

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ESKOM'S
NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
NDLANGAMANDLA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(21 SEPTEMBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Ndlangamandla Traditional Council**.

For the benefit of all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), a list of all community meetings held is provided hereunder. For ease of reference, a separate record for each meeting has been prepared.

These meetings were conducted as part of the Public Participation Process, which was designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to all I&APs during the Scoping Phase.

NO	MEETING WITH	VENUE	DATE
1	Makhasa Traditional Council	Makhasa Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	12 Sept 2016
2	Nibela Traditional Council	Nibela Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	13 Sept 2016
3	AbakwaHlabisa Traditional Council	AbakwaHlabisa Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
4	Mdletshe Traditional Council	Mdletshe Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
5	Mpembeni Traditional Council	Mpembeni Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	15 Sept 2016
6	Myeni/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Myeni Tribal Court (Obonjeni)	20 Sept 2016
7	Ngwenya/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Ngwenya Tribal Court (Mkuze)	20 Sept 2016
8	Ndlangamandla Traditional Council	Ndlangamandla Tribal Court (Pongola)	21 Sept 2016
9	Sibiya Traditional Council	Sibiya Tribal Court (Pongola)	22 Sept 2016
10	Msibi Traditional Council	Msibi Tribal Court (Emgulatshani)	23 Sept 2016
11	Simelane Traditional Council	Simelane Tribal Court (Pongola)	26 Sept 2016
12	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Pongola)	27 Sept 2016
13	Emgazini Traditional Council	Emgazini Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Sept 2016
14	Ntshangase Traditional Council	Ntshangase Tribal Court (Pongola)	29 Sept 2016
15	Mavuso Traditional Council	Mavuso Tribal Court (Pongola)	03 Oct 2016
16	Klwana Traditional Council	Klwana Tribal Court (Piet Retief)	03 Oct 2016
17	Msiyane Traditional Council	Msiyane Tribal Court (Louwsberg)	04 Oct 2016
18	Empangisweni Traditional Council	Empangisweni Tribal Court (Langkraans)	05 Oct 2016
19	Khambi Traditional Council	Khambi Tribal Court (Gluckstadt)	06 Oct 2016
20	Emathongeni Traditional Council	Emathongeni Tribal Court (Vryheid)	07 Oct 2016
21	Hlahlindlela Traditional Council	Hlahlindlela Tribal Court (Swart Umfolozi)	12 Oct 2016
22	Othaka Traditional Council	Othaka Tribal Court (Nqutu)	12 Oct 2016
23	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Emondlo)	13 Oct 2016
24	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Nongoma)	13 Oct 2016
25	Dlamini Traditional Council	Dlamini Tribal Court (Nongoma)	18 Oct 2016
26	Ndlela Traditional Council	Ndlela Tribal Court (Paulpietersberg)	18 Oct 2016
27	Bhovungane Traditional Council	Bhovungane Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	19 Oct 2016
28	Mthethwa Traditional Council	Mthethwa Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	20 Oct 2016
29	Mpukunyoni Traditional Council	Mpukunyoni Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	21 Oct 2016
30	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Mtubatuba)	25 Oct 2016
31	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Nongoma)	26 Oct 2016
32	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Oct 2016

Table 1: List of traditional council and community meetings held during Scoping Phase

Please note the following:

- In some instances, and where possible, two sessions of community meetings were held in one day. First session held at 10h00 and the second session held at 14h00.
- Two sessions were held with Gumbi Traditional Council. The first and second session were held on 27 September 2016 and 26 October 2016 respectively.
- The first meeting with Usuthu Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to inaccessibility to the area and bad weather. A repeat meeting was successfully held on 25 October 2016.
- The first meeting with Mandlakazi Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to bad weather and lack of representation. The second meeting was successfully held on 28 October 2016.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUTLINE.....	2
1. ATTENDANCE.....	5
1.1 ATTENDANCE – NDLANGAMANDLA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL	5
1.2 ATTENDANCE – ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED	5
1.3 ATTENDANCE – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TEAM	5
2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING	5
3. INFORMATION CIRCULATED.....	5
4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETINGS	5
5. CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION	6
6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS	6
7. COMMENTS RAISED AND DISCUSSED.....	6
8. NEXT STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS	9
9. CLOSURE.....	9
ANNEXURE A: ATTENDANCE LIST AND REGISTERS	10

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Attendance – Ndlangamandla Traditional Council

Annexure A provides a list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) who attended the meeting.

