

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
IN TERMS OF THE
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT 107 OF 1998)**

**CONSULTATION
BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

PROJECT:

**BONISWA TOWERCO -
TELECOMMUNICATION BASE STATION:
MURUNWA**



Environmental Consultant:

TEKPLAN

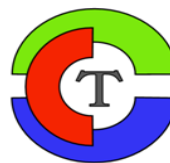
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Environmental consultants

March 2022



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT - EIA REGULATIONS, 2014

Basic Assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

File Reference Number:

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NEAS Reference Number:

(For official use only)

Date Received:

Due date for acknowledgement:

Due date for acceptance:

Due date for decision

Kindly note that:

1. The report must be compiled by an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner.
2. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
3. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
4. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as the competent authority (Department) for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
5. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
6. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the department. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.

7. The Act means the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) as amended.
8. Regulations refer to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014.
9. The Department may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
10. This application form must be handed in at the offices of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism:-

<p><u>Postal Address:</u></p> <p>Central Administration Office Environmental Impact Management P. O. Box 55464 POLOKWANE 0700</p>	<p><u>Physical Address:</u></p> <p>Central Administration Office Environmental Affairs Building 20 Hans Van Rensburg Street / 19 Biccard Street POLOKWANE 0699</p>
<p>Queries should be directed to the Central Administration Office: Environmental Impact Management:-</p> <p>For attention: Mr E. V. Maluleke Mobile: 082 947 7755 Email: malulekeev@ledet.gov.za</p>	

View the Department's website at [http://www.ledet.gov.za/](http://www.ledet.gov.za) for the latest version of the documents.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

NO

If YES, please complete the form entitled “Details of specialist and declaration of interest” or appointment of a specialist for each specialist thus appointed:

Any specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

1. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the activity, which is being applied for, in detail¹:

Boniswa Towerco (Pty) Ltd intends to construct a 30m Lattice type mast with antennae mounted onto the mast, and container housing associated equipment. The size of the base station (fenced area) in which the mast and associated equipment will be placed will measure 8m x 8m (64m²).

2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

“alternatives”, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed. The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the Department may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

The Reader is referred to Appendix G (Assessment of Alternatives) for a description of the identified alternatives that have been investigated.

¹ Please note that this description should not be a verbatim repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

3. ACTIVITY POSITION

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the Hartebeeshoek 94 WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

List alternative sites, if applicable.

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

Alternative:

Alternative S1² (preferred or only site alternative)

22°	58'	42.24"	30°	09'	47.60"
°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"

Alternative S2 (if any)

Alternative S3 (if any)

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

Alternative S1 (preferred or only route alternative)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"

Alternative S2 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"

Alternative S3 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

² "Alternative S.." refer to site alternatives.

4. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:

Alternative A1³ (preferred activity alternative)

Alternative A2 (if any)

Alternative A3 (if any)

or,

for linear activities:

Size of the activity:

	64m²
	m ²
	m ²

Length of the activity:

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

Alternative A2 (if any)

Alternative A3 (if any)

	m
	m
	m

Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Size of the site/servitude:

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

Alternative A2 (if any)

Alternative A3 (if any)

	64m²
	m ²
	m ²

5. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?

YES	
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If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built

Describe the type of access road planned:

No access road will be constructed to the proposed site as it is located next to an existing access road.

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

³ "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.
LEDET BA Report, EIA 2014: Project Name: Boniswa Telecom Base Station – Murunwa

6. SITE OR ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- 6.1 the scale of the plan which must be at least a scale of 1:500;
- 6.2 the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- 6.3 the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- 6.4 the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
- 6.5 the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
- 6.6 all trees and shrubs taller than 1.8 metres;
- 6.7 walls and fencing including details of the height and construction material;
- 6.8 servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- 6.9 sensitive environmental elements within 100 metres of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):
 - rivers;
 - the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by Department of Water Affairs);
 - ridges;
 - cultural and historical features;
 - areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or invested with alien species);
- 6.10 for gentle slopes the 1 metre contour intervals must be indicated on the plan and whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, the 500mm contours must be indicated on the plan; and
- 6.11 the positions from where photographs of the site were taken.

7. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this form. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

8. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

11. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

9(a) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?

R1.5 million

What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?

Depends on the number of users	
YES	
YES	
10	
R 80 000	
90%	
4	
R2 400 000	
90%	

Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?

