NAMIBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE FORUM ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Working Group 5: Mining and Adjacent Sectors

23 November 2026

1. Overview of the Working Group

The Mining and Adjacent Sectors Working Group focuses on unlocking the economic potential of Namibia's mining sector and its supporting industries. This includes Large-Scale Mining (LSM), Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM), Dimension-Stone Mining (DSM) and the respective upstream and downstream activities. The sector can drive economic diversification, local value addition, women and youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and sustainable job creation. The Working Group identified policy, regulatory, institutional, infrastructure and investment-related constraints and proposed practical solutions aligned with NDP6 and the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan (SMIP).

The Working Group recognised that mining remains the backbone of Namibia's economy, contributing about 14 percent of GDP and N$7.8 billion in taxes, royalties and export levies in 2025, supporting about 20,800 direct and 145,900 indirect jobs and generating over half of the country's foreign exchange earnings. The working group's focus is to restore policy certainty, strengthen the enabling infrastructure, accelerate mineral beneficiation, formalise ASM and DSM, mobilise investment and improve local participation, so that the sector's contribution to inclusive economic growth is fully realised. The registered investment pipeline of 26 projects worth about N$61 billion is projected to create roughly 17,000 new jobs, and when ASM and DSM livelihoods are included, the sector's job creation potential approaches 44,000 positions.

2. Ideal Situation of the Sector

A predictable, transparent and competitive environment in which Large-Scale Mining, Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Dimension-Stone Mining operate as responsible, green and inclusive sectors that attract domestic and international investment, expand exploration, deepen local beneficiation and value addition, generate decent jobs, particularly for women and young people, strengthen local procurement and community development, and contribute significantly to economic growth, exports and fiscal stability, in line with the NDP6 and SMIP targets of increasing processed mineral exports to 57 percent and mineral beneficiation to 25 percent by 2030.

3. Summary of Challenges and Root Causes

The Working Group identified constraints across the mining value chain, together with cross-cutting policy, regulatory and institutional challenges that limit investment, exploration, competitiveness, productivity and job creation. These challenges are outlined below.

Root causes and contributing factors:

3.1 Challenge 1: Policy, Regulatory and Licensing Approval Uncertainty, with Unresolved Land Access and Community Frameworks

- Root Pending clarification of the 51 percent local ownership and free-carry requirement, the NDP6 benchmark of 51 percent and target of 60 percent by 2030, the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF/B), the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill (NIPFB), the Minerals Bill and the Draft Minerals Agreement.
- Delays in the issuance of licences, permits and environmental approvals, including the Environmental Clearance Certificates for Namibia Marine Phosphate and the Husab Desalination Plant Joint Venture.
- Lack of a unified ASM and DSM policy and coordination platform, and inadequate provision in the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act 33 of 1992 for women's participation and protection in mining.
- Absence of an integrated e-licensing and cadastre system with published service standards, and limited coordination among MIME, MEFT, MAWLR and other institutions on legal clearances, environmental approvals and land-access decisions.
- Overlap of mining activities with farms, communal and conservation areas, arising from unclear coexistence protocols, multiple land-tenure systems and limited mediation mechanisms.
- Absence of cross-sector spatial planning and standardised Community Development Agreements (CDAs), and limited gender inclusion in environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices Implications:

Implications:

Policy uncertainty is weakening investor confidence and has already contributed to a decline in the share value of Namibia-listed mining companies on foreign stock exchanges. It has also damaged Namibia's standing with investors. In the Fraser Institute's global survey of mining companies, Namibia was ranked the most attractive mining destination in Africa in 2014. By 2025, it had fallen to 7th out of 14 African countries, and from 25th to 51st globally. Namibia was also ranked first in Africa for its mining policies in 2019, but by 2025 it had dropped to 4th in Africa and 41st globally. Survey respondents pointed directly to the proposed 51 percent local ownership requirement and new legislation as deterrents to investment.

Continued policy uncertainty risks reversing the recent recovery in exploration, where spending rose from N$1.23 billion in 2024 to N$1.5 billion in 2025. It also endangers new industries such as marine phosphate, which has the potential to create over 50,000 jobs. Land-access disputes further delay project development, increase holding costs and weaken the social licence to operate.

