











2023 Annual Report



This Annual Report for the Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe for the year 2023 is presented to the Office of the President and Cabinet in Line with Section 24 (3) of the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act [Chap- ter 10:31] and Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) [Chapter 22:19]
The report covers the corporate governance, technical and financial per- formance of the Authority in 2023

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CPPNM Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials

EMA Environmental Management Agency

FNRBA Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency

IIA Institute of Internal Auditors

IPMZ Institute of People Management of Zimbabwe

IRBM Integrated Results Based Management

LSZ Law Society of Zimbabwe

NORM Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials

OPC Office of the President and Cabinet

PECGA Public Entities Corporate Governance Act

RAIS Regulatory Authority Information System

RPAZ Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe

WHO World Health Organisation

ZIMRA Zimbabwe Revenue Authority

ZRP Zimbabwe Republic Police

ZDF Zimbabwe Defence Forces

Background

Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe is a regulatory body established by the Radiation Protection Act [Chapter 15:15] of 2004 with a mandate to protect the people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

The legislative administration of the Act is reserved for His Excellency the President of the Republic who delegated certain responsibilities to the Minister of Energy and Power Development for the period under review.

OUR VISION

A society and environment protected from the harmful effects of radiation by 2030





OUR MISSION

To protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation

OUR VALUES

Teamwork

We thrive on stakeholder and internal synergies for responsive, proficient, and expected outcomes.

Accountability

We are answerable for our responsibilities and commitments.

Professionalism

We value proficiency and develop our staff to perform with expertise and dedication.

Integrity

We employ the highest ethical standards, demonstrating honesty, transparency, and fairness in every action that we take.

Innovation

We constantly strive to define the standard of excellence in everything we do through evidence-based approaches that make a difference to society.



In regulating the use of ionising radiation in the country, the Authority carries out the following functions:

- Authorisation of all activities and practices involving the use, operation, import and possession of radiation sources and nuclear materials.
- Inspections and compliance assurance
- Occupational exposure control
- Medical exposure control and patient protection
- Environmental monitoring and public exposure control
- Transport safety and radioactive waste management
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Nuclear security

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Zimbabwe

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Our key stakeholders include:















Radiation users/public

Chairperson's Statement

tis with great pleasure that I present the 2023
Annual Report of the Radiation Protection
Authority of Zimbabwe (RPAZ). This report
highlights the significant strides made in
enhancing radiation safety and regulatory
frameworkswithinZimbabwe. The dedication
and diligence of our board members, staff, and
stakeholders have been pivotal to our success.

2023 has been a transformative year for our governance structure. We welcomed Mrs. B. Mpofu to the Finance Committee as an expert member in January, and Mrs. V. Kamtepfa joined the Board in April, representing the Ministry of Energy and Power Development, succeeding Eng. B. Munyaradzi. These new additions have enriched our Board with their expertise and fresh perspectives.

ΑII board resolutions were meticulously implemented, with due compliance Corporate Governance the Public Entities Act [Chapter 10:31] (PECGA). Our Strategic underwent a comprehensive review, culminating in the development of the 2024 Annual Plan and Programme documents.

The Board maintained its commitment to governance excellence by holding all quarterly meetings as scheduled, ensuring rigorous oversight and strategic direction. Attendance and participation were commendable, reflecting our members' commitment to our mission.

Our international engagements have been particularly fruitful. We hosted a delegation from Eswatini, sharing our regulatory experiences to assist in establishing their own regulatory body. Our active participation in the international framework for global nuclear safety and security has resulted in Zimbabwe acceding to seven critical conventions related to nuclear safety and security. We continue to advocate for the domestication of these conventions to bolster our national regulatory framework.



Dr. Anna Mary Nyakabau

The Authority's regulatory activities have been robust and effective.

We made strides in the area of nuclear security, ensuring safe use and storage of radioactive sources, and conducted three emergency preparedness drills to enhance our response capabilities.

Public engagement has been a cornerstone of our activities. Notably, our Radiation Safety Conference, held in November, was a significant success, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders.

We showcased our initiatives at major events such as the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair and the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show. Our



commitment to corporate social responsibility was evident through our participation in cancer awareness initiatives and support for organizations like Kidzcan and CancerServe.

