

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Proposed Construction of a New Guyed Mast Telecommunication Tower Site (Hema/Site 5) in the Hema Village, Kavango West Region - Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)

Proponent:

Mobile Telecommunications Limited



Prepared by:

Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC

(Appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner / Environmental Consultant)

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1 INTRODUCTION

Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC Namibia or the *Proponent*) proposes to construct and operate an 80m-high guyed mast telecommunications tower in Hema Village. The site (Hema/Site 5) is located at these GPS coordinates -18.161776° 18.975289°, and about 70km southeast of Nkurenkuru – refer to the locality map in Figure 1. The proposed tower will be on a 1-hectare (1ha) land will host 3x dual-band antennas and 1x microwave dish.

The proposed tower site falls within the Musese Constituency of the Kavango West Region, as shown on the constituency map in Figure 2.

1.1 Need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study

Telecommunication structures and related infrastructures are among the listed activities that may not be undertaken without an ECC under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

The listed activities relevant to this project, as per EIA regulations, are:

Listed Activity 10: Infrastructure

- 10.1 *The construction of-*
 - (g) *Communication networks, including towers, telecommunication, and marine telecommunication lines and cables;*
 - (j) *Masts of any material or type and any height, including those used for telecommunication, broadcasting, and radio transmission, but excluding - (i) flag poles and (ii) lightning conductor poles.*

Subsequently, to comply with the EMA and its Regulations, and to ensure environmental management and sustainability, MTC Namibia appointed Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (Serja Consultants), an Independent Environmental Consultant, to apply for the ECC and to conduct the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The EIA process will entail a baseline assessment of the biophysical & social environment and public consultation. The findings of the EIA process are then incorporated into an EIA Report, and a Draft EMP will also be compiled for the proposed project activities. The ECC application is submitted to and registered with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) as the Environmental Regulatory Authority.

Should the ECC be issued by the Environmental Commissioner, the Proponent will plan for the activities and, thereafter, commence tower construction activities, followed by operations and maintenance.

1.2 The Purpose of this Document

It should be noted that this BID is not an EIA Report but a non-technical summary of the EIA process used to:

- Share first-hand, summarized information about the proposed project activities.
- Provide public guidance and a basis for their participation from the beginning of the EIA process to register as interested and affected parties and raise issues/concerns.
- Register the ECC application on the Portal.

The information obtained from I&APs will then form the basis of the EIA Report and EMP, helping the Regulatory Authorities (MEFT) make informed decisions and consider the issuance of the ECC.