Is the activity a public amenity?

How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development phase of the activity?

What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development phase?

What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?

How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?

What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?

What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?

9(b) Need and desirability of the activity

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

NEED:		
i.	Was the relevant municipality involved in the application?	YES
ii.	Does the proposed land use fall within the municipal Integrated Development Plan?	YES
iii.	If the answer to questions 1 and / or 2 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation:	

DESIRABILITY:		
i.	Does the proposed land use / development fit the surrounding area?	YES
ii.	Does the proposed land use / development conform to the relevant structure plans, Spatial development Framework, Land Use Management Scheme, and planning visions for the area?	YES
iii.	Will the benefits of the proposed land use / development outweigh the negative impacts of it? The proposed infrastructure will improve the telecommunication network in the area.	YES
iv.	If the answer to any of the questions 1-3 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation:	
v.	Will the proposed land use / development impact on the sense of place?	NO
vi.	Will the proposed land use / development set a precedent?	NO
vii.	Will any person's rights be affected by the proposed land use / development?	NO

viii.	Will the proposed land use / development compromise the “urban edge”?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
ix.	If the answer to any of the question 5-8 was YES, please provide further motivation / explanation.		

BENEFITS:			
i.	Will the land use / development have any benefits for society in general?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii.	Explain:		
	The society in general will benefit, as the cellular network (coverage and capacity) will be improved. The Cellular network reception will improve for motorists travelling on Road D449 (Witvlag Road).		
iii.	Will the land use / development have any benefits for the local communities where it will be located?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	Explain:		
	The community will benefit with better cellular network reception (coverage and capacity) in the Murunwa area.		

10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline:	Administering authority:	Date:
Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)	Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	2014
Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)	Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	1996
National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)	SAHRA	1999
Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993)	Department of Health	1993
Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013)	Makhado Local Municipality	2013

11. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

11(a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?

YES

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

3m³

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Limited construction waste will be generated during the construction phase. Construction waste will be transported to the nearest suitable waste disposal site.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

It is envisaged that all waste will be disposed of at the municipal waste disposal site.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

NO

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

No solid waste will be produced during the operational phase.

Where will the solid waste be disposed if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

No solid waste will be produced during the operational phase.

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the relevant legislation?

If yes, inform the department and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA.

NO

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?

If yes, then the applicant should consult with the Department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

NO

11(b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

NO

Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the Department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?

NO

NO

If yes, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:

[Empty text box for facility name]

Contact person:

[Empty text box for contact person]

Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

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11(c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere?

YES	
	NO

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

Base stations transmit power levels from a few watts to 100 watts or more, depending on the size of the region or "cell" that they are designed to service.

The South African Department of Health sets out safety guidelines for all emissions throughout the electromagnetic spectrum (including RF emissions from base stations). These guidelines were developed by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The ICNIRP guidelines were endorsed by the European Commission in July 1999. The World Health Organisation (WHO) also endorsed the use of ICNIRP as a suitable safety standard for Radio frequency. The World Health Organisation's position is that the radio frequency field around base stations are typically a fraction of the levels stated in the safety guidelines and therefore do not constitute a health risk (See Appendix G - Information regarding Electromagnetic Radiation from Base Stations).

11(d) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?

	NO

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

The proposed activity will not generate noise.

12. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es)

	The activity will not use water
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If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:



Does the activity require a water use permit from the Department of Water Affairs?

If yes, please submit the necessary application to the Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application if it has been submitted.

13. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Electricity is already available in the vicinity of the site. Boniswa Towerco (and network operators using the base station i.e. Vodacom) will make use of the most energy efficient components for the base station.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

Electricity is already available in the vicinity of the site. Boniswa Towerco (and network operators using the base station i.e. Vodacom) will make use of the most energy efficient components for the base station.

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

1. For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section C Copy No.
(e.g. A):

2. Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

3. Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? YES NO

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed:

All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

Property description/physical address:

The site is located adjacent to Road D449 (Witvlag Road) and premises of a church in Murunwa Village on the Remainder of the Farm Dwarsspruit 247 MT, within the Makhado Local Municipality area

(Farm name, portion etc.) Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application.

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In instances where there is more than one town or district involved, please attach a list of towns or districts to this application.

