Grades 1-3 mother tongue education is offered, but it depends on the language. At some schools the mother tongue is offered as a subject at the higher grades. At the moment we offer teaching in four mother tongues, but we would have problems with other languages, such as, for example, Oshi Herero. If we have sufficient learners, say 20, we would start a class for that language group.

MH If there is a large increased demand for school places, what would you see as a solution to the challenge?

JA It will be a huge task and, with our current capacity, we would not be able to cope. The Ministry, the regional office and the mines must sit and talk and come up with a strategy to prepare for additional learners. Perhaps funding could be provided to build additional classrooms at existing schools. We do have space in the school grounds. Secondly we have a reasonable numbers of private schools in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, both primary and secondary, and they have, at this moment, low teacher: pupil ratios. These schools can easily accommodate parents who can afford the fees.

MH If mining companies funded classrooms, would it be possible for them to have dedicated places for children of their employees.

JA That is doubtful – the most that we could probably have is a gentlemen's agreement reserving a certain portion of vacancies. The easiest solution to this would be to build a whole new school, preferably a primary school.

MH Would the Ministry have the capacity to operate such a school after the mines close?

JA Yes.

MH What pre-school facilities are there in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay?

JA At this moment pre-schooling is in the hands of Gender Affairs. This ministry will be taking over pre-schooling within five years, and is currently doing feasibility studies. Depending on the facilities some school will start incorporating preschool in 2008.

JA Another solution lies in Arandis – standards have improved with the involvement of the Rössing Foundation, so schools there could easily take in learners and provide quality education. If you compare the three towns, and accommodation, it would make sense to put up a new school in Arandis.

MH What about building a hostel in Arandis?

JA This could be considered, but the government is not keen on building hostels. They are too heavily subsidized.

MH Why are some schools so underutilized? For example, the Spitzkoppe school is reportedly good, but greatly underutilized.

JA This is because of a lack of water. The community has no water. END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 18 September 2007 between Mr F Holtzhausen, Engineering Services, Town Council of Swakopmund and Brett Lawson and Marie Hoadley.

- BL Gave a brief outline of the project, and explained the purpose of the meeting, which was requested because the consulting team needs to look at and assess regional resources.
- FH I am familiar with the project – I read the public information document, and it made the process clear.
- MH We need to find out what capacity there is for services. You may not be in a position to answer all of these, but we would like information on water, power, housing, roads, waste management and railways.
- FH Housing is a major concern. Currently, from the Council's side, there is no serviced land. The new trend is to give big chunks of land to private developers – six or seven have applied so far. They also provide services. No provision has been made by Council for the servicing of land during the current financial year and it is doubtful whether such provision will be made for the next financial year.
- MH What services are available in the PDA?
- FH There are roads, water, but no electricity. The long-term development plan for the next 20-25 years indicates where the Town Council will develop and what type of developments will be undertaken.
- MH What are the plans with regard to the railway station? There appears to be concern because of the proximity of the railway line to residential areas.
- FH We want to relocate the railway station and have talked to TransNamib with encouraging results. They are positive about the idea. The railway station will probably be relocated behind the airport, and the salt mine siding will also be moved.
- MH That is close to DRC?
- FH Yes. We will be monitoring the situation and, if necessary, the appropriate safety measures will be taken.
- MH What is the situation with regard to water? Does Swakopmund have enough for current needs?
- FH At the moment it is doubtful. Firstly, there are problems with the reliability of the Omdel line, and secondly the availability of water. The Central Coastal Area's water allocation is probably going to be reduced by 4-5 million cubes annually. Namwater has not completed the remodelling of the Omdel aquifer as requested by Water Affairs yet. The principle of an own desalination plant is a fixed point on the agenda of the CBWUF.
- MH What is the position with the roads?
- FH Roads are no problem.
- MH Who should I contact to get sound information on the carrying capacity of the road network?
- FH Uli Trumperer of the Roads Authority will be able to give you all the information you need.

MH What is the situation with regard to the electricity supply?

