

# NOTICE OF THE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSE APPLICATION INCLUDING INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED SKYWALK PROJECT AT GOD'S WINDOW, BLYDE RIVER CANYON, WITHIN THE THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (TCM), IN THE EHLANZENI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

## INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT



**S · E · F**

SEF REF NO: 505201 /DEA REF NO: 14/12/16/3/3/88

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

Notice is given in terms of Regulations published in Government Notice (GN) No. R.543 in Government Gazette No. 33306 18 June 2010, under Section 54(c)(i) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA), that the **Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC), on behalf of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)**, proposes to establish a skywalk and associated infrastructure at God's Window located on Farms De Houtbosch 503 KT and Portion 2 of Farm Lisbon 531 within the Blyde River Canyon. The proposed skywalk at the God's Window is envisaged to be a cantilevered glass walkway, extending some 12 metres (m) from the Canyon's edge, with a 700 m vertical drop below, as well as a main building which will house a cafeteria and gift shop. The proposed Skywalk will form part of a larger redevelopment of God's Window, including an enhancement of the existing walkways, viewpoints and car park. The project will also entail an onsite waste management facility.

### Environmental Authorisation

In terms of GN No. R.543 of NEMA, read with GN No. R.544 (Listing Notice No. 1: Activities 9, 11, 18, 37 and 40) and GN No. R.546 (Listing No. 3: Activities 12 and 16) of the NEMA, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required in order to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the above mentioned project.

### Waste Management License

In terms of GN No. 718 (Category B: Activities 5, 7 and 11) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA), a Waste Management License (WML) needs to be acquired from the DEA for the treatment of hazardous waste using any form of treatment regardless of the size or capacity of such a facility to treat such waste; treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of 15 000 cubic metres or more; and the construction of facilities for waste treatment .

### Water Use License

In terms of Section 21 (a), (c) (g) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA), the proposed skywalk and associated infrastructure will also require an Integrated Water Use License (IWUL) for abstraction of water; impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource; and altering the beds, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The integrated environmental authorisation process is being applied for as the DEA is both the Competent Authority for the EA in terms of the NEMA and the WML in terms of the NEMWA.

The **Draft Scoping Report** for the abovementioned project is available for public review and comment from **Friday, 23 August 2013 to Monday, 23 September 2013** on SEF's website ([www.sefsa.co.za](http://www.sefsa.co.za)) and at the **Graskop Public Library**, Louis Trichardt Street, Graskop, Thaba Chweu, 1270. Contact Vinolia Maebela on Tel No: 013 235 7449.

The report can be viewed from Mon - Fri (08h30 to 16h30) and on Sat (08h00 to 13h00)

***The Draft Scoping Report may not be removed from the library premises.***

Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), wish to participate by contributing comments on the Draft Scoping Report, or would like to obtain more information, please contact: Mr Mandla Zuma of STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS (PTY) LTD: P.O. Box 74785, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, Tel: (012) 349 1307, Fax: (012) 349 1229, Email: [mandla@sefsa.co.za](mailto:mandla@sefsa.co.za).

All registrations and comments must be received on or before **Monday, 23 September 2013**.

