

The Independent Environmental Advisor

CK2011/063274/23

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15 October 2019

Dear Stakeholder

NOTIFICATION & INVITATION TO COMMENT:

Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed establishment of a Vodacom telecommunications tower and base station, Shengeza, Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality, Umkhanyakude District Municipality

The Independent Environmental Advisor has been appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment required to secure environmental authorisation for the proposed establishment of a 25m Vodacom telecommunications tower and base station, Shengeza, Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality, Umkhanyakude District Municipality.

The construction of the Vodacom Base Station and Tower on Shengeza will consist of the following components:

- Levelling of the Base Station footprint (100 m²).
- Construction of a concrete plinth to house the control container.
- Construction of a concrete foundation to accommodate the mast.
- Provide power to the base transceiver station as well as the antennae and lights on the mast.
- Erection of the tower (lattice structure) which will be 25m in height.
- Erection of a boundary fence to enclose the base station (approx. 100m²).
- Provision of an access gate.
- Placement of geofabric and stone chips within the boundary fence.
- Laying 650m overhead power line

The preferred Vodacom Shengeza site is located approximately 2,5km south of KwaNgwanase and west of Isimangaliso Wetland Park. The preferred site for the tower and base station is on a hillock or small hill in a rural settlement area.



Figure 1: Location of Vodacom Shengeza site

Environmental Authorisation following a Basic Assessment process is required as proposed site for the tower is within 5km of provincial protected areas, Sileza and Manguzi Forest, and within 10km of a world heritage site, Isimangaliso Wetland Park, and it exceeds 15m in height. The mast is proposed to be a 25m lattice-type structure.

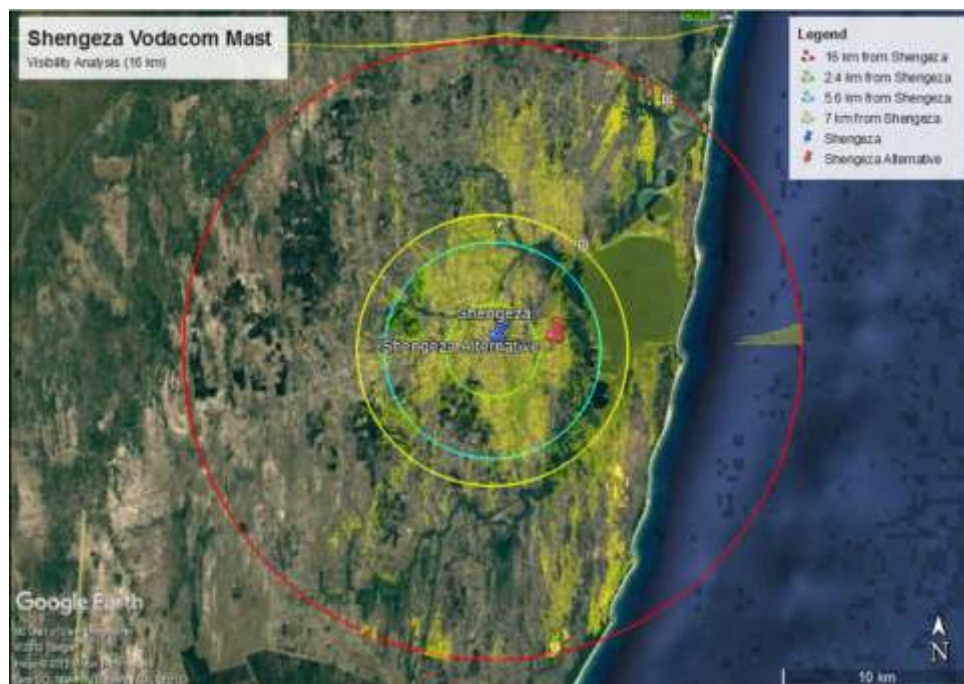


Figure 2: Projected Visibility of Vodacom Shengeza Telecommunication Tower

Specialist analysis of the visibility of the proposed telecommunications tower/cell phone mast indicates that although the mast may be visible from a wide area, it concluded that there will be limited visual intrusion in the landscape due to the “porous” nature of a lattice mast, the undulating terrain in the area, and the coastal haze that is common.

The mast will support 2G, 3G and 4G/LTA technology. Second generation cell technology (2G) enables service providers to supply services such as sms, MMS, and voice. 3G, also known as third generation cell technology, is an upgrade for 2G that provides internet at a faster speed. It supplies services such as mobile internet access, video calls, fixed wireless network, wireless voice. 4G is the fourth generation of cell technology, also referred to as LTE (long term evolution), it provides internet at a much higher speed, allowing users to stream videos, music, conference video calls and also offers a higher download speed. 5G will definitely not be used because none of the service providers in South Africa are using this technology.

Access to the preferred site is on existing district roads and jeep track. The access track may need limited upgrades (concrete strips, stormwater management) over its length.

Electricity would be supplied to the site from the Mashabala High School by overhead power line. This will necessitate limited clearing of vegetation to plant the supporting poles.

The immediate area of the proposed mast and infrastructure would be cleared and levelled, then the equipment will be placed after the necessary foundations have been laid, and a fence will be erected around the perimeter of the site.

The impacts on biodiversity are local and temporary whereas the visual intrusion of the mast is permanent. The visibility of the mast is limited during the day due to the porous nature of a lattice mast and surrounding trees however the steady burning red lights required by the Civil Aviation Authority will be more prominent at night.

This letter is an invitation for you to provide comment on the application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Basic Assessment Report on or before 18 November 2019.

Copies of the Draft Basic Assessment Report will be lodged in the following places with effect from 15 October 2019 for a 30 day comment period (ie, on or before **18 November 2019**):

- KwaNgwanase Public Library
- Tembe Traditional Authority Offices
- Mashabala High School

Your soonest comment to The Independent Environmental Advisor at the above contact details will be appreciated.

Kind regards



Sarah Allan
The Independent Environmental Advisor

Invitation to Register and Comment: before 18 November 2019

If you are interested in or affected by the application for environmental authorisation of the establishment of a 25m lattice Vodacom Shengeza telecommunications tower, you are invited to register and submit your comments, stating any interest you have in this application (neighbour, competitor, supplier, authority) using the form below. Please forward the form to:

The Independent Environmental Advisor
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Email: sarah.wine@iuncapped.co.za
for attention Sarah Allan.

**VODACOM SHENGEZA
DRAFT BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
UMHLABUYALINGANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
KWAZULU-NATAL**

Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation/interest in application		Email	
Signature		Postal address	

I would like to raise the following issues/comments/concerns to be noted regarding the proposed telecommunications tower:

If you know of anyone else who may have an interest in this application, please may you provide their contact details so that their participation can be facilitated:

Name	
Organisation	
Tel	
Address	

Thank you!