MH We have no problem with local (Swakopmund) capacity in terms of infrastructure, as this was part of our master development plan. In the PDA the aim was for low-cost housing so that people can upgrade over time. Power is available there, but not infrastructure. In all likelihood the Council will provide the funding for the infrastructure to the individual sites.

MH I believe there have been problems with solid waste disposal.

FH With regard to solid waste, we have awarded a contract for a new state-of-the-art waste management area. This will be where the current waste dump is, near the DRC. That waste dump is a mess. We have budgeted for the services to that site. You should look at waste removal – ask Clive Lawrence (GM: Health Services) about that.

MH If you had a thousand new households in the town, would the services be able to cope?

FH Yes

BL Speaking as a private individual, what are your insights and comments on the impact that all the mines would have on tourism?

FH I don't think it will really have any impact.

BL Again, as an individual, do you have any particular issues or concerns about Rössing?

FH No problems. It's a good company with a responsible approach to the above issues.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Swakopmund on 19 September 2007 between Dr Wotan Swiegers, Chamber of Mines of Namibia and Marie Hoadley and Brett Lawson.

BL Introduced the purpose of the meeting: to talk briefly about the Rössing Mine Expansion Project, the cumulative impacts of all the uranium mining and to familiarize the ESIA team with what the Chamber was doing.

WS We knew that something had to be done to manage this influx of activities. We have formed a committee for Health, Environment, Radiation and Safety (HERS) The mining companies are represented by senior people, and we want to keep this a mining initiative. We have a constitution. We are not talking commercial ventures; we will focus on health, environment and radiation. We are developing a code of practice for radiation, looking at legislation globally. We have set a deadline and by the end of this year we want buy-in from all participants. By the middle of next year it must go out for review. In this way we hope to plug the gaps in legislation. We are working on a smart card and developing a central database for radiation exposure. Our second focus area is mining in natural parks – in sensitive and difficult areas. We will look at socio-economic issues. We are dealing with DRFN and have asked them to come up with a generic universally applicable impact assessment. We want a dynamic document. Another thrust is awareness, communication and education. We want to use the radio (West Coast Radio) to give a progress report once a month and also want to use the print media. We are looking at pamphlets on radiation and a DVD. If we are going to go nuclear, we need scientists, so we are working with the Polytechnic to design a new course, a three-year diploma course, with a first-year competency certificate. We need to doctors and specialists, and are trying to bring back doctors that have been here before. We need to bring about some commonality of understanding around the uranium industry, a sectoral approach in terms of high level aspects, looking at regional resources. There are frustrations at project level; EIAs are not easily finding the bigger picture. We are looking at the initiation of a move towards that kind of strategic level assessment, something government should initiate. The Chamber is assuming the role of setting standards. We are finalizing a code of conduct and are thinking along the lines that people who accept the code get a certificate from the Chamber that they are good enough. Rio Tinto has just joined the FTSE For Good. We subscribe to those principles, we want to take the FTSE system and amalgamate them with ICMM and others, and come up with something like Australia's Enduring Values.

MH Would the Chamber support an initiative for a separate consultative forum to address the socio-economic impacts of uranium mining – a component that is much neglected, and yet this is where the most severe impacts will be felt. It is usually dealt with as a sub-sector of something else, usually the environment.

WS The Chamber would be very supportive of such a move.

MH We are looking for advice on a structure for such an organization, as well as a driver.

WS We could form a sub-committee for this purpose. The Chamber will be pleased

to be the home, but funding will have to be found for the activities of the group. What specifically would you be looking at such a sub-committee to achieve?

MH There are a number of broad objectives which need to be achieved. There is a need to gain a common understanding of the socio-economic environment and development priorities in the region. If a strategic assessment is undertaken, a sub-committee must ensure that socio-economic issues are included and that both short and long-term implications are considered. As the socio-economic component of mining is a non-competitive aspect, mining companies could align their social and community development plans and co-operate in the implementation of these. This will help to ensure that potential benefits are maximised at a local level in the long term. We also need to ensure that mine development plans are aligned with local, regional and national development plans.

MH Could you give us some background to the Centre for Environmental Health that is being talked about?

