



HUMBA
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANCY

PROPOSED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**BASIC ASSESSMENT: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
THE BAFOKENG-ARARAT 88KV POWERLINE WITHIN THE
RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF THE NORTHWEST
PROVINCE**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CRR	Comment and Response Report
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
GN	Government Notice
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PPP	Public Participation Process
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd

1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT

A public participation process (PPP) will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations. However due to the National Lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic at this time, the PPP will be conducted in line with the Government Notice No. (GN) R 650 directives issued by the Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs (DFFE) on the 5th of June 2020; Directions regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of Covid-19 relating to National Environmental Management permits and licences read together with the Directions set out in the Schedule in terms of regulation 4(10) of the Regulations issued by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and published on 26 July 2021 in Government Notice No. (GN) R 651 of Government Gazette No. 44895.

This proposed Public Participation Plan has been drafted to facilitate and provide measures that will be undertaken to conduct a transparent and open PPP. For a successful PPP, it is important that the PP team work closely with not only the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) but also the various environmental specialists, public and identified stakeholders. The Public Participation Practitioner needs to be informed on a regular basis, and timeously, of the Basic Assessment (BA) time frames and any changes to these time frames. This will assist in dealing with enquiries from authorities regarding report time frames, etc.

The following activities are planned and scheduled to ensure not only compliance to the EIA Regulations but also a robust PPP once the competent authority (CA) comment on the Draft BA Report.

1.1 Public Participation Process Objectives

Public Participation is:

- A communication mechanism to inform the general public, interested and affected parties (I&APs) and Stakeholders regarding a proposed project; and
- A communication mechanism to record comments and/or concerns raised during the relevant phase of the BA by the public, I&APs and Stakeholders regarding a proposed project.

Public Participation is **not**:

- A marketing exercise; and
- A process to address grievances but rather to record comments raised.

The main objectives of the PPP for this proposed project are:

- To inform I&APs and key stakeholders of the proposed development;
- To initiate meaningful and timeous participation of I&APs;
- To identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regards to the proposed development;
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental, social and economic impacts;

- To provide information used for decision-making by the CA;
- To provide a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To assist in identifying potential environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the proposed development;
- To ensure inclusivity (the views, needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process);
- To focus on issues relevant to the project and issues considered important by I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To acknowledge all submissions made;
- To ensure that the comments, concerns and/or issues raised by I&APs (and the authorities) are addressed by the project team;
- To encourage co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership and open and transparent process;
- To ensure that I&APs have confidence in the PPP; and
- To ensure easy access to relevant and pertinent information.

The above-mentioned objectives will form the framework for the approach to the PPP for this proposed project.

2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Description

The scope of work for this project entails: installation of new 40MVA 88/33kV transformer at Eskom Bafokeng substation and to split the 2xSycamore 88kV lines entering Eskom Bafokeng 88/33kV substation and leaving Eskom Ararat Main Transmission Substation (MTS) so as to increase the load for Impala Platinum mine while maintaining a firm supply at Eskom Millennium 88/33/6.6kV substation by shifting load from Millennium, which feeds Millennium mine, point of supply to Eskom Bafokeng 7 substation.

In addition, Eskom Bafokeng 7 substation does not only supply Impala Platinum mine, but the substation also supplies the local townships of Mogono and Ga-Luka. The Ararat MTS supplies local substations i.e., Minpro, SA Chrome, Millennium, Impala Platinum, Phokeng, Wildeplats and Bafokeng 7 which feeds local mines and residential areas with electricity. At Eskom's Bafokeng 7 substation there are two(2) transformers that supply electricity to Impala platinum mine and Eskom is proposing to add 3rd transformer at Eskom Bafokeng 7 substation for Impala Platinum mine by reducing

electricity load at Millennium Substation and increasing/taking it to Bafokeng 7 substation which will supply more electricity load for Impala Platinum mine.

