

# NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)

## PROPOSED 2AFRICA/GERA (EAST) MARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE SYSTEM LANDING AT PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

**Proponent: Vodacom (Pty) Limited, (hereafter referred to as “Vodacom”).**

Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) has been contracted to install the proposed 2AFRICA/GERA (East) Cable System linking the east coast of Africa with Europe and parts of the Middle East, with one of the South African landings at Port Elizabeth. This will be operated by Vodacom as the SA landing partner. The cable system will provide SA with enhanced reliability and capacity for various digital data services such as telecommuting, HD TV broadcasting, Internet services, video conferencing, advanced multimedia, and mobile video applications.

### Environmental Authorization Process

Environmental Authorisation will be required from the competent authority, the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended 2017) published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The project triggers activities deemed harmful to the environment in terms Listing Notices 1 (GNR. 327), 2 (GNR. 325) and 3 (GNR. 324). DEFF is the competent authority for the issuing of environmental authorisation for this proposed development. There are other licenses/permits that may be required, which will be acquired in parallel to the environmental authorisation process, e.g. a Sea Shore Lease Permit will be required from the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) and a Water Use License from the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS).

On behalf of Vodacom, ACER will fulfil the role and responsibilities of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment and the associated public participation process, and to submit the required application and supporting documentation to DEFF and other relevant authorities for consideration and decision-making.

### Invitation to Participate

To register as an Interested and/or Affected Party and to obtain further information related to the proposed project, please contact the Public Participation Office:

#### **Carina Boonzaaier or Giles Churchill**

- P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867 • Tel: 035 340 2715
- E-mail: 2AFRICA.PortElizabeth@acerafrica.co.za

Please note that consistent with GNR 326, 42(a), 44 (1) and 19(1)(a) (7 April 2017) all comments received will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report which will be made available to the competent authority and which will be placed in the public domain as part of the public review process of the EIA reports.

**Date of advert: 05 November 2020**