

Written Questions

165/2018 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua to ask the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update the House on the status of the licensing and exploration of Namosi Copper Mines.

I thank the Hon. Member for your question.

The Current holder of the licence is the Namosi Joint Venture (NJV) Company with a five (5) years term resuming from 2015 to 2020. The NJV comprises of the three (3) shareholders namely; Newcrest Limited with a 70.75% shares, Material Investment Fiji Limited with a 27.52% shares and Nitetshu Mining Company Limited with 2% share.

The NJV is exploring for mineral resources within the Special Prospecting Licence (SPL 1421) in the Namosi and Naitasiri provinces in Fiji, approximately 30 kilometres west of Suva. The project covers an area of approximately 724 square kilometres.

Namosi Joint Venture has been conducting very extensive exploration work since 2015, with all avenues of exploration plans that includes:

→ Project Studies and Evaluation (Pre-feasibility Studies)

- Drilling technical studies
- Community consultations
- Stakeholder engagement and

The current status of the exploration is the conduct of the **Environment Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** (as part of exploration work to progress into mine development). This ESIA is currently in progress with the aim of identifying and mitigating the likely impacts of mining (should it happen) to its surrounding environment and social being.