

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

For coal mining right on portion of portion 6 of the farm

Paardeplaats 380 JT, Mpumalanga

DMR Reference: To be confirmed upon receipt.

PREPARED FOR



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## Purpose

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to consult with lawful landowner(s), stakeholders and all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed mining project and to provide them with the opportunity to receive information, provide comments, and to raise any concerns related to the mining right application process.

## Introduction

Africa Yizwe Construction CC has applied for a Mining Right with associated Environmental Authorisation in order to mine coal. In addition to this, the project will also require a Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA) and a Waste Management Authorisation (WML) for waste management activities in terms of section 45 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act 2008 (Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)(NEMA). The application was lodged with the Mpumalanga Province Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in July 2020. In order to undertake mining activities, Africa Yizwe Construction CC requires a granted Mining Right (MR) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA, Act No.28 of 2002). Africa Yizwe Construction CC is also required to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) which requires the submission of a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment process. Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Africa Yizwe Construction CC as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist in complying with these requirements.

**Table 1: Environmental Assessment Practitioner Details**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER	SINGO CONSULTING (PTY) LTD
Contact Person(s)	: Boipelo Motlathledi : Nokuthula Nkosi
Cell No.	: 083 473 8300 : 076 607 4041
Tell No.	: 013 692 0041
Fax No.	: 086 5144 103
Email(s)	: boipelo@singoconsulting.co.za : nokuthula@singoconsulting.co.za
Physical Address	: Office No: 16 First Floor (South Block) Corridor Hill Crossing 09 Langa Crescent, Corridor Hill, eMalahleni, 1035.
Postal Address	: Private Bag X 7297, Postnet Suite 87, Highveld mall Witbank 1035

**Table 2: Project Applicant Details**

NAME OF APPLICANT	AFRICA YIZWE CONSTRUCTION CC
Contact Person	: Tshepo Vilakazi
Tel No.	: 087 701 5370
Fax No.	: 086 677 1171
Email	: <a href="mailto:tvilakazi@gagumach.com">tvilakazi@gagumach.com</a>
Physical Address	: Suite 7, Dolerite Crescent, Middelburg, 1050
Postal Address	: Suite 7, Dolerite Crescent, Middelburg, 1050
DMR Reference No.	: Still to be confirmed

## Aim of the BID

This document aims to provide the following:

- To provide background information to landowners and interested and affected parties (I&APs) on the proposed mining activities and the legal framework;
- To give an overview of environmental baseline information and environmental impacts that may potentially occur;
- To explain the Public Participation Process (PPP) to be followed; and
- To consult stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to register as I&APs.

**NOTE:** The proposed application directly affects portions owned by:

**THANDANANI COMMUNAL PROP ASSOC.** Please kindly contact us immediately so that a formal meeting can be arranged with you, to formally notify, discuss activities to be undertaken and conditions of accessing your land. Your assistance will be highly appreciated.

## Locality

The area of interest is situated near Belfast town and adjacent to Glisa mine. It is about 2.15 km West of Belfast town, around 21.15 km North West of eNtokozweni and approximately 26.67 km South West of Dullstroom. Figure 1 below indicates the locality of the project.