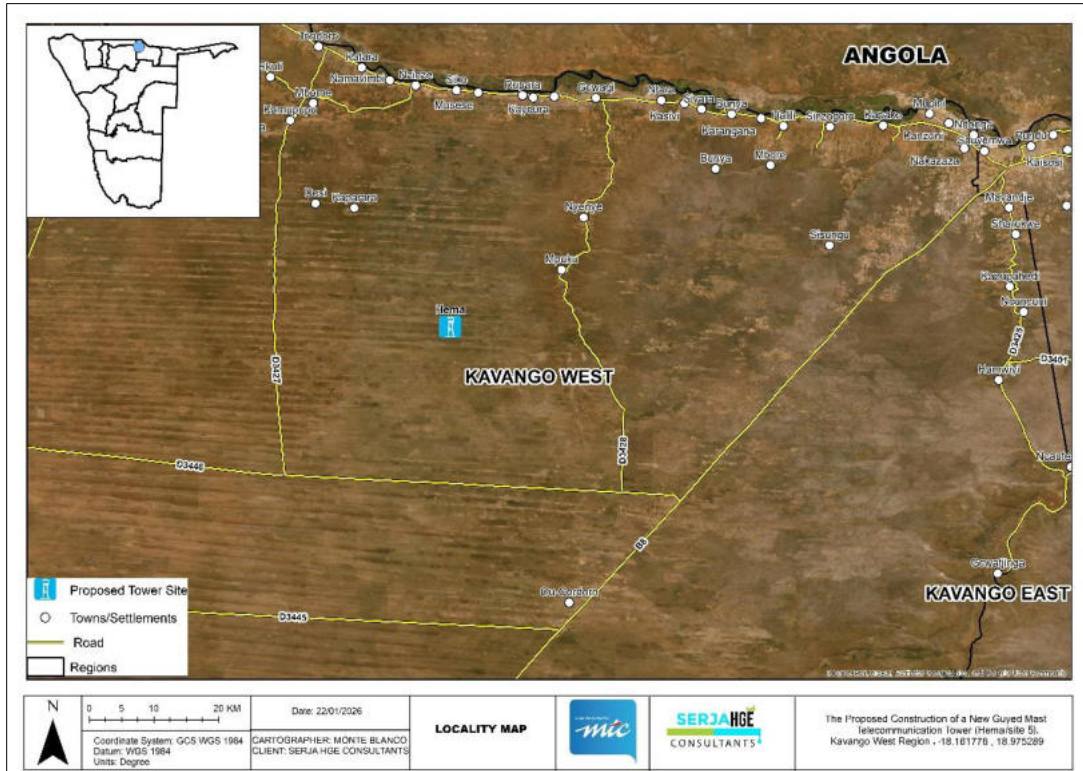


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Hema Site (Site 5) in Hema Village

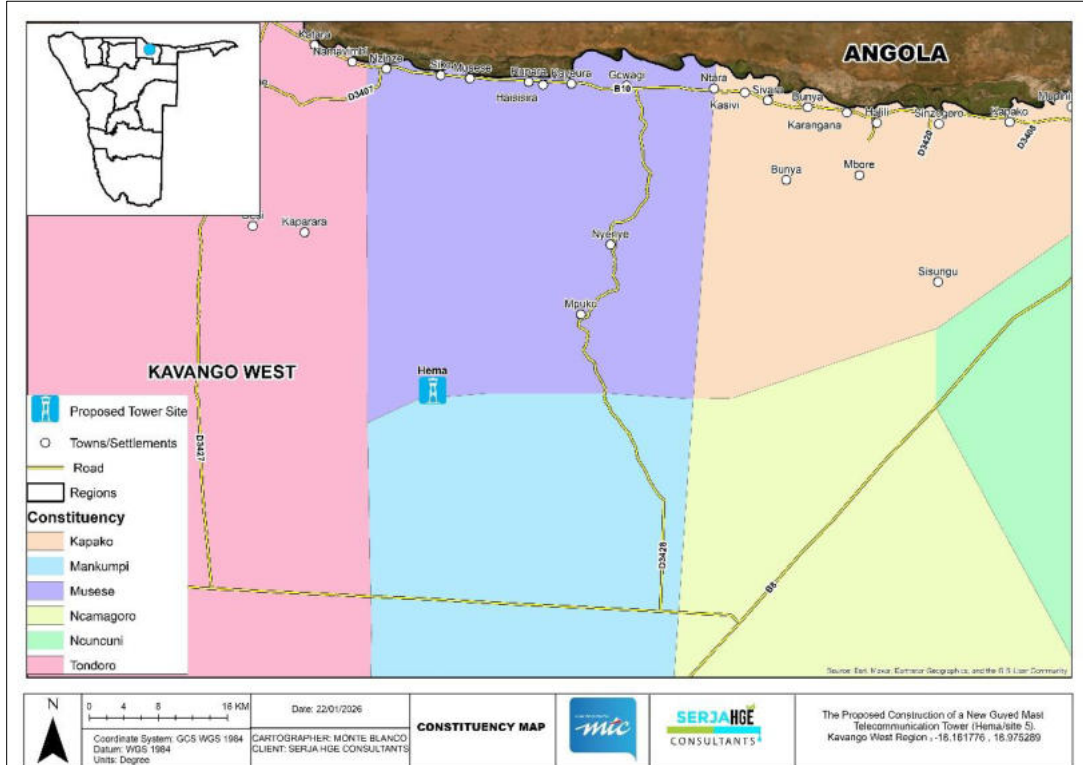


Figure 2: The Hema Site position on the constituency map (in the Musese Constituency)

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Planning and Design

The proposed 80m high guyed mast tower will host 3x dual-band antennae and 1x microwave dish. The selection of the tower site was based on the Radio Access Network Urban coverage for both voice and data services.