WS This might take the form of a Namibian Environmental Health Institute, optimally located at the centre of the nuclear industry in Namibia – Swakopmund. Its functions and role will have to be negotiated but would include liaison and development of links with identified international institutions (such as the IAEA, WNA and the Royal Colleges) and the oversight of satellite operations (including Arandis), quality assurance and monitoring of relevance to changing demands in the wider environment. At present Chamber of Mines of Namibia is engaged in negotiations with a number of institutions (including the Government of Namibia) to establish such an Institute for Environmental Health in Swakopmund.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a focus group meeting held in Walvis Bay on 20 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and Mr AP Els, (Chief Health Services, Walvis Bay Municipality), Sr S Atiogbe (Matron), Sr AC Slinger (Registered Nurse), Dr N Ruswa and Dr M Gweja.

- MH Explained the background to the meeting and the purpose of the visit – to collect baseline data and gain information about potential impacts and mitigation measures with regard to the Walvis Bay health services.
- MH What is your bed capacity and occupancy rate?
- SA 120 beds. Under normal circumstances the occupancy rate is about 50%. We also have five primary health care clinics.
- MH Occupancy of beds in the hospital?
- SA About 50%.
- MH What is your staff complement like?
- SA We have eight registered nurses. We will let you know what the final figure is.
- MH What is the prevalence figure for HIV/AIDS in Walvis Bay?
- SA 21.4%, a bit higher than the national figure of 19.9%.
- MH Your Aids programmes, are they very active?
- AS At the current moment, we have a multi-purpose centre in town, the municipality runs internal, management and external programmes. The municipality has linked its programmes with those of the multi-purpose centre. It is also dealing with companies in Walvis Bay who have their own programmes. There are very good programmes running in Walvis Bay. The TB clinic also tests for HIV.
- MH What percentage of deaths is AIDS-related?
- SA For the period July 2006-June 2007, in excess of 50%.
- MH Is commercial sex a serious problem? And do the sex workers participate in the HIV/AIDS programmes?
- AE Being a harbour town, the commercial sex problem is serious. Sex workers do participate in the programmes, but sometimes circumstances put them in a position where they do not practice safe sex.
- MH What is the current rate of TB infection?
- Currently about 1%. In the 2006-7 period, there were 483 new patients.
- MH Walvis Bay is globally significant with regard to TB. What, in your experience are the causative factors?
- AE Poverty, poor living conditions. There are environmental factors as well – in this climate, which is cold and windy, you usually find windows closed. This is not good for TB. Walvis Bay has the highest concentration of multi-drug resistant TB cases globally. At the moment we have 22 in-patients. We have a MDR block where we could treat 30 patients, but we don't have the staff.
- MH Which sector of the population makes use of your services?
- The hospital deals largely with the indigent and very poor.
- MH What are your emergency services like?
- We have a casualty facility and two ambulances. Staff will always be a problem. We do need some equipment in casualty.
- MH What is the major reason for which in-patients are admitted?

SA HIV and TB.

MH Is alcohol abuse a problem?

MH Yes, a significant one. We deal with the results, such as stab wounds, regularly.

MH Are there other significant health service/social issues that you would like to discuss?

SA We have to deal with attempted suicides at the rate of at least one every two days.

MH Have you identified any causes for this?

SA Substance abuse and poverty.

AE We have listed ten top concerns with regard to health problems. HIV/AIDs and STDs, TB, employment (linked to poverty and malnutrition) lack of housing and overcrowding, substance abuse, lack of proper food hygiene in the informal trade, lack of community development programmes, environmental pollution (fishing factories with noise, odour), lack of implementation of occupational health practices (the execution and monitoring of the Labour Act is not functioning properly).

MH Any health concerns arising from activities at the harbour?

AE We have a hazardous waste disposal facility, but we are never sure what foreign ships are dumping there. When there is abrasive blasting being done on ships, we also do not know what is in the paint that is being dispersed into the air.

MH Are orphans, AIDS orphans and street children a cause for concern?

SA The multi-purpose centre deals with this issue. We also use the Swakopmund facility. We do not have a problem with street children. There is a shelter for children in Walvis Bay – the House of Hope.

MH What is the under-five mortality rate like?

SA The latest statistics show that there were 22 deaths out of 6000 under-five's.