Current land-use zoning:

Undetermined (Village) / adjacent to premises of a church

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Must a building plan be submitted to the local authority?

Locality map: An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.) The map must indicate the following:

- an indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection)

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1:

	1:7,5 – 1:5	
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Alternative S2 (if any):

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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Alternative S3 (if any):

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

2.1 Ridgeline		2.6 Plain	
2.2 Plateau		2.7 Undulating plain / low hills	
2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain	√	2.8 Dune	
2.4 Closed valley		2.9 Seafront	
2.5 Open valley			

5. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that does currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

5.1 Natural area	√	5.22 School	√
5.2 Low density residential	√	5.23 Tertiary education facility	
5.3 Medium density residential	√	5.24 Church	√
5.4 High density residential		5.25 Old age home	
5.5 Medium industrial ^{AN}		5.26 Museum	
5.6 Office/consulting room		5.27 Historical building	
5.7 Military or police base/station/compound		5.28 Protected Area	
5.8 Spoil heap or slimes dam ^A		5.29 Sewage treatment plant ^A	
5.9 Light industrial		5.30 Train station or shunting yard ^N	
5.10 Heavy industrial ^{AN}		5.31 Railway line ^N	
5.11 Power station		5.32 Major road (4 lanes or more)	
5.12 Sport facilities	√	5.33 Airport ^N	
5.13 Golf course		5.34 Harbour	
5.14 Polo fields		5.35 Quarry, sand or borrow pit	
5.15 Filling station ^H		5.36 Hospital/medical centre	
5.16 Landfill or waste treatment site		5.37 River, stream or wetland	√
5.17 Plantation	√	5.38 Nature conservation area	
5.18 Agriculture		5.39 Mountain, koppie or ridge	√
5.19 Archaeological site		5.40 Graveyard	
5.20 Quarry, sand or borrow pit		5.41 River, stream or wetland	√
5.21 Dam or Reservoir		5.42 Other land uses (describe)	

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

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If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

If YES, specify and explain:	-
If NO, specify:	-

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If YES, specify and explain:	-
If NO, specify:	-

6. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?

NO

If YES, explain:

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.

Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

A Heritage Impact Assessment was compiled by G&A Heritage Management Properties (Pty) Ltd (See report attached as Appendix D) and the following findings/recommendations were made: *The site for the proposed construction of the Boniswa Site 2021, Murunwa Telemast, located on the Farm Dwarsspruit 247 MT within the Makhado Local- and Vhembe District Municipalities, Limpopo Province, was investigated during a field visit and through archival studies.*

The study area was found to be devoid of any heritage sites with significance and severely altered from the natural landscape. It is recommended that obscured, subterranean sites be managed, if they are encountered.

Although the palaeontological sensitivity of the area is designated as Moderate on the Paleo-Sensitivity Map published by SAHRIS the development footprint will be so small and the bedrock intrusion so insignificant that it is requested that the development be exempt from a stand-alone, desktop PIA.

Provided the recommendations in this report is followed there is no reason, from a heritage point of view, why this development cannot continue.

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?

NO

Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?

NO

If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. ADVERTISEMENT

The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—

- (a) fixing a notice board (of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and must display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the department) at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—
 - (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
 - (ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;
- (b) giving written notice to—
 - (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;
 - (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;
 - (v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
 - (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
 - (vii) any other party as required by the department;
- (c) placing an advertisement in—
 - (i) one local newspaper; or
 - (ii) any official *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;
- (d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official *Gazette* referred to in subregulation 54(c)(ii); and
- (e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the department, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—
 - (i) illiteracy;
 - (ii) disability; or
 - (iii) any other disadvantage.

2. CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

A notice board, advertisement or notices must:

- (a) indicate the details of the application which is subjected to public participation; and
- (b) state—
 - (i) that the application has been submitted to the department in terms of these Regulations, as the case may be;
 - (ii) whether basic assessment or scoping procedures are being applied to the application, in the case of an application for environmental authorisation;
 - (iii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates;
 - (iv) where further information on the application or activity can be obtained; and
 - (v) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application may be made.

3. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

Where the proposed activity may have impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located, a notice must be placed in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, indicating that an application will be submitted to the department in terms of these regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made, unless a notice has been placed in any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of these Regulations.

Advertisements and notices must make provision for all alternatives.

4. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

The practitioner must ensure that the public participation is adequate and must determine whether a public meeting or any other additional measure is appropriate or not based on the particular nature of each case. Special attention should be given to the involvement of local community structures such as Ward Committees, ratepayers associations and traditional authorities where appropriate. Please note that public concerns that emerge at a later stage that should have been addressed may cause the department to withdraw any authorisation it may have issued if it becomes apparent that the public participation process was inadequate.

5. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments and respond to each comment of the public before the application is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in

these Regulations and be attached to this application. The comments and response report must be attached under Appendix E.

6. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Please note that a complete list of all organs of state and or any other applicable authority with their contact details must be appended to the basic assessment report or scoping report, whichever is applicable.

Authorities are key interested and affected parties in each application and no decision on any application will be made before the relevant local authority is provided with the opportunity to give input.

Name of Authority informed:	Comments received (Yes or No)
Vhembe District Municipality	No
Makhado Local Municipality	No
Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority	No
<u>Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development:</u> Land Use & Soil Management	No
Roads Agency Limpopo	Yes
<u>Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development</u>	No

7. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for linear activities, or where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that subregulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the department.

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable.

Has any comment been received from stakeholders?

Yes

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

The Roads Agency Limpopo SOC Ltd (RAL) commented and indicated that RAL *"has no objection to your Environmental Impact Assessment report for construction of a telecommunications mast and base station on the remainder of the farm Dwarsspruit 247 MT within Makhado Local Municipality in terms of Section 49 of the Limpopo Roads Agency Limited and Provincial Roads Act, 1998 (Act No 7 of 1998) and Section 7 and 11 of the Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act, 1940 (Act No 21 of 1940) subject to the following condition:
No roads under the jurisdiction of RAL will be affected by the construction of a telecommunications mast and base station on the remainder of the farm Dwarsspruit 247 MT"*.

Copies of the Consultation Basic Assessment Report (BAR) were sent to the following Stakeholders/I&AP's to comment on:

- Vhembe District Municipality
- Makhado Local Municipality
- LIHRA, &
- SAHRA

Any comments received will be included in the Final BAR.

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

List the main issues raised by interested and affected parties.

No comments / objections were received from I&AP's (other than the one from RAL indicated above).

Response from the practitioner to the issues raised by the interested and affected parties (A full response must be given in the Comments and Response Report that must be attached to this report as Annexure E):

Copies of the Consultation Basic Assessment Report (BAR) were sent to the following Stakeholders/I&AP's to comment on:

- Vhembe District Municipality
- Makhado Local Municipality
- LIHRA, &
- SAHRA

Any comments received will be included in the Final BAR.

2. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

List the potential direct, indirect and cumulative property/activity/design/technology/operational alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of

site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed.

Alternative (preferred alternative)

PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE

Direct impacts:

- Impact upon fauna and flora:

Due to the extremely limited extent of the proposed site (64m²), the impact upon fauna and flora will be minimal. The site is located at the foot of a hill and the proposed position is required due to the topography of the area. The site for the base station is currently vacant and is surrounded by eucalyptus (Blue gum) trees adjacent to the premises of a church, and limited natural/indigenous vegetation will need to be cleared. During the project planning and design stages, Boniswa Towerco and its contractors, must take into account the recommendations of this Basic Assessment Report, so that it is positively utilised on a pro-active basis to aid in the mitigation of impacts.

- Minimising of visual impact:

Due to the fact that the infrastructure in question will be a 30m high mast located at the foot of a hill adjacent to Road D449 (Witvlag Road) and premises of a church in Murunwa Village, it is deemed important that the visual impact be minimized. The proposed mast will be a lattice mast and one can look "through" it. The mast is surrounded by eucalyptus (Blue gum) trees next to a church building. This will assist to lessen the visual impact. Boniswa Towerco will implement elements of good visual design. The mast will remain galvanized (grey colour) with night markings (navigational light on top of the mast) as per Civil Aviation Authority specification.

Indirect impacts:

- The telecommunication network need to be upgraded in the area. These network problems will be resolved after the mast has been erected:

The proposed infrastructure will improve the cellular coverage and capacity in the Murunwa Village and surrounding area as well as motorists travelling on Road D449 (Witvlag Road).

