

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

In Accordance with Requirements of Regulation 41 of GNR 326

21 February 2023

NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 102 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002 AS AMENDED) , THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998 AS AMENDED) AND THE NATIONAL WATER ACT (ACT NO 36 OF 1998) FOR IKWEZI MINING (PTY) LTD IN THE AMAJUBA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWA-ZULU NATAL.

APPLICANT:

Ikwezi Mining (Pty) Ltd.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:

BioBlue Environmental Sustainability (Pty) Ltd.

Mr. Zander Liebenberg / Arno van den Berg

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www.bioblueviro.com

Purpose of this Notice:

- To notify potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the intention of Ikwezi Mining (Pty) Ltd. to apply for a Section 102 application in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002 as amended) and the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998 as amended):
 - To add specific mining areas within their current approved Mining Right (KZN30/5/1/2/2/297MR) that was not previously assessed and to amend an existing Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
 - The aim is to initiate opencast and underground mining activities on the Struisvogelkop, Alleen 2 and Shepstone Lake areas. The operations will only include mining activities and all processing will be conducted at the existing legal Emoyeni Wash plant.
- To notify the identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the activities and processes to be undertaken as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice R. 327 and R. 324 of 4 December 2014 (as amended in 2017) published in terms of chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act as amended (Act No. 107 of 1998).
- To present stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the perceived biophysical and social impacts that have been identified related to the impacted area of the amendment.
- To obtain issues and concerns from I&AP's regarding the environmental authorization amendment processes, which will be addressed for the establishment and operational phase of the proposed operations.
- To give all potential interested and affected parties the opportunity to register and be placed on the register of I&APs for them to voice their opinions and concerns.
- To notify I&APs of the intention of Ikwezi Mining (Pty) Ltd to amend their current existing Water-use License to include these new areas and relevant water-uses in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act. 36 of 1998).

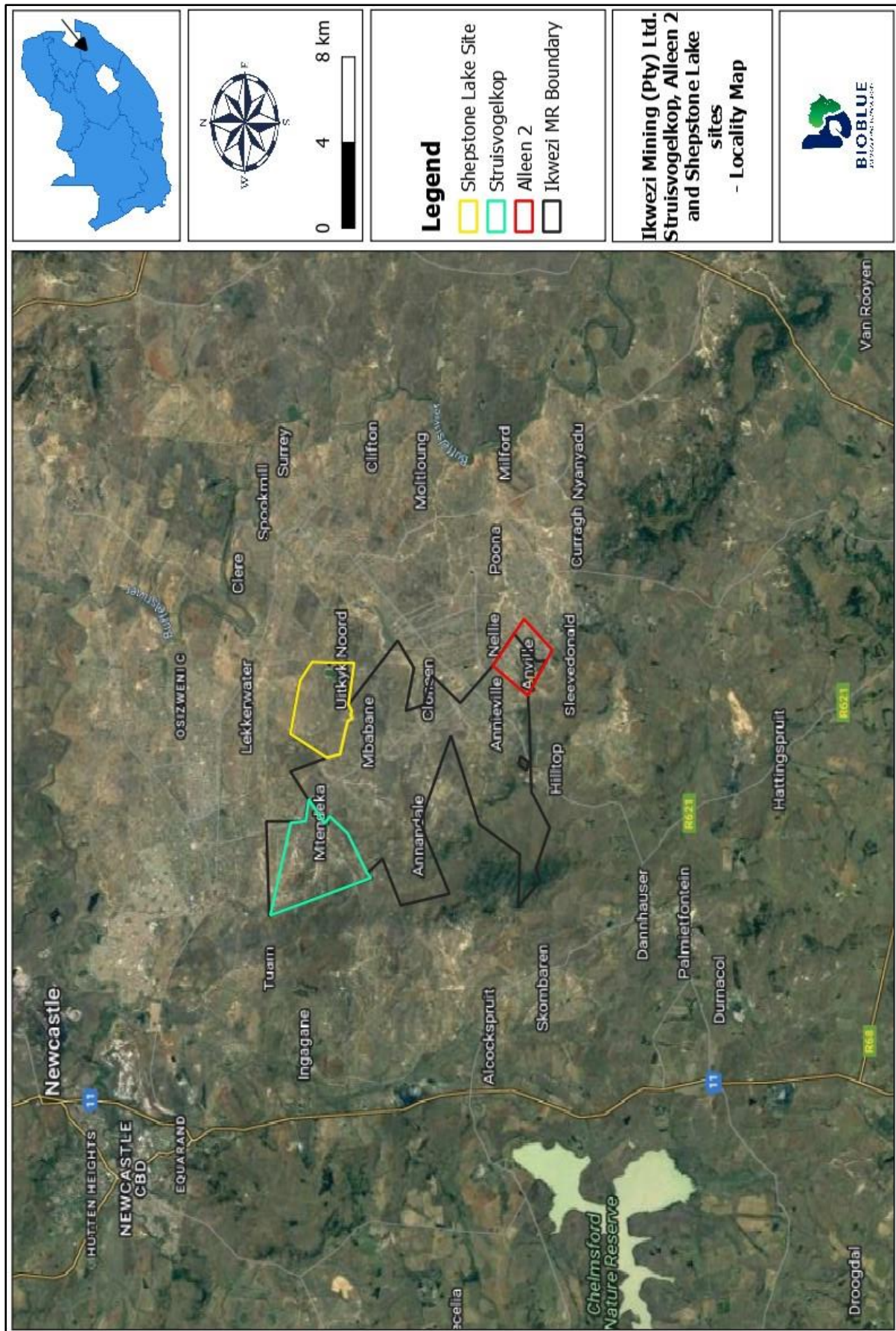


Figure 1: Locality Map indicating areas in green, red and yellow.

Potential interested and affected parties include:

- Occupants of the site, and where the occupants are not the owners, the owners of the site, or the owner of any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken.
- Owners, persons in control of land or occupants of adjacent properties.
- Municipal councillors and municipalities.
- Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of the activity.
- Any other party as required by the competent authority.

Introduction

Application in terms of Section 102 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002 as amended) and the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 as amended): For the addition of specific mining areas within the existing Mining Right, KZN30/5/1/2/2/297MR and amendment of the Environmental Management Programme.

EIA activity: GN R. 327 Listing Notice 1, Activity 21D:

Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an amendment or variation to a right or permit in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act , as well as any other applicable activity contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required for such an amendment.

Locality

The Struisvogelkop site is located approximately 15km south-east of Newcastle CBD and on the outskirts of the informal settlement of Ntendeka. The Alleen 2 site is located 13km north-east of Dannhauser and within the Anville informal settlement, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

Please refer to Figure 1 above.

Basic Project Description

Ikwezi Mining (Pty) Ltd. has an existing Mining Right that has authorised phased mining operations. This Section 102 Application is being applied for to include areas within the Struisvogelkop and Alleen 2 areas that were not specifically assessed during the initial application and to amend the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Struisvogelkop and Alleen 2 will consist of Opencast as well as underground mining while Shepstone Lake will consist of opencast mining operations.

Environmental Study Process

The Environmental Impact Assessment process consists of two main components, namely (i) the technical/biophysical process and (ii) the public participation process.

The technical process includes, but is not limited to, the following aspects:

- Terrain investigations.
- The identification and assessment of biophysical elements within the study area.
- Compilation of an Environmental Impact Report and EMPr, and
- Input from Specialist reports.

The public participation process includes:

- Compilation of a database of stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties.
- Legal notices of the environmental process (press advertisement and on-site).
- Dissemination of information to stakeholders and I&APs.
- If needed, conduct an open day(s) or meetings where Interested and Affected Parties can view the lay-out plan and be informed of the functioning of the treatment process in basic terms.
- Identification of environmental, as well as social issues and concerns, as raised by I&APs or other relevant stakeholders, and
- Addressing all concerns raised by I&APs.

The public participation process is conducted in parallel with the Environmental Impact Assessment process (technical/biophysical process). The public participation process does not aim to promote agreement amongst I&APs or quell possible

opposition against a project. The process is made open and transparent to all those involved. Additionally, it is considered important to involve I&APs as early in the Environmental Impact Assessment process as possible, to ensure informed decision-making and effective participation throughout the study.

Comments or Objections

Kindly submit the attached Registration and Comment Sheet, to register as an Interested and Affected Party, with possible issues and concerns relating to the proposed development, to the contact details listed below.

The Registration and Comment Sheet should reach us no later than 23 March 2023. BioBlue Environmental will engage with various stakeholders and communities such as Municipalities, Farmers, and Environmental Departments.

Hard Copies of the Reports will be available at Ikwezi Mining Offices – Kliprand Colliery.

Soft Copies will be available on the BioBlue Environmental website (www.bioblueenviro.com) and a direct link will be emailed to all I&APs.

Specialist Studies to be Conducted

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment
- Aquatic and Wetland Assessments
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Geo-hydrological Impact Assessment
- Stormwater Management Plan, including Floodlines and Water Balance

Registration and Comment Sheet

Application in terms of Section 102 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002 as amended) and the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 NEMA as amended): For the addition of specific mining areas within the existing Mining Right, KZN30/5/1/2/2/297MR and amendment of the Environmental Management Programme.

Please complete and return as soon as possible, but no later than 23 March 2023 to:

Mr. Zander Liebenberg / Mr. Arno van den Berg

Tel: 082 562 1404 / 082 570 7072 e-mail: info@bioblueviro.com

Title_____Initials_____Surname_____

Organisation/Firm/Position/Nature of Involvement in the project e.g., property owner:

Street / Physical Address:

Postal address:

Postal Code: _____

Telephone Work: _____ Telephone Home: _____

Cell phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

1. What are the primary concerns faced by you/ your community/ your organization with regards to the proposed Section 102 Amendment application for the continuation of Mining Activities?

2. Do you have or know of any information that might be relevant to the Environmental Impact process (e.g., environmental information and community, social or economic information)?
