



Cell: 0824187708 |
WhatsApp: 0826799841 |
Email: Info@mcs.co.za |
P.O. Box 22536, Glenashley, 4022 |

Minutes of the proposed development of large stock unit (cattle) facilities and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Sterkfontein No. 8501 within Dannhauser Local Municipality, Amajuba District, KwaZulu – Natal

Venue: Virtual Meeting.

Attendees:

Representatives of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) – Mr Poovi Moodley (PM), Ms Bongwiwe Msomi (BMs), Ms Khethiwe Sibisi (KS), Ms Samkelisiwe Vana (SV) and Mr Ntokozi Nkosi (NN): EIA Section team and District Manager respectively. Representatives of Mondli Consulting – Mr Brian Mthembu (BM) and Ms Nomfundo Msibi (NM).

See the attached attendance register.

1. Opening and introductions

The meeting was officially opened by Mr Poovi Moodley at 09:35. Introductions were accordingly done.

Apologies

Ms Nonkululeko Mabaso (NM)-Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)
Mr Bongani Shelembe (BS) – (Applicant) Nyezenhle Holdings (Pty) Ltd.

2. Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a pre-application meeting with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) as a Competent Authority in relation to the proposed project. The meeting was among other things meant to initiate a dialogue and open lines of communication between EDTEA and EAP at an early stage of the project.

3. Project description / site location and alternatives / landownership

BM presented a brief description of the project, site location, alternatives and land ownership.

Nyezenhle Holdings (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop a feedlot located on Portion 1 of the Farm Sterkfontein No.8501 within Dannhauser Local Municipality under Amajuba District Municipality. It is located in an area that is already zoned agriculture. The site is approximately 46,5591 in size and will accommodate 4000 cattle at any given time. 250 cattle will be sent to the abattoir on daily basis and replaced by the same number. The development footprint is currently calculated as 8.3HAs.

The site is located between Ladysmith and Newcastle (N11), opposite Birsmark off ramp, following a dirt road for about 2 kms on the left hand side Newcastle bound on a dirt road leading to the Farm.

There is no alternative site identified because of the nature of the proposed farming project which requires a Farm. Several Farms were looked at by the applicant, who requested the EAP's comments at that stage. The other two Farms were not pursued any further because of their proximity to the watercourses. However, the location of the project within the Farm will be in an area closer to the dirt road, and away from the Dam.

The Farm is currently being transferred from the previous owner to the applicant. It is anticipated that by the time the application is lodged the transfer process would have been finalised.

PM asked if there was going to be any subdivision. BM indicated that there was not going to be any subdivision, as the area was zoned agriculture in line with the proposed activity.

Ms Bongiwe Msomi (BMs) raised a question about the details of the project, including associated structures and infrastructure. BM explained that the project comprised of kraals to be used by cattle as feedlots, as well as the structure that was to receive cattle on arrival. The other structures are already on site like two dwelling houses, borehole, water reservoir and animal loading structure. The applicant is still finalising the preliminary layout.

Ms Samkelisiwe Vana (SV) enquired about waste management with regard to carcasses. She wanted to know how this waste was going to be handled. BM explained that this was going to form part of the overall waste management for the Farm. The mitigation measures were to be put in place after the assessment.

SV enquired if the abattoir was going to form part of the proposed project. BM explained that the abattoir is located in another Farm owned by the applicant. It is not going to form part of the proposed project.

4. Need and desirability of the proposed development

BM explained that the project is not only going to provide temporal jobs, but 40 permanent jobs have been identified, which will mainly be offered to the local people. The applicant has prioritised local people in terms of employment. It is anticipated that 40 permanent jobs will make a difference, and a huge contribution as part of the government recovery plan after a devastating pandemic that has hit the whole world. The Directors of the project are young people who are already in business, and the cattle once slaughtered at the abattoir will be supplying most areas of northern KwaZulu – Natal with meat. This will form part of food security. The applicant also want to ensure the optimal use of land for farming, as the Farm is currently underutilised.