3.2 Challenge 2: Infrastructure Deficits and Limited Mineral Beneficiation and Value Addition

High utility costs, ageing infrastructure and inadequate water, power, rail and logistics networks increase mining input costs and constrain mine expansion, while Namibia's mineral exports remain dominated by raw and semi-processed products.

Root causes and contributing factors:

- Insecure water supplies, particularly in the Erongo and Central regions, are exacerbated by ageing infrastructure and delays in finalising water-supply agreements.
- Inadequate rail infrastructure for transporting large volumes of mining products and inputs, which forces more bulk freight onto national roads.
- High electricity costs, which are delaying investment decisions, for example at Skorpion Zinc.
- Inadequate roads, power and broadband infrastructure in remote and underexplored regions, particularly Kunene, despite confirmed deposits in the Kaoko Belt.
- Slow progress in implementing the Mineral Beneficiation Strategy, constrained by high energy costs, limited local processing capacity and continued dependence on foreign-based processing and value chains.
- Pending Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regulations and limited supplier and SME development programmes, which weaken linkages across the mining value chain and restrict access to regional and global markets.

Implications:

These constraints disrupt production, increase operating and logistics costs, weaken investor confidence and delay new mining projects. Continued dependence on raw-material exports limits domestic value retention, job creation and MSME participation, while leaving Namibia vulnerable to commodity price shocks. This also puts at risk the NDP6 and

SMIP targets for processed exports (from 46.6 percent in 2024 to 57 percent by 2030) and mineral beneficiation (from below 10 percent to 25 percent by 2030). Untapped frontier regions such as Kunene also delay diversification into clean energy and critical minerals.

3.3 Challenge 3: ASM and Dimension-Stone Informality, Limited Access to Finance and Exploration Support, and Skills Gaps

Thousands of livelihoods depend on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Dimension-Stone quarrying. Yet both sectors remain largely informal, under-regulated and inadequately integrated into value chains, with limited access to finance, equipment, geoscience support, skills and markets remaining limited.

Root causes and contributing factors:

- Insecure water supplies, particularly in the Erongo and Central regions, exacerbated by ageing infrastructure and delays in finalising water-supply agreements.
- Inadequate rail infrastructure for transporting large volumes of mining products and inputs, which forces more bulk freight onto national roads.
- High electricity costs, which are delaying investment decisions, for example at Skorpion Zinc.
- Inadequate roads, power and broadband infrastructure in remote and underexplored regions, particularly Kunene, despite confirmed deposits in the Kaoko Belt.
- Slow progress in implementing the Mineral Beneficiation Strategy, constrained by high energy costs, limited local processing capacity and continued dependence on foreign-based processing and value chains.
- Pending Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regulations and limited supplier and SME development programmes, which weaken linkages across the mining value chain and restrict access to regional and global markets.

Implications:

These constraints hinder the formalisation and mechanisation of ASM and DSM, constrain mineral discovery and undermine investor confidence, while limiting local value addition and SME growth. ASM and DSM sustain an estimated 27,000 livelihoods, yet account for less than 1 percent of the

