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## PRESS RELEASE

### **CIF launches Directory of Key Players in Construction Industry**

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) officially launched its annual member directory, CIF Annual Directory on 17 February 2016, at a breakfast meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Windhoek, in the presence of Mr Paul Hartmann, the special advisor to Ms Saara Kuungongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Namibia. The event, attended by senior government officials and members of the diplomatic corps, was sponsored by the largest and oldest Namibian manufacturer of paint. NEO Paints Factory (PTY) Ltd, a wholly owned Namibian company with a team of 109 people produces 80 quality assured product lines for the Namibian market.

The annual directory is published by the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia and was produced to facilitate access to information about respective members and the services they provide. A total of 5,000 copies were printed and will be distributed throughout the year. Since its inception in 2013, the publication has become a reference document and source of extensive information.

Mr Paul Hartmann, who delivered the keynote speech on behalf of the Minister Saara Kuungongelwa said: "There are some 430 companies that are members of Namibia's Construction Industry Federation. These range from an annual turnover of over N\$200 million to SMEs with an annual turnover of less than N\$1 million. Together they play a big role in Namibia's economy, both in terms of employment but also in terms of their tax contribution. I am also particularly pleased to see that 48% of the members are SMEs.

"A critical feature of the directory is the categorisation of companies, based on their annual turnover. This provides a guideline in terms of their capacity of handling respective projects.

"Therefore, I am truly delighted to be associated with the launch of such a valuable resource about Namibia's construction industry and I, on behalf of the Minister wish to congratulate the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia, CIF, for the work they have put in to the development of the CIF Annual Directory".

Ms Bärbel Kirchner, consulting general manager of the CIF said: "In the absence of a National Planning and Construction Council, which will allow for greater regulation of the industry, and the

grading of contractors, the directory is providing a useful who's who of the industry, and information about the spectrum companies in Namibia's construction industry.

"The CIF invites principal agents and buyers of construction services to consider the services of CIF members when sourcing for service providers. The same information is also available to the public for their personal building requirements. They might find the short article on "How to Select a Building Contractor" as helpful".

Mr Kai Geschke, Managing Director of Neo Paints Factory said: "For 60 years NEO Paints has been leading the way in creating Namibian paints for Namibian conditions. A policy of promoting and empowering Namibian skills development continues to ensure the success and growth of our stakeholders and teams. As the foremost supplier of quality Namibian-manufactured paint and related products to the construction industry in Namibia, NEO Paints Factory (Pty) Ltd is proud to be a member of the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia and to be associated with the launch of this directory, which provides a valuable insight into the CIF and its members".

Ms Kirchner further said: "We are excited about our new edition. This year it is a mammoth publication. By the time of going to print, a total of 313 paid up CIF members were listed in our directory.

"The 2015 edition is the result of a formidable team effort. It required persistent focus to ensure that the content is accurate and the tenacity to solicit advertising support of 63 companies. We are very grateful to our advertisers. Without their support financing this new edition would not have been possible. For the first time this year, we managed to produce this publication at break-even".

Very exciting is also the CIF online public directory of companies operating in the construction industry. This searchable directory on [www.cifnamibia.com](http://www.cifnamibia.com) will help buyers of construction and building services to find contractors – including SMEs as well as trading companies and affiliated members, such as electricians, on the website.

The online version of the directory will be a practical tool for anyone that has internet access. The directory is a searchable, sortable listing featuring the name of the company, first and surname, city and type of business. The online version also provides a buyers' directory, where the required services can be searched.

**End**

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