

ESKOM SOC LTD LWALA PROJECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

GA-MANYAKA COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY

19 JUNE 2019

GA-MANYAKA COMMUNITY HALL,

FARM CLAPHAM 118 KT, LIMPOPO

WARD 17, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

@ 10:00 AM



MEETING ATTENDEES

Refer to **APPENDIX 1**.

ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Basic Assessment report
DMR	Department mineral resources
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
I & AP	Interested and affected parties

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The ward councillor, Mr. Matlala, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He then allowed a community member to open the meeting in prayer. After the prayer, Mr. Matlala discussed the agenda for this meeting and proceeded to allow Mr. Thomas Manyaka (Kgosi) to introduce Mr. Thomas Mavunda, from Eskom, and Mr. Marius Alers, representing Acer Africa, to the community and welcomed them to the meeting. Mr. Matlala then allowed Mr. Mavunda from Eskom to brief the community on the project background and purpose for the meeting.

Following the introduction, Mr. Mavunda briefly explained that the purpose of this engagement and provided a brief overview of the proposed project, with the project purpose to, mainly, supply the Lwala mine with electricity. Mr. Mavunda explained that Eskom has a policy of compensation for the servitude and that that negotiations will follow in the months to come via the resolution process. Mr. Mavunda emphasised that this public participation is separate from the resolution process that is still to follow and that its main focus is on the environmental assessment process. Mr. Mavunda then handed over to Mr. Alers to discuss the environmental process and way forward. A community leader acted as an interpreter and relayed everything Mr. Alers said to the community in their language. Mr. Alers presented an overview of the proposed project, inclusive of the locality of the project and the Environmental Processes to be followed for the development of the powerline and Lwala substation. Mr. Alers explained that the law requires them to engage with the community before the project begins in order to allow the community to provide comments and inputs on the assessment process that is underway. He further explained that this interaction is the initial engagement to brief them on the project, to brief them about the studies that is underway and to use this opportunity to allow them to make comments. Mr. Alers indicated that the studies currently underway is an Archaeological study, a wetland and vegetation study, and an avifauna study. Mr. Alers concluded by saying that the process going forward will be to collate all the specialist studies into a basic assessment report (BAR) and an environmental management plan (EMP). Notification will then be sent to the relevant I & AP when these reports are available, and I & APs will then be allowed to submit comments on the reports.

The community were then provided with an opportunity to present any questions or comments that they might have regarding the process.

DISCUSSION SESSION

ISSUES RAISED, AND QUESTIONS ASKED	ANSWERS AND RESPONSES
<p>A community member asked what will happen if the development goes through a crop field.</p>	<p>Mr. Mavunda replied that if the development affects a member’s crop field, that Eskom will survey and determine the extent of affected crop field and determine the appropriate compensation. This compensation will then be discussed and negotiated with the community member as part of the resolution process.</p>
<p>A community member asked what Mr. Mavunda means when he says Eskom will not come “empty handed”, as said during his project briefing.</p>	<p>Mr. Mavunda explained that the resolution process comes after the EIA process (BA process in this case). During this process Eskom engages with the community to discuss the associated compensation for the powerline servitude, called the resolution process. Mr. Mavunda explained that how the process work is that Eskom will survey the total surface area that will be occupied as a servitude and then use rates to determine associated compensation that will be paid for the servitude.</p>
<p>A community member asked why in the briefing it was mentioned that Ga-Mashishi, Ga-Kgoete and Ga-Manyaka has been engaged with. If the project is on one community’s property then engage with that community otherwise it creates friction.</p>	<p>Mr. Mavunda replied that the two alternatives considered affects all these three communities and that the environmental assessment will assess both these options. He said that if one community is engaged with the other community might come back and say they have been left out, so it is better to work with all the potentially affected communities during the environmental public participation process. The assessment will then determine the potential risk of the different alternatives and suggest a preferred project option for approval. This preferred option will then be used to determine the affected community or communities who will then be the ones that will be engaged with during the resolution process.</p>
<p>A community member asked whether the specialists for the environmental assessment has already been selected, and if so, why hasn’t people from the community been selected to do the assessments.</p>	<p>Mr. Alers noted that the specialist studies need to be undertaken by an experienced professional who must be Pri. Sci. Nat. registered in that field of expertise. Mr. Alers said that they use professionals they have worked with before and who they know have done quality work in the past. These specialists have already been appointed and is currently busy with the studies. Mr. Alers said that qualified specialist from the community, who</p>

ISSUES RAISED, AND QUESTIONS ASKED	ANSWERS AND RESPONSES
	has the necessary expertise and who is registered, are welcome to contact him. He said he will keep their details on file for similar work in future.
A community member asked whether there will be any skills development from Eskom.	Mr. Mavunda replied that a contractor will be appointed to do the construction and that Eskom usually recommends that their contractors apply a “local employment first” policy and employ locals where possible. Where possible, this will include the contractor providing training to skill them for the specific task.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Mr. Alers and Mr. Matlala agreed to stay in contact regarding the release of the draft BAR and EMP, once these are made public.

Mr. Alers and Mr. Mavunda then thanked the Community Representatives for their time as well as the opportunity to brief them on the project.

Appendix 1:
Attendance register