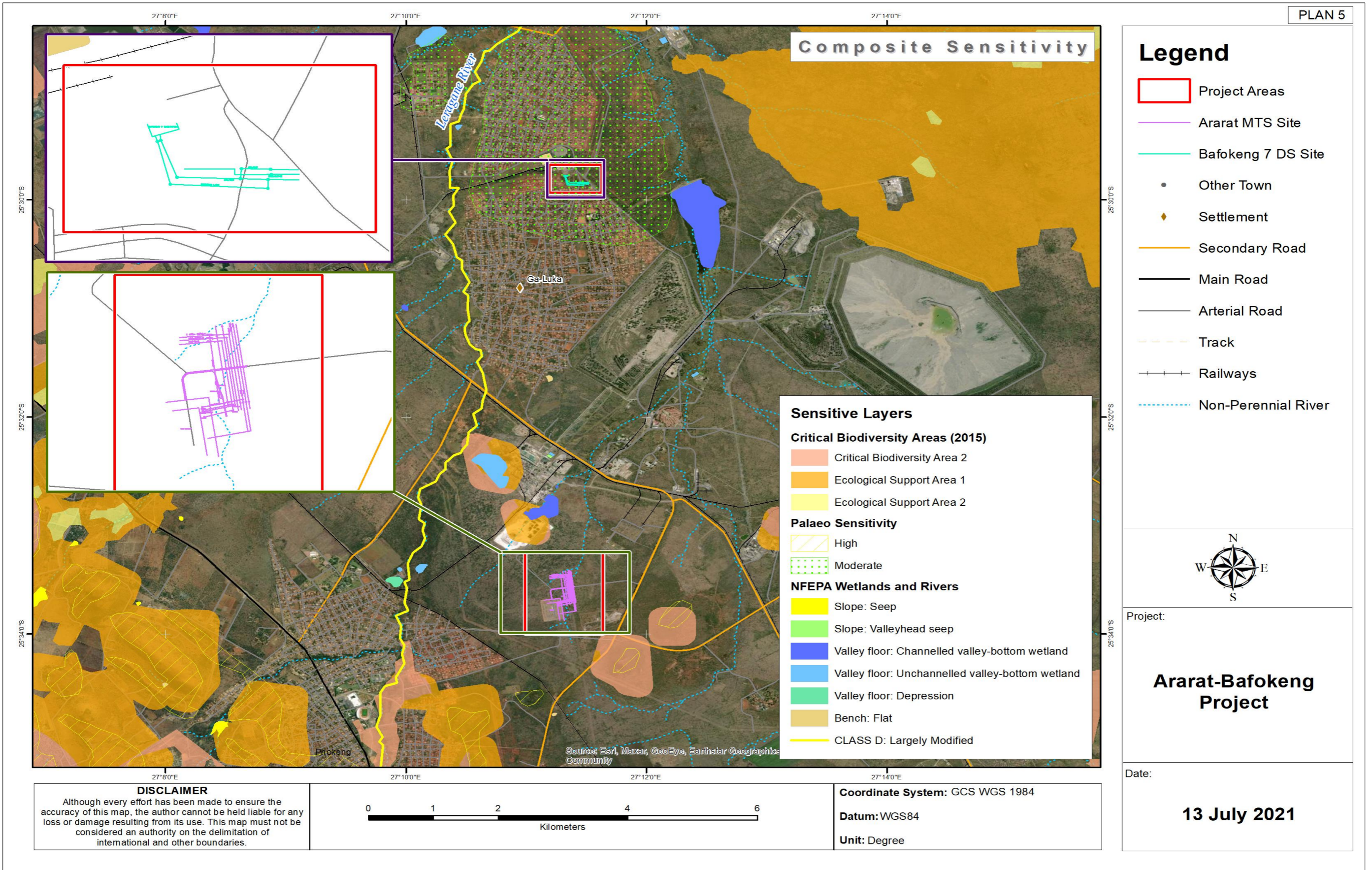


Figure 1: Locality (Composite Sensitivity) Map

3 METHODOLOGY

The below outlined methodology will be followed and tasks undertaken for the PPP as outlined in the Regulations mentioned in Section 1 above.

3.1 Pre-screening Phase

3.1.1. Identification of Stakeholders

In line with Section 42 of the EIA Regulations, the proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority. To ensure a well-defined representation of stakeholders and adherence to the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) (Act 4 of 2013), the methods below will be utilised to develop a comprehensive stakeholder database at this early stage of the impact assessment.

- Conduct WinDeed searches for farm portions falling within the proposed study area. In line with Section 39 of the EIA Regulations, landowners i.e., Traditional Council will be notified of the project telephonically and via email;
- Reference various other impact assessments in the study area for possible contact details.;
- Online research for companies / organisations (Civil Societies and NGOs) within the study area, i.e., Ga-Luka and Lemenong townships;
- Contact District and Local Municipalities to confirm current information regarding Officials and Ward Councillors; and
- Source contact details of properties and I&APs directly impacted in and around the proposed development site identified during site visit.

In line with Section 40 (2) of the EIA Regulations, the stakeholder's database has been categorised as follows:

- **Government:** National, Provincial, District and Local Authorities;
- **Organs of State:** SANRAL, Telkom, etc;
- **Unions:** Representatives from various labour / political parties;
- **Agriculture and Water Bodies:** Farmers associations, entities responsible for water management and/or regulation;
- **Landowners / Occupiers / Person in control of the land:** Directly affected and adjacent properties;
- **Communities:** Directly affected and adjacent communities;
- **Commerce & Industry:** businesses, mines, industrial;
- **Media:** Editors/Reporters from various media houses;
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Community Bases Organisations (CBOs):** Environmental organisations, community-based organisations; rate payers' associations, and
- **Business and industry:** small to medium enterprises, mines, industrial and large business organisations.

