

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The applicant UPhongolo Local Municipality has identified the need to provide low cost subsidised housing on a portion of Ward 10 and 11. This process was initiated as a means to address the municipality's predominantly traditional/informal housing profile, and in doing so improve the living conditions and quality of life of its communities.

The project entails the construction of approximately 1 000 units in-situ. The project area consists of existing rural settlements; thus, the development entails the formalisation of the existing settlement and infill development. The project area is approximately 197.50 Ha. The housing project involves the establishment of a formal township, giving the occupants legal tenure as well as formalising and improving the basic services such as sanitation through the installation of VIPs.

## 2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the regulations published in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (R983 of 4 December 2014), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the developer is required to carry out a Basic Assessment for the following activities:

### Listing Notice 1

**Activity 19: 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 of more than 5 cubic metres from-**

- (i) a watercourse;

but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-

- (a) will occur behind a development setback;  
(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; or  
(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies.

### **Background:**

The proposed development will cross one watercourse on a section of the project area.

**Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-**

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed housing development will consist of the construction of approximately 1 000 new top structures within the project area, and will therefore benefit approximately 1 000 beneficiaries and their associated families.

- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or  
(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 Location and demographics

The project area falls on the Remainder of Pongola No. 61. The total area of the proposed project is approximately 197.50 ha. The overall population for the project area is approximately 5 527 persons which resides in approximately 1 257 households.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



### 4.2 Project Co-ordinates

Latitudinal Extent: 27° 23' 06" S  
Longitudinal Extent: 31° 34' 35" E

## 5. CURRENT AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

The project area is not zoned, however, the current land use is predominantly low to medium dense households, as well as cattle grazing. Many of the households within the project area depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods.

### Information Sharing Meeting:

Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be invited to an information sharing meeting.

## **7. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **Geophysical and biophysical (including biodiversity) issues include:**

- a. The proposed development will have limited environmental impacts, and any environmental impacts which do occur as a result of the proposed development will be limited to the construction phase of the proposed development. These may include site clearance (where necessary), and the excavation and digging of foundations, bulk earthworks and structural works, which pose risks with regards to soil erosion and storm water management.
- b. Environmental impacts associated with the proposed development are expected to be limited as a result of development activities being restricted to occurring within the project area.
- c. An Environmental Management Plan will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development

### **Socio-economic issues:**

- a. The increased traffic volumes along the road networks during the construction phase of the proposed development may impact on other road users.
- b. The provision of adequate housing within rural areas will greatly improve the lives of residents, resulting in increased standards of living and general well-being.
- c. The construction phase of development will result in a number of temporary employment opportunities for unemployed members of the surrounding community

### **Cultural-historic issues**

- a. The developer is unaware of any archaeological sites on the property. Amafa KwaZulu-Natal (KZN Heritage) will however be contacted to clarify this. The procedure to be followed in the occurrence of any cultural, historical or archeological artifacts (including graves) will be provided for within the developments Environmental Management Plan and will be enforced during the construction and operational phases of development

## **8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Public participation is an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and will include the following components:

### **Initial Consultation:**

The primary purpose of this phase is to present the motivation for the proposed project and elicit issues, concerns and comments from Interested and/or Affected Parties.

### **Comment on the Environmental Impact Assessment:**

The Basic Assessment Report will be made available to all registered I&AP's, to provide them an opportunity to comment in writing on these documents when concluded before it is submitted to the competent authority. All comments received will be included in a comments and response report compiled by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner. This report will describe the issue raised, the date it was raised, by whom and how the issue will be, or has been dealt with.

Your participation is important for the Environmental Impact Assessment. If you would like us to add you to our database of stakeholders who wish to participate in this process, or should you have any queries regarding the process or comments about the proposed development, please contact Miss Prisantha Govender (details below).

### **Contact details:**

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
Prisantha Govender  
Postal address:  
Postnet Suite 509  
Private Bag x4  
Kloof, 3640  
Tel: 031 764 6743  
Fax: 031 764 2354  
Email: prisantha@k2m.co.za

**PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER AS AN I&AP, YOU WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT.**

Please send comments to: K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
C/o Prisantha Govender  
Fax: 031 764 2354  
Email: prisantha@k2m.co.za

<b>Title:</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Surname:</b>	<b>Initials:</b>
<b>Organization:</b>		<b>Designation:</b>	
<b>Postal Address:</b>			
<b>Tel no:</b>		<b>Cell no:</b>	
<b>Fax no:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	

**Comment:**

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**Please let us know if there are any other organizations or individuals who you feel should be notified of this project:**

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**Thank you for your participation**