

APPENDIX: E 4

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the public meeting held on the 12th of July 2012 at the Newcastle Town Hall at 17H00 for the environmental process for the proposed extension of the Muslim Cemetery situated on Falkirk Street, property Erf Re/1A, Newcastle Municipality.

1. Attendees

Y. Vayda
A.S Osman
G.H.C Surjie
P. Ntshingila (Newcastle Municipality)
N. Hlophe (Newcastle Municipality)
G. Phiri (Newcastle Municipality)
S. Chokoe (UDIDI)
M. Faku (UDIDI)

2. The meeting was structured along the following Agenda:

- 2.1 Background Information of the project
- 2.2 Study area
- 2.3 Environmental authorization process
- 2.4 Potential issues identifies
- 2.5 Public participation process
- 2.6 Way forward

3. Welcome & Introduction

Mr Faku from UDIDI, opened the meeting, and introduced his colleague SV Chokoe, who will be involved in the environmental authorization phase of the project. Mr Faku stated that UDIDI is an independent environmental planning development consulting company appointed by the Newcastle Municipality to see through the environmental authorization process of the proposed extension of the Muslim Cemetery.

He then provided a brief overview of the project before proceeding with the presentation. He discussed how there is pressure on the existing facility; therefore an extension of the current the cemetery would be the solution to this problem, it is the land adjoining the existing cemetery was identified as the most suitable alternative. However there are certain environmental studies that are underway to test if the proposed site will be suitable for the development of a cemetery.

4. Study Area

He then explained how this site is situated on Municipality owned land which makes it easier for this process as it is the Municipality who will sign the land owners consent form. Problem is the site itself is small as it is only 1,136 hectares making it a short term solution to the existing problem being experienced. Mr Faku explained that the geo-hydrological test has been done, and also the geotechnical, but just awaiting the results which will determine the sort of rock types underlying this burial ground.

5. Environmental Authorization Process

This proposed project will only be needing Basic Environmental Assessment, as the cemetery is a listed activity as detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (Government Notice GN R543 and R544 in terms of Section 24 (5) promulgated under the National Environment Management Act, (Act no.107 of 1998).

6. Potential issues identified

Excavation may be a problem due to the construction rubble that is illegally dumped on this site.

7. Public participation process

It was emphasised how crucial the public participation process is, as it affords the public the opportunity to raise concerns and to also provide input into the proposed development. To also identify Interested and Affected Parties and grant those who would like to register the opportunity to do so as they will receive updates on the proposed development via registered mail. The deadline for submission of comments is the 15th of August 2012, comments received will be used to produce the final Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA). UDIDI has done the necessary public announcements according to the regulations, to place the notices on site and also in Ilanga news paper and in the Newcastle Advertiser.

8. Way forward & Closure

Basic Assessment Reports will be circulated to the registered I&AP's via registered mail. Mr Faku then afforded the attendees a chance to comment on the proposal of which there were no comments or objections, however Mr Phiri from Newcastle Municipality commented on how they appreciate UDIDI for the work they are doing. Mr Faku thanked every one for being present and closed the meeting at 17:25.