The launch of the Women in Nuclear-Zimbabwe Chapter in October marked a significant milestone in promoting gender diversity within the nuclear sector.

Our commitment to employee well-being remains unwavering, with comprehensive wellness programs, including cancer screening and counselling services.

Our environmental monitoring activities, particularly in managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) and conducting background radiation mapping, have been vital in ensuring public safety. The construction of the Disused Radioactive Sources Management Facility is nearing completion, which will further strengthen our waste management capabilities.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we express our gratitude to our dedicated staff, stakeholders, and partners for their unwavering support. The accomplishments of 2023 position us well to meet future challenges and opportunities with confidence.

The Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest standards of radiation safety, regulatory compliance, and operational excellence. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in safeguarding the health and safety of our nation.

Thank you for your support.

Chief Executive Officer's Statement



Mr. Justice Chipuru

Dear Stakeholders,

am honoured to present the annual report of the Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe for the year 2023. As we reflect on the year, it is clear that our commitment to radiation safety and protection has only strengthened, driven by our resolve to overcome challenges and achieve our strategic goals.

In 2022, we set forth an ambitious outlook with several key initiatives, and I am pleased to report on the significant progress we have made in these areas over the past year.

We initiated a patient dose monitoring framework. This initiative will be instrumental in ensur-

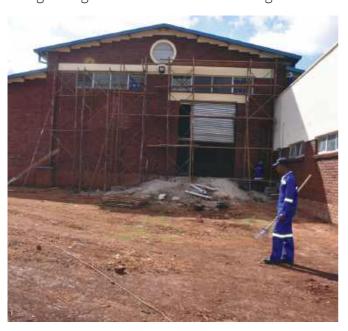
ing patient safety by systematically tracking and managing radiation doses received during medical procedures. When operational, the framework will provide critical data to healthcare providers and enhance patient protection protocols.

The national inventory of radiation sources and the dose register have been thoroughly updated. This enhancement ensures accurate and up-to-date information on all radiation sources within the country, facilitating better regulatory oversight and risk management.

Significant investments were made to expand our laboratory infrastructure. New state-of-the-art equipment has been installed, enabling us to conduct more comprehensive and precise testing and analysis. This expansion enhances our capacity to monitor and manage radiation safety across various sectors.

We undertook an extensive project to map background radiation levels throughout Zimbabwe. This initiative provides a detailed baseline of natural radiation levels, which is crucial for assessing any future changes or incidents involving radiation. The mapping project is almost complete and will offer valuable data for ongoing monitoring and research.

Establishing a non-ionising radiation framework marks a significant advancement in our regulatory capabilities. This new framework seeks to address the growing concern over non-ionising radiation



sources, such as electromagnetic fields from telecommunications and other technologies, ensuring comprehensive protection standards are in place.

The Disused Sources Management Repository is almost complete and will provide a secure and safe storage solution for these materials. This facility plays a critical role in mitigating potential risks associated with disused sources, ensuring they are managed to protect public health and the environment.

Our financial performance remained robust in 2023. The government's allocation of \$170 million for capital and recurrent expenditure facilitated these advancements. We maintained a balance between revenue and expenditure, achieving an inflation-adjusted operating surplus margin of 36%. Our financial stability is reflected in total assets amounting to \$1.7 billion against total liabilities of \$0.86 billion, with the current ratio improving to 4:1 from 3:1 in 2022.

Throughout 2023, we implemented cost optimisation strategies, efficiency measures, and prioritised critical activities to navigate economic challenges effectively. Embracing technology and digital platforms, we streamlined processes, increased accessibility, and improved service delivery. Our dedication to staff development ensured that our team remained motivated and equipped with the necessary skills to perform their duties with excellence.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to advancing radiation safety in Zimbabwe. We will continue to advocate for adequate resources, explore innovative solutions, and foster partnerships to enhance our regulatory frameworks and operational effectiveness.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, regulatory partners, stakeholders, and the Government for their unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we have achieved remarkable progress and are well-positioned to meet future challenges and opportunities.

Thank you for your continued trust. I invite you to review this annual report for a comprehensive overview of our endeavours during the year under review.

