

Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Telecommunication Tower in Rundu Extension 3, Rundu, Kavango East Region

Report

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Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Telecommunication Tower in Rundu Extension 3, Rundu, Kavango East Region

| Report | | |
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1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Project Background

PowerCom (Pty) Ltd (PowerCom hereafter) proposes to erect a telecommunication tower on Erf 2423, Rundu Extension 3 in Rundu which aims to strengthen the coverage for mobile services, inclusive of voice and data services within the subject area. The locality of the proposed site is shown in **Figure 1-1** below.

In line with the Environmental Management Act (Act 7 of 2007) an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been conducted for the proposed development.



Figure 1-1: Locality of proposed telecommunication tower in Rundu

1.2 Purpose of the EMP

Regulation 8 of the Environmental Management Act's (EMA) (7 of 2007) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2012) requires that a draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) be included as part of the scoping Environmental Assessment (EA) process. A 'management plan' is defined as:

"...a plan that describes how activities that may have significant effects on the environment are to be mitigated, controlled and monitored."

An EMP is one of the most important outputs of the EA process as it synthesises all the proposed mitigation and monitoring actions, set to a timeline and with specific assigned responsibilities. It provides a link between the impacts identified in the EIA Process and the required environmental management on the ground during project implementation and operation. It is important to note that an EMP is a legally binding document and a person who contravenes the provisions of this EMP may face imprisonment and/or a fine. This EMP is a living document and should be amended to address project changes and/or environmental conditions and feedback from compliance monitoring.

The purpose of this document is therefore to guide environmental management throughout the following life-cycle stages of the proposed development, namely planning and design, construction, operation and maintenance and if considered, decommissioning.

The following phases are addressed in this EMP:

- **Planning and design** the period, prior to the construction phase, during which preliminary legislative and administrative arrangements are carried out in preparation of construction activities;
- **Construction phase** during this phase, the tower and its related infrastructure will be constructed;
- **Operation and maintenance** the period during which the tower and its related infrastructure will be operational and maintained as necessary.
- **Decommissioning** Should the tower be decommissioned; this phase will be implemented.

1.3 Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

GCS Water Environmental Engineering Namibia (Pty) Ltd ("GCS" hereafter) have been appointed by PowerCom (Pty) Ltd ("PowerCom or Proponent" hereafter) as independent environmental consultants to conduct the required Environmental Assessment (EA). This includes the compilation of an EMP for the proposed development. The EMP is to be submitted with the Scoping EA Report to apply for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). The application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) of the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). The EMP will also be used by Contractors and Engineers, as well as the Proponent, in guiding them during the construction and operation of the tower to ensure that impacts on the environment are limited or avoided altogether.

1.4 Legal Requirements

The contents of the EMP must meet the requirements Section 8 (j) of the EIA Regulations. The EMP must address the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity on the environment throughout the project life cycle. It must also include a system for assessment of the effectiveness of monitoring and management arrangements after implementation. PowerCom therefore has the responsibility to ensure that the proposed activity, as well as the EIA process, conforms to the principles of the EMA. Any contractors appointed by PowerCom must also comply with such principles.

Under the 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of the Environmental Management Act (7 of 2007), the proposed development is a listed activity that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). This activity is listed under the following section:

"10.1 (g) The construction of masts of any material or type and of any height, including those used for telecommunication, broadcasting, and radio transmission."

Table 1-1below lists the applicable and relevant Namibian legislations and otherinternational guidelines for this specific EA process

| Legislation/Policy/ Guideline | Relevant Provisions | Implications for this project |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Environmental Management Act | Requires that projects with significant environmental impacts are | The EMA and its regulations should inform and guide the |
| EMA (No 7 of 2007) | subject to an environmental assessment process (Section 27). | EA process. |
| | | |
| | Details principles which are to guide all EAs. | |
| Environmental Impact | Details requirements for public consultation within a given | |
| Assessment (EIA) Regulations GN | environmental assessment process (GN 30 S21). | |
| 28-30 (GG 4878) | Details the requirements for what should be included in a Coming | |
| | Details the requirements for what should be included in a Scoping | |
| | Report (GN 30 S8) and an Assessment Report (GN 30 S15). | |
| The Constitution of Namibia Act | According to Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), there is no clear right | The Proponent should ensure compliance with the |
| No. 1 of 1990 | to health in the Namibian Constitution. But under the Article 95 of | conditions set in the Act. |
| | the Namibian Constitution that deals with Principles of State Policy, | |
| | the Namibian Constitution states "the state shall enact legislation | |
| | to ensure consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable | |
| | standard of living for the country's people" and to improve public | |
| | health. | |
| Namibian Communications Act 8 | Provides for the regulation of telecommunications services and | Provides the standards for setting up cellular, wireless |
| of 2009 | networks, broadcasting, postal services and the use and allocation | and satellite services. |
| | of radio spectrum; for that purpose the establishment of an | |
| | independent Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia; to | |
| | make provision for its powers and functions; the granting of special | |
| | rights to telecommunications licensees; the creation of an | |
| | Association to manage the .na internet domain name space and for | |
| | matters connected therewith. | |
| | | |

