

Environmental Impact Assessment Study and compilation of Environmental Management Plan for construction of Mpungu Filling Station & Mall

Public Consultation Meeting
18 November 2021, 15h00
Community Meeting Point (Under a Tree) in Mpungu Vlei

1. Present

Please see the attendance register. A total of 7 community members attended the meeting and were informed, consulted about the proposed development. Due to a low turn-out at the meeting, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner also visited some businesses and individuals in Mpungu Vlei i.e. the school, inspector's office, and traditional authority and the landowner in whose land the Proponent is planning to construct the Filling Station and Mall.

2. Welcome Remarks

The Environmental Consultant welcomed all participants at the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend the consultation meeting. The Consultant informed the meeting that the stakeholder's consultation process is a requirement by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007). The meeting was also informed that through the Act, now the community members are allowed to participate in any development coming through their areas and to have an input or to object to the planned development should they feel that it is not necessary.

The Environmental Consultant explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the environmental assessment team to conduct the consultation process required as part of the environmental assessment process. Once the EIA process is finalized, the Reports will be submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy as the competent Authority on Petroleum Affairs who will advise the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEF&T) whether the proposed project should go ahead or not. The MEF&T will then if approved, issue the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the project.

3. Introduction and Discussion

The Environmental Consultant thanked everyone present for attending the meeting. He made a brief introduction of the proponent of the proposed project that is FWN Trading CC and the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner who will be coordinating the impact assessment and facilitating the application for environmental clearance from the Ministries of Mines & Energy and Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

The meeting was informed that the environmental impact assessment study is required to apply for the Environmental Clearance Certificate.

The EIA is comprised of two areas whereas the environmental component focuses on the natural resources i.e. the land, water and the atmosphere and how they can be affected by the proposed filling station and shopping mall.

The social component requires that the interested and or affected parties (IAPs) are identified, informed and consulted about their views on the proposed project. The Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) requires that stakeholder consultation process be carried out throughout the impact assessment process to get their inputs/objections from the wider community who might be affected or have an interest in the proposed project.

The consultant indicated that should there be anyone with questions or objections to the proposed filling station and mall to complete the form on the Background Information Document (provided at the meeting) but also available through a request via e-mail or WhatsApp platform.

Furthermore, the consultant also indicated that community members can still express their comments/inputs or objection if there is any on the proposed agricultural projects.

The consultant provided a short presentation to the participants covering a description of the proposed filling station and mall, an overview of the need for an EIA and the method for the EIA, and the key findings of the EIA in terms of potential positive and negative impacts and mitigation measures to be taken. Thereafter, members of the public were allowed to ask questions on the proposed filling station and mall and also to find out if they have any concerns, objections or if they support the initiative.

4. Questions from the consultation meeting:

4.1. Will there be any opportunities such as employment for local people?

Answer: The meeting was informed that there will be opportunities for employment ranging from short-term/temporal opportunities during the construction of the filling station and mall. There will also be long-term employment for filling station operators, cashiers, cleaners and other indirect employment for truck drivers who will be supplying fuel to the filling station. The proposed shopping mall will also present more employment and business opportunities for local people who are currently unemployed and also for entrepreneurs.

The meeting was also informed that during the operational stage, there will also be long-term employment opportunities and those will be announced and opportunities availed to all qualified and experienced residents.

4.2. One of the community members wanted to know whether the Proponent has already secured the place for the proposed plant?

Answer: Yes, the proposed Filling Station and Shopping Mall will be located at Mpungu Vlei, GPS Coordinates 17°39'29.5"S 18°14'31.8"E / -17.658194, 18.242157. The proponent has already obtained authorization from the traditional authority and the current landowner currently occupying the land.

4.3. What other benefits will the proposed Filling Station and Mall will bring to the Mpungu area in general?

Answer: In addition to local employment, the proposed development will be beneficial to the commuters travelling through Mpungu area and other commuters travelling through the Kavango West Region. Access to fuel and the shopping centres will help the residents of the region to develop their region and have access to amenities that are currently only available in towns.

4.4. How many people will be employed at the Filling Station and Mall?

Answer: The exact number of people to be employed at the Filling Station and Mall will be determined by the size and type of product that will be produced. The numbers have not been established but will be made available once the proposed filling station and mall commence.

During the site preparation, there will be lots of temporary jobs and the opportunities will be availed through the constituency office or traditional authority office once the projects commence.

4.5. Will you be hiring people in the local community or outsiders? One of the community members indicated that they do have skills in the area and would prefer that the Proponent award the tender for construction to a local contractor.

Answer: The meeting was informed that the bids for the construction of the proposed Filling Station and Mall will be announced as soon as the requirements have been met. Once, the contractors are contracted, and the site handed over, the community will be informed through the Constituency office or traditional authority office i.e. notice board at public places and also through the local radio announcements and community development committees in terms of the number of local people needed for employment.

With regards to awarding the tender to a local contractor, the meeting was informed that the tender for installations of agricultural infrastructures will be undertaken by each farmer/plot owner and thus will depend on what type of work and materials will be required. However, the Constituency office will ensure that priority is given to local people in terms of employment, tenders and other opportunities.

4.6. What kind of products will be sold at the proposed Filling Station and Mall?

Answer: the proposed filling station will be primarily selling fuel and petroleum products such as petrol and diesel. The proposed shopping mall will also have a variety of consumable goods that will be availed in wholesale and retail options.

5. Other concerns raised by the community members:

5.1. There was also another concern that most people working in the Kavango West Region especially in the construction sector are coming from other parts of the country and where local people can also do the same. An appeal was made most especially by the

young people who demanded that the proposed filling station and mall should consider local people first before employing people from other regions. The meeting was assured that the proponent has indicated that local people will be considered first.

6. Time of adjournment:

6.1. The meeting was adjourned at 17h15. After the meeting, the environmental consulting team and three community members visited the proposed site for familiarisation and also distributed Background Information Documents surrounding the homestead, shops and other institutions in the Mpungu Vlei area.

Consultation notes compiled by Mr. F. Kapembe (KPM Environmental Consulting).

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MPUNGU FILLING STATION AND

| Name | Position | Organisation | Project relevance |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Directorate of Petroleum Affairs | Chief Inspector for Petroleum Affairs | Ministry of Mines and Energy | Stakeholder |
| Festus Kapembe | EIA Consultant | KPM Environmental Consulting | EIA Consultant |
| Himarwa lithete SS | N/A | Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture | Stakeholder |
| Hon. Titus K. Shiudifonya | Constituency Councillor | Mpungu Constituency | Stakeholder |
| Hon. Sirkka Ausiku | Governor: Kavango West | Office of the Regional Governor | Stakeholder |
| MAWF: Kahenge | N/A | MAWF: Kahenge | Stakeholder |
| Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture | N/A | Ministry of Education Arts and Culture | Stakeholder |
| Ministry of Youth & Sport | N/A | Ministry of Youth & Sport | Stakeholder |
| MoHSS: Nankundi Hospital | N/A | MoHSS: Nankundi Hospital | Stakeholder |
| MoHSS: Nkurenkuru Hospital | N/A | MoHSS: Nkurenkuru Hospital | Stakeholder |
| Namibia Post Ltd | N/A | Namibia Post Ltd | Stakeholder |
| Namibian Police: Nkurenkuru | N/A | Namibian Police: Nkurenkuru | Stakeholder |
| NORED Electricity (Pty) Ltd | N/A | NORED Electricity (Pty) Ltd | Stakeholder |
| Omukumoh Consulting Engineers | Principal Engineer | Omukumoh Consulting Engineers | Stakeholder |
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