

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR REZONING ERF 568 EXTENSION 2, KATIMA MULILO, ZAMBEZI REGION FROM “PUBLIC OPEN SPACE” TO “INDUSTIAL”

July 2023

Prepared For:

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1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed Rezoning of Erf 568 Extension 2, Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region. To ensure that Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) understand the EIA process and partake in the EIA process by Indicating their environmental, social and economic viewpoints, issues and/or concerns regarding the proposed development.

The EIA is guided by the Environmental Impact (EIA) Regulations: Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Referred to as the EIA Regulations hereafter), the public consultation process entails newspaper adverts, site notices and distribution of the BID. This BID contains the following information.

- a) Background Information
- b) Project location
- c) Project description
- d) The Environmental Assessment Processes
- e) Guidelines for stakeholder participation in the EIA process.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wanxi Investment cc hereinafter referred to as the proponent appointed Envirofficient Consultants cc to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for rezoning of Erf 568 Extension 2, Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region.

The proponent was allocated Erf 568, Extension 2 by the Katima Mulilo Town Council and they needs to rezone this erf from “public open space” to “industrial” land use so that they can develop and operate a motor vehicle repair garage. They have appointed TOYA Urban Planning Consultants cc to facilitate the rezoning process.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study was commissioned to fulfill the requirements of the Environmental Management Act (Act. No.07 of 2007) and its Regulations of February 2012. The main aim of the study is to investigate the environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development. The study is conducted in a multi-disciplinary approach and in a consultative manner. An environmental assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential impacts.

3. PROJECT LOCATION

The proponent was allocated Erf 568, Extension 2 along the main B8 road into Katima Mulilo between NATIS and Petrosol Service Station. Erf 568 is situated at -17.514631S, 24.268713E. The below figure gives an indication of the area of interest.



FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP OF THE AREA TO BE DEVELOPED

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proponent has appointed Envirofficient Consultants cc to apply for ECC and draft EMP to be used during the operations of the facility.

The proposed garage will be offering the following services:

- Mechanical fault finding,
- Sale of spare parts,
- Repair of vehicles
- Servicing of vehicles
- Panel beatings
- Painting and repainting
- Car wash bay for repaired vehicles
- Wheel alignment
- And related activities

4.1 The need and desirability of the development

The manufacturing and industrialization sector in Namibia is in a primitive state, informal and limited. This results in shortage of most industrial services in the country, especially in small towns and rural areas (National Planning Commission 2017).

Most professional mechanical services are mostly currently centralized in big cities, regardless the increase in the number of motor vehicles in Namibia and other parts of the modern world today. There are currently a few professional motor vehicle repair centers in Katima Mulilo compared to the number of vehicles in town, the neighboring rural areas, and neighboring countries close to Katima Mulilo. The establishment off a garage in addition to the existing ones will be an improved service provision to the residents, and a positive investment for the Katima Mulilo Town.

4.2 Access Provision

Erf 568 Extension 2 Katima Mulilo is directly situated in the main B8 road network serving the Katima Mulilo Town, hence the accessibility will be from the B8 road.

4.3 Water, Sanitation & Electricity (services)

The area is already serviced and connected to Katima Mulilo municipal to water, sanitation services, while electricity services will be supplied by Northern Regional Electricity Distributors (NORED),

5 THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

5.1 Fauna and Flora

The Zambezi Region falls within the Kalahari Basin, which covers most of the northern and eastern parts of Namibia right across the Namibian border into Angola. Trees such as African Teak, Jackal Bery, Jacaranda, Burkea-kiat Mopane and a variety of other trees are characteristic of this zone (Twenty Namibian Trees, 2011).

5.2 Geology and soils

The soil of the northeastern Namibia is dominated by deep Kalahari sediments and Namib sand that mostly occur in the formation of sands and other sedimentary materials, while the soft clay sodic sands dominate in the riverbeds (Mendelssohn, 2002).

5.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The bedrock underlying the basin filled with Kalahari Group deposits consist of basal rocks of the Damara Sequence, followed by the Karoo Sequence sediments, overlain and intruded by volcanics of Karoo age. The groundwater in the area is found in shallow discontinuous aquifers (Perched Aquifers), (Ministry of Water Agriculture and Forestry, 2011).

5.4 Social Environment

According to the Namibian housing and population census (2011), the Katima Mulilo Town has a population of 28,362 inhabitants.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft EAR and EMP
- Preparing the final EAR & EMP and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to appeal.

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far:

- **Traffic Impacts:** the movement of construction material to and from site may cause additional traffic.
- **Disturbance:** the surrounding property owners and community members may be disturbed by the construction activities.
- **Waste:** During construction, waste may be generated on site which would have to be disposed of at an approved landfill site.
- **Generation of Dust:** Dust generated from the machinery during construction activities.
- **Ground and surface water impacts:** may be experienced during construction due to the use of machinery and chemicals to construct the roads and services infrastructure.
- **Employment Creation:** During construction temporary jobs may be created for the construction of the associated services.
- **Health and safety risks** which may result to workers operating on site.

More potential impacts of the proposed activity will be identified upon consultations with the public and further research on the area.

8 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public participation is important in the EIA process. The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development. The aim of this participatory opportunity is for I&APs to voice their opinions, suggestions and/or comments on this project. As part of this process communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Local Authority, Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the site and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project.
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project.

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list.

If you are interested or directly affected by this project, please register at the contact below by filling in the form provided on or before the **2nd August 2023**. All registered I&AP's will receive further information as the EIA process continues.

9 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:
Area of Interest:	
I would like to hear more about the project: Yes / No	Are you a resident of the area: Yes / No
Postal Address:	
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:	

Please fill in particulars and return completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:

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