Chamber of Mines
OF NAMIBIA

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MINING INDUSTRY

**PRESENTER: BARCELONA TSAUSES**

**DATE: 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021**

# COVID-19 STATISTICS FOR THE CHAMBER OF MINES
(as at 27th August 2021)

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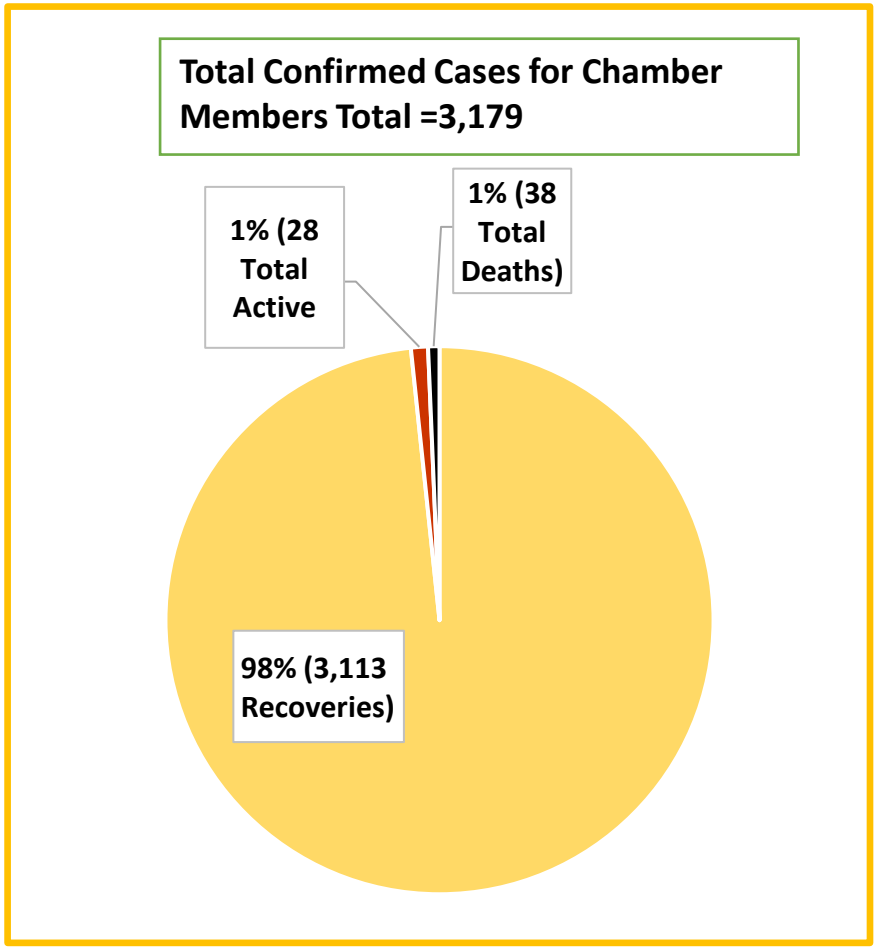


