



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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#### OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER

**Press Release**  
**(For Immediate Release)**

14 July 2023

**SUBJECT: MINISTRY CLARIFIES THE ISSUANCE OF A ECC TO RECONAFRICA  
FOR EXPLORATION AND APPRAISAL WELLS IN THE KAVANGO  
BASIN**

The Ministry through the Office of The Environmental Commissioner has reviewed and approved the ReconAfrica's application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate to undertake next phase of their oil & gas exploration work programme which is to drill Exploration and Appraisal wells. The issuance of the ECC was done in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) as well as the EIA Regulations, 2012.

As part of the progressive processes of de-risking the Kavango Sedimentary Basin (KSB), REN is proposing to drill prioritised exploration and appraisal wells designed to confirm the existence of economic oil and / or gas resources within the delineated targets / prospects based on additional 2D seismic survey data acquisition and interpretation, airborne geophysical surveys and the stratigraphic well data sets. The objectives of the proposed exploration and appraisal wells drilling programme is to continue with the search for oil and gas in the Kavango Sub Basin and the associated subbasins and to identify potentially commercial petroleum systems.

It must be noted that Namibia's economy is primarily dependent on natural resource. The office of the Environmental Commissioner as empowered by Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) as well as the EIA Regulations, 2012 must ensure that identified and listed economic activities are cleared for possible environmental impact. This includes options of avoiding, mitigating, rehabilitating and offsetting such impacts an activity has on the environment. On this basis, to date, Namibia has managed its environmental matters very well and the trend will continue into the future.

The approved ECC application was registered with the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) under the Application No. 00459 as listed on the MEFT Portal [www.eia.meft.gov.na](http://www.eia.meft.gov.na). A formal screening notice from the Environmental Commissioner in terms of assessment procedures as provided

for in Section 35 (1)(a)(b) of the Environmental Management Act, 2007, (Act No. 7 of 2007) was issued and used in the preparation of the Scoping, EIA and EMP Reports as well as all other required submittals in support of the application for the ECC. Consultation activities were undertaken during the months of January and February 2023 focusing on the interested and affected parties, local communities including land owners and traditional authorities.

Based on the submitted EIA and EMP Reports, the previous studies undertaken in the area since 2018, as well as the experiences, environmental monitoring by MEFT, the office of the Environmental Commissioner through a systematic assessment is convinced that the potential negative impacts to the local individual drilling sites, regions (Kavango East and West Regions), nation (Namibia), transboundary (KAZA TFCA) and global interconnected ecosystems will be low, manageable and can be mitigated.

The approval of the ECC for REN has been done based on national laws, regulations, and structures of Government created with key responsibilities of managing various aspects of the petroleum (oil and gas) exploration and production, environmental management, water, atmospheric pollution prevention, health, and labour as well as other indirect laws linked to the accessory services and engineering works.

Government recognises that the country's energy sector and energy security are strategic important pillars of achieving our sustainable development goals. Namibia's energy mix policy strategy, strives to strike a balance on the various sources of energy by utilising all possible and available energy sources in order to achieve our current and future, short- and long-term national development goals.

Although there is increased pressure for countries including Namibia to shift away from fossil fuels, and to move towards low-carbon sources of energies such as hydropower, solar and wind, this energy transition must be done in a way that shall be fair and affordable for developing countries such as Namibia. There is no potential conflict between the development of the oil and gas industry and Namibia's commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change. The two can coexist and complement each other. Namibia is working towards reducing the effects of global warming on communities and sectors through short and long-term resilience and adaption strategies. The commercialisation of oil and gas resources will provide the much-needed resources for Namibia to be able to fight Climate Change on its own terms together with the international community.

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