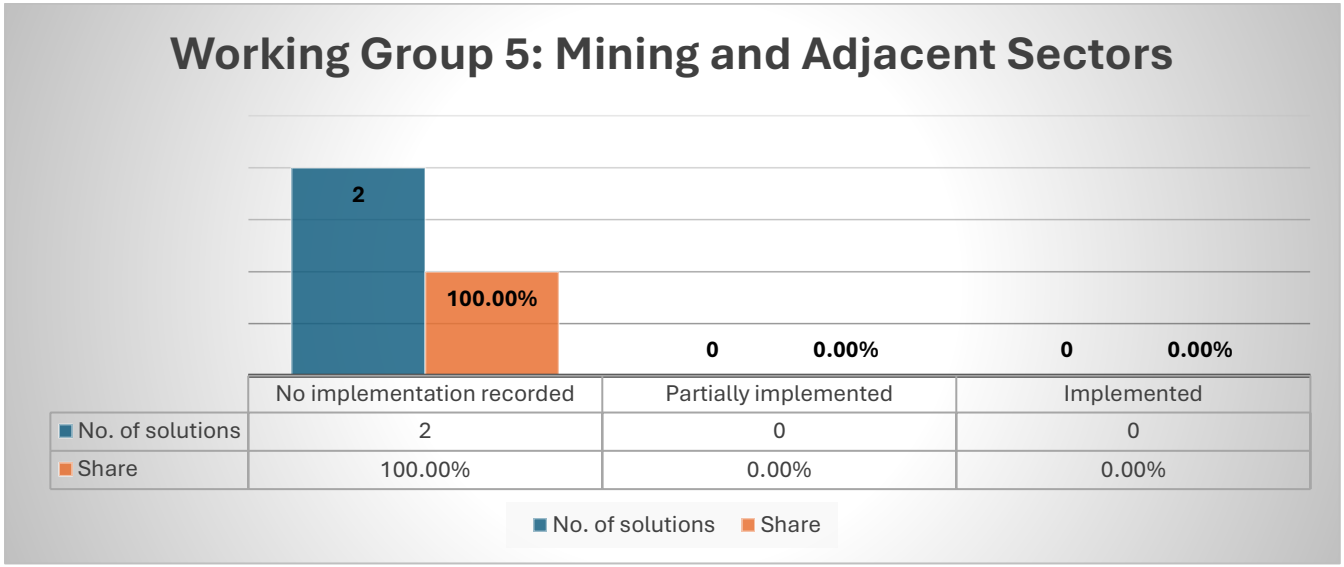
national investment pipeline. Women and youth remain confined to informal or lower-value activities, and the supply chain is not yet equipped to capitalise on emerging opportunities in oil, gas and green hydrogen.

4. Progress on the implementation of Presidential Directives

RED — No implementation recorded	AMBER — Partially implemented	GREEN — Implemented

	Aligned Presidential Directive	Progress update	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	RAG Status
1.	3.2.3: Take immediate action for the Digitalization and capacity building of key permitting offices, specifically the Environmental Commissioner, Plant Health Commissioner, Attorney General's Office and the Petroleum Commissioner, Mining Commissioner.	No progress report from MEFT. The Presentation mentions the National Spatial Tourism Master Plan: The Plan provides a strategic spatial framework for aligning tourism infrastructure, accessibility, investment opportunities, and destination development to enhance Namibia's competitiveness as a preferred tourism destination.	MEFT and named permitting offices	**No implementation recorded**
2.	3.5.2: The Ministry of Works and Transport to initiate immediate rail and logistics concessioning frameworks, specifically linked to resolving the operational bottlenecks at TransNamib.	No update	MWT	**No implementation recorded**

5. IMPLEMENTATION SCORECARD FOR PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES



6. Scorecard Summary for Presidential Directives

RAG status		Share	Interpretation
RED	3	42.86%	No implementation progress update recorded
AMBER	4	57.14%	Implementation activity / partial progress reported
GREEN	0	0.00%	Marked complete in the report
Total	**7**	**100.00%**	

7. Progress on the implementation of proposed solutions

RED — No implementation recorded	AMBER — Partially implemented	GREEN — Implemented

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
1	Policy Uncertainty& Permit Approvals: 51% local ownership/ free carry (no policy to support statement), Finalisation of outstanding legislation and frameworks (Minerals Bill, NIPFB, NEEEB/B, and SEZ regulations) deter investment. The absence of ASM/DMS frameworks weakens confidence and inclusivity, Delays in approvals, permits and licenses	Resolve pending/outstanding policy and legislative matters a) 51% local ownership/ free carry (no policy to support statement) b) finalisation of outstanding legislation and frameworks (Minerals Bill, NIPFB, NEEEB/B, and SEZ regulations) c) streamline licensing processes. d) Create ASM/DSM framework	MIME, MEFT, MAWLR, AG/Parliament, OPM e-Gov, NamPPF	Local Ownership: 51% local ownership statement: This is being addressed through the NPC, as it is not official government policy. On general local ownership/free carry, there has been no movement since NamPPF 1. No progress has been made on the finalisation of the bills/legislation. OPM e-Gov: The Office of the Prime Minister has made steady progress on the Government's key digital policies and strategies. The Data Governance Framework, Revised IT Policy, Cybersecurity Policy and Cloud Strategy have been drafted and awaiting stakeholder consultation before submission to Cabinet. For the AI Policy, Cabinet directed OPM, MICT and partners to develop, research is complete and drafting has begun. Consultations on the e-Government Policy are ongoing to define its scope. The next step is to complete validation and submit the finalised policies to Cabinet for approval. Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) policy: The policy has not been finalised. The National Working Group on Small-Scale Mining Development (NWG-SMD) is established to	**Partially implemented**