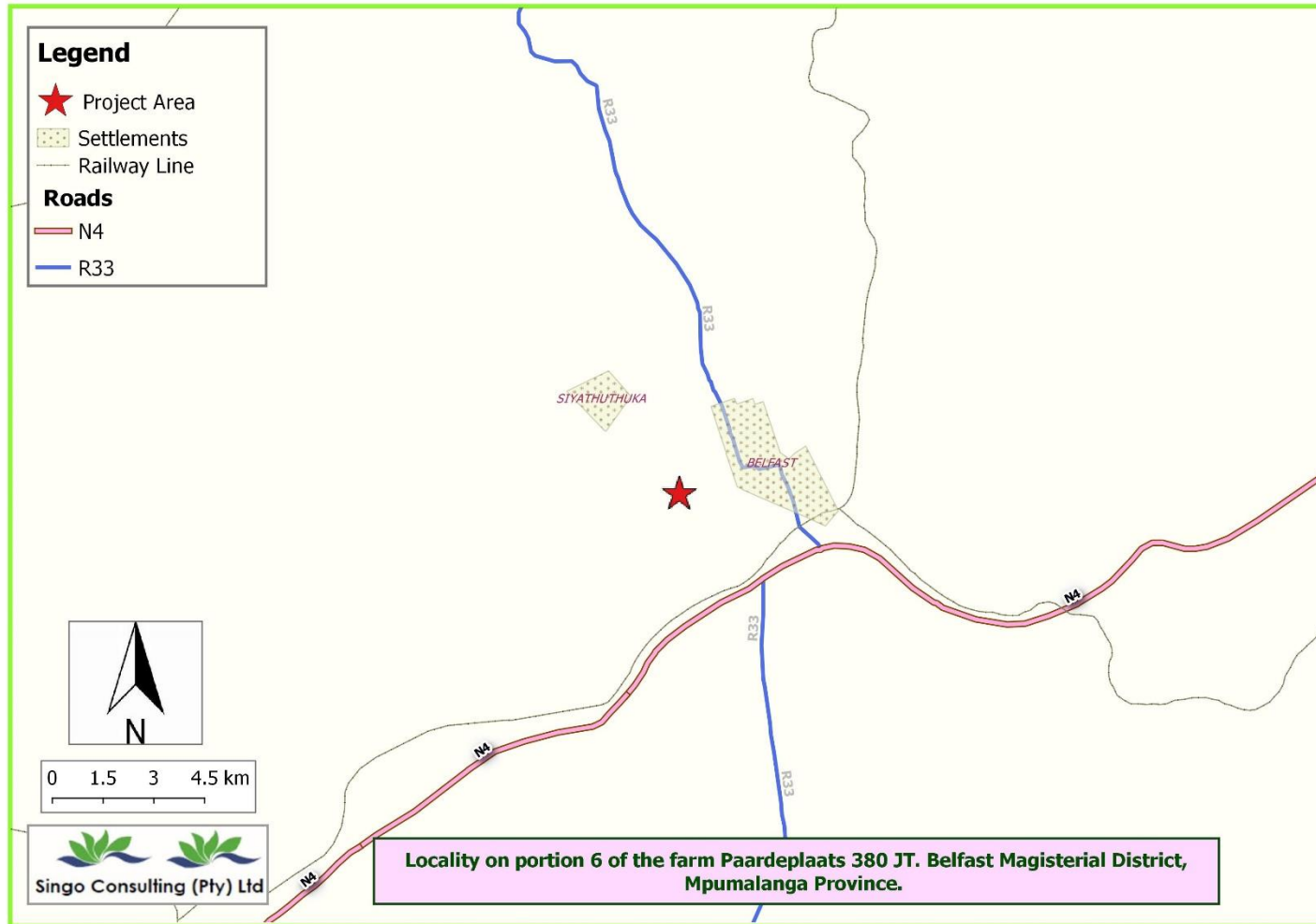


Figure 1: Locality of the proposed project

## Need

The coal to be mined will supply local & regional power stations and possible international customers. Coal is crucial for the generation of electricity in South Africa, supplying more than 90% of the population. After prospecting activities, which is the thorough search of a mineral through core drilling, it was found that mining coal would be extremely viable not only for the company but also for the community.

The project will contribute to the economic development in the Local Municipal area. This is because:

- The project has the potential to improve the living standard of people residing within and around affected communities by offering job opportunities for the locals and will therefore alleviate poverty; and
- Locals/employees shall be given an opportunity to gain experience within the mining industry.

## Legislative requirements

The mining right application is subjected to the following Acts:

- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (act no.28 of 2002) (“MPRDA”). In terms of the MPRDA, the application for a mining right is subject to an application for an environmental authorisation in terms of NEMA.
- NEMA GN 983, Listing Notice 1, Activity Number 21: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining right in terms of section 27 of the MPRDA (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the MPRDA.
- Waste Management License in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM: WA), Act 59 of 2008, (amended in 2017) and a
- Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

## Scoping Process

During this process the positive and negative impacts associated with the development are assessed; and suitable alternatives and/or management measures are proposed to reduce the environmental impacts.

As the application relates to mining activities (Listing Notice 2), a Scoping report will be completed, and the EIA process will follow. It is intended to supply the competent authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision in granting or refusing an environmental authorisation associated with the mining right application.

