



GA Environment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED RIETFONTEIN MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF THE RAPID LAND RELEASE PROGRAMME FOR THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

JULY 2020

This plan has been submitted as per the Directions Regarding Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19 Relating to NEMA Permits and Licenses issued by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on 05 June 2020. The plan is also as per the requirements of the General Provisions of Annexure 2 of the Regulations issued in terms of Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 of 2002) and published on 29 April 2020 in Government Notice No R.480 of Government Gazette No 43258.

Prepared by:	Submitted to
GA Environment (Pty) Ltd P.O. Box 6723 Halfway House, Midrand 1685 Tel. No.: (011) 312 2537 Fax. No.: 011 805 1950 Contact: Nyaladzi Nleya e-mail: environment@gaenvironment.com/ nyaladzin@gaenvironment.com	Gauteng Department of. Agriculture and Rural. Development. Mr Steven Mukhola Tel. No.: (011) 240 2500 e-mail: steven.mukhola@gauteng.gov.za

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 3

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS 4

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN 5

3 CONCLUSION..... 11

1. INTRODUCTION

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements (GDHS) intends to construct a mixed-use development on Portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 129 of the Farm Rietfontein in Lenasia Extension 10, within the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality (CoJ). The project is part of the Rapid Land Release Programme (RLRP) which was launched in 2018. GA Environment (Pty) Ltd as independent Environmental Consultants were appointed to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed development. The Draft Scoping report and the application form for the aforementioned project were compiled but are yet to be submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). The process has been delayed in response to the State of National Disaster Regulations in support of National Lockdown Directions issued by the minister on the 31st of March 2020 to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the 5th of June 2020, the minister issued directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. One of the requirements provided in the directions is that a Public Participation Plan shall be submitted to the competent authority, in instances where a case officer has been assigned to the project then the Public Participation Plan (PPP) shall be submitted to the case officer. The application has not been registered with GDARD and this PPP will be submitted directly to the Competent Authority.

According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act, the participation of all interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be promoted and all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) must to be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood. In order to give effect to the above sections, it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for Public Participation (PP) in decisions that may affect the environment.

The purpose of this document is to provide the competent authority with direction on the public participation processes to be fulfilled while ensuring that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) actions curtail the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the national state of disaster. It is the intention of GA Environment to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided for public participation and that all administrative actions are reasonable. While the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic are drastic, the specific measures recommended have been carefully considered to ensure that the process is transparent and participatory to all I&APs.

The NEMA EIA Regulations prescribe the minimum requirements for public participation as summarised in **Table 1**. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in line with the section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, additional measures have been proposed in this PP Plan. The level of public participation required for the proposed Rietfontein Mixed-Use Development has been informed by:

- the scale of anticipated impacts of the proposed project;

- the sensitivity of the affected environment and the community interest in the matters related to the project; and
- the characteristics of the potentially affected parties.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (Government Notice R. 982 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 07 April 2017) prescribes the minimum requirements for Public Participation through which all role players including potential I&APs, state departments, organs of state, and the competent authority (CA) to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the environmental impacts of the proposed activity or implications of a decision. These requirements and the sections of the report in which they have been addressed is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Minimum requirements for Public Participation

GN 982, Reference	Content	Reference in Table 2
41 (2) (a)	Fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of (i) (i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and (ii) any alternative site;	1.9
41 (2) (b)	Giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—	
(i)	the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site	1.3
(ii)	owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken	1.4
(iii)	the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;	1.5
(iv)	the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;	1.6
(v)	any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	1.7
(vi)	any other party as required by the competent authority;	1.4 & 1.7
41 (2) (c)	placing an advertisement in—	
(i)	one local newspaper;	1.8
(ii)	any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	N/A
42 (a)	A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority	1.2
43 (1)	A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application	2.1
43 (1)	In order to give effect to section 240 of the Act, any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment must be requested, subject to regulation 7(2), to comment within 30 days.	N/A

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The provision of public participation tasks has been outlined in **Table 2**. In addition to the public participation requirements, mechanisms for the undertaking of Public Participation, is subjected to all the applicable health and safety and other restrictions, directions and requirements determined in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act.

