



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: P Nkhwashu

Tel: 012 309 5706

Fax: 086 599 3149

Email: DFR@daff.gov.za

Mr. Andrew Semple
Acting CEO
MTO Pty Ltd
Private bag x 5024
STELLENBOSCH
7599

FAX: (021) 866 1343

Dear Mr. Semple

**EIA: PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)
(DEAT REF NOs: 12/12/20/1211; 12/12/20/1212 AND 12/12/20/1213); DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)**

Thank you for the copy of your comments that you have sent to SIVEST with regard to the above-mentioned matter.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries supports your comments and has in this regard submitted comments to SIVEST. In our opinion, the proposed transmission lines will increase the demand for timber as the country is already facing timber shortages. This is supported by the sawlog strategy that was commissioned by the Department.

We have further outlined the fire devastation that MTO suffered and the regulatory framework that already poses a burden to the running of forestry operations. In addition to this, the jobs that will be lost which counteracts the drive by government for job creation and the Zero Hunger Campaign. we have thus objected to the proposed Thyspunt Transmission lines through afforested Longmore Plantation which could result to a possible loss of plantable area up to 1350ha. The department has recommended the use of existing external fire breaks at Longmore to reduce the loss of plantable forestry land. Additionally, provisions of the National Forest Act (Act 84 of 1998) must be implemented where natural forests and trees are affected.

It would be appreciated if you could inform us when you have managed to schedule a meeting with SIVEST to discuss this matter further so that we can provide the necessary support that is needed.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr. Langa Zita
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Letter signed by: Dr Moshibudi Rampedi

Deputy Director-General: Forestry and Natural Resources Management (Acting)

DATE: 2011. 11. 04