

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An application will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources for a Basic assessment and EMPr, Department of Water and Sanitation for water use license/authorization and Confirmation for non-listed activity to Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development at Madibogo vicinity, within Ratlou Local Municipality in the North West Province. Leseekha consulting has been appointed by Maruapula Engineers as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct basic assessment and water use license application.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No.107 of 1998) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in 07 April 2017, an Environmental Authorization (EA) must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority (North West Province, Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. The proposed project does not trigger a Listed Activities as it is a upgrading existing gravel road and reconstruction of the bridge at Madibogo village which will triggered National water Act, 1998 (36 of 1998), Section 21(c)&(i). The proposed project will requires gravel material to conduct platform/leveling then application to apply Mining permit for the borrow pits will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information about the proposed project. It also aims to inform I&AP's on how to fully participate in the Basic Assessment and encourages response to documents distributed for review and active attendance at the meetings.

2. LOCATION

The proposed upgrading gravel Road Z482 on Madibogo village falls within the Ratlou Local Municipality area, in the North-West Province. The portion of Road Z482 which is to be upgraded and surfaced starts off at the T-junction with Road D3544 (at 26° 25' 1.36" South and 25° 09' 0.75" East), in the north, and ends at

the intersection of Road Z482 with an unnumbered municipality road in Madibogo Pan, in the south (at 26° 30' 12.65" South and 25° 07' 26.72" East). The total length of road planned to be upgraded under this project is 13km.

In the north, access to Road Z482 can be gained by turning at the road junction with Road D3544 and in the south at the cross with Road D1127 (Road R377 to Stella) or alternatively joining in at the road junction with Road Z121, approximately mid-way along the course of the road.

The Madibogo reconstruction bridge site is located approximately 3km west of the Madibogo grain silos, along Road D3544. The site is located within the village of Madibogo, which in turn falls under the jurisdiction of the Ratlou Local Municipality. Ratlou Local Municipality falls under the Ngaka Modiri Molema District of the North-West Province. The position of the bridge site is shown on the locality map provided below, the geographical co-ordinates at the bridge site are S26° 25' 14.10" and E25°11' 07.79".

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Project will involve the upgrading of 13km of Road Z482 between the villages of Madibogo from Mositlane and Madibogo-Pan from gravel surface to bitumen surface finish. The Project will entail construction of bus stops and new culvert crossings.

3.1 Length of project

The length of road to be upgraded and surfaced is 13km. Construction shall include mass earthworks, pavement layer-works, bituminous surfacing, side drains and new culvert crossings.

3.2 Reconstruction of the bridge

It will involve the demolition and reconstruction of the bridge structure.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

The PPP aims to inform a wide range of I&APs about the proposed upgrading of existing gravel road and development of the bridge and the environmental process to be followed. It is a tool to allow the public to exchange information and to express their views and concerns on the proposed upgrading of existing gravel road and reconstruction of the bridge for which the Basic Assessment is being conducted. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the impact assessment by

highlighting relevant information to be included in the assessment. PPP enables more accurate and descriptive analysis and helps to focus and enhance decision-making. The Basic Assessment will be open and transparent to the public through this process with all registered I&APs continuously updated on events throughout the process. All contributions from I&APs must be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the Basic Assessment.

5. EIA PROCESS

The EIA is a legislative tool used to ensure that the potential environmental impacts that may occur due to the proposed upgrading of existing gravel road and Development of the bridge are avoided or mitigated, if authorization is granted. The 'environment' includes social, economic and biophysical aspects which the EIA must assess equitably.

The purpose of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is not merely to assess the impact of a development on the environment. EIA also facilitates improved decision making by the competent authority, tasked with either granting or refusing a mining permit for a development to proceed. The EIA Regulations promulgated under section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), 1 sets out the minimum requirements regarding public participation by interested and affected parties (I&APs).

Identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) on the project are therefore required by the law to participate in the EIA process by submitting issues of concern and suggestion on the proposed project.

6. IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION:

Everyone has the right to be involved in decisions that may affect their livelihood. Participation by Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) is in everyone's best interest because:

- ❖ It provides opportunities for I&AP's and the authorities to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the expected environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- ❖ it assist to incorporate views and concerns of I&AP's into the design phase and augment the information requirements to attain a Environmental Authorization (EA) from Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development that will facilitate legislative compliance and project inception.



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- ❖ It provides members of the public with the opportunity to voice their concerns and to raise questions regarding the project.
- ❖ It provides affected parties with the opportunity to suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any negative impacts of the project, and for enhancing its benefits.
- ❖ It will enable the project proponent to consider the needs, preferences and values of affected parties in their decisions.
- ❖ It provides opportunities for the clearing up of misunderstandings about technical issues, resolving disputes and reconciling conflicting interests.
- ❖ It is vital for ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making.
- ❖ It contributes towards maintaining a healthy, vibrant democracy.

Trust you find this in order;

Regards;

Lesego Senna