

NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE MZIMVUBU WATER PROJECT, EASTERN CAPE

Department of Environmental Affairs Reference (Dam infrastructure: 14/12/16/3/3/2/677,
Electricity generation 14/12/16/3/3/2/678, and Road upgrades 14/12/16/3/3/1/1169).

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act no 107 of 1998), and the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), that Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use Licence will be required for the activities described below. In this regard, applications have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and will be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Given the nature of this project, both scoping and environmental impact assessment procedures will be followed.

The Mzimvubu Water Project covers the district municipalities of OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Joe Gqabi, Eastern Cape. This project consists of a proposed dam, known as Ntabelanga Dam, located on the Tsitsa River, a tributary of the Mzimvubu River, which falls 12 km north-east of the midway point of the Tsolo and Maclear road. The closest villages are Ngqongweni, Cekwayo and Siqungweni. On the same Tsitsa River, downstream of Ntabelanga Dam site, another dam known as Laleni Dam, located upstream of the Tsitsa Falls, will be developed for hydropower generation. Both dams are to be operated as one integrated scheme. Environmental authorisation will be required for the infrastructure components for the following activities:

- Dams;
- Flow Gauging Weirs;
- Road re-alignment and upgrading;
- Domestic water supply pipelines and reservoirs;
- Raw water pipelines and reservoirs;
- Pumping Stations;
- Water Treatment Works;
- Waste Water Treatment Works;
- Hydropower generation;
- Power lines; and
- Access roads to construction sites.

A Water Use Licence (WUL) is required for the following water uses that will be triggered by the project:

- Section 21(a) taking water from a watercourse;
- Section 21(b) storing water;
- Section 21(c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- Section 21(i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse;
- Section 21(f) discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit; and
- Section 21 (g) disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), as amended, and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Regulations in GNR 527 of 23 April 2004, the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has been exempted by virtue of GNR 762 of 25 June 2004 from the application procedures and the approval of rights and permits in terms of sections 16, 20, 22, and 27 of the MPRDA. However, in accordance with section 106(2) of the MPRDA, the DWA is required to compile an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) for approval in terms of the provisions of section 39 (4) of the Act.

ILISO Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the DWA to undertake the EIA and associated public participation process. Stakeholders requiring more information on the project can register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by contacting Kim Dalhuijsen by post, telephone, fax or email on the below details within 14 days of this notice.

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Approved

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