

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED LABOUR CENTRE LOCATED IN HUHUDI, VRYBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



JULY 2022

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed development and the EIA Process that will be followed. The aim is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on how to participate in the EIA Process and to obtain comments from IAPs on the proposed development. Findings of the EIA Process, including concerns raised by IAPs will be submitted to the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT).

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Public Works proposes to develop a Labour Centre on Erf 5156 (a portion of Erf 2098) Huhudi, in the Vryburg area. The property is currently registered in the name of Naledi Local Municipality and is currently in the process of being transferred to the Republic of South Africa for the purpose of developing the proposed Labour Centre.

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment for the development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

The project area is made up of Erf 5156 (a portion of Erf 2098), Huhudi and has a total extent of approximately 1.1 ha. The site is situated within Ward 9 of the Naledi Local Municipality, on the outskirts of the Vryburg CBD, at the corner of Nelson Street and Mosiapoa/Voortrekker Street.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitudinal Extent: 26° 57' 44.80" S
Longitudinal Extent: 24° 44' 5.90" E

CURRENT LAND USE

The site is currently vacant and was found to be transformed from past and current land uses. Heaps of rubble, litter, footpaths and informal roads were all observed within the project area. According to the 2015 North West Biodiversity Sector Plan, portions of the site were classified as Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecological Support Areas. A potential wetland may be located within the eastern portion of the site. This will be confirmed as part of the EIA Process.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

- The development will entail the construction of a building as well as parking space.
- Water Supply - Bulk water for Vryburg is abstracted borehole sites which pump water into the Edwin Frylinck Reservoir Complex. It is proposed that a borehole be drilled on site to serve as an additional supply during shortages.
- Sewer - It is proposed that the internal reticulation be connected to the existing 450mm dia outfall sewer line.
- The Naledi Local Municipality has confirmed capacity for the bulk civil and electrical engineering services.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The EIA process for this proposed development will be conducted in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended) lists activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorization from the competent authority. The regulations also specify the environmental assessment process, and information that is required to enable DEDECT to make a decision regarding the proposed activity.

The Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed with accordance to the 2014 EIA Regulations, as the following activities have the potential to be triggered by the proposed development:

ACTIVITY 12 OF LISTING NOTICE 3 (GN.R. 324):

The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

h. North West

vi. Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.

Background:

Clearance of approximately 4500m² of indigenous vegetation in an area that is located 100m from the edge of a wetland.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

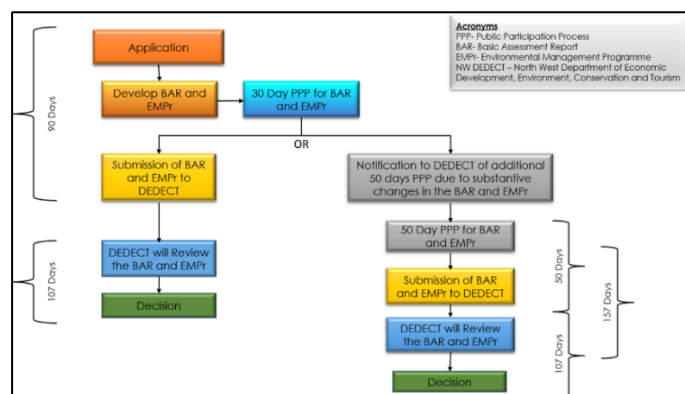
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project methodology involved with the required Environmental Authorization Process is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- Potential soil pollution and soil erosion.
- Invasion of alien plants as they are attracted to disturbed environments.
- An Environmental Management Programme will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur, during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- Potential noise related impacts during the construction phase.
- Potential traffic related impacts during the construction phase.
- The construction phase of the development will result in temporary employment opportunities for members of the surrounding community.
- The operational phase of the Labour Centre will create employment opportunities for the surrounding community.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

Documentation pertaining to the proposed development will be submitted to the NW PHRA for comment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the foundation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) guide various aspects of the EIA process, including public participation which involves provision of sufficient information, in a transparent manner, to IAPs. During the Public Participation Process input from, specialists, government, and non-government organizations as well as all other potential IAPs are gathered to enable more informed decision-making.

Public Participation during the Basic Assessment Process will entail the EAP notifying all IAPs about the draft Basic Assessment Report. IAPs will then be given the opportunity of at least 30 days to comment and raise issues and/or concerns of the draft BAR. Once the commenting period is over, the EAP will then compile the Final BAR which will be inclusive of comments and responses and submit to DEDECT for assessment. IAPs will then be notified in writing of the decision taken by DEDECTA pertaining to the project.

Representations with respect to this application may be made by fax or mail to K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd as per the contact details below:

Contact Person: Mr. Gert Watson

Tel: 031 7646 743

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Email: gert@k2m.co.za or

prisantha@k2m.co.za



K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Company Registration Number: 2008/016461/07

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED LABOUR CENTRE LOCATED IN HUHUDI, VRYBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and/or bring to the attention of K2M Environmental the following comments.

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organization:		Address:	
Tel no:		Cell no:	
Fax no:		Email:	

Comment:

DISCLAIMER:

In terms of the section 11 of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI ACT), 2013, I hereby wish to give consent to K2M Environmental to the lawful processing of my personal information stated above for the EIA Process undertaken for the proposed development as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).

Sign: _____

Date: _____