

COMMENTS AND INPUTS FROM THE EIA CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENTS

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a New Lattice (Free Standing) Telecommunication Tower Site on Erf 3973 in Extension 4, Nkurenkuru Town, Kavango West Region - Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)

The key comments and issues made during the EIA consultation process were recorded and noted as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Issues, suggestions, and comments received during the EIA consultation process for the Nkurenkuru Ex. 4 site

No.	Name of the I&AP/Commenter & Institution	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
1	Ms. Albertina Shatiwa: Nkurenkuru Town Council	<p>I see under your pre-identified negative impact, it talks of radiation. What are the measures put in place to prevent nearby people from being affected by radiation generated by the network tower?</p> <p>What is the minimum distance this network tower should be from any residential or any other dwellings?</p>	<p>Mr. Stefanus Johannes (Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)): There are standards of engineering that must be followed, meaning the amount of radiation to be emitted must be within a range that does not affect people and other beings around the tower.</p> <p>When it comes to distance, there are a lot of factors that come into play with network towers, such as the type of instruments being mounted on the tower and the frequency being transmitted. I will inquire with MTC technicians for the recommended distance for their type of network towers.</p>
2	Mr. Peter Ntjamba: Nkurenkuru Town Council	Are there any records of victims who have developed health issues due to radiation caused by any of the MTC network towers?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): From my knowledge, I have not heard of any, but I will enquire too if they have been recorded by MTC.
3	Mr. Frans Hevelo: Neighbouring homestead/landowner to the site	<p>I am very grateful to hear again about this network project, and it seems to me that it is really materializing.</p> <p>Please do not be bothered by the crops I planted at the site where the tower will be, as this is a townland and not mine. I just took a chance to grow some crops as the area has not been utilized for the past few years. If the need arises, I will remove my crops with no hesitation.</p>	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Thank you. This is well noted.

No.	Name of the I&AP/Commenter & Institution	Comment/Issue/Suggestion	Response provided by:
4		When exactly do we expect the tower to be built?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Currently, we are still busy with the EIA, and we anticipate finishing within a month, so we can submit for the ECC, but after submission, we cannot really give the time frame of the next necessary steps, which are approval and granting of the ECC from MEFT. From our recent experience, the review period at MEFT can take up to 2 months for network tower EIAs. MTC will then appoint a contractor to construct the tower and make it ready for operations.
5		Will this area be fenced off, or will the tower just be open with no sort of protection from thieves, children, and cattle?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): The area will definitely be fenced off for protection from external outsiders and to protect the tower itself, as well as ensuring community safety.
6	Ms. Magdalena Sikuvi: Kulisuka Primary School	I am seeing the potential risks associated with this project. How severe will this be for us, and what measures to address this?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): One of the main reasons for an EIA is to identify negative issues that can arise from this project and look for mitigation measures to be implemented to minimize or measures that will avoid some impacts from occurring. I have explained earlier that there is a document to be compiled, known as the environmental management plan (EMP), which incorporates the identified impacts and their mitigation measures to minimize the impact or avoid them.
7	Mr. Sikati Sikongo: Kulisuka Primary School	Is the tower safely distanced from the people to avoid the radiation issues?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): Looking at the location of the tower and technical design, it is safe.
8		In the instance where someone is hurt by this tower, is there any sort of compensation to compensate the hurt person, and who will be responsible for the compensation?	Mr. Stefanus Johannes (EAP): In terms of compensation, the incident must be investigated to see who is at fault. The EMP outlines compensation procedures in the event someone gets hurt.