3.2 Details of the Public Participation Process to be Followed

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is undertaken in terms of the regulatory requirements set out in Regulation 39 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and as required in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998). The PPP enables stakeholders AND I&APs to partake and submit comments, suggestions or issues of concern. Stakeholder comments will be incorporated where possible by the project team and specialists. The important elements relating to the PPP that are required by the Regulations are the following:

- Formal project announcement;
- Identification and Registration of I&APs;
- Public comment period for the draft BA and associated Reports; and
- Announcement of the Decision (granting or not granting of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) by the CA.

The activities to be undertaken during each phase will be described below. All PPP documentation which will be distributed to I&APs will be incorporated within the Final Reports.

3.2.1. Formal Project Announcement

As part of the announcement phase, details of the proposed project and the availability of the Draft BA Report will be provided to stakeholders via site notices in and around Ga-Luka and Lemenong and newspaper media (in SeTswana and English). Below are the key activities undertaken for the PPP Announcement Phase.

3.2.2.1. Public Participation Media

Considering the legislative directives and good practice, the following methods will be implemented to make project information available as far as possible to the public, I&APs and stakeholders.

- **Formal Written Notice:** In line with Section 41 (2) (b) of the EIA Regulations, written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act will be given to the following categories of stakeholders/Interested and affected parties
 - the occupiers of the site or the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken, i.e., **the Traditional authority and the Department of Land Affairs;**
 - owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken, i.e., **the inhabitants of Phokeng, Mogono and Ga-Luka;**
 - the municipal councillor of the affected wards in which the site occurs, i.e., **Councillors for wards 3, 4 and 5;**
 - the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area, i.e., **the Rustenburg Local Municipality**

- any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
 - any other party as required by the competent authority;
- **Background Information Document (BID):** to give effect to Section 41 (6) of the EIA Regulations, a BID which will include a project description, information about the relevant legislation, the CA and details of the appointed EAP will be prepared and distributed via email (electronically) on the **20th of October 2021**. The BID will also be accompanied by a Registration and Comment Form for stakeholders to use for formal registration as I&APs or to submit comments. Information regarding the availability of the Draft BA reports will also be provided, and I&APs will be asked to comment. The BID will be appended to the main reports. The Covid -19 Directives do not make provisions for the distribution of hard copies, however, in the spirit of fairness, hardcopies will be distributed in and around Ga-Luka and Lemenong.
 - **Newspaper advertisement:** In line with Section 41 (c) (i) of the EIA Regulations, newspaper advertisements will be placed in the Platinum Weekly/Rustenburg Herald (local newspapers), on the **20th of October 2021**. The Platinum Weekly/Rustenburg Herald are local, weekly newspapers that are distributed to areas within and around Ga-Luka, Phokeng, Mogono and Lemenong. The adverts will be published in SeTswana and English and will include a brief project description, information about the relevant legislation, the CA, details of the appointed EAP, registration process for I&APs, and information regarding the availability of the Draft Reports for public scrutiny and subsequent comment. Evidence of the placement of the newspaper adverts will be appended to the Final BA reports.
 - **Site notices:** In line with Section 41 (2) (a) and Section 41 (3) of the EIA Regulations, site notices will be put up at various places on the **20th of October 2021**. The site notices will be written in SeTswana and English and will include a brief project description, information about the relevant legislation, the CA, details of the appointed EAP, registration process for I&APs, and information regarding the availability of the Draft Reports for public scrutiny and subsequent comment. The evidence of the placement of these site notices has been incorporated into the Final BA reports.
 - **Humba/Eskom Website:** The Draft and Final BA Reports will be made available on the Humba/Eskom websites, for public viewing as hard copies will be limitedly distributed due to restrictions placed by the Covid-19 Directives. A Commenting and Registration section will be made available on the website.
 - In line with Section 40 (1) (a) and (3) of the EIA Regulations, the Draft BA Report will be made available for a public and competent authority comment period of at least 30 days **from Wednesday, 20 October 2021 to Monday, 22 November 2021**. at the following places in line with the General Provisions of Annexure 3 of the Covid-19 Directives:

Table 1: List of proposed public venues for placement of reports

Venue	Contact Details
SAPS, Phokeng, Salema Section, Phokeng, 0300	Tel.: (+27)14 566 1879
Impala 7 Shaft	Tel.: (+27)11 731 9000

Thethe Secondary School, Ga-Luka, 0322	Tel.: (+27) 11 855 7364
Mogono Primary School, Mogono, 0328	Tel.:(+27)73 776 0600
Humba/Eskom Website	

- In line with the National Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and in line with the spirit of Section 41(6) of the EIA Regulations, two (2) public meeting will be held on the **28th of October 2021**. The public meetings will be held in line with the requirements of the Amended Regulations of the Disaster Management Act, 2002: issued in terms of section 27(2) on the 26th of July 2021. Section 72 of the amended regulations deals with gatherings and states that;

36. (1) Every person, when attending a gathering and in order to limit exposure to COVID -19. must -

- a) wear a face mask;
- b) adhere to all health protocols;
- c) maintain a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other;
- d) adhere to the curfew hours as provided for in regulation 68; and
- e) adhere to any other health protocols and social distancing measures as provided for in directions issued by the relevant Cabinet member after consultation with the Cabinet member responsible for health.

