



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Directorate of Research, Innovation and
Partnerships

Public Lecture



GREEM aims to advance Namibia's rare earth value chain through research, innovation and capacity development, while promoting green, technologies, local beneficiation and sustainable industrial growth.

Together, we can position Namibia as a competitive player in the global green economy.

GREEM is pleased to host the first Public Lecture on “Unlocking Namibia’s Critical Minerals Potential: Green Technologies, Value Addition and the Future of Rare Earth Elements”



Keynote Speaker

MR NIELS VERBAAN

Niels is a recognized leader in hydrometallurgical process development, with over 25 years of experience advancing complex metallurgical flowsheets, from concept, through pilot scale, and feasibility. Niels has overseen many REE projects through all study phases (PEA, PFS and FS). He recently served as Senior Director, Technical Services (Hydrometallurgy) at SGS Lakefield, the world's leading metallurgical testing, inspection, and certification company.



Theme: Positioning Namibia in the Global Rare Earth Elements Processing Landscape

The world's green future depends on critical minerals - is Namibia ready to lead the way?

OUR SPEAKERS



Ambassador Dr Kaire Mbuende
Director General: National Planning
Commission (NPC)

Former Deputy Minister and
Distinguished academic, diplomat and
public leader.



Vetumbuavi Mungunda
Executive Director and Founder:
Ombu Capital

Strategic advisory firm leader
specialising in strategy, business
transformation, and economic research.



Prof Godfrey Dzinomwa
HOD: Mining and Process Engineering
(NUST Faculty of Engineering and the
Built Environment)

Seasoned expert in mining and
metallurgical engineering with strong
leadership in research and academia.



DR. RAINER ELLMIES
MSc, EurGeol, AusIMM, GeolFA
General Manager Exploration of Gecko
Group and VP Exploration
Namibia Critical Metals Inc.

Passionate geologist with 40 years*
experience in international research,
government affairs and the mining
industry across all commodities.



Monday, 13 July 2026



17:00 - 20:30



Auditorium 1, NUST Lower Campus

RSVP on or before, 10 July 2026

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Enquiries

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