Table 1-1: Applicable and relevant Namibian legislations and other international guidelines for this specific EA process

| Legislation/Policy/ Guideline | Relevant Provisions | Implications for this project |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Local Authorities Act (No. 23 of | Provides for the determination, for purposes of local government, | The Rundu Town Council is the responsible Local Authority |
| 1992) | of local authority councils; the establishment of such local authority | of the area in which the proposed development will be |
| | councils; and to define the powers, duties and functions of local | located, and they should be consulted for this EA. |
| | authority councils; and to provide for incidental matters. | |
| The Atomic Energy and Radiation | Provides for the adequate protection of the environment and of | To determine the "safe distance" around the site. |
| Protection Act, Act 5 of 2005 | people against the harmful effects of radiation by controlling and | |
| | regulating the production, processing, handling, use, holding, | |
| | storage, transport and disposal of radiation sources and radioactive | |
| | materials, and controlling and regulating prescribed non-ionising | |
| | radiation sources according to the standards set out by the ICNIRP. | |
| "Guidelines for Limiting | Provides international standards and guidelines for limiting the | Justifies the need for assessing the impact of |
| Exposure to Electromagnetic | adverse effects of non-ionising radiation on human health and well- | electromagnetic radiation from the antennae, on the |
| Fields (100kHz to 300GHz)" | being, and, where appropriate, provides scientifically based advice | nearby residents. |
| (March 2020, developed by the | on non- ionising radiation protection including the provision of | |
| International Commission on | guidelines on limiting exposure. | |
| Non-Ionizing Radiation | | |
| Protection (ICNIRP)) | | |
| The Aviation Act, Act 74 of 1962 | Gives effect to certain International Aviation Conventions and | Provides the regulations for setting up cellular structures |
| | makes provision for the control, regulation and encouragement of | in Namibia. |
| | flying within the Republic of Namibia and for other matters | |
| | incidental thereto | |
| | | |

| Legislation/Policy/ Guideline | Relevant Provisions | Implications for this project |
|---|--|---|
| Namibian Civil Aviation Regulations, 2001 | Section 139.01.34 outlines the obstacle limitations and marking outside aerodromes | The proposed project should adhere to the limitations outlined in the act. |
| | | |
| Convention on International Civil Aviation, Annex 14 | Annex 14 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Chapter 4: Obstacle restrictions and removal Chapter 6: Visual aids and donating of obstacles | The proposed new structures may be obstacles to some aerodromes in Namibia. Those that are close to existing aerodromes need to be assessed in accordance with the document. Visual aids to the new structures to make them visible to aircraft need to be applied in accordance with this Convention. |
| Labour Act (No. 6 of 1992) | Ministry of Labour (MOL) is aimed at ensuring harmonious labour relations through promoting social justice, occupational health and safety and enhanced labour market services for the benefit of all Namibians. This ministry insures effective implementation of the Labour Act no. 6 of 1992. | PowerCom should ensure that construction, operation and maintenance of the towers, the safety and welfare of workers are not compromised. |

1.5 Assumptions and Limitations

This EMP has been drafted with the acknowledgment of the following assumptions and limitations:

- This EMP has been drafted based on the scoping-level Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted for the proposed construction and operation of the telecommunication tower in Rundu Extension 3, Rundu. No specialist studies were included as part of the assessment; and
- The mitigation measures recommended in this EMP document are based on the risks/impacts in the Scoping Report. These impacts were identified based on the provided project description and anticipated project impacts. Should the scope of the project change, the risks will have to be reassessed and mitigation measures provided accordingly.

1.6 Report Structure

This EMP lays out the management actions for the proposed site in Rundu. The EMP addresses the following phases:

- **Planning and design** the period, prior to construction, operation and maintenance, during which preliminary legislative and administrative arrangements are carried out in preparation for the construction of the tower and related infrastructure;
- **Construction phase** during this phase the services infrastructure (electricity cables), the tower and its related infrastructure will be constructed;
- **Operation and maintenance phase** the period during which the tower and its related infrastructure will be operational, and maintenance is conducted by the proponent as deemed necessary; and
- **Decommissioning phase:** the period during which the proponent may decide to discontinue the operations of the tower and the associated infrastructure. The modern world is advancing on a daily basis, and there will always be a need for improved mobile services, hence the decommissioning of the infrastructure is not anticipated at this stage. Regardless, mitigation measures will be provided.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PowerCom (Pty) Ltd is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the EMP. The Proponent may delegate this responsibility at any time, as they deem necessary, from operation and maintenance phase and decommissioning phase (if considered). The delegated responsibility for the effective implementation of this EMP will rest on the following key individuals which may be fulfilled by the same person:

- Proponent's Representative; and/or
- Environmental Control Officer.

2.1 Proponent's Representative

If the Proponent does not personally manage all aspects of the planning and design, construction and operation and maintenance phase activities and decommissioning, referred to in this EMP, they should assign this responsibility to a suitably qualified individual referred to in this plan as the Proponent's Representative (PR). The Proponent may decide to assign the role of a PR to one person for both phases. Alternatively, the Proponent may decide to assign a separate PR for each component i.e. planning and design, construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase. The PR's responsibilities, included in **Table 2-1**, are as follows:

Table 2-1:Responsibilities assigned to the Proponent's Representative for planning
and design, construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases

| Responsibility | Project Phase |
|---|----------------------------|
| Managing the implementation of this EMP and updating and | Throughout the lifetime of |
| maintaining it when necessary. | the project. |
| Management and monitoring of individuals and/or equipment | Throughout the lifetime of |
| on-site in terms of compliance with this EMP. | the project. |
| Issuing fines for contravening EMP provisions. | Throughout the lifetime of |
| | the project. |

2.2 Environmental Control Officer

The Proponent should assign the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the whole EMP on the ground from the planning and design phase to operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase to an independent consultant, referred to in this EMP as the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). The Proponent may decide to assign this role to one person for both phases or may assign separate individual ECOs to oversee EMP implementation during each phase. The ECOs will have the following responsibilities:

- Management and facilitation of communication between the Proponent, PR and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with regard to this EMP;
- Conducting site inspections (recommended minimum frequency is weekly during construction period and bi-annually during the operation and maintenance and decommissioning) of all areas with respect to the implementation of this EMP (monitor and audit the implementation of the EMP);
- Advising the PR on the removal of person(s) and/or equipment not complying with the provisions of this EMP;
- Making recommendations to the PR with respect to the issuing of fines for contraventions of the EMP; and
- Undertaking an annual review of the EMP and recommending additions and/or changes to this document.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS

3.1 Key Potential environmental impacts to be managed

From the EA, the following key potential negative impacts have been identified per project phase and are summarised in Table 3-1 below.

| | Project Phase | Potential negative impacts identified in the EA | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Construction | Disturbance to surrounding property owners, health and safety, waste generation, dust and noise impacts. | |
| 2 | Operation and maintenance | Health and safety (radiation emission) and visual impacts. | |
| 3 | Decommissioning | Loss of better cellular network coverage, removal of infrastructure, health and safety and waste handling and disposal from site. | |

 Table 3-1:
 Summary of key potential environmental impacts per project phase

The aim of the management actions of the EMP is to avoid potential impacts where possible. Where impacts cannot be avoided, measures are provided to reduce the significance of these impacts.

Management actions recommended to manage the potential impacts rated in the EA carried out for the proposed antennae construction are presented in the following tables. The management actions were compiled based on the four project phases:

- Planning and Design phase (Table 3-3);
- Construction phase (Table 3-3);
- Operation and maintenance phase management actions (Table 3-4); and
- Decommissioning phase (Table 3-5).