The Scoping Report will encompass the following:

- Consider baseline environment (commence with specialist studies);
- Identify potential impacts for further consideration;
- Initial public meeting to identify I&AP issues and concerns;
- Assess alternatives;
- Identify plan of study for the EIA; and
- After compilation it will be put out for public review for a period of 30 days then the final Scoping Report will be finalized and submitted to DMR and DWS.

### 1. Technical process involves :

- Submitting application forms to DMR and DWS via online portals;
- Compiling the Draft Scoping Report;
- Submit the Draft Scoping Report to all I&APs for comment;
- Incorporate comments into final Scoping Report; and
- Submit final Scoping Report to the DMR and DWS.

## 2. Public participation:

Public input is an important legislated requirement of the mining right application process. The proposed PPP for this study will include a number of steps, as listed below:

Issuing notification of this proposal to:

- Owners and occupiers of the farms as well as those adjacent to the site;
- The municipal councillor and local taxpayer's association;
- The municipality which has jurisdiction;
- Any organ of the state having jurisdiction;
- Placing an advert in a local newspaper;
- Placing a notice on the site;
- Meetings with landowners and key I&APs, as required;
- Documenting stakeholder correspondence within the Draft Scoping that will be made available for public review;
- Public review of the Draft Scoping Report; and
- Notifying stakeholders when the Scoping Report approved.

## Mining Methodology

The mineral to be mined will utilise open pit mining methodology.

## Develop Impacts Assessment Methods

Impact assessment methods were developed to:

- Identify the potential impacts of a proposed development on the social and natural environment;
- Predict the probability of these impacts; and
- Evaluate the significance of the potential impacts.

The following are associated with the mining activities to be undertaken:

- **Waste Management**

All waste generated at the mining site will be collected in plastic or steel drums and removed from site and disposed of at an appropriate waste facility. Hazardous waste will be collected and stored separately and disposed of at an appropriate facility.

- **Access roads**

The applicant will require access to the site for both personnel and machinery associated with mining activities. Existing routes will be used as much as possible and new access routes will be created with the agreement of the landowner, only when necessary. Potential impacts associated with the creation and use of access roads include soil compaction, potential hydrocarbon contamination of soil, potential disturbance to wetlands and buffer zones (in instances mining activity proceeds indiscriminately), generation of dust on gravel roads, emissions into the atmosphere through the use of diesel powered equipment, machinery and vehicles, increased noise levels and potential road degradation. However, with the appropriate mitigation strategies in place, including applying buffers to sensitive landscapes and using existing roads and access tracks wherever possible, the significance of these potential impacts can be reduced to low/ moderate-low.

- **Faunal Disturbance**

Animals within the mining area will be moved to other locations because of the disturbances if precaution is not followed. All these will be done with the recommendation from biodiversity study which is going to be conducted on the farm.

- **Air pollution**

Movement of mobile machinery, front-end loader and a truck to the site. Dust will be generated during the stripping of soil. Mitigation Measure:

- ✓ Air quality will be minimised by means of the following:
  - Dust suppressions by means of water spraying will be implemented on haul roads and unpaved areas when there is a need.
  - Avoidance of unnecessary removal of vegetation.
  - Vehicles will be properly serviced in order for them to minimise emission of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ✓ Re-vegetation of rehabilitated areas not occupied by plant infrastructure to take place as soon as possible.
- ✓ All workers will have access to respiratory protection equipment.
- ✓ Stockpiles will always be dampened.
- ✓ Speed limit will be maintained at all times during the lifespan of the mining activities.
- ✓ Dust fall-out buckets will be installed within and outside the mining area in order to monitor dust emission from the mining activities. The buckets will be placed in areas where accurate result will be attained.

- **Noise pollution**

Noise will be generated by the construction equipment and may disturb inhabitants. Mitigation measures:

- ✓ The company will comply with the Occupational Noise Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993. The company will comply with the measures for good practice with regards to management of noise related impacts during construction and operation.
- ✓ The management objective will be to reduce any level of noise, shock and lighting that may have an effect on persons or animals, both inside the plant and that which may migrate outside the plant area.
- ✓ Hearing protection will be available for all employees. If any complaints are received from the farm owner, the general public or state department regarding noise levels, the levels will be monitored at prescribed monitoring points. Appropriate measures will specifically be installed and employed at the plant to act as screen and to reflect/reduce the noise.
- ✓ The vehicles and the equipment will be equipped with silencers on their exhaust system.
- ✓ The site manager will monitor noise within the mine.
- ✓ Workers will be inducted with regard to the measure to reduce noise pollution on site.

