



**COMMUNITY MEETING: UMZIMKHULU LANDFILL SITE-WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSE AND EIA
PROCESS (DC43/WML/0013/2013)**

MEETING MINUTES

VENUE : VULEKANI SPECIAL SCHOOL
DATE : 14th of OCTOBER 2014
Time : 11H00 am
ATTENDEES : AS PER ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OPENING AND WELCOMING

Ms. A. Mhatu opened the meeting and welcomed members attending the meeting.

APOLOGIES AND REGISTER

Ms. Mhatu requested those present to fill in the attendance register.

Apologies were for the following people who could not make the meeting and excused themselves:

Ms. V. Mhatu
Mr. M.M. Dlamini
Mr. Novukuza

Brief Background

Ms. A. Mhatu informed and reminded members present at the meeting about the proposed development. She then briefly described the Application Process that is being followed which is the Scoping and EIR Assessment Process. She explained that the meeting previously conducted with the team was part of the public participation process conducted for the Scoping Phase of the project in which an action plan is drawn up on how potential impacts from the development will be assessed during the EIA process.

Progress Report

Ms. A. Mhatu updated the attendees on the progress of the proposed project thus far. She mentioned the steps that have been taken including compilation and approval of the scoping report. She explained that following the approval of the Scoping report, steps set out in the scoping report were implemented for the assessment of the anticipated impacts. Specialist Assessment studies have been undertaken for the proposed development to assist in assessment of anticipated impacts in detail from different ecological perspectives. These include the land potential, noise, visual, heritage and other specialist

studies. Specialist study findings and input from I&APs and stakeholders have been used to compile a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Challenges Encountered

Ms. A. Mhatu explained to the members present at the meeting that appointment of specialist and conduction of specialist studies takes time as specialists usually have prior commitments. Some of the studies need to be taken during a certain season which ends up delaying submission of specialist reports.

Comments and Questions

Mr. Mbomvu who is a member of the ward council expressed that meetings aimed at engaging with the community in general are better conducted during the weekend as most adult community members are usually not at home during the day time period on weekdays. He then mentioned that the person to conduct the Public Participation meeting must liaise with the Ward Councilor (Ms. V. Mhatu) to arrange on the date of the meeting.

Mr. Mbomvu expressed that the ward council was pleased with how they have been continuously informed of the progress with regards to the project. He requested that Nzingwe and other consultants ensure community engagement in order to avoid conflict with the community.

Mr. Ngxekisa enquired about how questions asked by the community during the community meeting will be addressed.

Ms. A. Mhatu responded to the question by Mr. Ngxekisa saying that a well-informed person will be conducting the meeting and will therefore be able to respond to questions raised. She also explained that no information will be fabricated and thus when the community asks questions which cannot be answered at the moment, the community will be informed that the information is not yet available and when such information will be made available.

Way Forward

Following receipt of specialist reports, Nzingwe Consultancy will consolidate the information to form a draft EIR and EMPr which will be open to I&AP and stakeholder review. Comments received will be incorporated into the report to formulate the Final EIR and EMPr which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The report and information within will be assessed to ensure that all the required information for informative decision making is contained within the report. The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs will thereafter make the decision whether or not to grant the waste management license for the proposed landfill site.

Closure

Ms. Mhatu thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.