Radiation Protection Board



Dr. Anna Mary Nyakabau Chairperson



Mr. Washington Zhakata Vice Chairperson



Mrs. Lizzie Mazvita Chikerema



Mr. Nelson Charumbira



Ms. Viola Kamtepfa



Mr. Aaron Chigona



Mr. Nathan Nkomo



Ms. Tatenda Mawokomatanda



Dr. Xolani Ndlovu



Mrs. B Mpofu



Mrs. Shingi Gundu



Mrs. Precious Charandura

2.6 Board Committees

In terms of Paragraph 7 of the Second Schedule of the Radiation Protection Act, "for the better exercise of its functions, the Board may establish one or more committees in which the Board may vest such of its functions as it considers appropriate".

The mandate of the Committees is to assist the Board in discharging its mandate and responsibilities. These Committees play a key role in enhancing high standards of governance and improving effectiveness within the Authority.

Board Committees meet at least once per quarter and provide feedback to the Board through Committee reports.

Board Committees have each adopted formal terms of reference, which are reviewed regularly to ensure continued relevance.

ThefollowingBoardCommitteesassistedtheBoardin dischargingitsmandateovertheperiodunderreview: **Table 1**

FINANCE	AUDIT	HR & LEGAL	RISK MANAGEMENT	OPERATIONS
Mr W. Zhakata	Mrs L.M Chikerema	Mr N. Charumbira	Dr X. Ndlovu	Mr A. Chigona
Mr N. Charumbira	Mr A. Chigona	Dr A.M Nyakabau	Mr W. Zhakata	Eng T. Mawokomatanda
Eng T. Mawokomatanda	Mr N. Nkomo	Mrs L.M Chikerema	Mr N. Nkomo	Dr X Ndlovu
Ms B. Mpofu (Expert member)	Mrs P. Charandura (Expert member)	Mrs V. Kamtepfa	Mrs V. Kamtepfa	
		Mrs S. Gundu (Expert member)		

Management



Mr. Justice Chipuru Chief Executive Officer



Mr. Innocent Mayida
Director Regulatory Services



Ms. Vongai Mavurayi-Mutanga Company Secretary



Mr. Company Jembere Head Internal Audit



Mr. Lovemore Mazuru Chief Finance Officer



Ms. Nokuthula Ncube Regional Manager



Mr. Brian Mutangandebvu Human Resources and Administration Manager



Mr. Amos Muzongomerwa Technical Services Manager

Governance



1.1 Status of the Radiation Protection Authority Board

Mrs. B. Mpofu joined the Finance Committee, as an expert, effective from January 1st, while Mrs. V. Kamtepfa joined the Board in April 2023, from the Ministry of Energy and Power Development and succeeding Eng. B. Munyaradzi.

1.2 Board Resolutions

All resolutions of the Board were diligently implemented, with copies disseminated to CGU and the Shareholder in compliance with the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act [Chapter 10:31] (PECGA).

1.3 IRBM Framework

The Strategic Plan underwent a thorough review, and the 2024 Annual Plan and Programme documents were developed during the period from November 27th to 30th, 2023.

1.4 Board Meetings

All Quarterly Board Meetings were held in compliance with PECGA.

Table 2

Names		Date o	of Meeting	
	30 March	29 June	28	19 December
	2023	2023	September	2023
	15 th Board	16 th Board	2023	18 th Board
	Meeting	Meeting	17 th Board Meeting	Meeting
Dr A. M Nyakabau	V	*	*	V
Mr W. Zhakata	√	*	·	*
Mr A. Chigona	-	*	-	✓.
Mr N. Charumbira	√	~	1	4
Mr N. Nkomo	121	·	-	-
Mrs L.M Chikerema	√	·	~	✓
Dr X. Ndlovu	✓	1	1	✓
Eng T. Mawokomatanda	~	·		√
Mrs. V. Kamtepfa	N/A	*	1	4

1.5 Eswatini/ Board Interface

The Authority hosted a delegation from Eswatini, comprising three members, seeking insights to aid in

establishing their regulatory body. The engagement served as an opportunity to share experiences and expertise The engagement was sponsored by the IAEA.

1.6 LEGAL ISSUES

1.61 Statutory and Contractual Compliance

All statutory and contractual obligations were diligently met within stipulated timelines.