MH If you were faced with an influx of, say, 3000 people, would your facilities cope?

SA Yes. If it went up to 5000 we would start experiencing problems.

MH Any general comments before we close the meeting?

AE The shacks are the biggest source of TB, and this will continue. HIV/AIDS is a problem. Many men looking for work in the fishing industry come from the North. They either are infected already, or they become infected by the local sex workers.

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a focus group meeting held in Walvis Bay on 20 September 2007 between FK Shilongo, Regional Commander, Erongo Region, Ministry of Safety and Security, Chief Inspector GU Mavengowo, Border and Coastal Guard Unit Commander and Inspector O Kashuupulwa, Station Commander, Swakopmund and Marie Hoadley.

MH Introduced the project. The purpose of the meeting: to gather baseline information on the current situation with regard to safety and security, and the capacity in Nampol regionally, to gain insights into particular concerns around the Mine Expansion Project and to discuss ways of meeting the challenges.

MH I can see that you are extremely pressed for time, so I am going to try to keep the questions straightforward, but I would appreciate any additional comments or discussion. Where does Erongo Region stand with regard to crime as opposed to national statistics?

FS Currently we are experiencing a huge influx of people looking for jobs. From the statistics at hand, the most frequently occurring crimes are housebreaking, armed robberies, other robberies and theft, and stock theft, including poaching. We are experiencing a decrease in housebreakings, quite a steep decline, especially from July to September. In June, for example, for the whole region we had 106 cases of housebreaking. This was down to 85 in August.

MH Do you know the reason for the decline?

FS In the past we have had difficulties in maintaining police cars. That problem has now been addressed, and we have been able to resume regular patrols. Our visibility is now much higher, and that helps to prevent crime. Our arresting rate is very high – we arrest, charge and send them off for justice to take its course. For the same reason armed robberies declined from 8 in June to 5 in August. There was an increase in theft and other robberies from 17 – 27 over the same period because we concentrated too much on night-time crime and neglected what was going on during the day. Stock theft showed no change, 10-10.

MH Why did those figures remain constant?

FS Communal areas and conservancies are too wide for police visibility and patrol, and we need an agreement between police and communities to control this. Communities are very enthusiastic about this. They are also worried about influx.

MH What particular aspects were they worried about? For example, were they concerned about job opportunities being taken by people from outside?

FS They were concerned about crime. They did not mention anything else to me.

MH Is it your impression that a lot of the poaching that goes on is unnoticed and unreported?

FS Yes, I would say that is the case.

FS An increase in crime is our main worry with inward migration. Even if the public and the mining companies gave millions to train officers, crime would go up because of pressure of poverty. People need to live, and if they have no jobs so they turn to crime.

MH How do crime statistics in Erongo compare to other regions?

FS We compare favourable to regions like Khomas, Oshana, Karas, but you must remember that those are industrialised areas. In Erongo residents still feel free to move around, they go to other places, and the pressure on the police officers is to protect property. Here we do not have the civil help that other areas get such as neighbourhood watch and private security firms.

MH What is the crime rate like in Swakopmund?

FS Swakopmund is the centre of everything, so it is the centre of crime. Rössing, for example, and other mines that are coming here, to prosper, they need to assist the local police – if they want their people to live well, they need to help us, to ask what we need to bring the crime rate down. For example, we can't bring in more policemen because we don't have accommodation and we don't have enough holding cells in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay.

MH We have discussed poverty as a causative factor of crime. What other causes are at work here?

FS Ignorance – some people are ignorant of the laws of the country. People are also acting as fences for stolen goods, information does not get disseminated, that type of thing. We are also experience crime among the wealthier classes. People are bringing in hard drugs, such as cocaine, and there are quite a number of users.

MH Are hard drugs not coming via the boats?

No, we don't think so.

MH Have you come across any corruption?

I have not had complaints about corruption in the police force from the public, and have not opened a case myself.

MH How does alcohol abuse contribute to crime?

Alcohol abuse contributes mainly to domestic crime. We have never arrested anyone involved in armed robbery or stock theft or those crimes who was drunk.