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
				support the sustainable development and transformation of Namibia's small-scale mining (SSM) sector. Dimension-Stone (DMS) policies: No update has been provided. Digital e-licensing and cadastre system: The system has been operationalised. No progress has been made on the integration of the system between MIME, MEFT, MAWLR and the Attorney General. Despite the lack of integration, the mining cadastre system is functioning. Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) system: The system has not been operationalised due to limited resources and personnel. Hence, no progress has been made on hiring and empowering of officials. Marine Phosphate, the ECC was issued but has been challenged by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Fishing Federation.	
2	Infrastructure Deficits: Water scarcity Power constraints & affordable electricity, and poor rail connectivity particularly in Erongo, Kunene, and	a) Upgrade desalination capacity, address aging water infrastructure and delays to conclude water supply agreements b) funding for railway infrastructure	MoWT, NamPort, TransNamib, NamPower, NamWater, MIME	Water infrastructure deficits in Erongo, Kunene and Central: Husab desalination, the joint venture agreement and EPC contract have been signed and approved by Cabinet. Construction is due to commence in December 2026. Lüderitz Desalination Plant, //Karas: A request for proposals for the bathymetric survey and	**Partially implemented**

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
	Central regions, raises input costs and limits exploration and expansion of mines and export competitiveness.			salinity-dispersion modelling assessment of the proposed seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination site at Lüderitz has been issued. Kunene Multipurpose Water Catchment, Storage and Livelihood Enhancement Project (Purros Dam): The project team has been established, and the consultancy bid evaluation is ongoing. The Central Coastal, Southern and Central Areas Master Plans have been completed to address the issue of ageing infrastructure. For the Ogongo–Oshakati Pipeline Replacement (51.6 km), construction has been substantially completed across all three lots. Water supply agreements: Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have recently been concluded with Northern Graphite (Okanjande Mining), Mandarin Investments (WIA Gold Kokoseb Gold Project), Koryx Copper Inc. (Haib Copper Project) and Namibia Rare Earth Minerals (Lofdal Mine). NamWater supports major infrastructure projects of national importance and has made borehole water available for the construction of the Kranzberg–Otjiwarongo railway project. Two major water infrastructure development projects are being explored to position Kunene as a strategic mineral and energy frontier:	

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
				Water desalination plant in northern Namibia: The project implementation team has been established. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and Expression of Interest (EOI) are under preparation. The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) has secured grant financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the feasibility study.	
3	Skills Gaps and Institutional Capacity Constraints: Challenges with standard of training at VTC's Capacity constraints within key Ministries (MIME, MEFT, AG, difficulty by mines to bring in required skills for new and expansion projects due to red tape in applying for work permits and visa. And Shortages of technical and managerial skills, especially among women and youth, coincide with under-resourced regulatory offices at MIME, MHAISS and MEFT.	a) Strengthening VTCs and tertiary institutions b) resolve capacity issues at MIME and MEFT, c) streamline work permit and visa process	MEIYSAC, NTA, MIME, CoM, WiMAN, NIPDB, DBN, NCCI, UNAM, NUST, MHAISS	Institutional capacity within MIME and MEFT: No progress on filling vacant positions, however, regarding skills gaps, the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has developed Skills-Based Finance support for qualifying artisans and professionals. Mentoring and coaching, as well as regional business development workshops, have been implemented, reaching 453 participants. MHAISS Update: Immigration Regulations were amended on 26 July 2026 to simplify the requirements for employment permits. Employment Permit to conduct business (for investors) introduced. The employment permit for investors to conduct business was gazetted on 18 August 2026 and launched on 1 September 2026. The permit can be issued for 5 years.	**Partially implemented**

