

# UMKHOMAZI WATER PROJECT PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – DEEPDALE COMMUNITY

**MEETING TYPE:** EIA Scoping Phase Public Meeting to announce the uMWP-1  
**DATE:** 24 October 2013  
**TIME:** 12H00 – 14h00  
**VENUE:** Deepdale 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 12H00. Bongzi 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.

Hermien Pieterse (HP) from AECOM 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.	Sphiwe Ngcobo: Will house need to be relocated? Will graves be affected?	HP: Impacts to be assessed as part of EIA. Households to be affected will be relocated. DWA has a protocol in place.  DH: Heritage Impact Assessment to be conducted as part of EIA. Will ensure compliance with the legal requirements and will consult with Amafa and the affected families.	Nemai
2.	Sphiwe Ngcobo: We are also concerned about where our cows will graze since the proposed Dam is to be located where our cows graze.	DH: Matter to be considered further as part of Social Impact Assessment and EIA.	Nemai
3.	Sphiwe Ngcobo: AmaQadi Authority sold land without people's concern when Inanda Dam was built. Is this going to happen again?	DH: Fair process to be followed.	-
4.	Mr Ngubani: Will the community be provided with water from this scheme?	KB: The relevant municipalities are responsible for water provision to the communities.	-
5.	Mr Ngubani: Can the dam be used for recreational purposes?	KB: The feasibility of recreational use at the dam will need to be explored through a separate process. As part of the EIA process, we need to engage with the community and take into consideration their needs.	-
6.	Lungelo Hlungelwa: There's a belief in our community that water attracts big snakes.	DH: Indicated that this is not the case.	-
7.	Mr Magwaza: How will the fish be affected, as the river is used for fishing?	DH: Provision will be made to release sufficient water from the dam to cater for the downstream ecological requirements. Amongst others, the dam will affect migration of aquatic biota.	-

#### 5 WAY FORWARD & CLOSE

BS thanked all parties present for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 13H30.