



BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOKESIMBONE ACCESS ROAD PHASE 2,
WITHIN KWADUKUZA MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**

April 2016

Prepared by: Emvelo Quality and Environmental Consultant (PTY) Ltd

On Behalf of

KwaDukuza Local Municipality

INTRODUCTION

KwaDukuza Municipality intends to construct the Proposed Sokesimbone Access Road in Sokesimbone rural village, within KwaDukuza Municipality in KwaZulu- Natal Province. The proposed Access Road construction includes lengthening of the existing tar road. This will take place on the existing vehicle tracks that are used to access the rural households. Lengthening of this road will promote community cohesions and it will benefit people from Sokesimbone community as well as the farmers. The development of the access roads in rural areas is very essential for the service delivery purposes.

Envelo Consultant is the appointed as an independent Environmental Assessing Practitioner (EAP) by KwaDukuza Municipality, to assess the possible impacts to the environment by the proposed road construction. This will allow the identification of all the negative impacts at an early stage of the project, the mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce the impacts and to ensure that the proposed project is shaped to suit the local environment.

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with an information regarding the Basic Assessment process for the proposed construction of Sokesimbone Access Road Phase 2. It aims to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regard to potential impacts on the environment.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible impacts and to make suggestions for mitigation. These comments will be included as part of the BAR which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) for environmental authorization.

The I &APs include, but not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organisation's and conservation groups.

This document details how you can become involved in the project, receive information, and raise any issues of concern or interest regarding the proposed project. The sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Input from I&APs ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered within the context of the proposed project.

STUDY AREA

The site is located in Sokesimbone and is approximately 30km south of the KwaDukuza CBD. Access to the site is via the R102 and existing Ohlange municipal access roads.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project entails the lengthening of the existing tar road by 1 km and 4.5 m in width. Lengthening of the tar road will take place on the existing track road and will cross the stream. Box culverts will be used as the causeway structures.

WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT?

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

WHY IS BASIC ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?

In terms of to the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 04 December 2014, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. The proposed activity triggers the following listed activity in Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983, 04 December 2014).

Table 1: Listed Activities

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1	Activity 19	'The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from- (i)a watercourse

WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?

Public participation is the process by which an organization consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and government entities before making a decision. Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions. Public participation prevents or minimizes disputes by creating a process for resolving issues before they become polarized.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?

- ✓ To inform and involve the community and the stakeholders about the development of Sokesimbone Access Road
- ✓ To identify and address community and the stakeholders concerns regarding this development
- ✓ To provide opportunities for the community & stakeholders to identify priorities and determine alternative solutions to any concerns that might arise from stakeholders, Sokesimbone community, relevant government departments, farmers and political parties.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP?

I&AP are encouraged to make use of the opportunities created by the Public Participation Process to become involved and raise any issues or concerns which affect and/or interest them. The public is invited to register as an IAP and take part in the PPP through:

- Our contact details (phone, fax or e-mail)
- By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Emvelo Consultant
- Media Notices placed in local newspapers (Ilanga and Zululand Observer)
- Distribution of the BID
- Notice on sites and notice boards
- Public meetings
- Submission of comments on the media

By completing and submitting the accompanying registration form, we will ensure that you are registered as an I&AP for the project, and that your concerns or queries regarding the project will be noted. We will also ensure that you are provided with future information pertaining to the project as well as the availability of the draft and final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for review purposes.

COMMENTS AND QUIRIES

I&APs may forward their written comments along with their contact details by email to:

Name: Ms Phumzile Lembede

Tel: 035 901 8760

Cell: 078 2849332

Fax: 086 577 5220

Email:

phumzile@emveloconsultants.co.za