

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAFFIC TRAINING ACADEMY IN MKHUHLU

APRIL 2013

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF MKHUHLU TRAFFIC TRAINING ACADEMY ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM CALCUTTA 294 KU, MKHUHLU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

DEDET Ref: 17/2/3 E-174

<p>Prepared by:</p> <p>WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</p> <p>P. O. Box 1072 NELSPRUIT 1200</p> <p>Tel: (013) 752 5452 Fax: (013) 752 6877 E-mail: desiree@wandima.co.za</p>	<p>Applicant:</p> <p>Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport</p> <p>P/Bag X 11302 NELSPRUIT 1200</p> <p>Tel: (013) 766 6554 Fax: (013) 766 8449 Email: sinugops@mpg.gov.za</p>
	

PROJECT INFORMATION

REPORT TITLE:	Final Basic Assessment Report
REPORT STATUS:	Final
PROJECT TITLE:	Proposed Establishment of Mkhuhlu Traffic Training Academy, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province
CLIENT:	Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (MDPWRT)
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS:	Wandima Environmental Services
DEDET REFERENCE NUMBER:	17/2/3 E-174
WES REFERENCE NUMBER:	12/20/50/06

REPORT COMPILATION RESPONSIBILITY

REPORT COMPILED BY:

Desiree Mbuyane
(B.A Environmental Science)
Environmental Practitioner

TECHNICAL & STRATEGIC REVIEW BY:

Hosea Mokgahla
(Dpl. Nature Conservation, Dpl. Mining and Environmental Geology)
Environmental Practitioner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) is the development agent on behalf of the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liason (DCSSL). DPWRT is assisting DCSSL in planning, designing and implementation of the Traffic Training Academy in Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government is faced with a challenge of training traffic officials and the high standard facility where such officials will be trained, hence the proposed traffic training academy.

The main aim of the proposed traffic training academy is to heighten the training of traffic officials in the province and across the country at large. The proposed development is a public institution and it is expected to bring about social benefit to the surrounding communities.

The project entails construction of the traffic training academy, sports fields, admin block, clinic and residence to accompany it. The academy itself will consist of classes and administrative offices as follows:

Classrooms	= 725m ²
Admin Block	= 676m ²
Computer Centre	= 218m ²
Auditoriums	= 344m ²
Library	= 586m ²
Cafeteria	= 586m ²
Testing Station	= 218m ²
Shooting Range	= 378m ²
Basketball Pitch	= 510m ²
Tennis Court	= 708m ²
Soccer Field	= 4896m ²
Gym and Recreation	= 586m ²
Clinic	= 512m ²
Staff Housing 1	= 193m ²
Staff Housing 2	= 193m ²
Staff Housing 3	= 193m ²
Staff Housing 4	= 193m ²
Staff Housing 5	= 193m ²
Hostels	= 3032m ²
Walk ways	= --m ²
Gate House	= 138m ²

The proposed study area is to be located on the remainder of Farm Calcutta No. 294-KU, Mkhuhlu in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. It measures approximately 25 hectares in extent and is bordered by Transnet freight rail railway line on the west and the Thulane settlement on the north-west. The farm is owned by the Hoxane Tribal Authority. The proposed site is accessed off the R536 Hazyview-Kruger National Park Road.

The site is currently vacant and zoned agricultural owing to the previous land use of the site for agricultural purposes.

A basic environmental impact assessment, underpinned by an extensive Public Participation Process, was conducted. As per the DEAT Guidelines (2006), all relevant Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) were identified, notified and every effort made to ensure their involvement and participation in the process. Also, all relevant Authorities, notably the Local Municipality, non governmental organizations, service providers as well as key stakeholders, were notified and invited to participate in the process.

The assessment has revealed that the project will have some negative biophysical impacts if not effectively managed in accordance with the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), however, the assessment also revealed positive socioeconomic impacts with regards to job creation, community upliftment, skills development, improved education facilities and systems, improved infrastructure and may also attract other community services. The attached EMP outlines how the identified negative impacts will be managed. Consequently, it is the considered view of the environmental consultants that should the project be authorised, it should be implemented in accordance with the stipulations of the EMP and stipulations of the Environmental Authorisation.