The responsible persons at PowerCom should assess these commitments in detail and should acknowledge their responsibility to the specific management actions detailed in the table of the next subchapters.

3.2 Phase 1: Planning and Design Management Actions

Since the proponent is responsible for the construction of the sites, the management requirements detailed in Error! Reference source not found. need to be carried out before any construction works. Necessary preliminary legislative and administrative arrangements should be made in preparation for the operation of the proposed development. These management requirements are also applicable for the period during which engineering designs/drawings are carried out.

| Table 3-2: Planning and design management actions | |
|---|--|
|---|--|

| Aspect | Management Requirement | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--|---|----------------|------------------------|
| Tower and associated Equipment Design | • The design standards to be applied to the associated equipment which produces the telecommunication signals should comply with the internationally accepted public exposure guidelines. | Proponent | Pre-construction phase |
| Labour Recruitment | It is anticipated that PowerCom will utilize its own workforce. However, should there be a need to employ additional labourers it is recommended that local labour be recruited for unskilled or semi-skilled labour; Recruitment should not be done at the project site. | Proponent | Ongoing |
| Construction schedule | • A convenient construction work/schedule should be prepared and be shared with the surrounding property owners. This will ensure that the surrounding property owners are aware of when to expect the construction team at the site. | Proponent | Pre-construction |

| Aspect | Management Requirement | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--|--|----------------|------------------|
| EMP Implementation | PowerCom needs to appoint a Proponent's Representative (PR) that will act as their on-site implementing agent. This person should be responsible to ensure that the Proponent and Contractor's responsibilities are executed in compliance with relevant legislation and this EMP. | Proponent | Ongoing |
| Agreement with affected landowners | • PowerCom to ensure that permission is granted in writing by the landowners to erect the structures on the site prior to commencing construction. | Proponent | Pre-construction |

3.3 Phase 2: Construction Phase Management Actions

The management actions for the construction phase are listed in **Table 3-2**.

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|------------|
| EMP training | Lack of EMP awareness and the implications thereof | Employees appointed for construction work on respective infrastructure must ensure that all personnel are aware of necessary health, safety and environmental considerations applicable to their respective work. Comprehensive induction forms a critical component during the construction and operational period. This includes the following: Ensuring that all employees are aware of their individual impact on the environment. Ensuring that preventative measures and procedures are undertaken in order | Environmental Control Officer and Contractor | Ongoing |
| | | to reduce the risk of a potential impact. | | |

 Table 3-3:
 Construction phase management actions

| Environmental Feature | Impact | | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|--|------------|
| Monitoring | EMP compliar | non- nce | The PR should monitor the implementation of this EMP. The ECO should inspect the site throughout the construction period and after completion. | Representative and Environmental Control Officer | Ongoing |
| Health and Safety | Health Safety | and | Construction workers should be trained on how to handle materials and equipment on site (if they do not already know how to) in order to avoid injuries. The contractor(s) should ensure that all personnel are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, safety boots, safety glasses and hard hats at all times during construction hours on site. No workers should be allowed to drink alcohol during working hours. No workers should be allowed on site if under the influence of alcohol. | Representative and Contractor | Ongoing |
| Waste Management | | | The construction site should be kept tidy at all times. | Proponents Representative and Contractor | Ongoing |

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|--------|---|----------------|------------|
| | | All domestic and general construction waste produced on a daily basis should be cleaned and contained daily. No waste may be buried or burned on site or anywhere else. Waste containers (bins) should be emptied after the construction and removed from site to the municipal waste disposal site. Separate waste containers (bins) for hazardous and domestic / general waste must be provided on site. Construction labourers should be sensitised to dispose of waste in a responsible manner and not to litter. No waste may remain on site after the completion of the project. The proponent should investigate and utilise possible methods for recycling waste generated on site. | | |

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|---------------------------|--------|---|--|------------|
| Construction labourers | | Construction workers will be transported, in a bus (or similar suitable passenger vehicle) to and from site. If the construction team is not allowed to use the toilets available on site, portable toilets (i.e. easily transportable) should be available at a ratio of at least 1 toilet per 10 workers. No workers may reside on-site for the entire duration of the construction period. No cooking on site to prevent the risk of fires. | Proponents representative and Contractor | Ongoing |

3.4 Phase 3: Operation and Maintenance Management Actions

The table below (Table 3-4) presents the management action for the operation and maintenance phase.