1.2 Attendance – Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

The following representative was in attendance:

Name	Position/Role
Mr Gugu Mvelase	Eskom Network Planning

1.3 Attendance – Public Participation Team

The following representatives were in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Position/Role
Ms Bongji Shinga	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Team Leader
Ms Lungelo Chamane	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Officer
Mr Sibusiso Khaba	Wakhiwe SES	Community Liaison Officer

2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

All protocols at the Ndlangamandla Traditional Council were observed. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

All information was presented in isiZulu and all proceedings were conducted in isiZulu.

3. INFORMATION CIRCULATED

Information and handouts distributed at the meeting included the following:

- Attendance Register.
- Background Information Document (isiZulu version).
- Comment Sheet (isiZulu version).
- Map showing the project study area and proposed corridors.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETINGS

The primary objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Introduce the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project to the community and initiate discussions as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
- Outline the environmental authorisation process that will be followed in undertaking the EIA process.
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input in the EIA process; and

- Advise on the ongoing public consultation process, identification of issues and next phases in the process.

5. CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

The following information was presented at the meeting:

- Background and description of the project.
- The need and motivation of the project.
- The description of the EIA process.
- The description of the Public Participation Process.
- The study area and proposed alternative corridors and substation.
- The locality of the communities in relation to the proposed corridors.
- Submission of comments, project timeframes and future phases of the EIA.

6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

All comments raised and discussed were recorded at the meeting including responses provided. In instances where responses were not readily available, comments were noted for passing on to the relevant officials.

Due to the remoteness of most rural areas, an alternative method for submission of comments was provided to the community. Community members were advised to submit any additional comments to the Secretary of the Traditional Council, who will thereafter liaise with the Public Participation Office for collection.

7. COMMENTS RAISED AND DISCUSSED

This section presents a summary of comments raised and discussed at the meeting.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
1	Ms Philisiwe Mabuza Induna	She thanked the EIA Team for the information and for engaging directly with the community before any work could commence in the area. Previously Eskom would erect power lines within the community without consulting or informing the Traditional Council and Ward Councillors.	Induna Mabuza's comments were noted, with thanks.
2	Ms Philisiwe Mabuza Induna	I would like to request that Eskom provides assistance and maintain the wooden poles which support the power lines within the community.	It was pointed out that Eskom normally uses treated poles to support the power lines. It is therefore unusual for the wooden poles to be affected by termites. The EIA team confirmed that information would be passed on to the Eskom