(2) An owner or operator of any indoor or outdoor facility where gatherings are held must display the certificate of occupancy which sets out the maximum number of persons the facility may hold.

(4) All faith- based, religious, social, political and cultural gatherings are permitted but limited to 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

In line with Section 44 of the EIA Regulations, all comments received from I&APs and authorities regarding the project during this 30-day period (**Wednesday, 20 October 2021 to Monday, 22 November 2021**) will be recorded and inserted into the Final BAR for contemplation by the competent authority. The comments will be incorporated within the Final BA Report and included in the Comment and Response Report (CRR), which will be appended into the BA Report. The Final BA Report will also be made available to I&APs on the Humba/Eskom websites. I&APs will be informed of the availability of the Final BA Report by means of a letter (email). This will enable I&APs to verify that their comments have been captured and responded to accordingly.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN LINE WITH SECTIONS 39 TO 44 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS

The table below provides a summary of the PPP activities that we propose to undertake prior to the submission of the application to the competent authority;

Table 2: Summary of the proposed PPP activities

Activity	Details
Written Notice (In line with Section 41 (2) (b) of the EIA Regulations)	Written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act will be given to identified and relevant categories of stakeholders/Interested and affected parties
Putting up site notices (In line with Section 41 (2) (a) and Section 41 (3) of the EIA Regulations)	Site notices will be put up at various places on Friday, 20 October 2021 . The site notices will be in Setswana and English.
Placing of newspaper advertisement (In line with Section 41 (c) (i) of the EIA Regulations)	Newspaper advertisements will be placed in the Platinum Weekly/Rustenburg Herald on the Friday, 20 October 2021 . The newspaper ads will be in Setswana and English.
Identification of stakeholders (In line with Section 42 of the EIA Regulations)	A Stakeholder database Will be developed which represents various sectors of society, including directly affected and adjacent landowners, in and around the proposed project area.
Distribution of BID (In line with Section 41 (6) of the EIA Regulations)	A BID with registration and comment form will be distributed to stakeholders on the 20th of October 2021 via door-to-door engagements for the directly affected inhabitants who live close to the project and on the 28th of October 2021 at the PP Meetings. An acknowledgment of receipt of the BID will be formulated in line with the requirements of the POPIA (2013) as validation of this exercise.
Announcement of the Draft BA availability (In line with Section 41 (c) (i) of the EIA Regulations)	Announcement of availability of the Draft BA will be distributed to stakeholders together with the formal project announcement on the 20th of October 2021 . Copies of the Draft BA Report will be made available to stakeholders at SAPS, Phokeng, Salema, Impala 7 Shaft, Thethe Secondary School, Mogono Primary School and the Humba/Eskom Websites.
Public meetings (to be conducted in line with Section 41 (6) of the EIA Regulations)	In line with the National Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) a public meeting will be held on the 28th of October 2021 in line with the requirements of the Amended Regulations of the Disaster Management Act, 2002: issued in terms of section 27(2) on the 28th of February 2021. Section 36 of the amended regulations deals with gatherings
Comments from Stakeholders (to be recorded and presented in line with Section 44 of the EIA Regulations)	Comments received during the 30-day commenting period of the Draft BAR will be captured and included in the Final BAR and within the Comment and Response Report which will be appended to the Final BAR for competent authority review.

Activity	Details
Written Notice (In line with Section 41 (2) (b) of the EIA Regulations)	Written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act will be given to identified and relevant categories of stakeholders/Interested and affected parties
Announcement of the Decision by the Competent Authority (Inline with Section 4 (2) of the EIA Regulations)	The issuance of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) (granted or refused) will be announced via newspaper advertisements which will be placed in the Platinum Weekly/Rustenburg Herald within 14 days of receipt of the EA. The newspaper ads will be in Setswana and English. In addition, all registered interested and affected parties will be drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations.

5 CONCLUSION

In Line with the directives as outlined in Annexure 2 of the Covid-19 Directives the **Public Participation Plan** for pending applications must be submitted to the relevant assigned case officer. We anticipate that the proposed PP Plan outlined above is detailed enough to fulfil the requirements as set out in the EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017), the recently promulgated POPI Act of 2013 and the latest Covid-19 Directives.