BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ZINKWANI/MHLANGENI PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT HIMEVILLE RURAL AREA, WITHIN KWASANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

**HELD ON**

**19 March 2013**

**AT**

EMHLANGENI COMMUNITY HALL

ENQUIRIES

*Basic Assessment Process & Public Participation Process*

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# 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Attendees: Refer to Attendance Register in Appendix A.

**Apologies**: None

*Nomcebo Monica Shange from Icebo environmental* welcomed everyone at the meeting, explained to them where she is from and what is the purpose for her visit.

She requested that the attendance register be completed and that everyone present avail themselves to a hard copy of the Background Information Document (BID). She presented the agenda of the meeting, her involvement in the project, and asked anyone to raise any questions that they have after the presentation.

She illustrated the background of the proposed development including the legislative requirements of the activity i.e. NEMWA and NEMA.

# 2. THE PRESENTATIONS

*Nomcebo Shange from Icebo environmental* provided a brief presentation on the proposed project and the basic assessment process being followed (refer to presentation for details):

* The Background;
* The purpose of the meeting;
* Scope of project;
* The basic assessment Processn.

***Nomcebo Shange from Icebo environmental*** explained in detail that Kwasani Local Municipality proposes to construction approximately 47 m long pedestrian bridge that crosses a stream. The structure will be situated at the river mouth entering Umkhomazi River. The point at which the structure will be situated will be at the peak of the streams capacity. The proposed new structure will be allocated inside the 1 in 50 and 1 in 100 year flood lines. All storm water infrastructures will be designed in accordance with the following standard

* Guidelines for Kwazulu Natal Department of Transport Design Standards
* Guidelines for the Provision of Engineering Services (Blue Book)

The pedestrian bridge will provide efficient access to the community .children whose schools are situated across the UMkhomazi River will not be restricted when the River gets full. It has been reported that many children have died while crossing the Mkhomazi River when it was full.

She explained the process of the basic assessment process, how it will take place and what the way forward of the project will be. She also indicated that for any further information everyone could contact her on the provided contact details.

# 3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Following the presentations, the discussion session was opened and everyone was invited to participate to ensure that maximum benefit be derived from the meeting.

The issues raised have been grouped for ease of reference in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue Raised** | **Response** | **Outcome / Way Forward** |
| ***COUNCILLOR:***  thanked and welcomed the environmental consultant who is here to provide the community with information about the project and is grateful on behalf of the community to have an opportunity to comment***.*** | Comment noted | Comment noted |
| ***when can we expect the bridge to up and running*** | ***Monica shange from Icebo environmental,*** indicated that after we have received the environmental authorisation only then can construction commence. | Comment noted |
| will this be concrete bridge or just a bridge made of ropes, which is unsafe t the community | ***Monica shange from Icebo environmental*** responded that this will be a concrete bridge. |  |
| Can we as women expect job opportunities form this proposed development. | The councillor responded that job opportunities will be available for the community particularly in this ward, not in other wards. Once the contractor has been addressed to her she will have another meeting it the public and the contractor to introduce the contractor and task regarding employment will be included in that separate meeting | Comment noted |
| what rates will the employees working for the contactors be paid | that can only be determined by the contactor | Comment noted |
| how will it be ensures that the main River uMkhomazi is not negatively impacted by the construction i.e contamination of water | ***Monica shange from Icebo environmental*** responded that as an environmental consultants we have stipulated on the basic assessment report and on the EMpr the measures that should be taken to ensure that contamination of the stream is minimised and avoided if possible |  |
| how long will it take for the basic assessment report to be approved | ***Monica shange from Icebo environmental*** the basic assessment process takes approximately 5 months, |  |
| what will happen as the time goes by we find that the bridge has been deteriorated somehow, and needs an upgrade | ***Monica shange from Icebo environmental,*** as this development was part of this year’s financial obligation, the councillor will do the same by reporting to the municipality regarding the upgrade of the project and budget shall be allocated for upgrade should it be required. |  |

# 4. THE WAY FORWARD

* Compilation and distribution of minutes;
* Inclusion of I&AP comments in Draft Basic Assessment Report;
* Public review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report;
* Inclusion of I&AP comments into the Final Basic Assessment Report;
* Submission of Final Basic Assessment Report to Department of environmental and nature conservation
* Authority review;
* Environmental Authorisation;
* Notify I&AP’s of Decision; and
* Appeal Period.

# 5. CLOSURE

***Nomcebo Monica Shange from Icebo environmental*** thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, and asked anyone with any additional comments to forward them to her on the contact details provided on the BID.