

UMKHOMAZI WATER PROJECT PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – Impendle Tenant Forum & Neighbouring Community

MEETING TYPE: EIA Scoping Phase Public Meeting to announce the uMWP-1
DATE: 22 October 2013
TIME: 13H30 – 15h30
VENUE: Macabazini Community Hall

ATTENDANCE

As per attached Attendance Register.

Notes:

These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of the meeting, but rather as a summary of the salient discussions which took place.

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at approximately 13H30. Bongi Shinga (BS) facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Discussions were held in IsiZulu.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

BS explained that the aims of the meeting were as follows:

1. To introduce the project;
2. To provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
3. To provide a platform for project-related discussions; and
4. To obtain input into the Scoping Phase.

3 PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made by members of the project team.

Kobus Bester (KB) from DWA presented the Project Background and Motivation, as well as an overview of the uMkhomazi Water Project Phase 1 (uMWP-1).

DH from Nemai Consulting presented an overview of the EIA, which included the following:

- Legal Framework;
- EIA Process;
- Feasible Alternatives;
- Public participation; and
- EIA time frames.

4 DISCUSSIONS

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
1.	Bongimusa Zondo (Ward Committee Member): Enquired about the role of the district municipality in the scheme. Will the local community benefit in terms of water provision?	KB: The scheme focuses on bulk water planning. Umgeni Water will act as the operator of the scheme. Water is then purchased by the local government. The water requirements of the local community need to be attended to by the relevant municipality. Benefits will accrue to the local community during the construction phase; however, the project will mostly require skilled labour.	-
2.	Zuko Madlola: We are owners of the land where Smithfield Dam will be situated. We have plans for the future use of the land. Will the houses and agricultural areas that are situated on the site be affected?	DH: The EIA will assess the impacts to the local community. A Relocation Action Plan will be compiled. People's rights will be protected.	-
3.	Siphso Nkosi: Please clarify how local community members will be affected?	DH: Various specialist studies will be conducted as part of the EIA to identify the impacts to the local community. Various households that are located in the proposed basin of the Smithfield Dam will need to be relocated. The parties will need to be adequately consulted.	-

5 WAY FORWARD & CLOSE

BS thanked all parties present for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 15H30.