



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE
PETRUSDAM 88KV SWITCHING STATION, WITHIN THE RAMOTHERE MOILOA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE.**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BENVSC	Bachelor of Environmental Science
BSC	Bachelor of Science
CE	Consulting Engineers
C	Contractor
CM	Contract Manager
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
Eskom	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (ESKOM)
ELO	Environmental Liaison Officer
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
SS	Site Supervisor
PP	Public Participation
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
EMPR	Environmental Management Programme Report

DETAILS OF EAP**Table 1: Details of EAP who prepared the report**

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His South African experience began as a consultant heading the Hydrology/Geohydrology Unit of an Environmental Firm. After developing the division into a fully-fledged self-sustaining entity, He moved into the role of Environmental Manager at a Pretoria company where he honed his skills in E.I.A Project Management, Water Use Applications and Water engineering.

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1. Background

Baagi Environmental Consultancy cc, as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners have been appointed by Trans-Africa Projects (Pty) Ltd to facilitate the Basic Assessment Process required for the proposed Construction of an 88kV Petrusdam Switch Station within the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, North West Province. An application for a Basic Assessment Process was filed with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) with Reference number: **14/12/16/3/3/1/1778**.

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them. Section 57(1) of the Constitution that provides: "The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement." This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making. In accordance with the National Environmental Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Gazette No. 40772, 08 December 2014 as amended on the 04th of April 2017, a Public Participation process must be conducted, the comments from which, will assist the Department of Environmental Affairs regarding the proposed activity. Therefore, this Report contains a record of all actions taken to inform and consult with Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) and records all issues (within the Issues and Response Report (IRR) raised by I&AP's and stakeholders.

2. Introduction

Public Participation plays an important role in a Basic Assessment. It can be defined as a leading process leading to informed decision-making, through joint effort by the:

- Applicant
- Technical experts and Environmental Specialists
- Governmental Authorities and
- Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's).

To make a decision that is better than when they acted independently.

Public Participation is a vehicle for public input, which achieves the following:

- Facilitates negotiated outcomes
- Creates trust and partnership
- Minimises negative effects
- Maximises positive effect and
- Provides an indication, which may:
 - Prevent the project continuing
 - Cause costly delays later
 - Result in enhanced and shared benefits and
 - Assist in mitigation of impacts.

Through the public participation process, Baagi Environmental Consultancy cc endeavoured to involve as many potential I &AP's and stakeholders as possible. The issues arising from the public participation process have been incorporated into the Issues and Response Report, which will result in the studies contributing information towards the BA report.

3. Public Participation Process- Legal Framework

Public participation forms an integral part of the full BA process and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is totally reliant on the Interested on Affected parties and stakeholder participation to ensure adherence to the legal requirements as set out in NEMA.

The important elements relating to the public participation process that are required by the Regulations are the following:

- The manner in which potential Interested and Affected Parties were notified of the application for authorisation, and that a public participation process was mandatory.
 - This includes notice boards, giving written notice to landowners, letters, information documents and advertisements in the media.
- Opening and maintaining a register of the names and addresses of I&AP's. These include all persons who have attended meetings, submitted comments, organs of state who have some form of jurisdiction in the assessment process, and all those who have requested that they be placed on the register as registered I&AP's.

- Registered I&AP's are entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority by the applicant or the EAP managing the application, and to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues which that party believes may be of significance when the application is considered for authorisation. The comments of registered I&AP's must be recorded and included in the reports submitted to the competent authority.
- Comments of I&AP's to be recorded in a report and submitted to the competent authority.

The Public Participation (PP) team set out an information programme to ensure that as many I&AP's as possible were well informed about the proposed project as possible in order to form part of the EIA from inception to completion.

During this period the focus was on informing potential I&AP's as well registered I&AP's about the project and to ensure that they (and other stakeholders) have ample opportunity to comment a give input, especially with regard to their preferred alignment. There was no cut-off date for registering as I&AP's and new Stakeholders were welcomed into the process throughout.

4. Informative Period

The aim of the informative period within the greater PP process is to inform as many people and organisations about the process and the proposed activities. A data base to assist in keeping record of the I& AP's was established which is used as the basis for future contacts with I&AP's. The PP process is a continuous process throughout the life cycle of the BA and is never closed for new entries up to the date of submission of the final BAR. Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality is the area of influence, for this project which is covered during the notification period of the PP process.

The following actions were taken during the informative period:

4.1. Developing the I&AP Database

The Public Participation Process in the BA phase kicked off with an exercise to ensure that the team had contact details of parties. Information received from ESKOM as well as site visits where used to obtain the details of all landowners that may be affected by the proposed construction of the 88kV Petrusdam Switching Station. In this communication I&AP's were

invited to send their comments and concerns and to communicate with the PP Team should they have questions, etc.

4.2. Newspaper Advertisements

The following newspapers were used to inform potential I&AP's of the process:

Table 2: Newspaper advertisements

Newspaper	Publication Date
Rustenburg Herald (English and Setswana)	06 July 2017

The proof of advertisements can be seen in APPENDIX H1.

4.3. Site Notices

Site notices in Tswana and English were placed throughout the study area. (See APPENDIX H2 for the Site Notice Report which consists of photos and Locations of notices).

4.4 Knock-and-Drop

Knock and Drops were done within the adjacent and immediate areas of the proposed maintenance areas and power line towers. All knock and drops were done on the 10th of July 2017. (See APPENDIX H6 for Knock and Drop proof).

4.5 Pre-identified I&AP's

Organs of State, NGO's, service providers (e.g. Transnet and TRAC), Farmers' Union and municipalities identified before and informed of the proposal at hand. They were placed on the database by default. (See APPENDIX H3 for database).

4.6 Kick-Off Focus Group Meetings

Focus Group Meetings were held at the following venues:

Table 3: Meeting Dates

Date and Time	Venue	Address
27 July 2017 14H30	Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality	P. O Box 92 Zeerust 2865

The aim of the Focus Group Meeting was to present the findings of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and collect further issues as well as issues specifically pertaining to the Draft Basic Assessment Report from attendees. (See APPENDIX H4 for meeting minutes and attendance register).

4.7 Public Places where the DBAR was made available for Perusal

Copies of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme were made available at each of the following location. (See APPENDIX H5 for proof of submission).

Table 4: Draft BAR venues

Place
Ramotshere Local Municipality
Madikwe River Lodge
Pienaar Nature Reserve
Nietverdiend Laerskool
Mopipi B&B
Zeerust Police Station

4.8. Communication with I&AP's

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties was done by email and telephonically. Letters were attached to the email notifying them about the Draft Bar locations, focus Group date and venue. (See APPENDIX H7 for Proof of communication with I&APs).

4.9. Comments and Response Report

Comments and Response Report was developed to capture issues that pertain to the content and quality of the Draft Basic Assessment Report as well as the I&AP's concerns and issues regarding the proposed project. (See APPENDIX H8 for the Issues and Response Report).

5. Conclusion

The PP process is inclusive and ongoing and will continue into the final Basic Assessment Report. All measures to inform the public of the proposed project were successfully

implemented. The process has thus far been open and transparent. In accordance with legislation, Interested and Affected Parties were identified and notified of the proposed developed.