



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW LICENCING PROCEDURE FOR MINERAL RIGHTS AND PETROLEUM UPSTREAM LICENCES

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is introducing a new approach to the application process for the different licenses within its mandate in pursuit of a more efficient and effective service delivery to the public.

The Ministry throughout the years, has been receiving and accepting applications for mineral rights and upstream petroleum licenses under the open licensing system. This method has however proven to be ineffective, especially with the recent demand of critical minerals and the discovery of oil and gas, which has led to an increased number of new applications received. The rate of accepting applications has therefore surpassed the rate of reviewing and awarding licenses, resulting in a massive backlog.

This initiative will allow applicants only to apply for licenses at a certain period and give the Ministry ample time to review the applications.

The public should therefore note that this is only applicable to new licenses and not application for renewals; and does not take away the legal processes and procedures of processing licenses as provided by the law.

The following licenses will now be processed as per this method:

1. Exclusive Prospecting Licence (**EPL**)
2. Reconnaissance Licence (**RL**)
3. Mining Licence (**ML**)
4. Mining Claim (**MC**)
5. Petroleum Reconnaissance Licence (**PRL**)
6. Petroleum Exploration Licence (**PEL**)
7. Petroleum Production Licence (**PPL**).

The current open application system will be suspended by 31 December 2023. The new opening for application under the new approach will only commence on 01 April 2024.

The detailed dates for opening and closing periods is depicted below.

New Licencing Window Period

Closure Period for New Applications	Open Application Period for New Applications	Closure Period for New Applications	Open Application Period for New Applications	Closure Period for New Applications
01 January - 31 March	01 April - 31 May	01 June - 31 August	01 September - 31 October	01 November - 31 December

Kindly note that licenses that are currently under moratorium remain so, until such a time the moratorium is lifted.

The Ministry views the mining and upstream petroleum as important sectors of the Namibian economy and is therefore continuously looking at how to improve the management of these two sectors.

All information pertaining to licenses applications, standard operating procedures, are accessible on the website at www.mme.gov.na.

The Ministry will also be publishing this information in the mainstream media and social media for easier access to the public.

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