REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NAMIBIA

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PRESS RELEASE ON THE 14/11/2018 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED IN NAMIBIA

INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday the **14th of November 2018 04:51** local time, an earthquake was recorded in Namibia with a local magnitude of **3.7 *ML* 45, km North West of Palmwag (100km NW of Kamanjab)**. Three local seismic stations from the Namibian Seismological Network recorded the event and preliminary analyses were performed on this data set. Preliminary analyses shows the event is located (fig 2) at latitude **(Y):-19.771S**, longitude **(X): 13.574E**, and at a depth of 38 km having a local magnitude **(*ML*) of 3.7** with a 0.099 degree error in latitude and longitude (approx. +/- 10 km radius).

DATA ANALYSIS

At present, three phase readings for initial calculations were picked by the Geological Survey for WIN (Windhoek),TSUM(Tsumeb) and RUNU (Rundu) and is shown indicating occurrence time at around **04:51** local time (fig 1) and it lasted for about **10 seconds.**

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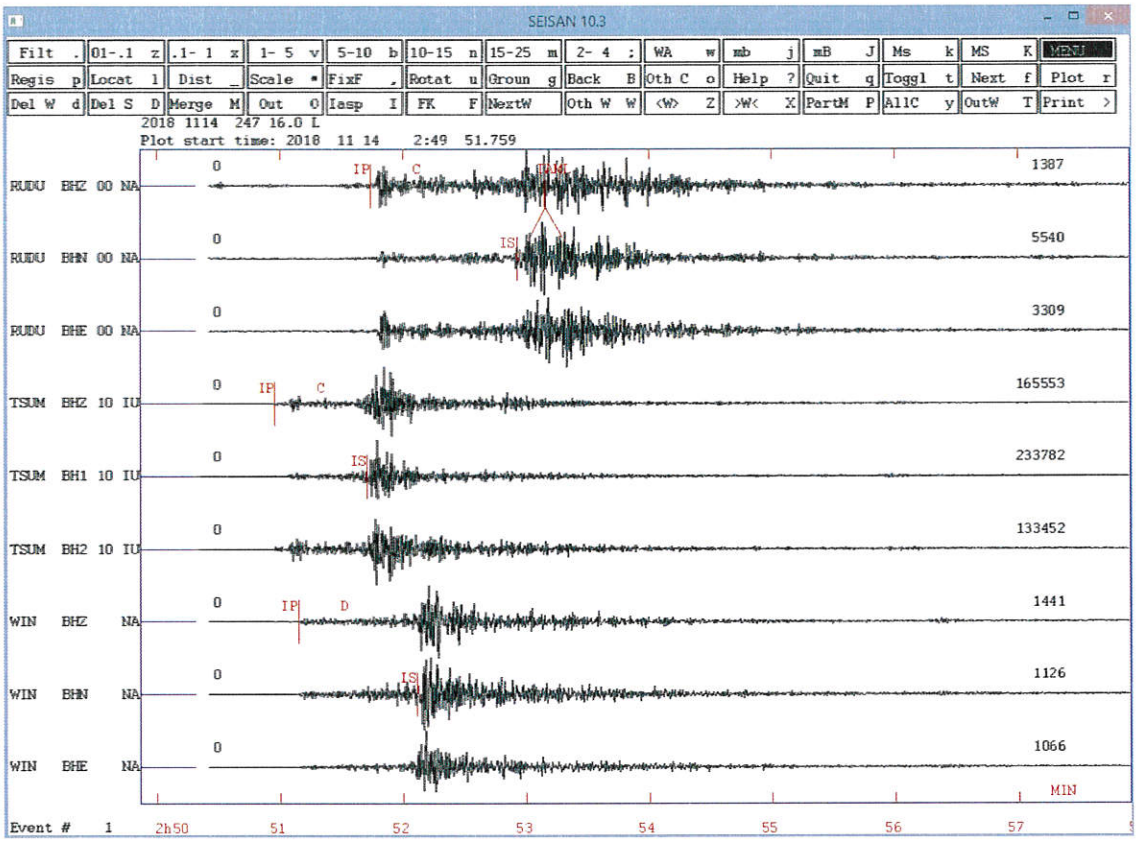

Figure 1: Waveform traces of the earthquake recorded on 14th of November 2018 at 04:51 local time.

EPICENTRAL LOCATION

Figure 2: Location of epicentre of the earthquake (**Red star**), 45 km North West of Palmwag.

Preliminary calculations indicate that the current epicentre of the event is located in the Kaoko Orogenic belt, which is a regional tectonic structure. The Kaoko Belt runs in a north-west trending direction and is a tectonic unit on the North West coast of Namibia. The current location is one of the known seismic zones in the country and these events are expected to occur more frequently in this area.

Namibia has a low seismicity and mostly with low intensity events. However, the fact that we feel these tremors should always remind us that the crust of the earth is dynamic and evolves continuously. Tremors and earthquakes are therefore very natural but unpredictable. However, a significant number of events have been occurring in the region this year and this have raised concern to the local community. Therefore the Geological Survey of Namibia embarked on a focused research to understand the processes causing the increase of seismicity in the Anker area. A network of ten (10) temporary seismic stations were deployed in the region for a period of three month aimed at locating the small earthquakes in the Anker area and use them to characterise the seismic source zones. The result of the study have been evaluated and the final report is been finalised and the findings will be communicated to all stakeholders in due course

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EVENT SUMMARY:

The earthquake was located at **19.771°S** and **13.574°E** (fig 2), depth at 38 km and the local magnitude M_L is **3.7.** The current epicentre of the event is 50 km west of the Anker settlement.

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