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
				Short term employment permits (work visa) applications, up to 6 months) can be lodged online while long term employment permits will be available online by end of the current financial year.	
4	Limited Manufacturing to advance mineral Beneficiation and value addition: Exports are dominated by unprocessed ores (less than 10% value addition), while the export of dimension stone remains limited and adds minimal value	**a)** Make serviced/unserviced land available **b)** accelerate the Mineral Beneficiation Strategy through SEZ incentives and regulation. **c)** address infrastructure deficits	MIME, MoF, NIPDB, Epangelo Mining, Namdia/NDTC, Private Investors	A draft mineral beneficiation policy is in place and has been presented to Her Excellency. Stakeholder consultations have yet to be conducted, and no serviced/unserviced land was availed. This proposed solution is likely to be realised only upon the enactment of the Special Economic Zone Bill (SEZ) Bill, and its Regulations. the Bill was approved in principle by Cabinet and subsequently referred to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL) for consideration. The Ministry is currently engaging the Ministry of Finance(MoF) on the proposed fiscal incentives. the Ministry's plan is to have the Bill enacted during the next financial year. Export levies are under review. Industry consultations are ongoing for a fair share of value created in the extraction of nonrenewable resources. Tax incentives alone can distort capital allocation, rather than productivity. Business cases should be able to stand before taxes are considered.	**Partially implemented**

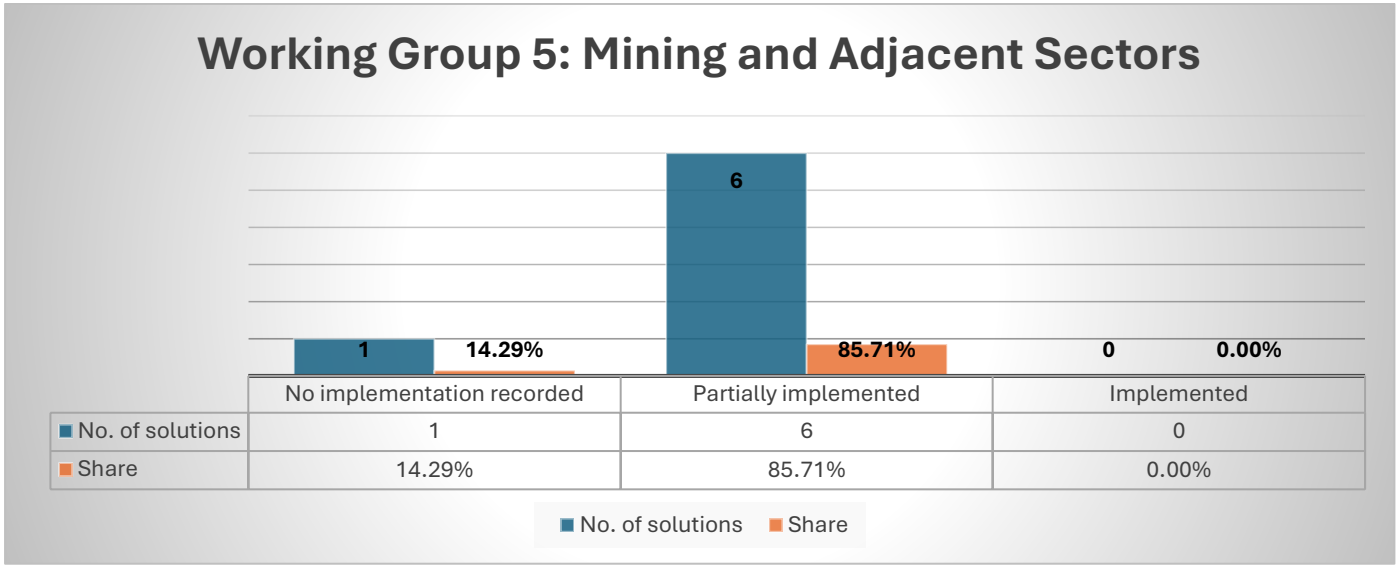
No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
				The development of domestic processing hubs is ongoing, with one hub being constructed in Khorixas. On the PPP projects for lithium, copper, gemstone, and dimension-stone beneficiation, no progress has been reported.	
5	Land Access, ESG Compliance, and Weak Community Frameworks – Overlapping land uses, limited coexistence mechanisms, and inconsistent community development and gender frameworks delay projects and erode social trust.	a) Develop and adopt a National Mining–Land Interface Framework to coordinate land use; b) Institutionalise ESG and gender-responsive CDAs; and standardised resettlement, [compensation, and coexistence practices.	MIME, MEFT, MAWLR, MICT, MGECW, Regional Councils, Chamber of Mines of Namibia	Access to communal land and resettlement farms, no progress has been made on land availability. National Mining-Land Interface Framework, rregional consultations and all required processes have been conducted. The revised Policy was submitted to and approved by Cabinet. The Policy has been signed off by the Ministries of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and of Industries, Mines and Energy, and is to be launched by November 2026. Standardised resettlement, compensation and coexistence practices, no update has been provided.	**Partially implemented**
6	Informality and Fragmentation in ASM and DMS Sub-Sectors – Namibia's Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) and Dimension Stone (DMS) sub-sectors remain largely informal, under-capitalised, and	a) Revitalise and recapitalise the existing Minerals Development Fund of Namibia (established under Act No. 19 of 1996) to support exploration, geoscience mapping, and	MIME, NPC, MoF, NIPDB, ASM Associations	The Minerals Development Fund has been revised and is under consultation. A gemstone hub is being established in Khorixas, and no progress has been made on marble. There has been no progress on the cooperative models to integrate ASM and DMS into the value chain. Exploration costs are already a tax deduction in the Income Tax Act.	**No implementation recorded**

