

Mobile +27 (0)84 831 8225 Email warren@inhlabaconsulting.com PO Box 1624, Kloof, 3640, South Africa

Your Ref.: Msunduzi Ward 34

Our Ref.: 2005

16 March 2020

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTY

RE: Notice of applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). Madiba Community Hall, Ward 34, Msunduzi Municipality

Dear Sir/ Madam.

#### 1. Introduction

iNhlaba Consulting (Pty) Ltd (iNhlaba Consulting) has been appointed by Mariswe Consulting (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of the Msunduzi Local Municipality (Msunduzi Municipality), as the environmental assessment practitioner for the proposed development of a the Madiba Community Hall, in Ward 34, Pietermaritzburg. Figure 1 for a locality map.

As part of this appointment, iNhlaba Consulting is to compile applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the National Water Act, 1998 (No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

## 2. Project Description

Ward 34 of the Msunduzi Municipality currently does not have the facilities to host civic events. In order to provide for this re-occurring demand, the Msunduzi Municipality has made allocation in its Integrated Development Plan for the development of a community hall within the municipal ward during the 2020/21 financial year.

Given the high-density development already having occurred within Ward 34, and the generally steep topography, the Msunduzi Municipality was able to identify three (3) potential sites to develop the community hall. (See Figure 1). The preferred site is located alongside an unnamed tributary of the Baynes Spruit river, which drains into the Msunduzi River approximately 650 m downstream of the site.

The proposed community hall will consist of a built masonry structure (approximately 300-400m²) in extent along with supporting infrastructure such as parking areas, electrical and water supply, waterborne sanitation and storm water management. A figure illustrating the proposed layout is included as Figure 2.



# 3. Applicable Legislation

## 3.1 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act. No 107 of 1998)

The NEMA contains a set of principles that govern environmental management and against which Environmental Impact Assessment and all Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) and actions are measured. These principles include sustainable development, protection of the natural environment, waste minimisation, public consultation, and the right to a clean and healthy environment and a general duty of care.

The NEMA allows for the listing of activities<sup>1</sup> considered to present an inherent risk to the environment along with the procedural requirements<sup>2</sup> should someone wish to undertake one of these activities. The table below provides a description of the listed activity in EIA Regulation Listing Notice 3 of 2014 triggered by the proposed development of the Madiba Community Hall. (Table 1).

Table 1: Applicable activity relevant to project

EIA Regulation Listing Notice 3 of 2014	
Activity 12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
Activity 14	The development of - (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs - (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; d. KwaZulu-Natal. viii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority

Undertaking one or more activities listed in EIA Regulation Listing 3 of 2014 is subject to assessment in terms of a Basic Assessment, as outlined in Sections 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) granting Environmental Authorisation prior to commencement.

## 3.2 National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)

The purpose of the NWA is to ensure that South Africa's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways which take into account a variety of factors. These factors include the need to protect aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biodiversity, and the obligation to reduce and prevent the pollution of water resources.

In order to fulfil this mandate, the NWA listed 11 water uses which are prohibited subject to the Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS) issuing a Water Use Licence (WUL). Included as water uses listed in Section 21 of the NWA are the following applicable activities:

(c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The procedural requirements for WUL application is subject to consideration by an aquatic ecologist.

9 March 2020 Page 2 of 5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>EIA Regulation Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 of 2014 (as amended).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).



# 4. Opportunity to participate

As part of these application processes, iNhlaba Consulting will be conducting a public participation process, notifying Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development and inviting them to register on the I&AP database. Registered I&APs will then be afforded the opportunity to comment and provide input into the NEMA and NWA applications, informing the authorities' decision-making process.

Should you wish to register as an I&AP and receive further information regarding the applications, please forward the following information to iNhlaba Consulting:

- Your name,
- Contact telephone number,
- Email address, and
- Postal Address.

Should you wish to make any initial representations, please ensure that these are submitted to iNhlaba Consulting by no later than 25 March 2020.

