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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OSAKWENI ROAD AND CULVERT CAUSEWAY WITHIN THE BIG 5 HLABISA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.

October 2018

Prepared by: Emvelo Quality and Environmental Consultant (PTY) Ltd

On Behalf of

Big 5 Hlabisa Local Municipality.

INTRODUCTION

The Big 5 Hlabisa Local Municipality intends to construct a Culvert Causeway and Gravel Road in Osakweni (Ward 11). The area is situated on the South-western part of Umkhanyakude District. The proposed development will improve road and stream crossing conditions.

Envelo Consultant is appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Big 5 Hlabisa Local Municipality, to assess the possible impacts to the environment that might emerge as a result of the proposed construction of the Gravel Road and a Culvert causeway. This will allow the identification of all the negative impacts at an early stage of the project, the mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce the impacts and to ensure that the proposed project is shaped to suit the local environment.

NEEDS AND DESIRABILITY

The community of Osakweni relies on the current road conditions to travel to different areas of the village. In the event of heavy or intense rainfall, it becomes a challenge for road users to gain access to other parts of the village and adjacent communities.

Therefore, the construction of a culvert causeway and gravel road will enhance connectivity and all-weather access for all types of road users.

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with information regarding the Basic Assessment Report and a Water Use Licence Application for the proposed development of a Gravel road and Culvert Causeway. It aims to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regard to potential impacts on the environment.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible impacts and to make suggestions for mitigation. These comments will be included as part of the BAR which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

The I &APs include, but not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organizations and conservation groups.

This document details how you can become involved in the project, receive information and raise any issues of concern or interest regarding the proposed project. The sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Input from I&APs ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered within the context of the proposed project.

STUDY AREA

The site co-ordinates are as follows: Start S28°5'25.13", E31°53'24.65" to within 32m of the stream; crosses the stream at S28°5'25.03", E31°53'23.09" and the end at S28° 5'25.43", E31°53'21.72".

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project entails the construction of a 64m long x 5m wide road; 32m on both sides of the a river and the construction of a culvert causeway that will be 15m long x 4.8m wide x 2.1m in height, to assist on the part of the road that is separated by the river.

WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT?

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

WHY IS BASIC ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?

In terms of to the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 04 December 2014, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment.

The proposed activity triggers the following listed activity in Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983, 04 December 2014).

Table 1: Listed Activities

Listing Notice	Activities	Activity Description
1	12	<p>The development of – xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>Where such development occurs- (a) Within a watercourse (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>

1	19	<p>The infilling or deposition of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell, grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from – (i) a watercourse</p>
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WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?

Public participation is the process by which an organization consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and government entities before making a decision. Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions. Public participation prevents or minimizes disputes by creating a process for resolving issues before they become polarized.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?

- ✓ To inform and involve the community and the stakeholders about the construction of Osakweni road and Culvert Causeway across the river. To identify and address community and the stakeholders concerns regarding this construction.

- ✓ To provide opportunities for the community & stakeholders to identify priorities and determine alternative solutions to any concerns that might arise from stakeholders, i.e. Osakweni community, relevant government departments, farmers and political parties.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP?

I&AP are encouraged to make use of the opportunities created by the Public Participation Process to become involved and raise any issues or concerns which affect and/or interest them. The public is invited to register as an IAP and take part in the PPP through:

- Our contact details (phone, fax or e-mail)
- Media Notices placed in local newspapers(iLanga)
- Distribution of the BID
- Notice on sites and notice boards
- Public meetings
- Submission of comments on the media

This way, we will ensure that you are registered as an I&AP for the project, and that your concerns or queries regarding the

project will be noted. We will also ensure that you are provided with future information pertaining to the project as well as the availability of the BAR for review purposes.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

I&APs may forward their written comments along with their contacts details by email to:

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Tel: 035 789 0632

Cell: 078 284 9332

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