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
	excluded from mainstream mineral development and value chains. The absence of a dedicated financing and institutional support mechanism—such as an operational Minerals Development Fund (MDF)—has constrained access to exploration data, equipment, training, and markets.	accredited mineral testing laboratories. Introduce targeted exploration incentives and tax credits to attract new investment. b) Operationalise the Fund to provide concessional financing, equipment leasing, and guarantee schemes for ASM, SMEs, and women- and youth-led mining enterprises. Establish a Digital ASM Registry and Trading c) Platform to enhance transparency and market access. d) Simplify ASM licensing and compliance procedures and develop regional gemstone and dimension-stone beneficiation hubs. Integrate HSE, coexistence, and gender-responsive protocols across all ASM operations.		Not Feasible: The promotion of mercury-free technologies is not applicable in Namibia. Expand the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme and Equipment Aid Scheme to provide production machinery, specialised equipment, and technology solutions to MSMEs operating in mining, mineral beneficiation, and other nascent sectors with high growth potential in particular for women and youth-led enterprises to enhance productivity, value addition, competitiveness, and participation in strategic industrial value chains	

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
		e) Fast-track VAT refund processes and expand gender-responsive finance products under the revitalised Fund to strengthen liquidity, stimulate ASM growth, and drive SME expansion.			
7	Regional Development and Resource Frontier Expansion- Kunene Frontier Mining and Energy Corridor Expansion - The Kunene Region remains an under-explored but highly prospective mineral and energy frontier, constrained by limited exploration infrastructure, low investment, and poor logistical connectivity. Despite confirmed deposits in the Kaoko Belt (Okohongo Cu–Ag, Opuwo Co–Cu–Zn, Kameelburg REE–Nb, and Steilrand Barite), the area suffers from inadequate roads, power, and data coverage, slow	a) Position Kunene as Namibia's next strategic mineral and energy frontier by integrating geoscience mapping, road upgrades, power expansion, and broadband connectivity. b) Designate a Northern Mining & Energy Growth Zone (NMEGZ) and implement a regional investment promotion campaign (led by NIPDB) to attract exploration and beneficiation investors. c) promote local partnerships (Aloe 238, Kaoko Mining) and benefit-sharing models; strengthen cross-border logistics and power cooperation with Angola.	MIME, NPC, MoWT, NamPower, NamWater, Kunene RC, Private Partners, NIPDB and Leadership of Kunene Office	Kunene Regional Mining Summit was held on 7 – 9 October 2026. An update is to be provided by the Kunene Regional Governor. Moreover, geological mapping across the entire region is being conducted by MIME.	**Partially implemented**

No.	Challenge / problem area	Proposed solution	Reporting / responsible institution(s)	Progress update	RAG STATUS
	licensing and ECC approvals, and limited community readiness for large-scale mining. Cross-border synergies with Angola remain largely untapped.				

8. IMPLEMENTATION SCORECARD FOR NAMPPF WORKING PROPOSED SOLUTIONS



9. Scorecard Summary for NAMPPF Working proposed solutions

RAG status		Share	Interpretation
RED	1	14.29%	No implementation progress update recorded
AMBER	6	85.71%	Implementation activity / partial progress reported
GREEN	0	0.00%	Marked complete in the report
Total	**7**	**100.00%**	