The design details of the proposed tower site are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Design details for the Hema Tower Site

Site	Tower Height	Antenna Type	Power supply during operation
Hema	80m	3x Panels (the tower will have a microwave dish for transmission)	3-phase alternating current (AC) power from the NORED power grid

2.2 Construction Phase

Construction works for this project will include excavation, concrete civil works, and tower rigging. Minimal earthworks will be required to prepare the sites for the tower construction and installation. The construction of the concrete foundation for the tower will take place onsite by using manual labor as far as possible.

The construction work is anticipated to take 2 to 3 months, and the construction activities will be limited to normal working hours, i.e., 08h00 and 17h00.

For security purposes, the tower site will be fenced off to restrict access to authorized personnel (such as the maintenance team) only and prevent vandalism and theft. A contractor will be appointed to carry out the tower construction/installation.

The appointed contractor will have to make arrangements for their logistics (including transportation of workers and materials to the site). Since the site will be in town, all workers will be commuting from their homes (for local general laborers). The specialized workers from outside Hema will set up accommodation establishments in the Village for the duration of the project, or, as necessary, be accommodated in the nearest towns.

MTC and its appointed contractor for construction will be required to adhere to health, safety, and environmental requirements for construction and operation (as well as maintenance) to be presented in the Draft EMP for the project.

2.2.1 Required Resources and Services

The following services and infrastructure, as provided below, will be required for the project activities:

- Human resources and accommodation: The number of workers required for the construction of the tower and all logistics related to the workers will be determined by the contractor to be appointed for construction works once the ECC is issued.
- Accommodation: The construction semi-skilled and unskilled workforce will be commuting from their homes. Given the distance from the nearest accommodation facilities in the area, the out-of-area specialised personnel (workers) will set up a campsite on-site, with the permission of the Ukwangali Traditional Authority (Hema Village headman).
- Water supply: although an insignificant amount of water is required during tower construction, minimal water will still be needed for in-situ concrete mixture (foundation casting) as well as drinking.

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The project's water will be sourced from the nearest water point, either by purchasing from the property owner's premises (upon getting consent or reaching an agreement to supply water) or the contractor will opt to bring their own water.

- Power supply: Electricity is not required during the construction stage of the tower, but only during the operational phase. The tower will be connected to the NORED power grid, passing near the Village for the operational phase.
- Fuel Supply (machinery and equipment): There will be no on-site refueling of project vehicles, as this will be required to be done at fuel service stations in Nkurenkuru Town (nearest town).
- Accessibility (roads): Access to the site can be made from the nearest local roads, i.e., D3427 and 3428, located on the western and eastern sides of the site, respectively.
- Waste management: the different waste will be handled as follows:

-Sewage: A portable toilet will be provided on-site and emptied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

-General and domestic waste: Solid waste containers will be made available onsite for waste storage and later proper disposal at the Nkurenkuru solid waste dumpsite (as the nearest town to the site).

-Hazardous waste: All vehicles, machinery, and fuel-consuming equipment on site will be provided with drip trays to capture potential fuel spills and waste oils.

The waste fuel/oils will be carefully stored in a standardized container to be disposed of at an approved hazardous waste management facility (such as the facility in Windhoek).

- Health and Safety: Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to all project personnel while on and working at the site. A fully-equipped first aid kit will be readily available on-site.

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- Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks: A minimum of two well-serviced fire extinguishers will be readily available on-site.