MH Poverty and poor living conditions frequently contribute to domestic violence. Do you think that it is under-reported?

FS Communities around Swakopmund and Walvis Bay – The white community in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay keeps very quiet about domestic violence, possibly because of the stigma attached to it. We hear from colleagues, or from community talk, that it is happening. It is better reported from the informal settlers. There is also the aspect that some women, particularly those who have good jobs, are proud of their status and see this as undermining it.

MH How much sexual abuse is taking place? For instance, against minors.

FS Rape is a matter of concern, and happens quite frequently, and abuse of under-age children does occur. We also experience cases of older boys abusing minors, and physical assault between partners.

MH Has there been any conflict based on ethnic differences?

FS No.

MH What is the current capacity of NAMPOL in the region with regard to manpower, vehicles, equipment?

FS I cannot give you the figures of manpower, but we do have the capacity to stop crime. We certainly need more cars. For example, the Coast Guard Unit, which is responsible for the entire coastline, including the Skeleton Coast, has five cars for the whole area. If one of those cars has to come in for maintenance, there is no backup vehicle.

MH What are your main problems with regard to traffic control?  
FS Speeding is a concern. The MVA is helping out a lot, and companies like Shell and Rössing are helping with roadblocks and campaigns to prevent road deaths. We have enough traffic officers, but we don't have enough cameras.

MH How many cases are reported to the police each month?  
FS For many years this figure was low because influx was low. Last year the monthly reported cases averaged 640, this year the figure to date is about 645. There has been a drop in the reported cases and increase in prevention and detection.

MH That is a very slight increase. Is this the result of higher visibility – an increase in prevention and detection?  
FS Yes. To conclude, if the mining get involved in fighting crime together with the police we can go very far.

MH The statistics that you said you can let me have during the first week in October, can those be sent electronically?  
FS We don't have email. This makes our life very difficult. You need to phone me and then we can make arrangements. I also have a last appeal – the waiting area in the charge office is very unwelcoming, the sofas are broken and the chairs are too high for elderly people. We really need something to make the area more comfortable for those who are waiting to be attended to. Maybe Rössing can help with this?

END MEETING

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a meeting held in Walvis Bay on 20 September 2007 between Marie Hoadley and K Asino, Town Planner, R Archer, Inspector Hazardous Waste, Walvis Bay Town Council. The meeting was preceded by a courtesy call on Clr DJK Klazen, Mayor of Walvis Bay. The Mayor was gratified at the visit, and appreciated the engagement with Rössing.

MH Introduced the MEP and the purpose of the visit: to gather baseline information on Walvis Bay and get perceptions of possible impacts of increased mining.

MH What is the current population of Walvis Bay and the unemployment rate?

WBTC The population is about 61000 and unemployment is in the region of 25-30%.

MH The economy of Walvis Bay is largely built on the fishing industry. What other economic activities contribute significantly to the economy of the town?

WBTC Yes, the fishing industry is the most important, but there are also the salt works, which are much bigger than people think. They provide significant input into the economy. Currently the fishing industry is in a bit of a downturn. The concessions have impacted negatively, the pilchards were arrived late and the hake has moved to the Cape. It is not a crisis, but it is not good. Tourism is a sector which is picking up well. We have a number of bed and breakfasts, also at Langstrand, and a great deal for eco-tourism. We have twelve boats taking people out on sea trips every day. And the port is a big part of our economy.

MH Housing – what do you have available, either accommodation or serviced erven?

WBTC There is no accommodation available, the local authority is not really a provider of housing and we have a shortage of housing and land. Hopefully by July next year about 200 erven will be released. An area of 100+ stands is being developed by a private developer near the prison. There is also the old army camp, about 300 stands should become available within 2-3 years.

MH Can you define the socio-economic status of the suburbs for me?

Kuisebmond low income, Narraville low/medium and Meersig upper.

MH What are your short/medium term plans for developing land?

WBTC For the next five years we will be focussing on residential land and business erven. We have a shortage of business erven in the suburbs. We are also looking at an area of heavy industry behind Dune 7. Some interest has been expressed, but nothing has come of it. Aquaculture is another land use we will be looking at.