5. Identified listed activity

BM highlighted possible activities triggered by the project. Two possible listed activities were identified at this stage but if there are further activities, they will be added as the project unfolds.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 4: the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceeds-

- (i) 20 square meters per large stock unit and more than 500 units per facility.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 27: the clearance of an area of more than 1 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-

- (i) The undertaking of the linear activity; or
- (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken on accordance with a maintenance management plan.

BMs requested the EAP to also check with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife as to the applicability of Listing Notice 3 activities due to the proximity to Chelmsford Dam and Nature Reserve. BM confirmed this was going to be done as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is already listed as an interested and affected party.

PM indicated that it must be noted that there may be other triggered activities that may come up while the assessment is conducted.

6. Identified interested and affected stakeholders

NM and BM clarified that the following stakeholders have been identified, and they were to continue adding others as the project unfolded.

- Dannhauser Local Municipality.
- Amajuba District Municipality.
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Ezemvelo KZN wildlife
- KwaZulu – Natal Amafa and Research Institute
- Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation.
- Land Claims Commission.
- Eskom.
- Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)

PM advised that Farm owners should be added as Interested and Affected parties.

8. Services on site

BM explained that there is an existing borehole on site that will be utilised. It will be discussed with the relevant organ of state regarding the amount of water to be pumped. Currently, the Farm is using solar energy but there is an existing Eskom lines traversing the Farm. The intention is to submit an application to Eskom in addition to the solar energy. Regarding the sewage, the Farm is currently using septic tanks and it will continue using the same infrastructure. It is not foreseen that there will be too many people residing in the Farm, as most employees will be from the area, and they will be sleeping at their respective homes.

The site is accessible through the dirt road from N11. As part of waste management, waste will be transported to the nearest landfill sites either at Newcastle or Dannhauser. It is not foreseen that there will be a lot of waste, other than cattle dung. However this will be confirmed as the project unfolds. A Stormwater management plan will be compiled to ensure that no surface water run-off, including the cattle manure impact on the environment and watercourses.

KS enquired about the gravel access road in relation to dust, and whether the project was looking at mitigation measures in this regard. This is stemming from the fact that the cattle will be transported to the abattoir on daily basis.

BM explained that dust control was going to form part of the assessment. Dust Regulations and other relevant legislation was going to be taken into consideration in this regard.

On the question of waste from cattle, BM explained that animal (manure) waste is also going to be taken into consideration as part of waste management control measures.

NN enquired whether there were any plans to upgrade existing infrastructure as part of the proposed development. BM explained that at this stage it does not appear there are any planned upgrades relating to the existing infrastructure, except the new proposed structures.

NN indicated that the question was asked in the context of the 40 permanent jobs anticipated for the project, as to whether the existing septic tanks have capacity to handle the site sewerage. BM explained that most of the 40 employees will be from the local area, and very few will reside in the Farm. It is anticipated that the 40 will reside in their homes. The existing septic tanks are likely to be adequate for the few that will be residing within the Farm.

PM indicated that comments and concerns from EDTEA must be included on the draft report. BM noted all the enquiries and concerns raised.

9. Specialists studies

BM confirmed that the screening report has been generated, however not all the studies indicated on the screening report are likely to be necessary. However a motivation will be provided where studies were deemed unnecessary.

The following studies have been identified i.e. Terrestrial Biodiversity study. The Heritage study will be confirmed by KwaZulu – Natal Amafa and Research Institute. The need for the traffic impact assessment will also be confirmed by the custodian of the gravel access road leading from N11 to the Farm, in the context of the trucks that will be transporting cattle. The EAP will establish if it is falling under the District Municipality or the KZN Department of Transport. Comments will be sourced from the relevant authority.