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
		<p>There are poles at Belgrade Ward 5 that have fallen to the ground, thus exposing the community to live wires.</p> <p>I am of the opinion that the wooden poles were destabilised by termites.</p>	<p>Customer Service Centre at Pongola for their attention and action.</p>
3	Mr J Mtshali	<p>Will it be feasible for the proposed substation to be built in the Ndlangamandla area?</p>	<p>The substation has to be located in Mkhuze. Mkhuze has been chosen based on technical considerations and power supply requirements.</p> <p>The Ndlangamandla area is potentially affected by the power lines from Normandie Substation to the proposed Iphiva Substation.</p>
4	Mr Elliot Mpanza	<p>A transformer that services the surrounding community members was installed by Eskom on my property without consulting me. I was thereafter informed that it would cost me R5000,00 to have the transformer removed from my property to a new location.</p>	<p>Mr Mpanza's concern was recorded for passing on to Eskom.</p> <p>It was also pointed out that the issue can still be rectified as there was no consultation with the landowner prior to installation.</p>
5	Mr Daniel Mthembu	<p>What must be done by the community should Eskom or the appointed consultants not return to the community before construction begins?</p>	<p>It is unlikely that such a situation will prevail. There are a number of processes that need to be undertaken in close consultation with the Traditional Council. Ndlangamandla Traditional Council also has contact details of the EIA team which can be contacted as and when a need arises during the course of the study.</p>
6	Mr Daniel Mthembu	<p>What steps will be followed should the community be affected by the chosen corridor?</p>	<p>The community was advised that the EIA process is still in its early stages. All registered I&APs will be kept updated of the progress of the EIA at key milestones.</p> <p>If Ndlangamandla Traditional Council is affected by the final recommended corridor, the following process will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the piece of land falls within the Traditional Council, negotiations will be done with the relevant Traditional Council in close consultation with the Ingonyama Trust. • The servitude negotiation process is a private matter between Eskom and the affected landowner. This process will only commence once Environmental Authorisation has been issued.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the route is confirmed, the servitude agreement will be finalised with the individual landowners. Different landowners may have different requirements. <p>Compensation payments are made when the servitude is registered at the Deeds office.</p>
7	Mr Mthokozeni Zungu	Previously, construction in the Ndlangamandla area commenced without prior engagement with the Traditional Council. Can this matter be addressed?	<p>The proposed project is being undertaken within the ambit of the law. The National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations require consultation with all affected parties.</p> <p>Accordingly, Eskom, as the developer has to comply with the regulations and consult with I&APs and receive environmental authorisation prior to commencement of construction.</p> <p>However, the law cannot be applied retrospectively. There are developments which were undertaken prior to the enactment of NEMA.</p>
8	Mr Mthokozeni Zungu	<p>The KwaSbedlu Ward 12 area at Ndlangamandla is experiencing serious electric faults during the summer months. The power lines emit live sparks and most electric poles have been struck down by lightning.</p> <p>Eskom knows about this and has visited the area numerous times but the problem persists.</p>	<p>It was noted that the KwaSbedlu is in a high-lying area and is susceptible to lightning strikes. Traditional Councils were urged to be mindful when placing people within their communities. Floodplains, wetlands and uncovered high-lying areas should be avoided for human settlement.</p> <p>Eskom's responsibility is to provide electricity where people are already settled. Therefore, the onus rests with the traditional councils to exercise caution and choose the right areas for human settlement.</p> <p>Mr Mvelase undertook to follow-up on the KwaSbedlu area network. He also advised community members that live in the KwaSbedlu area to invest in lightning conductors.</p>
9	Mr Petros Mwelase	What procedures will be followed by Eskom should the final corridor pass through a graveyard?	When selecting the final alignment within the corridor, graves and graveyards are avoided as much as possible.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			<p>Eskom acknowledges that graveyards have high social importance and are treated with the sensitivity they deserve.</p> <p>Overhead power lines can cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage. However, should the proposed project have a direct impact on the graves, a reburial process will be facilitated with the assistance of a heritage specialist, Ingonyama Trust, affected family members and the relevant traditional council.</p> <p>Eskom ensures that the reburial process is subjected to the relevant customs and traditions of the affected family. Eskom pays all the costs associated with the reburial as agreed with the affected family.</p>

8. NEXT STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

The following information was outlined as part of the way forward:

- All members of the public will be advised of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review.
- Communication with Ndlangamandla Traditional Council will continue for the duration of the EIA.
- All traditional councils will be informed whether they are or not affected by the preferred corridor when environmental authorisation has been issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

9. CLOSURE

The Public Participation Team thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

Refreshments were served afterwards.

ANNEXURE A: ATTENDANCE LIST AND REGISTERS

Copies of attendance registers are provided as Appendix E of the Draft Scoping Report and can be requested from Ms Lungelo Chamane, Email: lungelo@wakhiwe.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Mr	NP	Mwelase	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	072 333 0757	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
2	Mr	MB	Zwane	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	083 570 9778	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
3	Mr	TD	Mthembu	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	071 022 2162	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
4	Mr	M	Ntshangase	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member		PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
5	Mr	JJ	Mtshali	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	083 368 6567	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
6	Mr	MS	Magubane	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	079 251 5855	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
7	Ms	PC	Mabuza	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	083 895 0160	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
8	Mr	PM	Zungu	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	073 389 0930	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
9	Mr	ME	Ndlangamandla	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	072 179 7789	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
10	Mr	MJ	Shoyisa	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	079 615 7491	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
11	Mr	Elliot	Mpanza	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	082 684 6191	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
12	Mr	BJ	Nkonde	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	071 170 6903	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
13	Mr	Ephraim	Mpanza	Ndlangamandla TC	Community member	081 857 8447	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
14	Mrs	Joyce	Nkosi	Ndlangamandla TC	Community member	073 522 4599	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
15	Mrs	L	Ntshalintshali	Ndlangamandla TC	Community member	078 687 7251	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
16	Mr	Robert	Vilakazi	Ndlangamandla TC	Community member	073 246 5382	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
17	Mrs	Lizzy	Dlamini	Ndlangamandla TC	Council member	072 651 5631	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170
18	Ms	Celumusa	Mntungwa	Ndlangamandla TC	Secretary	078 335 2768	PO Box 340, Pongola	3170