



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

For **Immediate Release**; 27 MAY 2022 – Windhoek

RESUMPTION OF OPERATION AT WHALE ROCK CEMENT PTY LTD (CHEETAH CEMENT)

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC) has granted permission to the Whale Rock Cement (PTY) Ltd also known as Cheetah Cement to resume its operations on Monday, 23 May 2022. The Company/Mine was ordered by this Ministry to cease its operations on 10 May 2022. The stoppage affected all production activities at the Grinding Station, Cement Mill Area, Rotator Pack Area and Cement Warehouse.

The closure of the Mine followed a number of inspections in terms of Basic Condition of Employment and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) by the Ministry whereby violations related to Occupational health and Safety Regulations were detected. Contraventions by the Mine in terms of Occupational health and Safety Regulations were:

- Employees are not provided with suitable personal protective equipment, i.e hearing protection for excavator operators, kidney belts for back support, face masks designed for mining operations where excessive dust is evident, and lighting in the mining area or a spotter works in total darkness;
- Failing to maintain good housing keeping on site and within the cement mill, cement storehouse and elsewhere were applicable;
- Employer failed to provide adequate Sanitary conveniences and canteens to the employees;
- Employer failed to provide first aid and emergency arrangements;
- Employer failed to provide Health and Safety statutory structure on site by not establishing a Health and Safety Committee;
- Employer has never investigated and identified the hazards and risks attached to the work, and employ appropriate measures to prevent or minimize risk thereof;
- Employer does not have health and safety policy and program in place;
- Employer failed to provide employees with necessary information and training to work safely and without a risk to their health;
- Employer failed to make arrangements for first aid and emergency or provision for other emergency facilities and supplies; and

- The mining trucks are operated without proper tyre handling tools and machineries and the company further has no safe work procedures for tyre-handling. There is further insufficient lighting in the workshop area.

The Ministry has conducted verification inspections on 16 and 20 May 2022 to evaluate the compliance on the identified shortfalls and is satisfied with the level of compliance as well as arrangements thereof and thus recommended for resumption of production activities.

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Issued by :



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