BM further explained that the area shows high aquatic theme, Water and Sanitation will be engaged to establish whether there will be any hydrological studies required. Regarding socio economic considerations, there is a detailed business plan that the applicant has produced, which covers some socio-economic aspects. However, the stakeholders will be engaged as to the adequacy of the socio-economic aspects as the project unfolds.

KS asked if there was any reason the air quality study was not included. This was asked in the context of the cattle manure producing methyl. BM stated that it is not included at this stage because it is not on the screening tool, but if it becomes necessary after the assessment and interaction with stakeholders it will be considered.

PM advised the EAP to motivate why some studies on the screening tool may not be necessary. This has to be included in the Basic Assessment report.

10. Public participation process

BM explained that public participation plan will be compiled and submitted to the Department for approval, if it is necessary since there is a pandemic. EAP will be interacting with all the stakeholders and interested and affected parties that are listed. Public participation process will be conducted following the EIA Regulations in the form of placing adverts on local newspapers, site notices on site. The draft report will be circulated to stakeholders for a period of 30 days for comments, which will include EDTEA as well.

PM advised that the Public Participation Process plan is not a requirement at this stage, EDTEA will rely on the EAP to identify as many interested and affected parties as possible, and address all the concerns raised. The comments and responses report will have to be compiled. He advised that reports must be ready in time as to avoid the lapsing of the application.

BM confirmed that the specialist studies were to commence early, and the application form was to be lodged once they were at an advanced stage to avoid lapsing of the application. The EAP will make sure that submission of report is in line with the legislated timeframes.

PM explained that due to the pandemic situation, EDTEA will rely on the EAP to follow up on the comments from interested and affected parties. EAP should go an extra mile to follow up on the comments, especially from the state departments and evidence furnished to that effect.

BM confirmed that they will do everything possible to get the comments from stakeholders.

11. Way forward and Closure

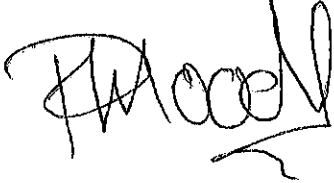
PM asked if his colleagues had any further questions, and they indicated they did not have any more questions.

PM in his summary stated that the EAP must take into consideration all the issues raised and assess such issues. The specialist studies must be conducted, and all stakeholders must be included in the process. He highlighted that the project must avoid the lapsing of the application. The report must highlight all the issues raised by stakeholders, including those by EDTEA. The report must clearly spell out infrastructure that is existing on site in relation to the new one to form part of the proposed project.

He further advised that the report must be detailed so as to allow the Department to make an informed decision. He highlighted that all triggered activities must be identified, including Listing Notice 3 activities. The project must come up with mitigation measures following the identification of all environmental impacts. Furthermore, the project must compile a site-specific Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

In the absence of further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46

Signature of Departmental Representative:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Wood", with a horizontal line underneath the name.



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Component: Environmental Impact Assessment

Virtual Pre Application Meeting :

Proposed development of large stock unit (cattle) facilities and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Sterkfontein No. 8501 within

Dannhauser Local Municipality, Amajuba District.

Date : 07 July 2021

Attendance Register

Name & Surname	Organisation	Designation	Contact Details		Signature
			Telephone	Email Address	
1. N Nkosi	EDTEA	District Manager	034 328 0300	Ntokozi.Nkosi@kznedtea.gov.za	
2. P Moodley	EDTEA	Control Environmental Officer	0827199907	Poovie.Moodle@kznedtea.gov.za	
3. B Msomi	EDTEA	Environmental Officer	034 328 0300	Bongiwe.Msomi@kznedtea.gov.za	
4. S Vana	EDTEA	Environmental Officer	034 328 0300	Samkelisiwe.Vana@kznedtea.gov.za	
5. K Sibisi	EDTEA	Environmental Officer	034 328 0300	Khethiwe.Sibisi@kznedtea.gov.za	
6. B Mthembu					
7. N Msibi					