

App 31 Ahrens

From: Silke Ahrens [mailto:silke_ahrens@hotmail.com]

Sent: 10 October 2011 07:11 PM

To: sigi@envirod.com

Subject: Concern for Namibian Marine Phosphate

Dear Mrs Horsthemke,

The website of envirod concentrates enormously on the beauty of the environment, up to the bible verse recited. In this light, let us please refer to your offer of public opinion towards the plans of Namibia Marine Phosphate.

I am simply worried, that huge non-Namibian companies (in this case 85% Australian owned) do not have the concern for our national natural heritage they should have.

Namibia is a huge country with a tiny population, 52% without work, a high rate of illiteracy. And many who can read and fully know, what an impact the Phosphate Mining would have, simply do not have access to Internet, Taxi fares to public hearings etc. Furthermore not everyone is able to speak/read English. It is under this light, that I feel we are currently on the verge of complete exploitation by businesses who seek to make profit and take the money elsewhere, leaving Namibians to suffer the results of playing with the natural resources. Especially at our coast.

This is not an elite-viewpoint, but simply an awareness of the vulnerability of our nation and the fear, that the population and our livelihood (tourism, nature and fish resources) are endangered.

The two websites below include everything there is to ask, from waste, dredging and its after effects, spillage, high reactivity, possible radioactivity, health risk for the workers, health risk for the population, long-term risk, water acidity, phosphor-gypsum deposits.

Obviously the mining licenses have been granted, but what information do we Namibians really have, of how you are going to treat this trust? Questions remain to be answered:

- Insurances and liabilities after your departure (after 300 years of mining...?!)
- Toxis spills
- Waste procedures
- Storage and transportation
- Expertise in handling this explosive mineral. (highly paid experts from outside the country?) Where is the salary taxed?
- Independent monitoring by whom for how long? Are the ministries equipped to really do this? Dr. Peter Tarr has replied in a public audience Scoping evening of Gecko, to the question of which experts are controlling on behalf of the government, that this is something the public needs to hold the government accountable for. Not very reassuring. Regardless of the mining/industrial project we are discussing.
- Growth of algae and impact for our sealife.
- Will we still be able to eat our own fish?
- Phosphate mining is dangerous

- Who will truly benefit from this mining project?

<http://www.fluoridealert.org/Pollution/Phosphate-Industry/Phosphate-dangers-pile-up.aspx>

<http://www.lenntech.com/periodic/elements/p.htm>

A very concerned Namibian, Silke Ahrens