

Date: 29 June 2023

Dear registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP),

**NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT
REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

RE: BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CASTEEL DAM SAFETY REHABILITATION PROJECT, BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EHLANZENI DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE Ref. Pending

Our previous correspondence of 15 October 2022 has reference. Kindly note the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the above-mentioned project is available for review and comment.

As previously informed, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Directorate: Strategic Infrastructure Asset Management (SIAM) is proposing to conduct scheduled rehabilitation works at Casteel Dam. Casteel Dam is located next to the R40 main road, 15km North of Bushbuckridge enroute to Acornhoek. Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd is the appointed independent environmental assessment practitioner, responsible to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) process in support of the application for environmental authorisation for the project.

The application together with a copy of the Draft BAR Report have been submitted to National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) in June 2023 and is currently subject to a 30-day public review and comment period from **Friday, 30 June until Monday, 31 July 2023**.

The Draft BAR Report can be downloaded from the Naledzi website <http://www.naledzi.co.za/public-documents-naledzi.php> under the heading ‘Casteel DSRP’. Printed copies are also available in the project area at the following public venues:

Venue	Contact details	Address
Moreipuso Tribal Office	Norman Mahlala - 082 675 1938	Wales Road, Casteel
Setlhare Tribal Office	Myrah Machate – 072 404 0524	Greenvalley, Acornhoek
Casteel Thusong Service Centre	Absalom Malope – 072 144 7952	Casteel, R40 Main Road
Faith Mission Church	Lodrick Selowe – 072 843 2572	Chochocho (next to old Co-op)

Parties wishing to comment on the project may do so by sending an email, calling us or any written submission. Kindly send your comments together with your name, contact details and interest in the project to Marissa Botha (Naledzi) at botham@naledzi.co.za or contact us at 084-226-5584 / 087-550-1529 for more information. Comments must be submitted on or before 31 July 2023.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Two public meetings are scheduled for 12 and 13 July 2023 in the project area to discuss the BA process and to facilitate comments on the Draft BAR Report. English / Sesotho/SiThonga/Sepedi Translators will be available at the meetings. Comments Sheets will also be available for completion at the public meeting venues.

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Casteel Thusong Service Centre (Tent) (For community members)	Wednesday, 12 July 2023	10:00
Faith Mission Church, Dingley Dale (For downstream water users and Irrigation Scheme members)	Thursday, 13 July 2023	10:00

What's next?

All comments and issues received during the public comment period and at the public meetings will be incorporated into the final Basic Assessment Report and will be submitted to the DFFE for decision making. I&APs will be notified of the decision once issued.

Sincerely,



Marissa Botha (*Pr.Sci.Nat*)
Senior Environmental Scientist
For Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd
141 Thabo Mbeki Street, Polokwane, 0700
Cell: 084 226 5584 (Marissa) or Email: botham@naledzi.co.za

The registered EAP for the project is Dr. Desmond Musetsho and can be reached at Tel: 087 550 1529 / 083 410 1477; Email: dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za.