MH What is the town's situation with regard to water? Availability and reticulation?

WBTC You should speak to Andre Brummer. The reticulation system is fine. Purified effluent to a quality set by Namwater is used for irrigation of public places such as parks and sports fields, and we pump the excess to the wetland to the east, which is developing into a birding site. We are planning a birding trail there.

MH Electricity?

WBTC You need to speak to Gert Killan. Yesterday we discussed the erection of a coal-fired power station because the supply from South Africa is not dependable. There is also a Belgian company looking at wind turbines.

MH Waste disposal?

WBTC Currently we have five compactors. Each household's waste is removed once a week. We also remove industrial waste. We have a landfill site with a lifespan

of about 36 years. We also dump in the desert, where the sand quickly covers the material. We have recyclers for plastic, paper and metals. We don't recycle much glass – it is not economic.

MH How do you deal with hazardous waste?

WBTC We have an incinerator at the landfill site for the whole region. The hazardous waste site complies with SABS and international standards. From time to time we get waste from industries in town. The problem is that we have no control inside the harbour. There is a big shipyard with a synchro lift. Last year all the ground around it was brought to the landfill site. If hazardous waste from foreign ships is mixed with general waste, we have no way of telling. With the increase in industries in Walvis Bay, the government will start tightening up on legislation, which is not monitored strictly enough at the moment.

MH Sewage systems – are these adequate and in good condition?

WBTC We had 176 kilometres of reticulation in 2005. The system works well, but we have a problem with salt.

MH I have heard reports of plans for a new sewage system?

WBTC We have not heard of these, not for Walvis Bay. Possibly they were talking about Langstrand/Dolphin Park.

MH Informal settlements – how large is your informal settlement, how is it managed, and what are your particular concerns?

WBTC We do not have designated areas for informal settlements. Inward migration of job seekers is a problem. According to a survey in 2004/5 there were about three thousand backyard shacks, and that number has increased tremendously. We are addressing the problem of housing.

MH How are you approaching the problem of backyard shacks?

WBTC It is very difficult, because the issue is sensitive and has become politicised. Some people let out multiple shacks, and this becomes their livelihood. We rather try to address the problem of housing. At the Thuthuleni settlement we divide one site into four squares, lay a concrete foundation and provide basic services. Yes, like the "site and service" stands of South Africa. The Council is also working with groups of people, associations like "Build Together" where the land is not sold to an individual but to an association, and there is a communal responsibility for repayment.

MH Roads?

WBTC The coast road is in a good state, but very busy, especially during holidays and commuter times. The road behind Dune 7 has been improved, and Langer Heinrich works on keeping this in good condition. Increased traffic will not present a problem. We are looking at making the coastal road safer with overtake sections, so that you don't get stuck behind a truck all the way from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund.

MH To what extent do the mines use Walvis Bay for accommodation?

WBTC Rössing has some workers living here, and Langer Heinrich, but not many. They mainly live in Swakopmund. We have people coming in on a seasonal basis for the fishing industry. They stay mostly in the hostel in Kuisebmond.

MH Before we close the meeting, do you have any insights about the impacts that the MEP could have?

WBTC The moment the mine starts to recruit, there will be a major impact, especially with regard to inward migration. Why doesn't the mine look at Arandis for

accommodation? It seems to be the logical place.

WBTC Arandis is really seen as a ghost town with nothing much more than a few shebeens.

END MEETING

BASELINE QUESTIONNAIRE  
COTTAGE MEDI-CLINIC, SWAKOPMUND

Questionnaire submitted to and completed by P Sander, Hospital Manager, Cottage Medi-Clinic.