1.7 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1.71 International Treaties and Conventions

Through the Authority's efforts, Zimbabwe successfully acceded to seven crucial International Conventions related to nuclear safety and security. The Authority is now focused on advocating for domestication where necessary. The Conventions include the following: -

- Convention on Nuclear Safety,
- Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage,
- → Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage,
- → Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention.
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (Nuclear Terrorism Convention)
- Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities for the International Atomic Energy Agency
- Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

1.8 International Cooperation

The Authority actively engaged in various international endeavours, such as hosting consultative workshops, participating in ministerial meetings, and collaborating on regulatory matters with neighbouring countries and international organizations. Notable engagements include workshops facilitated by the IAEA Security Unit, exchanges with the Kingdom of Eswatini, and participation in ministerial workshops promoting clean energy.

Public Engagement



2.1 Exhibitions

The Authority showcased its initiatives and services at prominent events and exhibitions, including the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, University of Zimbabwe Career Day, and others outlined in the report.

2.2 Corporate Social Responsibility

In line with its commitment to social responsibility, the Authority participated in various initiatives aimed at raising awareness and supporting communities affected by cancer. Noteworthy activities include participation in the Zimpapers Cancer power walk and providing exhibition space for organizations like Kidzcan. CancerServe. and Cancer Network

Association at the Radiation Safety Conference.

2.3 Women in Nuclear- Zim Chapter

The launch of the Women in Nuclear-Zimbabwe Chapter in Egypt in October 2023 marked a significant milestone in promoting gender diversity and inclusivity within the nuclear sector.

2.4 Radiation Safety Conference

The inaugural Radiation Safety Conference held from November 22nd to 24th, 2023, was a resounding success. The event, officiated by the Honourable Minister of Energy and Power Development, served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among industry stakeholders.







Operations



3.1 Organizational Overview

The Authority continues to thrive as a premier institution with a workforce comprising 80 dedicated staff members. Our team boasts expertise across various scientific, technical, managerial, and other professional disciplines, ensuring comprehensive competence in all aspects of our operations.

3.2 Workforce Diversity

As a socially responsible employer, the Authority remains steadfast in its commitment to diversity and employment equity. Our workforce diversity is illustrated in the following table:

Table 3

LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Executive Management	1	0	1
Senior Management	6	2	8
Technical staff	30	21	51
Support Staff	11	9	20
Total	48	32	80

3.3 Talent Development Programs

To nurture young talent and foster future experts, the Authority offers a comprehensive Graduate Trainee Programme. This two-year initiative equips young scientists with the necessary skills and knowledge, grooming them into proficient radiation scientists. Furthermore, the Authority extends internship opportunities to university students, providing them with hands-on experience and exposure to



our dynamic work environment.

3.4 Employee Wellness Initiatives

We prioritize the well-being of our employees through various initiatives. The Authority provides comprehensive employee wellness programs, including counselling services, cancer screening, and sporting activities. These initiatives not only ensure the physical and mental well-being of our staff but also foster a supportive and conducive work environment.

3.5 Operational Enhancements

In our continuous efforts to enhance operational efficiency, the Authority has implemented automated processes for requisitions, vehicle requests, and stores requests. These automated systems streamline workflows, improving convenience and productivity across all departments. Additionally, in June 2023, the Authority successfully renewed contracts for insurance, vehicle service suppliers, and security services, ensuring the seamless continuation of essential services.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and progress of the past year, we express gratitude to our dedicated staff, stakeholders, and partners for their unwavering support. Looking ahead, the Authority remains committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence, innovation, and social responsibility in all our endeavours.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who contribute to the success and impact of the Authority, and we look forward to continued collaboration and achievement in the years to come.



Regulatory Affairs



The Authority has diligently developed regulatory programs to uphold the frameworks for radiation protection and safety. These programs, in collaboration with Government, facilities, and international partners, aim to optimize protection against radiation effects nationwide. RPAZ has effectively executed its regulatory activities through a risk-informed approach, ensuring licensees uphold their responsibility for safeguarding people and the

environment against radiation's harmful effects. The following regulatory programs were conducted during the fiscal year 2023:

- Authorisation
- Compliance Inspections
- Nuclear security
- Provision of radiation safety advice to the Government and the public on health, safety, and environmental risks from radiation use

- in the country
- Emergency Preparedness for radiological or nuclear incidents
- High-quality research in radiation safety

Other areas, such as nuclear security, worker protection, radiation safety advice, emergency preparedness, and high-quality research, also achieved 100% of their targets.