Table 2: Public Participation Procedure to be followed

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
Section 1. Initial Public Participation Phase			
1.1	Initial Correspondence with GDARD	A National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Query was submitted to GDARD on 20 th September 2019. The project was acknowledged and assigned reference: Gaut/001/19-20/0896 on the 25 th of September 2019.	25 th September 2019
1.2	Identifying and approaching specific I&AP's	A register of all I&APs is currently opened and maintained.	Ongoing
1.3	Written Notification of the owner or person in control of the site	The proposed site is located on the remaining extent of portion 129 of the Farm Rietfontein in Lenasia Extension 10 which belongs to the CoJ. Landowner consent will be obtained from CoJ and proof provided in the application form.	27 January 2020 Completed
1.4	Written Notification of occupiers of land adjacent to the site	Written notification has been provided to adjacent landowners during the initial public participation phase. This task was undertaken by physically handing out notification letters and by emailing notification letters to I&APs. Proof of such notification and an I&AP database will be included in the Draft Scoping Report.	27 January 2020 Completed
1.5	Written Notification of the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site	The ward councillor for Ward 8, Cllr Masotho Tsoetsi has been consulted and informed of the project and focus group meeting held. Proof of such notification will be provided in the Draft Scoping report which is available.	18 November 2019 Completed
1.6	Written Notification of the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area	Notification letters were sent through electronically to the CoJ Environmental Infrastructure and Services Department and the CoJ Region G Authorities. Proof of Such notification will be provided in the Draft Scoping Report.	15 November 2019 Completed
1.7	Written Notification of any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	The following organs of state have been identified as Commentary Authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gauteng Department of Local Government & Housing; City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality: 	15 November 2019 Completed

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CoJ Region G, Regional Offices; ➤ CoJ Town Planning Department; ➤ CoJ Environmental Infrastructure and Services Department; ➤ CoJ Johannesburg Social Housing Company; • Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency; • South African Heritage Resource Agency; and • Department of Water and Sanitation. <p>The above-mentioned departments will be provided with a copy of the Draft Scoping Report.</p>	
1.8	Placing an advertisement	An advertisement was placed on page 5 of the 28 th January 2020 to 3 February 2020 edition of <i>The Rising Sun Lenasia</i> newspaper.	28 January 2020 Completed
1.9	Fixing a notice board	<p>On-site notices presenting the project were erected on site and within close proximity of the site using A2 and A3 notice boards on the 27th of January 2020. These locations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along the M10 (western boundary of the Site); • At Volta Supermarket on Volta Street; • Shari Street Tuck Shop; • The corner of Shari Street and Avon Avenue; and • Unnamed road in Lehae. 	27 th January 2020 Completed
Section 2: Draft Scoping Report (DSR) Review Phase			
2.1	Distribution of DSR to registered I&APs and members of the public and notification of the availability of the report.	<p>The Draft Scoping report will be made available to the public by the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GladAfrica Group (Pty) Ltd Website; • Electronic copies via a link whereby the report can be downloaded. • Online SMS portal will be used to send bulk SMSs to I&APs where email addresses were not made available. <p>The public review period of the DSR will commence as soon as the PP Plan has been approved. Due to the national lockdown public venues such have been closed. All registered I&APs will be informed that due to the COVID 19 pandemic electron versions of the report will be made available. All I&APs will be provided with a link whereby the report can be easily downloaded. Hard copies of the report will be made available only to I&APs upon request in order to limit the risk of any possible contamination.</p> <p>GA Environment will engage with the councillor and CoJ Region G authorities moving forward</p>	<p>Provisional date for circulation of the DSR is 20/07/2020 to 21/08/2020</p> <p>One hard copy of the Draft Scoping Report will also be placed at the nearest public library which has recently been allowed to operate as per the requirements of the Regulations issued in</p>

