

FINAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

For the

**PROPOSED INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENT (TOWNSHIP), SIYATHUTHUKA
EXTENSION 5 ON PORTION 13 OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN No. 385JS,
BELFAST, EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

NOVEMBER 2012

DEDET Ref: 17/2/3N-124

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1. Project Information

The applicant, Emakhazeni Local Municipality, intends to establish an integrated human settlement (township) on Portion 13 of the Farm Klipfontein 385 JS. The aerial extent of the proposed township extension is approximately 11, 69ha. The proposed development site is situated approximately 9-10km north-west of the town Belfast. The extension is bordered by Siyathuthuka Extension 2 in the south, Portion1 of the Farm Mineraal 394JS in the north-west and Portion 1 of the Farm Paardeplaats 380JT in the south-east.

Wandima Environmental Services has been appointed as independent consultants to undertake the Basic Assessment process.

2. Public Participation Process

Public participation is the involvement of all parties who potentially have an interest in a development or project, or may be affected by it. The objective of the Public Participation Process (PPP) is to meet all legal requirements, to ensure that where possible all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are informed of the proposed project, comments and issues are captured and responded to, a database is compiled containing information of the I&APs and that registered I&APs are communicated with on an on-going basis in an open and honest manner.

Public Participation Process is conducted along the guidelines given in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (amended) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2010. It forms an integral part of the EIA Process and is influenced by:

- Placing notifications on site and in the local media (**Appendix E-1**)
- Distributing Background Information Document (BID) to adjacent property owners and/or tenants and other I&APs(**Appendix E-4**)
- Conducting public meetings with I&APs
- Providing registered I&APs with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis.

Anyone who is interested or affected by the proposed project has the right to participate and is encouraged to do so. A detailed account of the process followed is elaborated in the following section and issues and/or concerns raised are documented and addressed where possible.

2.1 The Participation Process:

- ↳ Submit an application and obtain an acknowledgement and reference number
- ↳ Inform I&APs, including but not limited to:
 - Local Municipalities
 - Relevant Government Departments
 - Non-government Organisations (if applicable)
 - Community Based Organisations (if applicable)
 - Adjacent Landowners and tenants
- ↳ Organise Public Meeting/s / Focus Group Meetings / Open Day(s) (optional)
- ↳ Make Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) available for Public Review and comments
- ↳ Submit Final BA Report to authority including comments received during review period
- ↳ Inform I&APs of decision and allow 10 days for Notice of Intent to Appeal and 30 days for appeals

3. Process followed to Date

The following processes were undertaken to facilitate the public participation for the proposed establishment project, which commenced on Friday, 27 January 2012.

3.1 Newspaper advertisement

A newspaper advertisement was published in the Middelburg Observer on Friday, 27 January 2012 notifying the public of the scoping process and requesting Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register with, and submit their comments to Wandima Environmental Services. A content of the newspaper advertisement is attached in **Appendix E-1**.

3.2 Site notices

Three (3) site notices were fixed in conspicuous places around the proposed site on Monday, 30 January 2012. The site notices gave a brief description of the project and Interested and/or Affected Parties were invited to register on the database of the proposed project and to raise any issues concerning the proposed project, and to submit any comments or concerns about the project within 21 days. Copies of the site notices and photographic evidence of the site notices are attached as **Appendix E-2**.

3.3 Identified I&APs

(Please refer to the **Appendix E-3** for a register of all identified and / or contacted I&APs)

3.4 Hand-delivered notifications

Background Information Documents (BIDs) were prepared and distributed to adjacent landowners / tenants within 100 meters of the proposed site on Monday, 30 January 2012 to notify and inform them of the proposed project.

The BID gave a full description of the proposed project and invited the I&APs to register on the database and raise concerns or comments. The BID also included the registration and comment sheet as well as a locality map. Identified landowners and stakeholder representatives were sent the BID, invited to participate in the project and to attend a public meeting. A copy of the BID is attached as **Appendix E-4**.

4. Comments and Response Report

Issues, comments and/or suggestions submitted by I&APs by e-mail, fax, post or telephonically are captured in the Comment and Response Report, attached as **Appendix E-6**. During compiling of this final public participation report, the Department of Water Affairs (DWAF) raised concerns with regards to the wetland situated on the southern boundary of the site. However, no comments had been received from I&APs, comments captured from I&APs are those raised from the public meeting.

5. Public Meetings

A public meeting was held on 13 March 2012, at the Siyathuthuka Community Hall, at 17h30, in Belfast. The purpose of the meeting was to inform I&APs of the proposed development, discuss any issues or concerns they may have, obtain their inputs and comments and allow them an opportunity to register to participate in the process. Minutes of the public meeting are attached in **Appendix E-5**.

6. Correspondence with I&APs

Correspondence with I&APs has been maintained on an ongoing basis throughout the process and any comments, concerns or issues captured are attached in the Comments and Response Report (Appendix E-6), and forms part of all the reports submitted to DEDET.

7. Way Forward

Once the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the Environmental Impact Assessment has been accepted and a decision made by DEDET, registered I&APs will be informed of this decision and given an opportunity to appeal the decision.

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