- **Soil pollution**

Contamination of soil may occur from accidental spillages from the machineries brought to the site.

Mitigation measures:

- ✓ Topsoil will be stripped and stored separate from overburden and will be used during the rehabilitation of any impacted areas. If any soil is contaminated during the life of the mine activities, it will be immediately scooped and stored for collection in the enclosed containers or plastic and transported to a recognized facility or company for further treatment.
- ✓ Small spills will be treated on site using bio-sorb or oil cap.

- **Surface disturbance**

Only a small segment of the surface will be disturbed as a result of topsoil that will be stripped due to mining activities. The ground will also be compacted due to the movement of vehicles within the mining area.

- **Vegetation Loss**

Some of the vegetation will be disturbed on areas that topsoil will be removed. In all areas where site is going to be established vegetation will be disturbed. Mitigation measures:

- ✓ Vegetation will be protected by avoiding unnecessary clearance and by using existing roads at all times.
- ✓ All vehicles will be monitored so that they move on the existing tracks at all times. All mined areas will be rehabilitated. Rehabilitated area will be monitored to avoid other disturbances on rehabilitated area until vegetation is fully grown.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher will always be available on site through the mining period. If invader species are encountered, they will be uprooted or cut off and destroyed completely.

- **Water Use**

Water required for the operation and potable water for domestic use will be sourced and the details thereof will be finalised at a later stage.

- **Socio-Economic Factors**

There is potential for employment and business opportunities for small business in the area, as well as the potential for further development of the area which is a positive impact for the area. A Social and Labour Plan has been drafted that outlines in detail the areas of growth to be expected. Engagement with the LED Office of the Local Municipality (eMakhazeni Municipality) is underway.

## Decision making by competent authority (CA)

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), and Water and Sanitation (DWS) are the competent authorities in respect of both the NEMA and the MPRDA processes. Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report, the CA will decide regarding the continuation with phase 2 of the EIA. I&APs will be notified and given direction and information about the approval of the scoping, given an opportunity to appeal and a way forward.

## Timeframes and Important Dates

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available via email upon request.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a public meeting will not be held. All persons are invited to register as I&APs so that they may receive all information regarding this project. Kindly contact us on the contact details found on the comment form.

I&AP's are invited to send us their comments on local knowledge or any relevant information regarding the project that we may incorporate into developing a well-informed draft Basic Assessment & Environmental Management Plan Report during the stakeholder engagement and consultation period. During the review period, kindly submit any comments based on the draft BA&EMPR to **Ms Nokuthula Nkosi** no later than the **05<sup>th</sup> of October 2020** using the contact details provided below on the comment form.

Kindly note the following dates:

- Announcement of the application: **31 July 2020**
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **03 August 2020 – 03 September 2020**
- Review of Scoping Report: **04 September 2020 – 05 October 2020**
- Submission of the Final Scoping Report: **12 October 2020**



**THIS SERVES AS YOUR INVITATION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS.**

We appreciate your interest and participation in this process. Should you wish to register as an I&AP and/or have any issues, questions or concerns regarding this proposed project please complete the form below. Please write neatly and legibly and feel free to attach an additional sheet.



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Email: nokuthula@singoconsulting.co.za  
: admin@singoconsulting.co.za

**REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET**

Attention: Nokuthula Nkosi

Email: nokuthula@singoconsulting.co.za

Name & Surname	:		
Company	:		
Designation	:		
Address	:		
Tel No.	:	Fax No.	:
E-mail	:	Cell No.	:
How would you like to receive your notifications? (mark with "X"):			
Post: <input type="checkbox"/> Fax: <input type="checkbox"/> Email: <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Please provide your issues/interests/concerns &amp; comments here.</b>			
<b>Please add any person you think may be an I&amp;AP.</b>			
Full name	:	Company	:
Address	:		
E-mail	:	Cell No.	: