



Environmental Impact Assessment for the Detailed Design, Tender Documentation for the Upgrading to Bitumen Standard of DR1953 (56km) Karibib – Otjimbingwe in the Erongo Region

Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Public Consultation Meeting Venue: Otjimbingwe Community Hall

Date: 5 October 2021 Time: 10h15 – 11h45

Agenda

- 1. Prayer Reverend Barry Goamub
- 2. Welcome Honourable Councillor Melania Ndjago
- 3. Project Team Introduction Rian du Toit
- 4. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Rian du Toit
- 5. Project Scope Peet Bezuidenthout
- 6. Q&A
- 7. Conclusion Acting Chief Josua
- 8. Prayer Reverend Barry Goamub

1. <u>Prayer</u> <u>Reverend Barry Goamub</u>

2. Welcome

Honourable Councillor Melania Ndjago, Karibib Constituency

Welcome to the traditional leaders, the Otjimbingwe community and the delegation.

Mr Timo Hautikulipi from the Roads Authority cannot be present today due to some other commitments.

The delegation is here today to inform the community about the project by the Roads Authority of Namibia, which is to upgrade the gravel road from Karibib to Otjimbingwe to a tar road.

The delegation will be giving presentations, so let us listen to what they have to say, to understand the project background, what is being planned and the processes that need to be followed during this project. There are two groups present here today, one is responsible for the environmental section and the other for the technical and design part of the project. After the presentations we will open the floor to the attendees for questions and comments, please ask if you don't understand.

3. Project Team Introduction

Rian du Toit, Consulting Team

- Enviro Management Consultants (EMC) Mr Rian du Toit & Ms Maike Prickett
- Element Consulting Engineers Mr Peet Bezuidenthout

- What is an EIA? It is a practical implementation to prevent negative and improve positive impacts.
- Environment defined bio-physical (water, soil, plants, etc), social and legislation
- Impacts what we do and how that changes the environment (cause and affect)
 - Building a road: what is needed to build the road (layer works, materials), how does that change the environment, during operation what are the positive or negative effects of the road on the environment
- Rules and Regulations/Legislation Constitution of Namibia, Environmental Management Act No.7 (2007)
- What is the ultimate objective of an EIA? To maintain sustainability a balance between development and conservation
- Normal stakeholder concerns of road development projects:
 - Land taken and no benefit to stakeholder
 - Water / Materials
 - o Consider the gain of such a project: economic gain
- The objective of EMC is to:
 - Consult the public, stakeholders that know the area need to give their input (comments and concerns)
 - Consider the negative and positive impacts
 - Present and Submit EIA and application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)
 application to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) they grant
 or reject ECC for this project
 - If ECC is granted, it is valid for 3 years, once this has been issued the project can commence. We need to avoid/minismise/reduce the negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts.
 - We want to avoid spillage, pollution (surface water/soil, etc), bad waste management practices, etc.
 - Borrow pits: they must be left by the contractor in an acceptable condition.
- You are welcome to raise your comments and concerns.

5. <u>Project Scope – Technical Presentation</u>

Peet Bezuidenhout, Consulting Team

- Background
 - o Roads Authority invited bids for Consultancy Services in June 2020
 - Awarded to Element/Tweya Joint Venture in April 2021
 - Project started on 2 August 2021
 - O Duration = 12 months
- Scope of Project
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including Public Participation
 - Detail Design
 - Bidding (Tender) Documents
 - Construction Phase not included in current scope
- Limits of the Project
 - o Start: Immediately north of the Swakop River
 - o End: Intersection with M0077 at Karibib

- o Includes section of D1967 through Otjimbingwe settlement
- Design Considerations
 - o Alignment:
 - Only isolated horizontal alignment changes expected
 - Significant vertical re-alignment envisaged to overcome undulating topography
 - Very light traffic anticipated
 - O Drainage:
 - Existing drainage structures only exist between Ozombero and Okangava
 - Many culverts blocked & damaged
 - Corrugated iron culverts to be replaced
 - Provision of formal drainage structures therefore major component of the design
- Water for construction expected to be a challenge!
- Materials
 - About 10 potential borrow areas identified (including 4 existing BPs)
- Social & Economic Development
 - Bidding (Tender) Document to specify the following:
 - All unskilled labour to be sourced locally
 - Provision will be made for significant SME participation considering the extensive drainage works anticipated

6. Questions & Answers

Q1. Gerson Naruseb:

a. If you are in the design stage, why can't the road cross the rivers with bridges? There are schools and shops that cannot be reached if the river is flowing.

Response (Peet Bezuidenhout): I have looked at the area together with the Roads Authority a while ago and bridges are very expensive and are omitted because of budget constraints. Maybe once construction has started you can put in a request for these bridges. We take note and will present to the Roads Authority, perhaps there is a low-cost option that can be looked at.

b. Does the local unskilled labour and SME contractors apply only to the constituency or to the region? SME training?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): The unskilled labour is people from this area. What typically happens is that a list with names is drawn up by the local leadership for people within a certain radius from the road from which the contractor can select people. Candidates will be nominated by the local leadership.

The SME split is usually 50/50 for work that requires expertise for which SME's from outside may be brought in and then there is easier work for SME's which don't have much experience. SME training can be recommended if there is not much experience in the area.

c. A main water pipeline is crossing the road. Could you use that water for construction?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): Thank you. We are aware of that pipeline. We will enquire with Namwater if we may use some of the water, but their rule is that the water feed to the community may not be interrupted. Boreholes will need to be considered, but we will take all options into account.

Q2. Bennard Uirab:

a. In your overview you outlined the project design, I want to understand, is the road only from Karibib to Otjimbingwe or also to Wilhemstal?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): No only from Karibib to Otjimbingwe and a short section through Otjimbingwe towards Wilhelmstal up to the river.

Once the tender process has been completed, we will come back here with the contractor and Roads Authority and hold a meeting with the regional and local leadership to introduce the contractor and everything will be discussed again.

b. When these projects take place, there is usually sandmining taking place and water is being used and usually ends in chaos because the relevant authorities and local leadership is not engaged. I want to appeal to you that the regional and local leadership is being consulted throughout this process. Contractors should not only come and start without consultation.

Response (Rian du Toit): We won't do sandmining. Sandmining is done under a license from MME and sand is not used to construct a road. Section 30 of the Road Ordinance says that any material needed for the construction of a road may be taken, the reason for this is that the road is a national asset and material that belongs to the government may be taken to construct a national asset. Water use is also part of Section 30 of the Road Ordinance – if there is an existing borehole and that water is used an agreement for water use must be reached, but when the contractor drills a borehole, it belongs to them but needs to be handed over to RA (or the community if agreed as such) once the project has been completed. You cannot prevent the contractor from taking material because it belongs to the government, but the contractor is guided by rules and regulations when taking the material and to rehabilitate the borrow pit once the project has been completed.

Q3. Daniel Mubira:

Local SME's in the area have no experience, is it possible to train them? We have seen SME training taking place in other regions on these road construction projects.

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): SME training can be recommended.

Q4. Aluisa Gawub:

I would like to ask the traditional leaders and the Councillor should ensure that people from outside don't come in to take employment opportunities away from the local people.

Q5. Hevita:

Boreholes, can they be drilled closer to the road so that they can be used by the communities afterwards?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): Boreholes will ideally be drilled close to the road if there is water. If there is a lot of water, they might drill a lot of boreholes along the road. If there is no water, they might have to drill the boreholes further away from the road. What usually happens if the contractor has to drill a borehole, they will engage the community so that they can come to an agreement with regards to what is going to happen with the borehole once the project has been completed.

Q6. Chris Mukwa:

- a. I am talking about experience from a previous project, the contractors only came and started without engaging the communities. The engineers were on site before the contractors like now, but afterwards there was no community engagement. Are you going to do the same?
 - <u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): As previously mentioned, once the contractor has been appointed, we will return to site with the contractor and introduce them to the community. The contractor will also employ a community liaison office who will be the link between the contractor and the community.
- b. I know you talked about it, but those bridges are a necessity, those rivers sometimes flow for months, there are farmers and school children that get cut-off and when those rivers flow. We would like to request that those bridges be built.

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): We take note and will convey this to the RA.

c. To the community, SME's need to be registered, you have been made aware, now we as a community need to get our things in order.

Q7. Jonathan Neumbo:

Sandmining, there is provision in the act for sandmining and compensation of the traditional authority. That should be investigated.

<u>Response</u> (Rian du Toit): The material used for road construction is not sand, it falls under the Minerals Act Schedule 1 which states that material (sand, gravel, clay, rock, etc) used for road construction does not fall under the Minerals Act. There are different gravel classifications that are used for road construction G7, G6, G5, etc. Sand is used for build bricks and houses. If you want to mine sand, you need a mining license. The community is already benefitting from the road, they cannot be compensated for the material because it belongs to the government.

Q8. Community Member

Is there a difference between tar and bitumen?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): Yes, there is. Tar is very poisonous, now we are using bitumen which is made from oil. They take out the poisonous ingredients such as diesel, petrol, paraffin, etc and then the bitumen is left.

Q9. Mrs Shikongo

I want to inform the community that I am a road board member and if the community has any suggestions like the bridges to come and share it with me so that I can convey that at the next meeting.

Q10. Sebbedeus Geingob:

I would like to empathise that the bridge towards Wilhelmstal is also very important. The settlement of Otjimbingwe stretches to where the graveyard is, it does not stop before the bridge. There is a graveyard just past the bridge and when the river is in flood coffins and people cannot be transported to the graveyard for funerals.

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): We take note and will convey this to the RA, if they agree, we will include this in our design.

Q11. Dave Kazomdjandja:

We will be very happy when this road is constructed, but the travel speed will increase on the road what about people and our cattle on the road? Will fences be put up?

<u>Response</u> (Peet Bezuidenhout): Typically fences will be put next to the road, but in some instances no fences will be put up, but we will convey that the entire length of the route should be fenced.

Q12. Community Member

When will the construction start? We have been waiting for this road for a very long time, people are frustrated.

Response (Peet Bezuidenhout): The earliest that construction can start is possibly at the beginning of 2023, after this current phase has been concluded in August 2022 and the RA has been able to allocate funds.

7. <u>Conclusion</u> Acting Chief Josua

8. <u>Prayer</u> <u>Reverend Barry Goamub</u>

End of meeting 11:45







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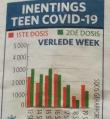














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> Ronelle Rademeyer

Adv. Gerrie Nel, hoof van die private vervolgings-eenheid van AfriForum in Suid-Afrika, sien om na

Republikein Sum Mallgemeine Zeitung

Market Watch

>> Discouraging consumption to fight can

WHO recommends alcohol tax hike in Euro

Alcohol consumption is causally linked to oral cavity, pharynx, oesophagus, colorectal, liver, larynx, and female breast cancer.

he World Health Organization on Monday recommended doubling alcohol taxes in Europe as a means to prevent nearly 5 000 cancer deaths every year.

Increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages is "one of the best measures" to prevent cancer with a "potentially high impact," the WHO's European office said, adding countries like Russia and the UK would benefit most.

Alcohol consumption is causally linked to oral cavity, pharynx, oesophagus, colorectal, liver, larvnx. and female breast cancer, the WHO

WHO said its model projections showed "an estimated 10 700 new cancer cases and 4 850 alcoholrelated cancer deaths could be avoided annually in the WHO European Region by doubling current excise duties on alcoholic bever-

This represents about six percent of new cases and deaths from alcohol-related cancers in the WHO's European region, which compris-



A woman in a liquor store. PHOTO NAMPA/REUTERS



Russia, the UK an would save the most liing the tax measure, v Page 24 of 24

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL

Engineer Bahaa Costantine, a cancer patient. PHOTO NAMPA/REUTERS

IMPACT ASSESSMENT The Roads Authority of Namibia (RA) appointed Element/Tweya Joint Venture to perform the consulting services for the following project

Detailed Design, Tender Documentation for the Upgrading to Bitumen Standard of DR1953 (56km) Karibib - Otjimbingwe in the Erongo Region

Enviro Management Consultants Namibia is appointed by Element/ Tweya Joint Venture to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment and develop an Environmental Management Plan as required by the Environmental Management Act No 7 (2007) and the associated Environmental Regulations.

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are hereby invited to register in terms of the environmental assessment process and to give input. comments or opinions regarding the intended road upgrade before the 19th of October 2021.

Public Consultation Meeting