

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

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
MAVUSO TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(03 OCTOBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Mavuso 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 – Mavuso 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 Mavuso 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	Cllr Mavuso	<p>Thank you to the EIA team for the presentation and discussion. I have the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main problem in the area is that the Mavuso area is supplied electricity from Newcastle although the area is within the jurisdiction of Pongola Local Municipality. 	<p>Cllr Mavuso was thanked for his comments.</p> <p>The issue relating to unregistered households has been recorded and will be passed onto relevant Eskom officials.</p> <p>Eskom always liaises closely with the relevant Traditional Council when an electrification project has been approved for implementation.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This tends to be problematic because documents are often lost between Newcastle and Pongola <p>There are approximately 215 houses within the Mavuso Traditional Council jurisdiction which are not registered. These households have not yet received assistance regarding electrification as they are always referred to Empangeni.</p>	
2	Mr Z Khumalo	<p>Thank you to the EIA team for the meeting and information shared regarding the proposed Eskom project.</p> <p>I acknowledge that it is an unusual practice for communities to be recognised as important stakeholders in development initiatives.</p>	<p>It was explained that Public Participation is a cornerstone for developments. It is also a requirement of the EIA regulations to consult with all potentially affected communities. This process enables all I&APs to participate and raise comments regarding the proposed development.</p>
3	A Stakeholder KwaMavuso TC	<p>I would like to emphasise the importance of maintaining relationships with communities and the continuity of representatives who engage with communities.</p>	<p>This comment was noted for Eskom's information.</p>
4	Cllr Mavuso	<p>The proposed corridors are likely to affect Wards: 3, 5, 6 and 12 in the Mavuso area.</p>	<p>Cllr Mavuso was thanked for his comments.</p>
5	Cllr Mavuso	<p>Who can be contacted at Eskom regarding unregistered meter boxes at households and for any other technical queries?</p> <p>The Eskom Customer Service Centre takes too long to attend and/or respond to queries. The caller's airtime is usually exhausted before getting any assistance.</p> <p>Eskom should make an effort to educate rural communities about the dangers of illegal connections and handling of damaged meter boxes.</p>	<p>It was confirmed that Cllr Mavuso's comments have been raised repeatedly by Traditional Councils. The issues were noted for passing on to the relevant office responsible for the Customer Service Centre.</p> <p>The suggestion of educating rural communities about the dangers of illegal connections will also be forwarded to Eskom for consideration.</p>
6	A Stakeholder Mavuso TC	<p>On behalf of the Mavuso Traditional Council, we appreciate the proposed project which will improve electricity supply in northern KZN areas.</p>	<p>This remark was noted, with thanks.</p>
7	Mr Z Khumalo	<p>The prospect of job opportunities for community members when the project is implemented would be appreciated.</p>	<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</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			general and/unskilled work. Where possible, Eskom supports and encourages the use of local labour. Should there be employment opportunities, the relevant local structures, e.g. municipality and traditional council will be informed.

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 Mavuso 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	Ndukisebandla	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Councillor	083 687 9670	PO Box 1171, Piet Retief	2380
2	Mr	Nhlanhla	Diadla	Mavuso TC	Council member	078 745 8287	PO Box 1171, Piet Retief	2380
3	Mr	Sipho	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Council member	079 219 4308	PO Box 1171, Piet Retief	2380
4	Mr	Msuseni	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Council member	071 471 4458	Pongola	3170
5	Mr	J	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Council member	073 324 5278	Pongola	3170
6	Mr	Thula	Nhlengethwa	Mavuso TC	Council member	078 517 2440	Pongola	3170
7	Mr	J	Ndlangamandla	Mavuso TC	Council member	072 240 6921	Pongola	3170
8	Mr	J	Ncube	Mavuso TC	Council member	082 629 4161	Pongola	3170
9	Mr	HF	Xaba	Mavuso TC	Council member	076 767 1844	PO Box 1171, Pongola	3170
10	Mr	MA	Nhlengethwa	Mavuso TC	Council member	073 298 1439	Pongola	3170
11	Ms	PC	Sibiya	Mavuso TC	Community member	082 056 1247	PO Box 410, Pongola	3170
12	Ms	ZM	Masuku	Mavuso TC	Community member	079 705 3620	PO Box 1103, Pongola	3170
13	Mr	BA	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Community member	073 318 2512	PO Box 1171, Pongola	3170
14	Mr	SB	Mavuso	Mavuso TC	Community member	083 311 4194	PO Box 1171, Pongola	3170
15	Ms	MC	Sibiya	Mavuso TC	Community member	072 309 1776	Thusazane, Pongola	3170
16	Ms	LG	Mtshali	Mavuso TC	Community member	072 366 8579	Klipwal, Pongola	3170