

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD (6KM) FROM IIPANDA YAAMITI SETTLEMENT TO ANDREAS AMUSHILA PRIMARY SCHOOL (PS) IN THE OMUSATI REGION

EIA COMMENTS

Commenter, Mode of Communication & Date	Comment / Suggestion / Issue	Response
Mr. Jesaya lithete: Ondjamba Village resident	If my land is expected to be affected by the expansion of the road and is not fenced off, do I need to wait for construction to begin before I can fence it, or can I show the officials where my land ends?	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): I believe you and your village headman know where your land begins and ends. Therefore, you need to provide evidence such as a Certificate of Registration or Recognition of Existing Customary Land Rights. Our surveyors will be on the ground to verify this information. The contractor will then approach you and the headman, at which point you will also provide them with the same evidence, which the headman will confirm. This will be before construction has commenced, before they reach your affected area. Mr. Andreas Nuuyoma (Enkombo Village Headman): If an individual still has not received their certificate, you should approach the Headman to discuss the way forward. We are your leaders, we know each household and can vouch for you, provided that you have the necessary identification documents and death certificates in cases where one has inherited the piece of land.
Ms. Agnes Nakale: Enkombo Village resident	What is the age range that qualifies for employment consideration on this project? And is it only for those currently unemployed?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes, EAP (Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants (Serja HGE Consultants)): If you are old enough to work, regardless of gender, as stated in the Namibian constitution, you are welcome to apply. If you are already employed and you feel that this short-term project will be more lucrative than your current job, then that decision is entirely yours to make.
	Are there limits as to how many workers can be recruited from each household?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Yes and No. If the contractor needs 5 mechanics from the village and the only ones available are from the same house, then it is quite possible, but if it is for unskilled work, then it would not be right to direct all earnings into one homestead.

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Mr. Wenlius Shoombe: Enkombo Village resident	When is the recruitment process expected to commence?	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): At this point, we are in the process of acquiring an ECC from the MEFT, which we will then submit to the Ministry of Works and Transport. Only after this can they appoint a contractor. The contractor will be the one to communicate that information.
Mr. Shikesho Fillemon: Enkombo Village resident	Are the 150 people predicted to be employed from along the entire road, or are there segments from which they will take 150 people each?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): These 150 people will not be hired at once; the contractor will need different skillsets in different numbers at different stages of the construction. The 150 refers to the number of people predicted to have been hired altogether by the end of the project, although this number could change depending on what the contractor encounters over the course of the project.
Mr. Linus Amupolo: Enkombo Village resident	Should we clear out our trees from the affected areas? Because we would want to use them to reinforce our houses and kraals, will the contractors replace our fences for us?	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): If you have a fence around your affected piece of land, it will be shifted and replaced with a new one on your behalf. In terms of the trees, you can let the contractor know of this request so that they can cut them appropriately according to your specifications and leave them there for you to use as you see fit. However, cutting down certain trees, such as mopane and camelthorn, will need a permit from the Forestry directorate of the MEFT, as they are protected by the Forestry Act.
Mrs. Eveline Nashilundo: Enkombo Village resident	I just want to highlight what was mentioned about unmarked graves and possibly buried explosives as a result of the liberation struggle. If anyone has any information or suspicion of an area to look out for, especially the older folks, it is important to come forward.	Mrs. Wilhelmine Thomas: I know of an area where soldiers used to be during the liberation struggle, which could still have explosives that may be triggered during construction; thus, care is recommended around that area.
Ms. Sylvia Hipondoka: Enkombo Village resident	Will this road go up until the other tarred road through Oshuungu?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Unfortunately, the Oshuungu side is not part of this scope of work for the road to go all the way to that side. However, we will include this in the minutes to the MWT for consideration in the future. Mr. Steven Lucas (Ombalala Village Headman): As a member of Etayi Planning Committee, I can confirm that that was the initial idea, but as Stefanus said, the budget dictates how much we can complete. The road was budgeted to end at the lipanda YaAmiti Clinic, but we pleaded