### 5. Conclusion

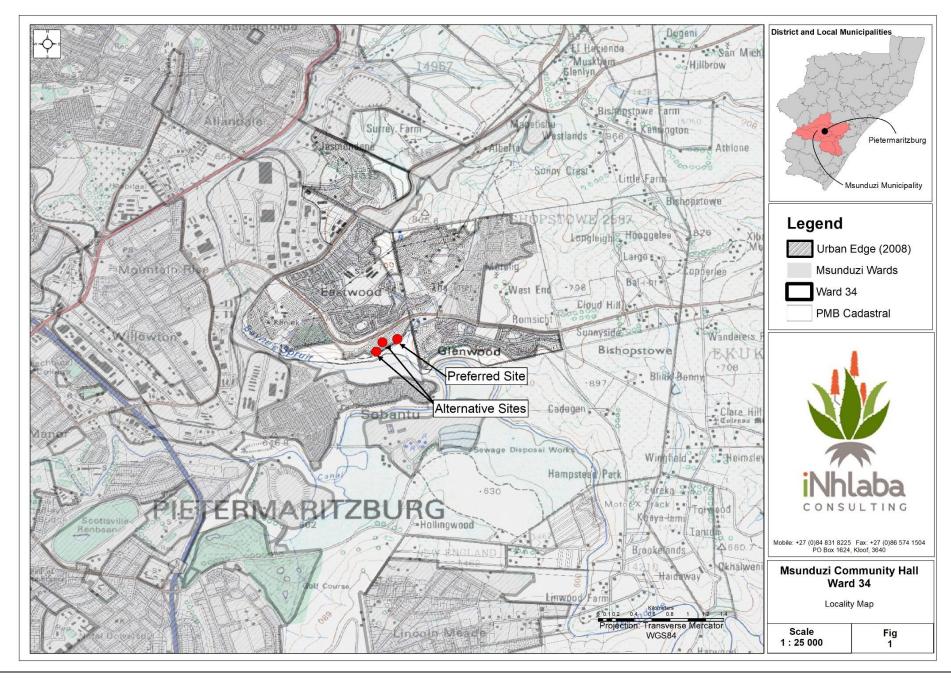
Thank you for your consideration of this notice.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Warren Hale

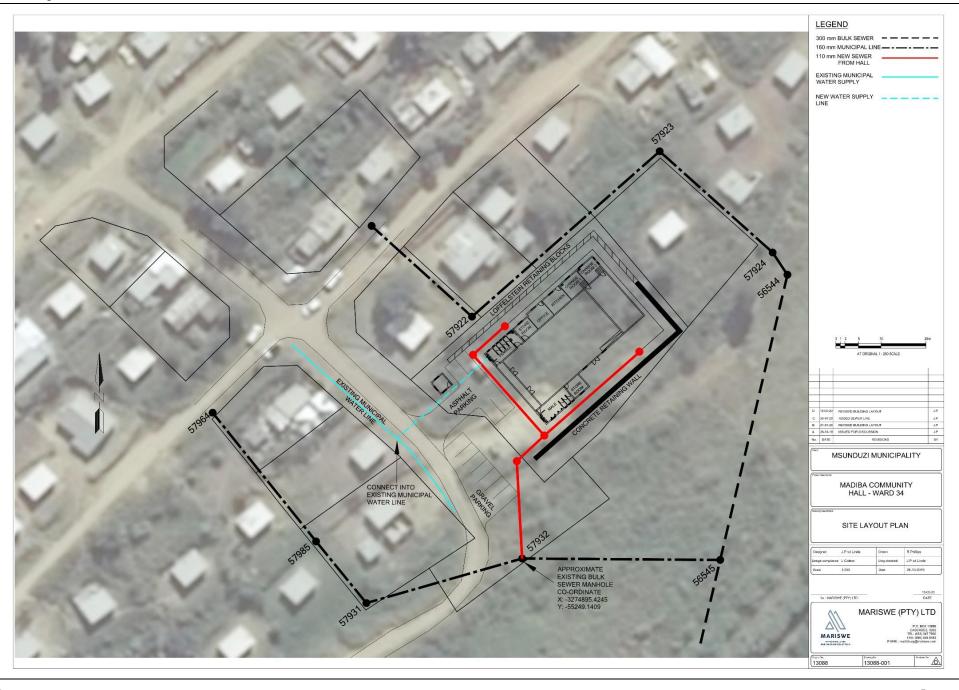
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9 March 2020 Page 4 of 5





9 March 2020 Page 5 of 5