Definition of terms

"Activity" means an activity identified in Government Notice No. R. 544 and No. R. 545 of 2010 as a listed activity

"Alternatives", in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to property, activity, design or technology.

"Applicant" means a person who has submitted or intends to submit an application;

"Application" means an application for an environmental authorization in terms of Chapter 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010.

"Associated Infrastructure" means any building or infrastructure that is necessary for the functioning of a facility or activity or that is used for an ancillary service or use from the facility.

"Basic assessment" means a process contemplated in regulation 22.

"Cumulative impact", in relation to an activity, means the impact of an activity that in itself may not be significant but may become significant when added to the existing and potential impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities or undertakings in the area.

"Environmental impact assessment", in relation to an application to which scoping must be applied, means the process of collecting, organizing, analyzing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant to the consideration of that application.

"Environmental management plan" means an environmental management plan in relation to identified or specified activities envisaged in Chapter 5 of the Act and described in regulation 34;

"Guidelines" means any national guidelines and provincial guidelines issued in terms of Chapter 8 of these Regulations.

"Floodplain" means a discernable flat landscape feature next to a river or stream that was created by weathering and sedimentation over time.

"Infill development" means urban development, including residential, commercial, retail, institutional, educational and mixed use development, but excluding industrial development, in a built up area which is at least 50 percent abutted by urban development and which can be readily connected to municipal bulk infrastructure services.

"Interested and Affected Party" means an interested and affected party contemplated in section 24(4) (d) of the Act, and which in terms of that section includes -

(a) any person, group of persons or organization interested in or affected by an activity; and

(b) any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity;

"Public Participation Process" means a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, specific matters;

"Registered Interested and Affected Party", in relation to an application, means an interested and affected party whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application in terms of regulation 57.

"Mixed use", with regard to an activity, means the presence of two or more types of land use in an area;

"Significant impact" means an impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment;

"The Act" means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998).

Abbreviations

"BA" Basic Assessment

"EIA" Environmental Impact Assessment

"EMP" Environmental Management Plan

"WES" Wandima Environmental Services

"I&APs" Interested and/or Affected Parties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT INFORMATION
 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
 DEFINITION OF TERMS

1.	SECTION A: ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Page 2
1.1	Background to the Proposed Project.....	Page 2
1.2	Feasible and Reasonable Alternatives.....	Page 4
1.3	Activity Position.....	Page 5
1.4	Physical Size of the Activity	Page 6
1.5	Site Access	Page 6
1.6	Site or Route Plan	Page 7
1.7	Site Photographs	Page 7
1.8	Facility Illustration	Page 7
1.9	Activity Motivation	Page 9
1.10	Applicable Legislation, Policies and/or Guidelines	Page 11
1.11	Waste, Effluent, Emission and Noise Management	Page 12
1.12	Water Use	Page 13
1.13	Energy Efficiency	Page 14
2.	SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.....	Page 15
2.1	Gradient of the Site.....	Page 16
2.2	Location in Landscape	Page 16
2.3	Groundwater, Soil and Geological Stability of the Site	Page 17
2.4	Groundcover	Page 17
2.5	Land Use Character of Surrounding Area	Page 18
2.6	Cultural/Historical Features.....	Page 19
3.	SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	Page 20
3.1	Advertisement.....	Page 20
3.2	Content of Advertisements & Notices.....	Page 20
3.3	Placement of Advertisements and Notices.....	Page 21
3.4	Determination of Appropriate Measures.....	Page 21
3.5	Comments and Response Report.....	Page 21
3.6	Authority Participation	Page 21
3.7	Consultation with Other Stakeholders	Page 22
4.	SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Page 23
4.1	Issues Raised by Interested & Affected Parties	Page 24
4.2	Impacts & Proposed Mitigation	Page 25
4.2.1	Impacts	Page 25
4.3	Environmental Impact Statement	Page 34

5. SECTION E: RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER Page 35
 5.1 Recommendations Page 35

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

- Appendix A: Site Plans
- Appendix B: Photographs
- Appendix C: Facilities Illustrations
- Appendix D Specialists Reports
- Appendix E: Comments & Responses Report
- Appendix F Environmental Management Programme
- Appendix G: Letters of Land Ownership