Table 4: Compliance Statistics 2023

As of December 31, 2023, the Authority oversees 466
facilities with radiation devices registered in the RAIS
database. In 2023, 403 facilities successfully applied for
and met regulatory requirements, achieving a compliance
rate of 86.2%.

Radiation Devices: Authorisation

Compliance Performance

	TOTAL	% COMPLIANCE
ACCREDITATION	15	100%
MEDICAL	235	89.2%
VET	12	83.3%
DENTAL	96	68.8%
INDUSTRIAL	103	94.2%
RESEARCH	5	60.0%
TOTAL	466	86.2%



Table 5: Analysis of Yearly Compliance Performance

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Compliance	65.0	68.2	68.1	72.3	71.8	82.46	85.6	86.2
percentage								

4.1





4.2 NORM Authorisation

In 2023, 62 facilities met regulatory control criteria after NORM assessments, with 47 facilities authorized, meeting all regulatory requirements.

Table 6: NORM Compliance

	TOTAL	%COMPLIANCE
NORM	62	79.66%
Exemption	42	78.57%
Monitoring	13	92.31%
Licensing	7	28.57%
TOTAL	59	79.66%



Radiation source	Number
Fixed Medical Xray machines	50
Mobile Medical Xray machines	20
Bone densitometer machines	1
Mammography machines	2
Dental Xray machines	5
Nuclear gauges	18
XRF	2
Cargo Scanners	3
Radionuclide sources	1
TOTAL	102

4.3 Vehicle Screening for Radiation Contamination

In 2023, a total of 28 908 vehicles were screened for radiation contamination.









4.4 Nuclear Security and Transportation of Radioactive Sources

The Authority bolstered its regulatory framework on nuclear and physical security for radioactive sources at facilities, ensuring proper inventory management and security protocols. Inspections were conducted to verify safety during the transportation of radioactive sources, with specific attention to radiation protection programs.

4.5 Inspections

All scheduled inspections for 2023 were successfully conducted, ensuring compliance and safety across authorized facilities. Efforts were made to train new inspectors and enhance knowledge management within the Authority. The total number of inspections conducted during the year under review is 287. There was an improved safety culture and adherence to international radiation protection standards.







4.6 Framework for Patient Safety (Pictures)

A workshop was conducted to raise awareness amongst stakeholders with responsibilities towards patient safety. The outcome of the workshop identified key gaps that needed to be addressed in improving patient safety in the country as guided by international safety standards.

The gaps identified included the establishment of Diagnostic Reference Levels, the development of Equipment Quality Control procedures and the development of referral guidelines. The workshop implored for the establishment of working groups to address the identified gaps and the continued collaboration of stakeholders.

Services



5.1 Radiochemistry Laboratory

The Authority operates a state-of-the-art radiochemistry laboratory dedicated to monitoring materials such as food, water, and consumer products for radiation. In addition to routine assessments. the laboratory conducts monitoring for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) and assesses radioactivity levels in water, tobacco, agricultural, and industrial products. The laboratory underwent enhancements in 2023, including the addition of a continuous gamma spectrometry system to augment the existing fixed gamma spectrometry setup. This upgrade enhances our capabilities in radiological emergency response and radioactive waste management. Furthermore, our personnel received comprehensive training in operating and managing this advanced system.

5.2 Radon Monitoring Laboratory

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, poses significant health risks, including being a leading cause of lung cancer. In alignment with our strategic plan, the Authority prioritizes radon monitoring to safeguard the health and safety of both workers and the public. Through collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), we acquired an Alpha-Guard for onsite radon monitoring in 2023. Additional radon monitoring equipment will be procured in 2024 to ensure the full operationalization of the radon monitoring laboratory.



5.3 Personal Monitoring (Dosimetry) Laboratory

Our dosimetry laboratory plays a crucial role in monitoring occupational exposure for workers in licensed facilities and radiation-controlled areas. Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Radiation Protection Act [Chapter 15:15] ensures worker safety, with dose results meticulously recorded and updated in the National Dose Register. In 2023, the number of individuals monitored under the National Occupational Monitoring System increased to 3714, reflecting our commitment to comprehensive radiation safety practices.

