



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

MEDIA RELEASE

For **Immediate Release**; 23 AUGUST 2022 – Windhoek

WHALE ROCK CEMENT PTY LTD ORDERED NOT TO OPERATE DURING THE NIGHT DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation has once again ordered Whale Rock Cement PTY LTD (Cheetah Cement) to stop carrying out operational activities at the **Mining Area at night, between 18h00-06h00 as well as to stop operating a certain forklift.**

This order came into effect as from 19 August 2022 until such a time that sufficient light is installed and the forklift is serviced to the satisfaction of a designated Labour Inspector.

This order is barely issued after three months when Whale Rock Cement PTY LTD was ordered by this Ministry to cease its operations at some areas of its Mine due to non-compliance with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards in May 10, 2022. This ultimatum was later withdrawn by the Ministry in May 23, 2022 after the Ministry conducted follow-up inspections and was satisfied with the level of compliance as well as arrangements that were put in place.

After the order to resume with its operation in May 2022, the Ministry has been conducting follow-up inspections to ensure continued compliance with the OSH Standards at the Mine. The Ministry however identified the aforementioned shortcomings that lead to the current order. During this period, all affected employers are entitled to full remuneration.

The issue of occupational safety and health is non-negotiable. Non-compliance with the provisions of OSH put workers at risk, resulting into non-reversible and mostly regrettable consequences which sometimes may even lead to injuries and worse of all fatalities.

Employers are once again reminded that it remains their legal duty to ensure that their workplaces are safe at all times.

ISSUED BY

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23/08/2022
AMB. BALBINA DAES PIENAAR
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Enquiries: Public Relations Office
Email: Maria.Hedimbi@mol.gov.na
Tel: 061 - 206 6255