

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Rundu Town Council hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- 1. Subdivision of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 into Erven “1” to “11” and Remainder of Erf 1390;**
- 2. Reservation of Remainder of Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 for a “Street”**

The above development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

As such the proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (MEFT: DEAF).

Project Description

Rundu, the capital of the Kavango East Region with an estimated population of about 63 431 (Rundu Structure Plan 2013 - 2040) and an area measuring 164.1 kilometres. The Kavango Region is the poorest Region in Namibia, but the city is geographically located at a strategic crossroad and has, since peace and stability returned to Angola, lots of potential to develop to a bustling border town. As a frontier-town, Rundu is a commercial city which attracts cross-border business. The economy of greater Rundu is both urban and rural with a prevalence of service economy, in particular trading. The majority (82%) of the business operations fall into the non-formal sector with 80% trading as sole propriety.

Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4, has several free-standing business buildings erected on the property, however the subject erf is predominantly vacant with a few trees on-site. There are no conditions or servitudes registered on the subject Erf.

The aim of the project is to formalize the existing situation on Erf 1390, Rundu Extension 4 which currently consists of a variety of free-standing business buildings erected on the property. The proponent (Rundu Town Council) intends to formalize the existing situation and to locate each individual business on a separate erf with a formal street access. Although there are a few free-standing business erven on site, the subject erf is predominantly vacant with few trees.

There is an encroachment onto the subject Erf. The encroachment of the Leso development onto Erf 1390 Rundu Extension 4 will be accommodated within the proposed Erf “10” of the proposed subdivision layout.

Public Participation

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled and sent out to all identified and registered I&APs via email on **08 June 2023**;
- Notices were placed in the New Era newspapers dated **08 June 2023 and 15 June 2023**, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs (**Appendix B**); and
- A notice was fixed at the project site (see **Appendix A**);

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until **29 June 2023**). The comment period will remain open until the final scoping report is submitted to MEFT.

The Draft Scoping Report will be circulated from the **31 July 2023 until the 14 August 2023** so that the public could review and comment on it. The overall commentary received from the public on the draft report will be documented in the comments and responses report document of this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations

With reference to **Table 8**, none of the negative construction phase impacts were deemed to have a high significant impact on the environment. The construction impacts were assessed to a **Medium to Low (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

With reference to **Table 8**, none of the negative operational phase impacts were deemed to have a high significance impact on the environment. The operational impacts were assessed to a **Medium (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

It is recommended that this project be authorised because should the development not proceed the subject area will remain in its current state with business units not provided with own registered erven and no additional revenue incomes to be generated. The local community is expected to benefit from the development as a result of the potential job opportunities during construction as well as the increased development within the area. Furthermore, the community of Rundu are further expected to benefit from the "Business" zoned erven that will creates employment opportunities for the locals. The significance of the social impact was therefore deemed to be Medium (positive).

The “no go” alternative was thus deemed to have a High (negative) impact, as all the benefits resulting from the development would not be realised.

The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of the EMP should be included as a condition of approval.