Cumulative impacts:

- *The size of the base station will measure approximately 8m x 8m (64m²) in extent and is located on a disturbed area surrounded by eucalyptus (Blue gum) trees next to a church building, and limited natural vegetation will need to be cleared.*
- *The residents in Murunwa Village and surrounding area will benefit by this development as the cellular network in the area will be upgraded.*

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Direct impacts:

- Earthworks

All excavation activities for any purpose whatsoever should be preceded by selective stripping and stockpiling of vegetative (humus) and soil materials in the order of their horizons as found on site, for the purpose of replacement in the appropriate horizon order, after the completion of construction. These activities should include:

- *trenching for the installation of services (e.g. electricity),*
- *foundations,*
- *access road construction,*
- *site clearance, and*
- *yards or lay-down areas or any other areas affecting the natural environment.*

Replacement and rehabilitation should be progressive with construction and not left until the end. Temporary topsoil stockpiles should be seeded, or protected in a manner acceptable to the environmental planner, so as to avoid erosion by rain or wind.

Stockpiled topsoil and sub-soils should be protected from contamination e.g. by fuel spillages etc.

- Vehicular access and movement of construction vehicles

The following mitigatory measures are deemed necessary to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow to and from the mast site, during construction:

- *Posting of relevant traffic signage where construction will take place (to inform motorists of construction vehicles).*
- *Adequate parking shall be provided on site, to accommodate construction vehicles - no vehicles should be parked in any public road reserve, at any time.*

- Contractors' yards

A material delivery and storage area should be demarcated in co-ordination with the contractor. Material should not be brought onto a site prematurely, which could result in additional areas being cleared or affected.

- Rehabilitate compacted soils

Soils compacted by construction activity shall be deep ripped to loosen compacted layers and graded evenly. Topsoil shall be re-spread upon completion of construction activities.

- Impacts on the biological environment

Due to the extremely limited extent of the proposed activity (64m²), the impact upon the biological environment will be minimal. Limited natural vegetation will need to be disturbed.

Capture or snaring of birds or other fauna must be strictly prohibited on site - especially w.r.t. contractors' employees. Fauna may be temporarily displaced from the area during construction due to the noise and activity. The immediate proximity of other available habitat means that this impact is of moderate significance.

- Toilet facilities

The use of portable chemical toilets for use by the labour force is essential to avoid pollution and attraction of vermin and flies (which could become a nuisance or a health hazard).

- Waste handling

Contractors should remove all waste generated by themselves during construction and it should be disposed of at a suitable solid waste disposal venue. Waste material will be kept in designated areas.

- Mixing cement

Where cement and concrete, etc. is mixed on site, this shall be done in specified areas on concrete aprons or on protected plastic linings and provision shall be made to contain spillage or overflows onto soils.

- Mixing of chemicals

The mixing of any paints, solvents, sealants, adhesives, chemicals or other noxious materials shall only be undertaken in designated areas on concrete aprons that have spillage control channels and separate storage areas. The mixing of materials shall not be permitted in the general areas of the site. All surplus or waste materials are to be removed from the site. All these operations shall only be allowed on site under strict observations of the manufacturers' instructions.

- Silencing of plant

All plant and vehicles on the site will be equipped with noise suppressing measures and kept in proper working order. Where working at the site, noise levels must be within ambient noise level. Excessive noise from the labour force should be avoided, as this may cause a nuisance to adjacent areas of residence.

- Maintain vehicles

Vehicles and equipment shall be maintained in proper working order, in order to limit gaseous emissions, pollution and should be free from oil and hydraulic fluid leaks, etc.

- Fires

No fires will be permitted on site without the authority of the resident engineer or project manager.

Indirect impacts:

- Optimisation of the local economy

Where appropriate, use should be made of labour intensive construction methods - local emerging contractors should be used if at all possible.

Cumulative impacts:

- Safety on site

The implementation of an Occupational Health and Safety management system should be required of all contractors. Safety measures and work procedures/instructions should be communicated to all construction workers. First aid facilities shall be on hand at all times. Medical screening of employees shall take place.

The contractor shall implement adequate and mandatory safety precautions relating to all aspects of the operation. Warning and advisory signage should also be implemented (also with regards to vehicular movement along public roads).

- Cleanliness

The site is to be maintained in a sanitary condition and all toilet facilities shall be maintained in good order. Food cooking will only be permitted in designated areas.

Boniswa Towerco should monitor the site on a regular basis during the construction phase.