Table 8: Summary of 2023 Occupational Exposure Monitoring

Category	No. of people under monitoring
Industry	185
Security	2410
Mining	151
Medical	958
Research	10
TOTAL	3714

5.4 Research

The Authority supported various research initiatives through partnerships and collaborations, aiming to enhance regulatory knowledge and practices in radiation and nuclear safety.

Five Authority staff presented papers and posters on Radiation safety at international scientific conferences.

The Authority supported two Undergraduate and PHD students with access to laboratory equipment for their academic researche.

Through robust regulatory programs and diligent oversight, the Authority continues to ensure the safe and responsible use of radiation across various sectors, safeguarding public health and the environment.

Environmental monitoring



6.1 NORM Assessments

In adherence to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) Regulations (SI 99 of 2013), our

radiochemistry laboratory conducted assessments to monitor and manage naturally occurring radioactive materials in various settings.

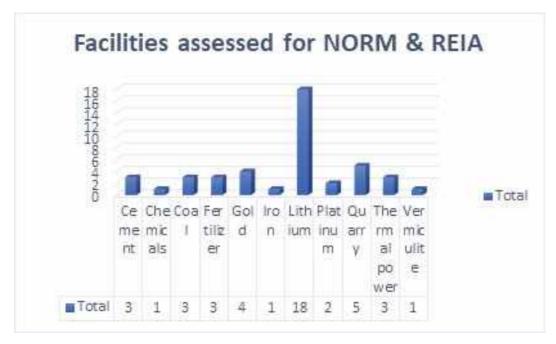


Figure 1: Summary of facilities assessed for NORM and REIA

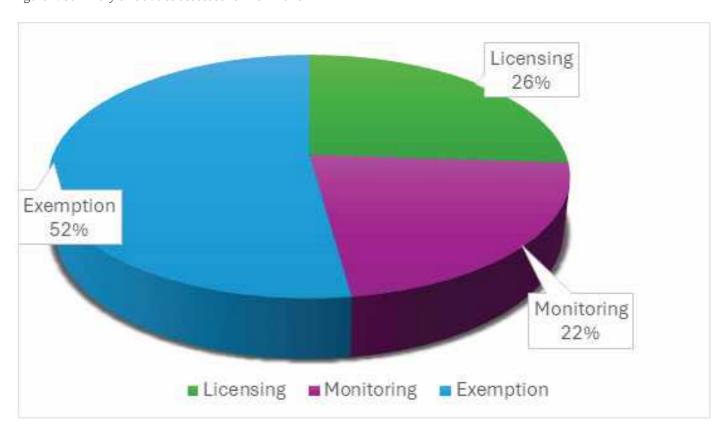


Figure 2: Summary of the recommended authorization categories

Disused Radioactive Sources Management Repository





7.1 Construction

Despite funding challenges, progress was made in constructing the Disused Radioactive Sources Management Facility, standing at 95% completion. Final works, including road construction and security system upgrades, are underway. Once operational, the facility will safely store disused sealed radioactive sources and other radioactive waste.

7.2 Technical Preparedness for Operationalising the Facility

To ensure readiness for facility operation, our officers engaged in fellowship visits and scientific exchanges to gain insights into waste management best practices. The Authority is poised to efficiently operate the facility upon completion and commissioning.





Fig 3.2.2 Technical Fellowship to Slovenia and scientific visit to Indonesia.

Radiation safety training



Training remains pivotal in fostering radiation safety awareness and compliance. In 2023, various training programs were conducted, including Basic Radiation Safety Training, Dosimetry Training, and Advanced

Radiation Safety Training, aimed at equipping personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement radiation safety protocols effectively.

Table 9: Trainings

Type of Training	Persons Trained
Basic Radiation Safety Training Course for Radiation Safety Officers (RSO Training), Industrial	14
Dosimetry Training for industrial and medical facilities	14
Advanced RSO Training 3rd session	14
Advanced Radiation Safety Training for Industrial RSOs, Session 2 of 3	28
Radiation Safety Workshop for Management/Senior Decision Makers	25
Training Workshop on Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)	12





