

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

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
NTSHANGASE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(29 SEPTEMBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Ntshangase 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.

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1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Attendance – Ntshangase 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 Ntshangase 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.

Please note: In some instances, the PPP team did not capture the name of the person raising the issue. This however does not diminish the value of the question or issue raised. The person raising the issue has therefore been referred to as "A Stakeholder".

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
1	Mr DB Ntuli Induna	Thank you for a well-delivered presentation. Will local community members be considered for employment for non-technical jobs during the project?	Eskom will appoint a contractor for the construction phase of the project, but the affected communities will be prioritised for the jobs that do not require technical skills. Eskom Officials will return to the Traditional Council if they are affected by the chosen corridor to introduce the contractor that has been appointed, and to discuss the way forward. However, since the project adheres to the structure of a

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			linear development, there may be hiring dynamics to be noted.
2	A Stakeholder Ntshangase TC	I would like to request that the EIA team ensures that the community benefits from the proposed Eskom project, and are not hijacked by other stakeholders such as municipality officials.	The Public Participation Process is a transparent process. All stakeholders from all relevant spheres of government have been notified of the project and their roles in the process are defined and are in line with the applicable pieces of legislation.
3	Mr Simon Dlamini	Has Eskom considered the option of increasing the voltage transmitted by existing power lines as opposed to building new power lines?	Eskom has investigated a number of options for strengthening the power supply to the northern KZN areas. In order to alleviate current and future network constraints, it was proposed that the Iphiva 400/132kV substation be introduced in the area in order to de-load the transmission network and improve the voltage regulation in the area.
4	A Stakeholder Ntshangase TC	Originally, there were 11 wards in the KwaNtshangase area. Over the years, the population has increased and currently there are 13 wards. It is important for Eskom to consider population growth in their planning scenarios.	<p>Population growth, urbanisation and improving lifestyles contribute to increased demands for electricity.</p> <p>In order for Eskom to meet its mandate and commitment to supply the ever-increasing needs of consumers, it has to plan, establish and expand its infrastructure of electricity generation capacity and transmission power lines on an on-going basis.</p> <p>Eskom is considering building a substation near Tholulwazi in the Pongola area, which will improve the supply of electricity to the Ntshangase community.</p> <p>It was also pointed out that free government meter boxes have a voltage of 20 Amps. Households that require meter boxes with a higher voltage can apply directly at Eskom at their own cost.</p>
5	Mr Simon Dlamini	Will the power lines within the community remain active or will they be decommissioned?	All existing power lines will remain in operation.
6	Mr BS Sibanyoni	Illegal connections are burdensome to those who pay for electricity. How does Eskom intend to address the issue of illegal connections?	The issue of illegal connections remains a major concern. Eskom has repeatedly disconnected households with illegal connections and only to discover that they have reconnected in a few days' time.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			<p>Illegal connections are dangerous and often result in serious injury or even death. They also cause the overloading of the network.</p> <p>Eskom is working on plans to normalise the illegal connections by connecting them officially and making all users pay.</p> <p>The Traditional Council was also requested to deal with cases of illegally connected households within the traditional courts and perpetrators dealt with according to customary laws (in line with standards of each community).</p>
7	A Stakeholder Ntshangase TC	Does Eskom have any community upliftment initiatives and opportunities for youth that the Ntshangase community can benefit from?	<p>The community was informed that the construction of power lines is of a technical nature and requires specialised skills. The main contractor will be appointed to construct the power lines and local sub-contractors will be given opportunities to tender for general and/unskilled work. Where possible, Eskom supports and encourages the use of local labour.</p> <p>Should there be employment opportunities, the relevant local structures, e.g. municipality and traditional council will be informed.</p> <p>The community was encouraged to be proactive and utilise their skills and knowledge to benefit from local developments. They can work as a collective in order to position themselves for potential opportunities. Community members can register their small businesses, e.g. catering, accommodation, etc.</p> <p>Eskom bursaries are available for everyone but are focused in the fields which also benefit Eskom, e.g. engineering, accounting, Information Technology, etc. All bursaries are performance based and are awarded to those applicants who meet the criteria. Prospective students can apply online or enquire directly at any Eskom offices. Application forms can be</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			downloaded and/or submitted online using a cell phone. The community was requested to encourage children to excel in subjects such as mathematics and science which will enable them to receive financial assistance in the form of bursaries.