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		with the MWT to include Andreas Amushila Primary School, to end just beyond that water pan to improve access to the school, especially for learners, and they heard us.
Mr. Linus Amupolo	Is there compensation for fruit-bearing trees?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): There is a compensation criteria document that comes from the MEFT, which states how each kind of tree is to be compensated, whether it is fruit-bearing or not.
Mr. Nuuyoma Andreas: Enkombo Village Headman:	From here, we will go to the area of interest (the potential site of a historical war ammunition hiding spot) that Mrs. Wilhelmine Thomas was referring to, so you can take note of it.	Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Very well.
Mr. Daniel Ashipala (Secretary: lipanda YaAmiti Village)	Why is it that, for instance, when a road is said to be six meters wide, it is usually only that wide at the bottom but narrow at the top?	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): That is done to prevent water damage as it eases pressure. Another thing we should take note of is that when a certain kind of road is being prescribed for an area, there are factors that are considered before design and construction are done. For example, sometimes there is not much traffic on that route, and it could be that the road is primarily to cater to ambulances rushing to and from a clinic; therefore, this too can contribute to how a road is constructed.
	Who will provide PPE for the workers?	Stefanus Johannes (EAP): The appointed contractor will provide the PPE for all their workers.
	Contractors have a tendency not to provide employment contracts to their workers, they do not respect the clocking in and knocking off hours of their workers, and these workers do not even know how much or when they are supposed to get paid, or if they will get paid through a third party. All these things should be made clear to the employees through a document, so they arrive at work on time, knock off on time, and know how much and the exact date they get paid.	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): That is a good point that we take seriously. Our work does not end when the contractor is appointed. This means that we will continue to engage with the community throughout the construction phase, and it is through these engagements that you can raise all these issues, such as in cases where the contractor is not paying employees or is not adhering to the EMP.

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		Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): I can confirm that no recruitment will be done through a third party because it does not align with the EMP. They are usually the prime suspects in late payments.
Mr. Leo Petrus: lipanda yaAmiti Clinic Management	In every sitting we had about this road, it has been referred to as an access road, which, to my understanding, means a road that connects two places. I later found out that this road would no longer be a gravel road. Does that also mean it is not an access road anymore, and can it even accommodate two cars, or will one have to wait for the other to pass?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): This will be called an access road because the entire 9km road will connect the clinic, schools, and the rural communities to the tarred road/district road (D3609). It will be a durable road able to accommodate two vehicles going in opposite directions, but the Roads Authority cannot proclaim it. It will be called a district road only after completion, when it reaches the road on the other side, connects two district roads, and becomes part of the national grid. Only then can the Roads Authority proclaim it and award it a district road number.
Mr. Simon Nicodemus: Omafo Village Headman	Is this the original plan for the road that we were initially shown and agreed to, or did you change without informing us? I am asking because I am hearing that there were people placing pins in mahangu fields.	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): That must have been the surveyors taking soil samples because at times, there is a radius that must be checked to see the distance that the soil covers, and that field must have fallen into that radius. However, it does not mean that is where the road will go through. The plan has not changed. Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): Also note that so far nothing has been done on the ground towards construction, and there will not be any placing of pins when construction begins. It was purely just surveying the area along the proposed road route.
Mrs. Pelagia Angula: Omafo Village resident	My son has a plot somewhere along the road, and I am told that the road will go through it. The engineers have not approached my son, despite having had clear markings at the plot.	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Again, these are surveyors and Geotech specialists checking the general area. I apologise once again, because they should have made it clear to the community what exactly they were doing.
Mr. R Mumbala: lipanda yaAmiti resident	We thank you for coming to sit with us and for this road, but every time someone comes here with regard to this project, it is a new face, and it seems there is no communication between all of you. We are happy with the road, but we get confused by different faces on the project.	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Apologies for any inconvenience. The companies doing the designs and environmental consulting works are the same; however, we are a team of different people, and whoever is available for the project meetings on a specific date, they would take over and keep the project plans going, and not wait for the team member who was here before.

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Ms. Jovita Indombo (Otshoogolo Village Headwoman)	The man in question is Enos. He called me before coming here and informed me that he is from a laboratory in Ongwediva and that he would be in the area.	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): I know of that gentleman; he indeed works with soil samples. What you saw being placed in the mahangu field was not a pin but rather an instrument that extracts soil while recording those specific coordinates.
Mr. Emmanuel Reginald: Otshoogolo Village resident	You mentioned that you are looking for skilled workers. Is a skilled worker going to push a wheelbarrow?	Mr. Matti Magongo (Consulting Engineer): As we mentioned before, there are three skillset levels of employment opportunity: Skilled workers who have a qualification and good understanding of the job, semi-skilled workers who might possess little knowledge of the job through previous work perhaps, and unskilled workers who have no experience at all and no technical understanding of the work. So, there is something for everyone.