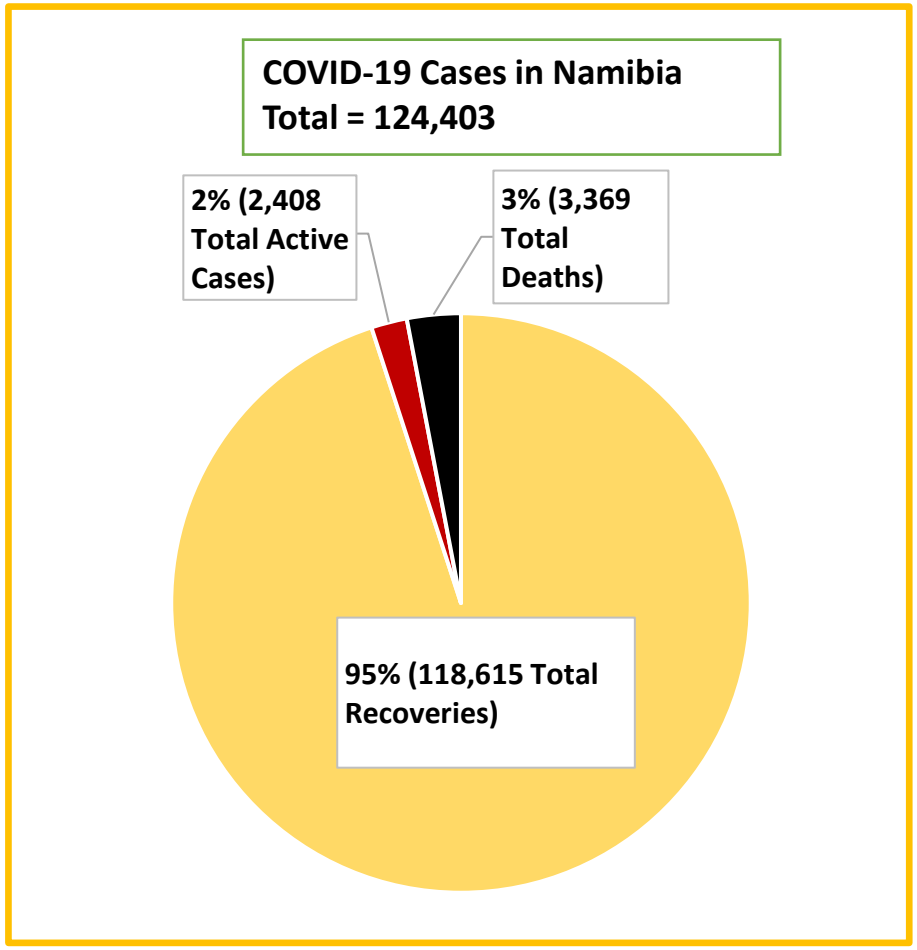

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## GLOBAL & MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

- Global economic decline
- Stringent travel restrictions
- Restrictions on movement incl. non essential services
- All non essential commercial activities were suspended

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT OF COVID -19

- Reduced production due to:
  - Logistical changes – supply disruption
  - Suppressed global demand for mineral commodities
  - Trade restrictions on non-essential items
- Sourcing of Specialised skills was a challenge due to border restrictions (required for complex maintenance purposes)
- Shortage of staff - Increased covid-19 cases

## OPPERTUNITIES CREATED FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Local businesses were engaged to provide some of the specialised services
- Aided skills transfer to local business – empowerment

## COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

- Minimal production during the first lockdown – GRN directive to curb covid-19
- Pre-requisite was for mining to enforce & implement the prescribed covid-19 measures
  - Safe guarding employees
  - Most of our mining sites pro-actively implemented measures
  - Production of hand sanitisers
- Chamber intervened by putting mitigations in place & normal operations resumed
  - Worked with MME & MoHSS
  - MME Suspended the use of the Breathalysers
  - Various operations found alternative safer options that were authorised by MoHSS

# COVID-19 MEASURES

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- **Social Distancing**:1-2 meters across all work environments including when using company transport and meetings. Halved number of employees embarking on a bus.
- **Hygiene:** Use of soap and sanitizers. Continuous decontamination of areas.
- **Wearing of Masks**: Was enforced on all sites.
- **Travel:** Travel to hot spots banned, minimal use of outside services, and completing of travel screening forms & in some cases covid-19 tests.
- **Working Arrangements**: Support staff worked from home & splitting of employees to report to office at different times.
- **Service Providers**: Ensure service providers implement required measures and adhere to rules onsite.
- **Tracking & Tracing of contacts:** allowed early identification, isolation & testing of possible contacts. Discourage unnecessary movements between various plant units.
- **Symptoms**: Continuous screening and staying at home if flu-like symptoms appear. Some sites introduced rapid testing of all employees.
- **Vulnerable Persons**: Employees with pre-medical conditions can only be brought back to site through following appropriate process.
- **Providing Employee Support:** For challenges during covid-19. Creating care packs.
- **Communication:** Continuously done to keep employees informed of the requirements. Raising awareness for vaccination to achieve **herd immunity**.

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# THANK YOU