

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR Eskom's
NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
NIBELA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(13 SEPTEMBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Nibela 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 – Nibela 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 Nibela 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 Fundisiwe Ngubani	How will traditional councils and land owners be compensated should the power lines pass through their land?	<p>Following the completion of the EIA process, Eskom will engage in a process of negotiation and compensation. An Eskom Negotiator and an independent Eskom-appointed property valuator will negotiate the servitude which will give Eskom the right to build the powerline and have access it for any maintenance.</p> <p>The landowner will have some restrictions on what he or she is allowed to do within that servitude. The landowner will be compensated financially for any loss resulting from these restrictions. Compensation payments are made when the servitude is registered at the Deeds office.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
2	Mr Ntshangase	<p>Will the new power stations be able to sustain the current population growth rate?</p> <p>Why has government or Eskom not addressed the issue of overloaded substations for over 20 years when the population has been growing exponentially?</p>	<p>Both the government and Eskom are always investigating new ways to generate electricity in order to meet the increasing growth and needs in South Africa.</p> <p>As population grows, the demand for electricity also increases. The figure is growing every year.</p> <p>Eskom generates electricity using coal, gas turbines, hydro-electric, wind, nuclear technology, etc. The Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Projects is being implemented in order to meeting the ever-increasing electricity demands in the northern KZN areas.</p>
3	Mr Ntshangase	<p>He thanked the team for an informative presentation. He stated that he has observed that Nature Reserves do not allow power lines to cross their properties. He requested a commentary on his observation.</p>	<p>Nature Reserves are tourist destinations and they derive their income from the aesthetic value and sense of place. As such, they have to keep the environment pristine and prevent any intrusive infrastructure such as power lines.</p> <p>The Protected Areas Act also provides protection of conservation of areas such as Nature Reserves as they represent ecological diversity in South Africa.</p>
4	Mr Ntshangase	<p>He asked if the power lines have any effect on human health.</p>	<p>Eskom, as a leading energy provider in South Africa stays up-to-date with international knowledge and research which guides them on the impacts of exposure to electromagnetic fields from overhead power lines.</p> <p>There is no conclusive evidence on health effects. However, Eskom has adopted a precautionary principle which ensures that they safeguard the environment and human health. Eskom does not allow people to live underneath the powerlines and within the servitude of the overhead power lines.</p>
5	Mr Ntshangase	<p>Will the building of the substation have any effect on climate change?</p>	<p>The proposed substation does not have emissions. It will only be used to transmit electricity. The proposed substation is different from the power stations which generate electricity. Therefore, it will not have any effect on climate change.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
6	Ms Ngcobo	<p>She thanked the team for the project information and for enabling the community to be well informed before construction can commence.</p> <p>Such information is useful as the community can prepare themselves for potential employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Ms Ngcobo's remarks were noted, with thanks.</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 general or unskilled work.</p> <p>Where possible, Eskom supports and encourages the use of local labour.</p>
7	Ms Gina	<p>Has Eskom considered using the Mbazwane to Hluhluwe route as a corridor because the Mbazwane area does not have its own substation?</p>	<p>Engineers have considered a number of route options. The corridors which are technically feasible from an engineering perspective have been shown in the presentation. The location of the proposed 400/132 kV substation in Mkhuze will influence the corridor selection.</p> <p>The preferred corridor will be selected during the EIA process and all registered I&APs will be kept informed.</p>
8	Mr Cele	<p>There are no employment opportunities for the KwaNibela area. Will any employment opportunities be realised through this proposed project?</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 general or unskilled work. Where possible, Eskom supports and encourages the use of local labour.</p> <p>The KwaNibela community falls within the Big 5 False Bay Municipality. Should there be employment opportunities, the relevant local structures, e.g. municipality and traditional council will be informed.</p>
9	Mrs Goqo	<p>My main concern is being overlooked when the process of household electricity connection begins.</p>	<p>The proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening project will help improve the stability of supply of electricity to the substations. Therefore, the focus is on bulk electricity transmission and not electrification.</p> <p>The issue of electricity connections within households has been noted and will be dealt with when Eskom</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			Distribution commences with the electrification programme in the area.

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 Nibela 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	Initials	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1		ME	Bukhosini	Nibela TC	Community member	079 310 8444	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
2	Mr	T	Cele	Nibela TC	Community member	076 162 6170	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
3	Mr	Bonginkosi	Gina	Nibela TC	Community member	071 198 8950	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
4	Mr	Vusi	Gina	Nibela TC	Taxi Rank Manager		Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
5	Mrs	DA	Goqo	Nibela TC	Community member	079 101 6080	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
6		BS	Gumede	Nibela TC	Community member	082 543 0278	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
7	Mr	Nkosiphi	Mdluli	Nibela TC	Community member		Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
8		SJ	Mdluli	Nibela TC	Community member	076 106 4133	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
9	Ms	NP	Mdluli	Nibela TC	Secretary	082 745 9325	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
10	Mr	Zablon	Mdluli	Nibela TC	Community member	072 464 5047	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
11		NM	Msweli	Nibela TC	Community member	082 368 4788	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
12	Ms	NE	Ngcobo	Nibela TC	Community member	083 736 3282	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
13		MC	Ngema	Nibela TC	Community member	076 068 9499	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
14	Ms	Fundisiwe	Ngubane	Nibela TC	Community member	082 701 8895	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
15		ZZ	Ngubane	Nibela TC	Community member	071 443 5795	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
16		BA	Ngubane	Nibela TC	Community member	082 678 0700	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
17	Ms	Tholakele	Ngwane	Nibela TC	Community member	072 640 9442	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
18		BE	Ntshangase	Nibela TC	Community member	079 819 5659	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
19	Mr	Almon	Zikhali	Nibela TC	Community member	072 240 1284	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960
20		ZZ	Zikhali	Nibela TC	Community member	076 504 7244	Nibela, Hluhluwe	3960