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 Ntshangase 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@wakiwe.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1		DB	Ntuli	Ntshangase TC	Council member	082 511 0999	PO Box 2237, Pongola	3170
2		MQ	Ncamphalala	Ntshangase TC	Community member	078 748 7845	PO Box 368, Pongola	3170
3		NM	Malinga	Ntshangase TC	Community member	083 404 3317	PO Box 368, Pongola	3170
4		TR	Shabangu	Ntshangase TC	Council member	073 739 2458	PO Box 1620, Pongola	3170
5	Mr		Ngwanja	Ntshangase TC	Council member	083 421 9679	PO Box 368, Pongola	3170
6		BP	Dlomo	Ntshangase TC	Council member	079 999 031	PO Box 1894, Pongola	3170
7		MS	Shoyisa	Ntshangase TC	Council member	072 442 2495	PO Box 312, Pongola	3170
8		Petrus	Skhosana	Ntshangase TC	Council member		PO Box 1632, Pongola	3170
9	Mr	MI	Nxumalo	Ntshangase TC	Councillor	073 814 0795	PO Box 567, Pongola	3170
10	Ms	Thokozile	Masondo	Ntshangase TC	Councillor	072 788 8949	PO Box 2307, Pongola	3170
11	Mr	Booitjie	Vilakazi	Ntshangase TC	Community member	073 294 3077	PO Box 1499, Pongola	3170
12	Mr	Simeon	Sibanyoni	Ntshangase TC	Community member	071 335 2222	Pongola	3170
13	Ms	Gladys	Mfeka	Ntshangase TC	Community member	082 630 5519	PO Box 1591, Pongola	3170
14	Mr	Celenkosini	Mathenjwa	Ntshangase TC	Councillor	072 106 3766	PO Box 1143, Pongola	3170
15		ME	Ngema	Ntshangase TC	Council member	082 637 2117	PO Box 1714, Pongola	3170
16		MN	Khumalo	Ntshangase TC	Council member	071 092 1940	Pongola	3170
17	Mr	D	Mthethwa	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 240 3080	Pongola	3170
18		JN	Ntshangase	Ntshangase TC	Community member	073 213 8974	PO Box 1889, Pongola	3170
19		T	Sithole	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 954 3644	Pongola	3170
20		TG	Khwela	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 194 9474	PO Box 1646, Pongola	3170
21		HG	Skhosana	Ntshangase TC	Community member	084 542 5780	PO Box 312, Pongola	3170
22		NF	Maphala	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 199 1071	PO Box 259, Pongola	3170
23		Z	Nkosi	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 800 1246	Pongola	3170
24		G	Mtshali	Ntshangase TC	Community member	073 969 632	PO Box 77139, Pongola	3170
25		JP	Nhleko	Ntshangase TC	Community member	060 444 3829	Pongola	3170
26		MB	Makhanya	Ntshangase TC	Community member	063 836 6843	PO Box 17617, Pongola	3170
27		Z	Mntungwa	Ntshangase TC	Council member	078 430 5602	Pongola	3170
28		EN	Ntshangase	Ntshangase TC	Pastor	071 316 1908	PO Box 1540, Pongola	3170
29		S	Dlamini	Ntshangase TC	Community member	072 027 6326	PO Box 2416, Pongola	3170
30		MV	Thabede	Ntshangase TC	Community member	061 667 2551	PO Box 2424, Pongola	3170
31	Ms	Nomasonto	Khumalo	Ntshangase TC	Community member	078 600 6739	Pongola	3170
32		B	Zulu	Ntshangase TC	Council member	083 218 7343	Pongola	3170
33		FJ	Ngwenya	Ntshangase TC	Council member	073 959 0575	Pongola	3170