

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)  
FOR THE IXOPO COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL  
UNITS, UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
HARRY GWALA DISTRICT**

**EDTEA REF DC43/0017/2016**

**NEAS REF KZN/EIA/0000396/2016**

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 <p><b>THE UBUHLEBEZWE MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <p>P.O.Box 132</p> <p>Ixopo</p> <p>3276</p>	 <p><b>FUZE</b> ENVIRONMENTAL <i>Services</i></p> <p>Environmental and Safety Consultants</p> <p>BB 188 King Senzangakhona Circle Umlazi Durban 4066 <a href="mailto:info@fuzeenvironmental.co.za">info@fuzeenvironmental.co.za</a></p>

## - Purpose of BID

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on the proposed project, to obtain comments and contributions from interested and affected parties and stakeholders with regards to environmental issues of the proposed development.

## - Project description and location

UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality proposes to construct 150 housing units. 45 of the 150 proposed units being 1 bedroom apartments with an area of 35sqm each and 105 of the 150 units being 2 bedroom apartments with an area of 45sqm each. The units will have equivalent laundry spaces and parking bays. The development will also include a multi-purpose court, nursery school, a kid playground and guard house at the entrance. The total footprint of development is 2.2Ha.

The project is located at 30°09'32.12"S and 30°03'52.98"E Ward 4 Portion B of Erf 0 Stuartstown.

It is evident that this project will require further environmental investigations to ensure that the project execution adheres to the relevant environmental legislation and the appointment of an independent environmental assessment practitioner to conduct an environmental impact assessment was therefore necessitated.

## - Applicable legislation

The information contained in the Terms of Reference provided by Ingcweti Project Management, and a preliminary review of the existing environmental legislation, suggest that the proposed development may result in a significant impact on the environment. In accordance with National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), a 'listed activity' will therefore be triggered.

In terms of the EIA Regulations (2014) promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 NEMA, a Basic Assessment is required for the proposed development. The following Schedules of the Government Notice No. R. 983 of 2014 (Listing 1) stipulate that a Basic Assessment is required.

**Activity 12:** The development of;  
x buildings exceeding 100 square meters in size  
xi. The development of boardwalks exceeding 100 square meters in size  
xii. The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more  
(c) where such construction occurs within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.

**Activity 19:** (i) The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil,

sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5 cubic metres from  
(i) a watercourse

**Activity 30:** Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)

An environmental impact assessment is therefore required before the commencement of any construction activities pertaining to the proposed project. It must be noted, that this activity will only be confirmed once discussions with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) as the competent authority, have been concluded.

The environmental investigations will include all aspects of the affected environment, i.e. social, environmental and economic. Throughout the execution of the appointment, Fuze Environmental Service will base their actions and recommendations on inter alia, the following legislation:

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996

- The National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (and all other related national and provincial legislation)
- National Water Act 36 of 1998
- The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, (Act No. 43 of 1983)
- The Environment Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989) – relevant sections only
- National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1993)
- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No.: 10 of 2004)
- Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2002
- Government Notice Regulation Number 543, 544, 545, 546, 547 of 2010
- National and provincial guidelines

#### - **Environmental process**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating relevant information to competent authorities to obtain an independent and objective view of the potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts that could arise during the construction and operation of the Ixopo Community Residential Units.

Fuze Environmental Services as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is responsible for the preparation of a Basic Assessment Application and compiling of the Basic Assessment Report.

The Basic Assessment Report that will be submitted to the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) hereinafter referred to as 'the Department', for review.

The objectives of the Basic Assessment Report are to ensure that environmental impacts are taken into consideration, effective stakeholder engagement has been conducted and all the information contained is sufficient to enable the department to make an informed decision on the proposed activity.

## **PRESUMED ISSUES**

A number of potentially significant impacts were identified. These impacts are listed below for the construction and operational phases of the proposed project. This will be mitigated through the detailed Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

### **Construction phase**

- Water pollution
- Air quality
- Noise
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Degradation and fragmentation of habitat
- Loss or decrease in species diversity
- Increase in alien/invasive species

### **Operational phase**

- Potential soil contamination
- Potential surface water and/or ground water contamination from leaking pipelines

### **Rehabilitation phase**

- Invasion of alien species

## **HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?**

A transparent stakeholder engagement process is the foundation of any Environmental Impact Assessment which will enable stakeholders to influence the course of the environmental investigation. The key objective is to provide sufficient information on an ongoing basis to allow the opportunity to comment on the all the key findings of the EIA process.

It is important that relevant stakeholders are identified and involved in the /stakeholder engagement/public participation process from the outset of the proposed project. Every proposed development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both on proposed site as well as surrounding environment. It is therefore important that you as an interested and/or affected party comment on the proposed development and raise issues or concerns that you feel need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process.

This can be done by:

- Registering yourself and/or your organisation as an interested and affected party (I&AP) so that you are informed of public meetings.
- Sending us any comments you may have on the proposed project (form provided).
- In addition, we will be organizing public meetings with various groups over the next few weeks at which information will be presented and issues and concerns to be addressed will be solicited.

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# LOCALITY MAP

