



Chairpersons Statement

The current Atomic Energy Board members were appointed in January 2020 to serve for a period of three years, with a term of office ending in January 2023. The Board functions are provided in the Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection Act, Act 5 of 2005, which among others is to advise the government ministries, department, and agencies, as well as regional and local authorities on all matters relating to radiation and radiation sources, including the economy.

This report, therefore, as it provides the scope of the activities undertaken by the Board for the period under review, it also set the tone for the future directions; as the Board continue advocating and ensuring Namibia harness maximum benefits from the nuclear science and technology, while in the same vein promote protection of the people and environment from the negative effects of radiation.

The Board, right after its appointment became aware of the key limitation in its extent of functions, in that the function of the Board is limited to advisory functions, and lacks executive powers. Equally, it noticed the prevailing gap in the Legislative and Regulatory Framework, as the National Radiation Protection Authority regulatory function does not provide for regulation of the nuclear physical infrastructures. The nuclear science and technology industry in Namibia, has significantly evolved in the last 15 years. This era, mainly characterized

by the enacting the Law and Regulations, and the development of key human resources in areas of nuclear science and technology both at national and international institutions of high learning, provides positive records of Namibia intention of continuing to advance and strengthening the role of nuclear science and technology in country's socio- economic development, including research, and innovation.

Namibia, according to the world data (NEA), is in the top three top producers of Uranium in the world. Namibia however, exports 100% of these essential natural resources in its raw form without any value addition. Moreover, Namibia has a huge import / export gap in Energy and is a net importer of key medical isotopes used for the detection and treatment of a large scope of medical illness including heart conditions, thyroid conditions, kidneys conditions and most importantly cancers amongst others.

The Board, therefore, has sets itself an ambitious agenda, aiming at ensuring Namibia as key player in the Uranium production in the world, to pursue and consider building capacity for value addition on Uranium.

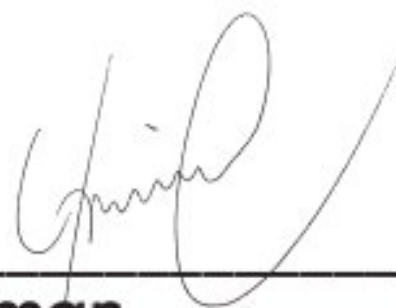
At stakeholders meeting that was held on 08 March 2022, in Windhoek which by invitation of the Atomic Energy Board, was attended by representatives of the

Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of High Education, the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Namibia University of Science and Technology, the University of Namibia and the National Council on Research on Science and Technology (NCRST) reached a key conclusion position for the participants to jointly undertake a study aimed at determining the feasibility of establishing a research reactor in Namibia.

The study, if it produces results supporting the feasibility of setting up and operating a research nuclear reactor, will set Namibia in a path of an accelerated agenda towards pursuing value addition to its nuclear materials especially uranium and to locally produce lifesaving medical isotopes for local and regional consumption.

The Board has, furthermore, set itself to ensure amendment of the Act, to strengthen the Legislative and Regulatory framework, thereby strengthening and capacitating the National Regulatory Authority, as well as to align the functions of the Board from being solely advisory to be inclusive of executive functions.

It is therefore, in this context that I'm signing this report to create awareness and urge all stakeholders to, in unwavering manner, support the agenda herein set out to ensure the current and future generation fully benefit from Namibian natural resources.



Dr S. C Herman

(Chairperson: Atomic Energy Board)