



Ministry of Mines & Energy
"promoting Namibia's mineral, geological and energy resources"

HANDOVER REMARKS

BY THE

HON. KORNELIA K. SHILUNGA

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF OLUKUPA CLINIC

4TH JULY 2018

- **Honourable Henock Kankoshi, the Governor of the Oshikoto Region**
- **Honourable Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Health & Social Services**
- **Honourable Reinhold Shiningabwa, Councillors of Nehale Lya Mpingana Constituency**
- **Mr. Philipus Gotlieb, the Headman of Olukupa village**
- **Mr. J.P Smit, Director and Representative of Imery Gecko Okandjande Mining**
- **Mr. Alfred Shitenda, Principal of Olukupa Combined School**
- **The SMU Board of Directors**
- **Members of the media present**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my distinguished honour to be here today, at the official hand over of a clinic which was built by **Imery Gecko Okandjande Mining (Pty) Ltd.**

Allow me to give you a reflection of how this journey started. In 2016, we gathered at this very place with some of the mining companies to witness the handing over of a school hostel facility of the Olukupa Combined School. At that time, the hostel facility was constructed by a Section

21 Company known as the Small Miners of Uis (SMU), which operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

This means that the SMU, is a not for profit company. Also at the same event in 2016, during the handover of the hostel facility. Dundee Precious Metal pledge to donation of N\$ 30,000.00. In the same light, Ohorongo Cement pledged a donation of about 200 bags of cement and B2gold pledge to donate N\$ 30,000 in addition to their donation, B2Gold further pledged to take a number of learners on an excursion trip to the mine. At that time a local company called Nam-Uis also donated an N\$5000.00.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just as I thought the event had come to an end, a very charismatic man, warm-hearted and kind in nature stood up and said; *"I also want to pledge"*. I looked at him and he was barefoot, on this very ground.

He pledge to construct a clinic for the Olukupa community. This man, who showed a readiness to give more than what was expected is none other than Mr. J. P.

Smit from Imery Gecko Okandjande Mining. And he is here today with us to handover this good yield.

I am informed that all the pledges and donations were received by the Olukupa Combined School as promised. It is against this background that today, we are here to witness the handover of the clinic made possible by **Gecko Mining** as part of their corporate social responsibility, with the aim to assist government in its quest of eradicating poverty.

The clinic consists of two consulting rooms, two screening rooms, a waiting area, and a cashier office as well as an accommodation section for the nurse. In addition Gecko installed a solar water pump, an extra water tank and a sewage pond for the school.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has taken the responsibility to engage and mobilise mining companies to channel their (CSR) corporate social responsibility programmes to far and outlying areas where there are no mining activities. Thus, it is the Ministry's desire to see CSR programmes for mines, being extended to non-mining localities. Such

initiatives will without doubt contribute to the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

At this juncture, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the various mines:

1. Imery Gecko Okandjande Mining,
2. Dundee Precious Metal,
3. Ohorongo Cement
4. B2gold Mine and
5. Nam-Uis

For responding positively to Government`s call by making such valuable contributions in various form to the community of Olukupa.

Finally, to the mines, your contributions will always be remembered not only by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, but also by the community of Olukupa and the Namibian Nation at large.

This accomplishment is greatly valued and we encourage you to continue doing so in future. In the same light, I would like to encourage other mining companies and the business community to follow this good example.

I am confident that the clinic will be utilized by all community members and it is my wish that no community member should feel left out.

To the Community, the reality is, that Okongo hospital is about ±25km away, it is my wish that you – the- community will take good care of this very expensive and beautiful facility. I further urge the community members to take full responsibility for the clinic upkeep, and avoid the vandalising of the property by all means.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Mines and Energy, together with its stakeholder represented by Mr. J. P. Smit from Imery Gecko Okandjande Mining hereby officially hand over the Olukupa Community Clinic to the Ministry of Health and Social Services and to the people of Nehale Iya Mpingana Constituency.

I thank you