2.3 Operations and Maintenance Phase

During this phase, the tower is operational and provides telecommunication signals to residents, schools, and business communities in that part of Hema and other social services within the signal radius of the tower network.

The maintenance of the tower will be carried out by the MTC maintenance team/department according to maintenance schedules, as and when necessary. MTC is required to adhere to environmental, health, and safety measures as provided in the site Draft EMP.

3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

3.1 Positive Impacts (Benefits)

-Creation of temporary jobs during the tower installation phase.

-Increase access to telecommunications by enhancing communications capabilities in the area.

-Promotes the technical expansion of businesses and institutions such as schools, health centres, and other local social services due to improved access to reliable communication services in this part of the Hema Village and surrounding areas.

-Contributes to local economic development through increased access to telecommunications services for local amenities and social infrastructure in the area.

3.2 Adverse (Negative) Impacts

-Physical land/soil disturbance resulting in compaction and erosion

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- Environmental pollution (littering)
- Potential health and safety risks associated with the mishandling of construction and operations (and maintenance) equipment.
- Health and Safety issues related to Electromagnetic Radiation emitted from the antennae of cellular structures may affect human health.
- Civil Aviation concerns may arise regarding the height of the tower and the position and stability of transmitters concerning any civil aviation facilities in the tower's vicinity.
- Visual impact associated with the presence of the tower in the surroundings may be a nuisance to locals.
- Impact on archaeological and cultural heritage resources in the case of any archaeological and heritage finds onsite (inadvertent unearthing during site preparation/excavations).

The above-listed potential impacts, as well as new issues that may arise from comments submitted by I&APs via emails and/or to be noted from the consultations, will be described/assessed, and addressed in the EIA Report. The management and mitigation measures of these potential impacts will be provided in the Draft EMP for implementation.

4 THE EIA PROCESS STEPS

The following steps are followed for this EIA Study:

- Step 1: Project initiation - compilation of the BID, ECC application (and its registration on the ECC Portal of the MEFT), and development of the stakeholders list. The list will be updated throughout the EIA process as and when new I&APs are identified.
- Step 2: Baseline assessment - Literature and legal review (desktop study) of applicable data sources.

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- Step 3: Ongoing Public Consultation and facilitation (throughout the EIA process)

The EIA notifications will be placed in two different newspapers in November 2025 for two consecutive weeks.

- Step 4: Information sharing - Circulation of the BID to pre-identified I&APs and the public who request EIA registration.
- Step 5: Public consultation- Site visits and assessments, community consultation/engagements will be done in Hema, and engagement communication will be sent to Nkurenkuru (Kavango West Regional Council). Communication will be made to all registered and pre-identified stakeholders and I&APs.
- Step 6: Compilation of the draft EIA Scoping Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and review of these documents.
- Step 7: Final reporting and submission of the EIA Scoping Report and EMP to the Environmental Commissioner at the MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.
- Stage 8: Follow up with MEFT on the status of the evaluation of the submitted EIA documents and decision on the ECC.

All the inputs, concerns, issues, and/or comments should be put **in writing** (email, short messages (SMS or WhatsApp), or handwritten letters) so that they may be considered in the Environmental Assessment Report as well as in the Draft EMP.

Contact Persons for the EIA Process:

1. **Ms. Fredrika Shagama: (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP))**

2. Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP)

- Email: eias.public@serjaconsultants.com / stefanus@serjaconsultants.com
- Mobile No.: +264 81 749 9223 (Fredrika) & +264 81 400 0570 (Stefanus) - via WhatsApp or SMS only for easy recording of comments and or issues.
- P. O. Box 27318 Windhoek, Namibia

4.1 Details for EIA Consultation and Engagement

A consultation meeting and engagements with key stakeholders (and communities) will be held and conducted in Hema, and communication will be sent to the Kavango West Regional Council (including the Constituency Office).

4.2 Deadline for Registration and Comments

The last date for registration as I&APs and or to submit comments, concerns, and issues is **before the end of the day on Thursday, 05 March 2026.**