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
		<p>regarding the communication of the project and the availability of the DSR. Proof of such communication will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>It is the considered opinion of GA Environment that this period is sufficient considering the measures that have been put in place to ensure that each registered I&AP will be provided an opportunity to receive notification or an electronic copy of the report. The Initial public participation commenced in January 2020 and a well-attended public meeting was held on the 16th of January 2020 with the residents of Lehae to adequately inform them of the project. The I&AP's consulted have not shown any discomfort or concern at the proposed application and therefore there is no need to extend review of the report by an additional 30 days.</p>	terms of Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act.
2.2	Distribution of Draft DSR to organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	<p>The Draft Scoping Report will be made available to the following Organs of State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gauteng Department of Agricultural and Rural Development; • Gauteng Department of Local Government & Housing; • City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality; • South African Heritage Resource Agency; • Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resource Agency; and • Department of Water and Sanitation. <p>Proof of submission will be submitted to GDARD with the Final Scoping Report. The above mentioned I&Ps will be informed of the directions given by DEFF and a link whereby the report and appendices can be downloaded. GA Environment will also make telephonic updates with the respective I&APs to confirm receipt of the report.</p>	Provisional date for circulation of the DSR is 20/07/2020 to 21/08/2020
2.3	Public Meeting/Open Day	<p>A public meeting was held on the 16th of January 2020 with the residents of Lehae. The attendance register was captured. Minutes were not compiled for the meeting, as the EAP was awarded a slot to present the proposed project to the Lehae community during the Lehae Monthly Meetings. The comments received during the meeting were captured in the Comments and Responses Report. Once the DSR has been made available for public and commentary Authority review, the EAP will determine the need based on the interest on the project for any additional meetings or other forms of public or authority engagement. Furthermore, the EAP will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All I&APs that provide comments will receive an acknowledgment from GA Environment. 	First public meeting took place on 16th of January 2020. The EAP will determine the need for any additional meeting. The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GA Environment set up a telephonic meeting with the I&AP to discuss their comments/concerns as well as the option of an online meeting should the need arise. • GA Environment respond to all comments received from I&APs; • The comments and response report be updated and made available in the final scoping report; and • All I&APs be provided with the link to download an electronic copy of the Final Scoping Report. 	Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19.
2.4	Focus Group Meeting with representatives of organs of state having jurisdiction	A focus group meeting was held with the councillor of Ward 8 (Mr. Mosotho Tsoetsi) and the CoJ Region G Manager (Mr Mickey Padayachee) on the 18 th of November 2019. A meeting was also held with the Ms Patricia Nkosi (Region G Project Manager for the Housing Department) on the 6 th of February 2020. The attendance registers of the focus group meetings were captured.	18th of November 2019 Completed
2.5	CA Site Visit	GA Environment will await the request from GDARD regarding a site visit. Social distancing and hygiene practices will be followed.	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. GDARD to approve or advice regarding the way forward.
Section 3 EIA Phase			
3.1	Distribution of Draft EIR to registered I&APs and members of the public and notification of the availability of the report.	The I&AP database will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. All I&APs on the database will receive an email notification on the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR). The report will be made available electronically however should public venues be open during the EIR phase the reports will be placed at the community facility. Before the placement of the reports at the venue, GA Environment will confirm the COVID 19 measures that are	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
		<p>in place for all visitors.</p> <p>Copies of the report will also be made available to the Ward Councillor for discussions in his committee meetings.</p> <p>EAPs will be expected to wear full Personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times and maintain social distances whilst interacting with members of the public.</p>	the activity.
3.2	Distribution of Draft EIR to organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	The Draft EIR will be made available to organs of state electronically or should they prefer a hard copy report, such will be made available upon request.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity.
3.3	Public Meeting/Open Day	Based on the legislated timeframes of a Scoping and EIA process, it is anticipated that a Public Meeting or Public Open Day could be held during the latter part of the fourth quarter of 2020. The EAP will assess the comments received from I&APs. The necessary arrangements will then be made through liaising with the ward councillor. GA Environment will adhere to Disaster Management Act requirements. The public meeting or open day may be broken up into various sessions which will limit the number of I&APs to each session, however each I&AP will be afforded the opportunity to meet the project team and obtain additional information on the project and provide their comments.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity
3.4	Focus Group Meeting with representatives of organs of state having jurisdiction	The necessity of focus group meetings will be assessed based on the comments received from I&APs and the request of I&APs to have a meeting.	To be confirmed by and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements (if applicable) prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity
3.5	Focus Group meetings with vulnerable and marginalised groups; and	GA Environment will liaise with the Ward Councillor regarding communities other than those identified and contacted by GA Environment.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements (if

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
			applicable) prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity.
Section 4 Post Environmental Authorisation Notification Phase			
4.1	Notification and Distribution of decision/outcome of Environmental Application to registered I&APs and organs of state.	All I&APs on the database will receive an email and sms notification on the decision made by GDARD including a copy of the National Appeal Regulations 2014.A copy of this Environmental Authorisation will be made available on request.	This Notification will be issued as per Annexure 8 of the Directions Regarding Measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 relating to NEMA Permits and Licenses issued on the 5th of June 2020.
4.2	Notification of vulnerable and marginalised groups	GA Environment will liaise with the Ward Councillor regarding communities other than those identified and contacted by GA Environment. GA Environment will set up a telephonic meeting with the I&AP to notify them of the decision in a language they are comfortable with. SMS portal will be used to inform those with cell phone handsets of the decision. In the event that specific groups or individuals do not have access to telephone or cell phone handsets, communication will be arranged with these parties through the ward councillor.	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. GDARD to approve or advice regarding the way forward.

3 CONCLUSION

GA Environment will ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided for public participation and that all administrative actions are reasonable. While the COVID-19 pandemic is unique, the specific measures recommended have been carefully considered.