1.	What is the current bed capacity of the facility?	Operational Beds = 55 Available Beds = 72 Current Capacity = 82
2.	What other facilities are available – e.g. operating theatres, casualty, out-patients, etc.	2 Operating Theatres, 24 hour Casualty Unit, High Care Unit, Neonatal ICU, Day Ward, Surgical, Medical and Paediatric Wards
3.	Do you have an ambulance?	No. We make use of E-Med or iSOS.
4.	What is the professional staff complement?	Nursing and Pharmacy = 45 Total Staff = 70
5.	Are all professional positions filled?	98%.
6.	How many patients do you see (average daily, weekly or monthly, whichever is easier for you to use)?	Inpatients = 270 per month (Theatre cases = 172 Medical cases = 98) Outpatients = 180 per month
7.	What are the main causes of admission?	Theatre cases, mainly day ward.
8.	What % (approximate) of your patients are from mining companies?	
9.	What expansion plans are in place?	A general upgrade of the hospital and the establishment of a medical village.
10.	Over what time period will this expansion take place?	1-3 years.
11.	How many new patients could you handle? a) With current facilities? b) With expanded facilities?	300. 300.

E-mail submission from P Sander, ([peter.sander@mediclinic.co.za](mailto:peter.sander@mediclinic.co.za)) dated 2 October 2007.

We are currently trying to assess the impact that the uranium mining boom may have on the region and specifically on Swakopmund as it will ultimately affect our hospital as well. Up until the end of 2006 we have been running on an average hospital occupancy of approx 30% which is a relatively low figure. Although this figure remained relatively constant throughout a 3 year period, there seems to be an improvement in the first half of this year. This may be indicative of a growing workforce in our area as no new services (specialities) have been established. As indicated we have a total capacity of 82 beds but are only operating 55 beds. With an approximate bed occupancy of a little more than 30% (based on 55 operational beds) we

therefore have sufficient capacity to be able to accommodate many more patients. Similarly our two theatres are running at an 8 % utilization time. The norm for a "busy" hospital is 20%. From this it should be clear that the hospital has the capacity for substantial growth without having to create new beds and theatres.

At this very moment I am in the process of finalizing a project motivation for a general upgrade of the hospital. The rationale for this is to stimulate growth in the business by attracting additional new medical specialists to Swakopmund and to upgrade the hospital to conform with Medi-Clinic standards. In our world we are totally dependant on doctors who ultimately make the decision on when a patient will be admitted to a hospital. This will include additional consulting rooms, general upgrades of our pharmacy, casualty department, theatres and ICU, and a general facelift of the patient rooms and other facilities. Current assessments indicate a capital outlay of approx. N\$ 15 million but I believe this may still be a bit conservative. This does not include additional beds or theatres. The hospital has recently purchased an additional 17 000 m<sup>2</sup> of undeveloped property which will be consolidated to the hospital erf and will probably be utilized for the development of a "Medical Village". In addition we have also secured the purchase of the "parking area" in front of the hospital which can be utilized to expand the facilities (beds and theatres) should this become necessary.

A bit of a concern to me is that I cannot really establish how many people will be employed eventually. We believe that Rossing mine will eventually employ more than 2000 people with the establishment of the new pit. Langerheinrich has not had a huge impact yet and we have no real idea how many workers will be involved in Trekkopje (Uramin), Valencia (Forsys) and Bannerman.

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Telephonic interview with Florida Cloete, CEO Arandis Town Council, 3 October 2007. The faxed questions were completed in the telephonic interview. Purpose: Update of baseline information.

The following are mostly updates on the baseline study. Are the statements correct and/or could you fill them in please?

Q Due to the reluctance of community to pay for services, Arandis was unable to meet its commitments to Namwater. Accordingly, Namwater took over management of the water supply to Arandis in?

R This is correct. The date is June 2007 and it is a loss of potential revenue to the Arandis Town Council.

Q Has the local economic development plan been developed? Is any documentation available on it, and on the town-planning exercise?

R Town planners are currently busy developing the town plan, which will be linked to the Local Economic Development Strategy. They are concentrating on making the town visible, and on overall development. It is too early to talk about development plans.

Q The Town Council of Arandis is currently lacking in skills, capacity and resources? Its service recovery does not cover the costs of maintenance and there is no funding for capital expenditure?

R The first part is still correct. However, this year the MLRGH will help with funding in the sum of N\$ 1.6 million to replace the water reticulation system and the Regional Council will contribute N\$1.5 million for an SME park.

Q The TCA also struggles to maintain existing infrastructure, such as the central business division, parks and vacant houses?

R Correct.

