

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

**SCOPING PHASE**

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH  
ABAKWAHLABISA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

**(14 SEPTEMBER 2016)**

## OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **AbakwaHlabisa 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	<b>AbakwaHlabisa Traditional Council</b>	<b>AbakwaHlabisa Tribal Court (Hlabisa)</b>	<b>14 Sept 2016</b>
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 – AbakwaHlabisa 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 AbakwaHlabisa 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 Manqele	I wish to emphasise that electricity is a much-needed service in the KwaHlabisa community.	The team affirmed that electricity is used in everyone's daily life. It has become part of modern life. It is for this reason that Eskom is implementing such projects with a focus on long-term electricity supply and sustainability.
2	Mr David Ndwandwe	Traditional Councils often deal with aggrieved community members demanding electricity because power lines have been installed but there is no electricity in households.	Mr Ndwandwe's remarks regarding information sharing were noted, with thanks.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
		<p>The information shared has empowered the traditional council to better understand issues of electricity supply within their areas of operation.</p> <p>He requested Eskom to ensure that the proposed power lines do not interfere with households as relocation can be an inconvenience.</p>	<p>It was explained that a socio-economic study which assess the impacts of the proposed project will be undertaken. The study will ascertain the extent of potential impacts and mitigation thereof. The relocation of households will be dealt with in this study.</p>
3	A Stakeholder	<p>He thanked the team for the meeting. He then stated that electricity supply in the area is weak and it confirms that there is a need to improve the stability of supply.</p>	<p>These comments were noted, with thanks.</p>
4	A Stakeholder	<p>Will the 2 km corridors be used for the power lines or for the substation?</p> <p>Will the power lines be supported by steel poles?</p>	<p>The 2km servitude will be for the power lines. Only one or a combination of the corridors will be selected for the power lines.</p> <p>A combination of self-supporting and strain towers will be used for the power lines. Final tower types to be used for both 400 kV and 132 kV will be determined by Eskom after final survey and profiling of the different alignments.</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 AbakwaHlabisa 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](mailto:lungelo@wakhiwe.co.za), Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Mr	Muzi	Hlabisa	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	072 108 6290	Hlabisa	3937
2	Mr	Mdudu	Khambule	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Chairperson	072 170 4175	Hlabisa	3937
3		ST	Maduna	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	073 120 9533	Hlabisa	3937
4	Mr	Thulani	Maduna	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	072 719 8539	PO Box 72, Hlabisa	3937
5	Mr	NT	Manqeke	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	076 094 9539	Hlabisa	3937
6		TC	Mpanza	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	076 842 1066	Hlabisa	3937
7	Mr	Muzi	Mthembu	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Secretary	076 640 8258	PO Box 59, Hlabisa	3937
8	Mr	Wilbard	Mthethwa	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	076 908 8663	Hlabisa	3937
9	Mr	David	Ndwandwe	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	082 222 6812	Hlabisa	3937
10		MW	Nkosi	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	076 516 4721	PO Box 460, Hlabisa	3937
11		MJ	Nxumalo	AbakwaHlabisa TC	Community member	073 098 7485	Hlabisa	3937