
Public Consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Upgrading of DR3507: Bukalo – Muyako – Ngoma and DR3559: Silumbi – Sizimbukwa roads, Zambezi region

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Background and introduction

Roads Authority (RA) will be upgrading DR3507: Bukalo – Muyako – Ngoma (covering 60 km) and DR3559 Silumbi – Sizimbukwa (covering 15 km) to Low Volume Seal Standards. The upgrade of such roads forms part of the building blocks for socio-economic development as it significantly contributed to the local economic chain. 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 30 March 2023 at Zambezi Regional Council Offices in Katima Mulilo; and at Katima Mulilo Rural Constituency office in Bukalo. 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. Katima Regional Council 09h00 – 11h00

The meeting was chaired by Honorable Matengu Simushi, Councillor for Katima Rural Constituency. In attendance was the Honorable Governor for Zambezi Region,



representatives of the Constituency Development Committee (CDC) 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. Katima Rural Constituency Office, Bukalo 14h30 – 16h30

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kamwi Sinvula, the Administrative coordinator of Katima Rural Constituency. Representation in the meeting included area Indunas, members of the Constituency Development committee, Village Development Committee representatives as well as general community members from respective villages where the road traverses.

The meeting participants were informed that there are people that have established structures within the road reserve of the existing gravel roads. Such structures may need to be relocated to pave way for the road upgrade. 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 upgrade. A request was made for Roads Authority to provide a complete list of the community members that will be required to move.

There will be feeder roads that will be constructed to connect to social amenities such as schools and clinics. The members requested that Roads Authority consider upgrading the longer access routes to low volume seal.

The name of DR3559 Silumbi – Sizimbukwa is wrong and the participants recommended that it should be corrected to DR3559 Sizimbukwa – Sikanjabuka.

Roads Authority is requested to consider including an access road to Silumbi Combined School from Masikili road. The school is accessed through a valley that gets inundated during the rainy season and learners often struggle to cross the valley.

The upgrade of the roads 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. Such borrow pits will need to be rehabilitated upon completion of the road construction. Community members may request for the borrow pits to remain as a source of water, however the contract will be compelled to rehabilitate the sites in a manner so as not to pose a danger to the users.

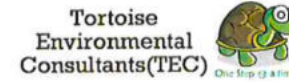


The contractors must further consult the local communities to obtain information on areas that get inundated with water during flood seasons. Precaution should further be applied to ensure that sufficient culverts are included in the upgraded road.

Way forward

- The proposed road upgrade is welcomed as it will improve the current status of the gravel roads which often get slippery and dangerous during rainy seasons. The consultants are however encouraged to revert back to the community members with concrete information once the route design has been concluded.
- Another public consultation process 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.

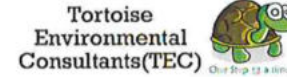
Compiled by:
Grace Shihepo
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ATTENDANCE REGISTER

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) UPGRADING OF DR3507: BUKALO – MUYAKO – NGOMA (60 KM) AND DR3559: SILUMBI – SIZIMBUKWA (15 KM), ZAMBEZI REGION
 30 MARCH 2023, 09h00 - 11h00 @ ZAMBEZI REGIONAL COUNCIL

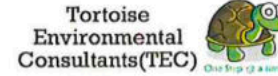
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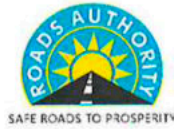


ATTENDANCE REGISTER

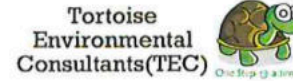
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30 MARCH 2023, 14h30 - 16h00 @ BUKALO CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

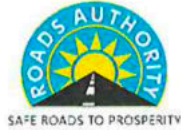
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A snapshot of the public consultation process



Meeting in progress at Katima Regional Council Offices



A view of the meeting at Katima Rural Constituency Office in Bukalo

A snapshot of the current status of the road and surrounding environment (notice the structures and crop fields in the road reserve)