Q The TCA has no waste management equipment, and Rössing Uranium supplies such equipment on an ad hoc basis?

R Yes.

Q What is the current water loss from the water reticulation system?

R 52%.

Q The residents in Arandis have experienced serious adjustment difficulties with regard to rental costs? They used to pay a monthly rental of N\$ 5.00, but since the advent of the TCA these costs have increased to approximately N\$ 300/month? 1.2 million debt at end of September 2007?

R Rental is now N\$ 400 per month, and the community's debt at the moment is N\$ 1.2 million.

Q Also please review the following paragraph - Development is also constrained by a lack of co-operation and trust between the town management and the Town Councillors?

R Fine.

Q Do you have a Local Economic Development Officer?

R No, but we are contracting a liaison officer for the Sustainable Development Project.

RÖSSING URANIUM  
MINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Minutes of a focus group meeting held in Swakopmund 19 September 2007 between Dr Tshiteta (Chief Medical Officer and Acting Regional Director, Health, Erongo), Sr Rosie Palmer, Dr Wotan Swiegers (Chamber of Mines of Namibia) and Marie Hoadley.

MH Introduced the project. Explained the reasons for the meeting: to establish the current capacity of health services in Erongo, and to get perceptions of potential impacts and ways to deal with them.

Workers will be cared for, as they will be on medical aid. We need to look at the capacity to deal with a possible influx of unemployed people looking for work. These are taken care of by the government services.

We have already noticed an increase in people coming in. In Walvis Bay there are about one hundred new people coming in every month. Over a three-year period, the number of in-patients regionally has increased from 6 to 8 thousand per year. They are largely living in informal settlements and in backyard shacks. The health services are taking strain, and the OPD is overcrowded. In addition, the army is going to station 3000 men in Karibib, and the town has no hospital.

MH What is your current capacity – beds, facilities and staff?

State facilities are one hospital, a clinic at Tamariska and a feasibility study being done on another between Mondesa and DRC. We have 100 beds with an occupancy rate of about 60%. Staff, we have 69% of the full complement and 72% of the full complement of registered nurses.

MH What is the current rate of TB infections?

For the first time, we have seen a stabilization of the Notification Rate this year. The notification rate in Erongo is around 800-1000 per 100 000, one of the highest rates in the world. Most of those infected are from informal settlements and Mondesa.

MH Causative factors?

Ignorance, Poverty, poor living conditions.

MH I have heard that the prevalence rate in Swakopmund has dropped.

We are somewhat uncertain of the conclusions we reached. We do a sentinel survey every two years. In 2002-2004 there was an increase in prevalence at the coast and a decrease in the North. The majority of people who test positive are from the north. In 2006 there was a slight decrease at the coast, but not much change in the north.

MH Swakopmund seems to have commercial sex well under control, and that not many sex workers operate in the town. Is that correct?

No, it is significant, but it is not stigmatized.

MH Do the sex workers participate in the HIV programmes?

We have difficulty getting them on board. We usually see them at the end of the road, when the disease is far advanced.

MH In your experience, what kinds of impacts would you expect if there was a large inward migration into Swakopmund?

The prevalence rates would go up, and there would be an assortment of social ills associated with unemployment, poverty and poor living conditions.

MH Can you give some examples of the social ills?

Crime, alcohol abuse. When people can't find jobs, they turn to crime to get money. Much of the crime we can expect will be alcohol related. Alcohol abuse is a problem, particularly at the end of the month.

MH I believe the number of street children is increasing. For these, and orphans, what strategies do you have in place. Orphans – house of safety run – emergent need that can be addressed need for a hostel.

We have a house of safety for orphans, but we really need a hostel for them – this is where funding from private sector would really help.

MH What sector of the population makes the most use of state health services?

The informal settlers and the unemployed are our clients.

MH What emergency services do you have?

Emergency services are a problem, particularly with regard to staff. We have trained staff, but not enough, they are thinly spread. We also have problems with ambulance services. However, there are initiatives which are very positive for an improvement in this situation and we are optimistic that the situation will improve.

MH If there was a major influx of people into Swakopmund, say about 5 000, would the services you offer be able to cope?

Yes, they would.

END MEETING