



Public Consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Construction of the Gravel Road DR3654 Omuthiya – Elambo, Oshikoto Region

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Background and introduction

Roads Authority (RA) proposes to construct a gravel road that would connect Omuthiya Town with Elambo and other nearby schools as well as villages. The road will cover a distance of 49 km and will form a vital link to the national road network, through provision of access for the communities living along the route to their regional town of Omuthiya. For development to take place, there are some parts of the environment that may be affected. It is therefore imperative that such impacts are mitigated for through conducting environmental and social assessments as well as development of management plans to address the impacts.

Tortoise Environmental Consultants has been appointed to undertake the requisite environmental assessment and obtain the Environmental Clearance Certificate from Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism on behalf of Roads Authority. Assessing the socio-environmental impact associated with road construction requires a holistic approach and comprehensive stakeholder consultation with the respective authorities and community members to introduce the project, identify and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts.

Therefore, public consultation meetings were convened on 23 March 2023 at Oshikoto Regional Council Offices in Omuthiya; and at Oomanya Primary School within Eengodi Constituency of Oshikoto Region. The meetings discussed the following:

- Introduction of the proposed project
- Presentation of the Environmental Management Act requirements in obtaining an Environmental Clearance Certificate
- Deliberate on key environmental and social aspects that may need to be addressed;
- Deliberate on possible mitigation measures to be implemented; and
- Agree on the way forward.

Meeting Outcomes

1. Oshikoto Regional Council 08h30 – 11h00

The meeting was chaired by Honorable Samuel Shivute, Councillor for Omuthiya Constituency. In attendance were officials from Oshikoto Regional Council,



representatives of the Constituency Development Committee (CDC) for Omuthiya Constituency and the general public.

Tortoise Environmental Consultants presented the environmental and social assessment of the road upgrade in fulfilment of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. The act further stipulated the importance of public consultation, to give the project beneficiaries an opportunity to lodge their interest and provide further input to the project.

2. Oomanya Primary School 14h30 – 16h30

The meeting was chaired by Honorable. Protasius Neshuku, the Councillor for Eengodi Constituency. Representation in the meeting included members of the Constituency Development committee, Village Development Committee representatives, headmen as well as general community members from respective villages where the road traverses.

The meeting participants were informed that since this is a new road to be constructed, a lot of assessments are required to inform the layout and route of the gravel road. Assessments such as the Geotechnical Survey are imperative as it will further identify the sites that will be used to source contraction material and water. The route design may require that some structures such crop fields and fencing may need to be relocated to pave way for the road construction. The preliminary layout has determined that approximately 83 properties will be affected by the road construction. A National Compensation Policy Guidelines for Communal Land 2009 will be used in instances where communal land will need to be taken over for the purposes of the proposed road construction. A request was made for Roads Authority to provide a complete list of the community members with properties that will be required to move.

There will be access roads that will be constructed to connect to social amenities such as schools and clinics.

Construction of the road is expected to bring about employment opportunities. The contractors are however urged to consider giving the local community members first priority especially for labour based opportunities. These are job opportunities that may not require technical expertise, thus local labour force should be prioritised.

Gravel material will be sourced locally from borrow pits that will be determined through the geotechnical survey. The community representatives requested that such borrow pits be rehabilitated upon completion of the road construction to remain as a water source. Contractors should be compelled to rehabilitate the sites in a manner so as not to pose a danger to the users.

The contractors must further consult the local communities to obtain information on areas that get inundated with water during flood seasons. Precaution should further be applied to ensure that sufficient culverts are included in the upgraded road.



The road design should also include access for future connectivity to amenities such as electricity and water. Therefore, there should be provision to enable services such as electricity cables and water pipelines to cross the road.

Way forward

- The proposed road upgrade is welcomed as it will improve the current status of the earth track that is currently being used to access Omuthiya – Elambo. The consultants are however encouraged to revert back to the community members with concrete information once the route design has been concluded.
- The layout plan of the route presented should have all the village and school names that will have access routes from the gravel road.
- Further consultation should be arranged with the community members that will be affected or have property that may require to be moved.
- A presentation on the Compensation policy should form part of the next consultation with the respective community members.
- Roads Authority and respective Contractors that will be responsible for road construction are implored to maintain communication with office of the regional council, to ensure that information is disseminated timeously.

Compiled by:
Grace Shihepo
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Tortoise Environmental Consultants



Figure 1: The proposed gravel road (in blue) and several villages that it will traverse




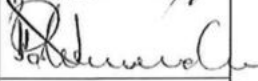






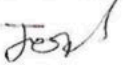






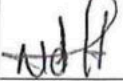
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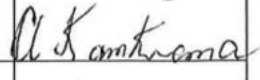





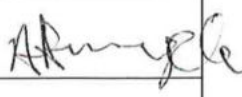

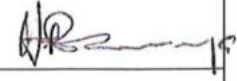
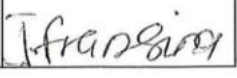
PUBLIC CONSULTATION: SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVEL ROAD DR3654 OMUTHIYA -ELAMBO, OSHIKOTO REGION

23 MARCH 2023, 08h30 – 11h00 @ OMUTHIYA REGIONAL COUNCIL

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A snapshot of the public consultation process



Meeting in progress at Oshikoto Regional Council Offices





A view of the meeting at Oomanya Primary School in Eengodi Constituency



A snapshot of the current status of the earth track that is used between Omuthiya and Elombe