



## NMP pushes ahead with phosphate project

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ELLANIE SMIT

WINDHOEK

Namibia Marine Phosphate has confirmed that it is resuming work to get its Sandpiper Marine Phosphate Project off the ground.

NMP said its activities will be in compliance with last year's ruling by the High Court, which confirmed the ongoing validity of NMP's mining licence (MNL170).

The High Court last year ordered that no activities may proceed at the project without an Environmental Clearance Licence (ECC).

The court found that NMP had not applied in the prescribed manner for an ECC.

The High Court stopped short of declaring the mining licence invalid, though.

Namibian Sun recently reported on a public notice issued by Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) on behalf of NMP, which stated that an environmental assessment and public hearings would take place on the proposed Sandpiper Marine Phosphate Project.

NMP confirmed that it had appointed the consultancy to manage the application and assessment process for the proposed offshore Sandpiper Project.

"Notice of the application for an ECC for ML170 and details of public meetings for the proposed Sandpiper Project have been published in two newspapers on 27 January and again on 3 February."

It said public meetings would be held in Windhoek on 9 February and in Walvis Bay on 11 February.

"All stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties are encouraged to register their details with the EAP either at the public meetings or online."

### **Ambitious promises**

According to NMP, the proposed Sandpiper Project will employ over 600 Namibians, directly and indirectly, for construction and operations in Walvis Bay.

"Marine phosphate mining and processing will create new mining operations, such as NMP's Sandpiper Project, and can also provide Namibia with the phosphate concentrate required to develop a fully integrated fertiliser industry that has the potential to make a significant positive contribution to the country's local and national economy in the areas of job creation, poverty eradication, industrialisation and government revenue generation," it said.

<https://www.namibiansun.com/news/nmp-pushes-ahead-with-phosphate-project2022-02-09/>

The company added that a substantial base of scientific data on the proposed Sandpiper Project had already been established.

“However, NMP is aware that a significant amount of misinformation is being circulated in social and other media platforms in relation to the proposed Sandpiper Project, the proponents of phosphate projects, marine phosphate, and also marine or seabed mining in general.”

It therefore encouraged all agencies, stakeholders, interested and affected parties and the general public to seek access to verified data, facts, and credible expert opinions on these matters.

“NMP remains fully committed to the responsible commercial, social, and environmental development of the proposed Sandpiper Project for the benefit of all stakeholders, as well as national interests and those of the Namibian public at large.”

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