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|------------|
| EMP training | Lack of EMP awareness and the implications thereof | • Employees appointed for operation and maintenance on respective site infrastructure and services must ensure that all personnel are aware of necessary health, safety and environmental considerations applicable to their respective work. | Environmental Control Officer and Contractor | Ongoing |
| Monitoring | EMP non- compliance | The PR or the Proponent should monitor the implementation of this EMP. The ECO(s) should inspect the site operation throughout the operation on a biannual basis. | Proponents Representative, Proponent and Environmental Control Officer | Ongoing |
| Health and Safety | Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) emission | PowerCom should ensure that antennae construction and its EMR are within the international standards of The Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection Act, Act 5 of 2005 and "Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (100kHz to 300GHz)" (March 2020, developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)) | Proponent | Ongoing |

Table 3-4:Operation and maintenance phase management actions

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|------------|
| | | The design standards to be applied for the antennae should comply with the internationally accepted public exposure guidelines. PowerCom should adopt cautionary policies, and in particular the Precautionary Principle. This approach should be adopted in such a manner to optimize the benefits that is derived from the technology while also providing protection to allay the fears of those for which the State has responsibility to protect. | | |
| | | • The National Radiation Protection Authority should be involved during this phase (operational) to assess the possible emissions from antennae. | National Radiation Authority of Namibia and Proponent | Ongoing |
| Civil aviation | Civil aviation impact | PowerCom should ensure that no other high projections/extensions will be added on top of the antennae that may compromise the aerodrome (civil aviation) safety. PowerCom should ensure that the structures adhere to the Namibia Civil Aviation Regulations (NAMCARs) Part 139 Aerodomes and Heliports: licencing and Operation. | Proponent | Ongoing |

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|--------|--|----------------|------------|
| | | In the case that PowerCom will need to increase the height of the tower or add additional infrastructure on top of the tower, prior consultations should be made with Civil Aviation Department to ensure that the new infrastructure does not interfere with civil aviation operations. | | |

3.5 Phase 4: Decommissioning Management Actions

The table below (Table 3-5) presents the management action for decommissioning phase.

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tower Decommissioning | Loss of better mobile network coverage | The proponent should ensure that the mobile coverage is not compromised, by putting up an alternative cellular infrastructure. | - | Pre-decommissioning |
| Health and Safety | Health and Safety during removal of infrastructure | Construction workers should be trained on how to handle materials and equipment on site (if they do not already know how to) in order to avoid injuries. The contractor(s) should ensure that all personnel are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, safety boots, safety glasses and hard hats at all times during construction hours on site. No workers should be allowed to drink alcohol during working hours. No workers should be allowed on site if under the influence of alcohol. | Representative and Contractor | Ongoing |

 Table 3-5:
 Decommissioning phase management actions

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|------------|
| Waste | Waste | • The construction site should be kept tidy at al | Environmental | Ongoing |
| Management | handling and | times. | Officer and | |
| | removal | All domestic and general construction waste | Contractor | |
| | during | produced on a daily basis should be cleaned and | | |
| | removal of | contained daily. | | |
| | infrastructure | No waste may be buried or burned on site or anywhere else. | | |
| | | Waste containers (bins) should be emptied after the construction and removed from site to the municipal waste disposal site. Separate waste containers (bins) for hazardous and domestic / general waste must be provided or site. Construction labourers should be sensitised to dispose of waste in a responsible manner and not | | |
| | | to litter. No waste may remain on site after the completion of the project. It is recommended that the recycling and re-use of removed infrastructure should be explored and implemented. | | |

| Environmental Feature | Impact | Management Actions | Responsibility | Timeframes |
|---------------------------|--------|---|----------------|------------|
| Construction labourers | | Construction workers will be transported, in a bus (or similar suitable passenger vehicle) to and from site. If the construction team is not allowed to use the toilets available on site, portable toilets (i.e. easily transportable) should be available at a ratio of at least 1 toilet per 10 workers. No workers may reside on-site for the entire duration of the construction period. No cooking on site to prevent the risk of fires. | Contractor | Ongoing |

4 CONCLUSIONS

GCS has provided practical mitigation measures and monitoring regimes for all phases of the proposed tower development. Should the mitigation measures provided within this EMP be implemented effectively, GCS is of the opinion that no significant environmental or social impacts will be generated.