OPERATIONAL PHASE

Direct impacts:

- Handling of objections

In cases where inhabitants of the surrounding areas have objections to the infrastructure, Boniswa Towerco should meet with such persons in order to discuss and address their concerns. Records of such deliberations to be circulated to all parties involved (including relevant provincial departments/authorities).

- Minimising of visual impact

Due to the fact that the infrastructure in question will be a 30m high mast located at the foot of a hill adjacent to Road D449 (Witvlag Road) and premises of a church in Murunwa Village, it is deemed important that the visual impact be minimized. The proposed mast will be a lattice mast and one can look "through" it. The mast is surrounded by eucalyptus (Blue gum) trees next to a church building. This will assist to lessen the visual impact. Boniswa Towerco will implement elements of good visual design. The mast will remain galvanized (grey colour) with night markings (navigational light on top of the mast) as per Civil Aviation Authority specification.

Indirect impacts:

- Maintenance of the site

Employees of Boniswa Towerco will visit the site on a regular basis to do routine maintenance to keep all the components in good working order.

Cumulative impacts:

- Cell phone coverage will improve

The residents of the area (as well as motorists travelling on Road D449 (Witvlag Road)) will benefit by the proposed project as the cellular coverage and capacity will be improved. The residents in the area are dependent on good telecommunication networks.

DECOMMISSIONING & CLOSURE PHASE

Direct impacts:

- All infrastructure will be removed

The site should be rehabilitated to the state it was prior to the installation of the infrastructure.

Indirect impacts:

- Poor cell phone coverage in this area

The coverage and capacity problem will not be solved in the area should the mast be demolished.

Cumulative impacts:

- The coverage problem will remain in the area should the mast be demolished

The cell phone coverage and capacity is currently not reliable and the problem will remain should the mast be demolished. The residents and businesses in the area (as well as motorists travelling on Road D449 (Witvlag Road)) are dependent on good telecommunication networks.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Alternative A (preferred alternative)

- Concerns relating to the social impacts of a development such as this one could range around aspects such as dissatisfaction with the proposed infrastructure based on value judgements, e.g. perceptions that the “sense of place” could be disturbed.
- It is recommended that possible negative impacts be mitigated through the implementation of the proposals contained in this report.
- The writer came to the conclusion that, done in the right way the advantages of the proposed development, will outweigh the social disadvantages, which might result from the installation and existence of this infrastructure.

No-go alternative (compulsory)

The Department of Environmental Affairs stresses the consideration of the “no development/no-action” option in cases where a proposed development is envisaged to have significant negative environmental impacts, or where such impacts cannot be mitigated against effectively or satisfactorily. The IEM procedure suggests that the “no action” option should be considered as an alternative. This option is normally considered during a full EIA where significant negative environmental impacts are expected or if the proposed site is considered to be ecologically sensitive or unique.

Due to the extremely limited extent of the proposed mast site (64m²), the impact upon fauna and flora will be minimal and no sites or finds of any heritage significance were identified.

The cell phone coverage and capacity will remain problematic in the area should this activity not take place. Should the mast not be built on the proposed site, then an alternative site must be planned.

Alternative B

Alternative C

For more alternatives please continue as alternative D, E, etc.

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?

YES

If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

-

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the department in respect of the application:

The surrounding environment must not be disturbed and the site must be cleared of all waste after construction. The applicant must adhere to Section D of this report and attached EMPr.

Is an EMPr attached?

YES

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix F.

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

The following appendixes must be attached as appropriate:

Appendix A: Site plan(s)

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Facility illustration(s)

Appendix D: Specialist reports

- **Heritage Impact Assessment Report**

Appendix E: Comments and responses report

Appendix F: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

Appendix G: Other information

- **Assessment of Alternatives**
- **Civil Aviation Authority Approval**
- **Information regarding Electromagnetic Radiation from Base Stations**

SECTION G: DECLARATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

I, **Danie Combrink**, declare that I –

- (a) act as the independent environmental practitioner in this application;
- (b) do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014;
- (c) do not have and will not have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- (d) have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- (e) undertake to disclose, to the competent authority, any material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006;
- (f) will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- (g) will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the Department in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the Department may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
- (h) will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process; and
- (i) will provide the Department with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not.



Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

Tekplan

Name of company:

30-March-2022

Date: