

BASIC (ENVIRONMENTAL) ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RETHUSHENG SPECIAL SCHOOL, LIMPOPO

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

COMPETANT AUTHORITY: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with an overview of the scope, nature and location of the proposed project development. This document provides a brief description of the project and Basic Assessment process that will be followed, and to obtain initial comments and contributions from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the issues relating to the proposed development.

BACKGROUND

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Basic Assessment process] has commenced to assist the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) in determining the extent and significance of the environmental consequences associated with the proposed development of Rethuseng Special School.

Notice of Basic Assessment Process is given in terms of regulations published in Government Gazette No. R982, under Section 40(1) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998) as amended, of intent to carry out the proposed activity. Issues of concern and potential environmental and social impacts will be evaluated during the Basic Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Findings of the Basic Assessment Process, including concerns raised by I&APs, will be submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) for consideration and decision making.

I&APs are hereby invited to comment on the environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed Rethuseng Special School development. Your comments will ensure that relevant issues are evaluated and will form part of the Assessment.

Kindly complete the registration form at the end of this document and send (either via email, or WhatsApp) to Musa Netshivhambe at Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd, to register your interest in the proposed activity and provide your input.

Your comments on this document must reach Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd by 23:59 on **29 September 2025**. Please use the details below:

Musa Netshivhambe,
Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Address: No 9 Lords Lane Street, Northview Complex,
Bendor Park, 0699
Cell: (073) 977 9414; E-mail: musa@ourbiosphere.co.za

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

Notice is hereby given that Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads & Infrastructure (LDPWR&I) intends to lodge an Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107, 1998) (NEMA) with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

Project Details: Rethuseng Special School, Located on Remaining Extent of Farm Cromford 690-LR, (S: 23°33'11.82", 28°57'23.19"). will comprise of a boarding facility for learners with special needs, boys & girl's dormitories, staff residence, classrooms, laundry, medical building, assembly hall, vocational room, care takers rooms, parking bays, arts and craft centre, ablutions, dining hall, wood and metal centre as well as two sports fields.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Basic Assessment Process for this assessment will be conducted in accordance with Government Gazette No. R982 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment regulations of 2014.

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA regulations list activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require authorisation from the relevant environmental competent authority. The regulations further specify the assessment process, and the information, that is required to enable LEDET to make an informed decision regarding the proposed activity.

Activities R983 (27), R985 (14), listed under the NEMA EIA regulations (GN R 983), is the main activity associated with the proposed Rethuseng Special School construction, calling for an EIA process to be followed:

GN R.983 Activity (27):

The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation,

GN R.985 Activity (12):

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.



WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

These projects will involve an application for environmental authorization through a Basic Assessment (BA) Process. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place. The purpose of the EIA (Basic Assessment Process) is to demonstrate to the authorities and the project proponent what the potential consequences of their choices will be in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be evaluated and incorporated into the final design if necessary.

The BA Process aims to identify the key project issues raised by the proponent, consultants and the public; consider project alternatives; and through public participation, ensure consensus is reached regarding the issues to be addressed in the BA Process. A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is produced, which is released to the public for comment. Prior to submission of the final BAR to LEDET, the public is provided with another opportunity to further comment on the matter.

Once the draft BAR has been reviewed by Interested and Affected Parties, comments received are collated and the report is amended as appropriate and finalized. The final BAR is then submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (LEDET) for consideration.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of EIAs, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process.

The key objective of public participation is to provide I&APs with an opportunity to provide comment and input in the planning phase of the project. Issues of concern and suggestions raised by I&APs will be addressed and responded to as required in the Draft Basic Assessment Report.

I&APs will also be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of Basic Assessment Report and findings of the Specialist studies during the specified comment periods. I&APs will be provided with a 30-day comment period in which to raise issues and / or concerns in response to the Background Information Document.

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) will be compiled and will be available for public comment for a period of 30 days.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION...continues

Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) including Comments and Responses from the public will be submitted to LEDET for decision. I&APs will be notified in writing of any decisions made by LEDET.

Please note that communications regarding the process and the availability of reports will only be sent to registered I&APs. To register for the process, and thus receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the signed registration sheet at the back of this document, together with your contact details and nature of interest, to Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Public Meeting

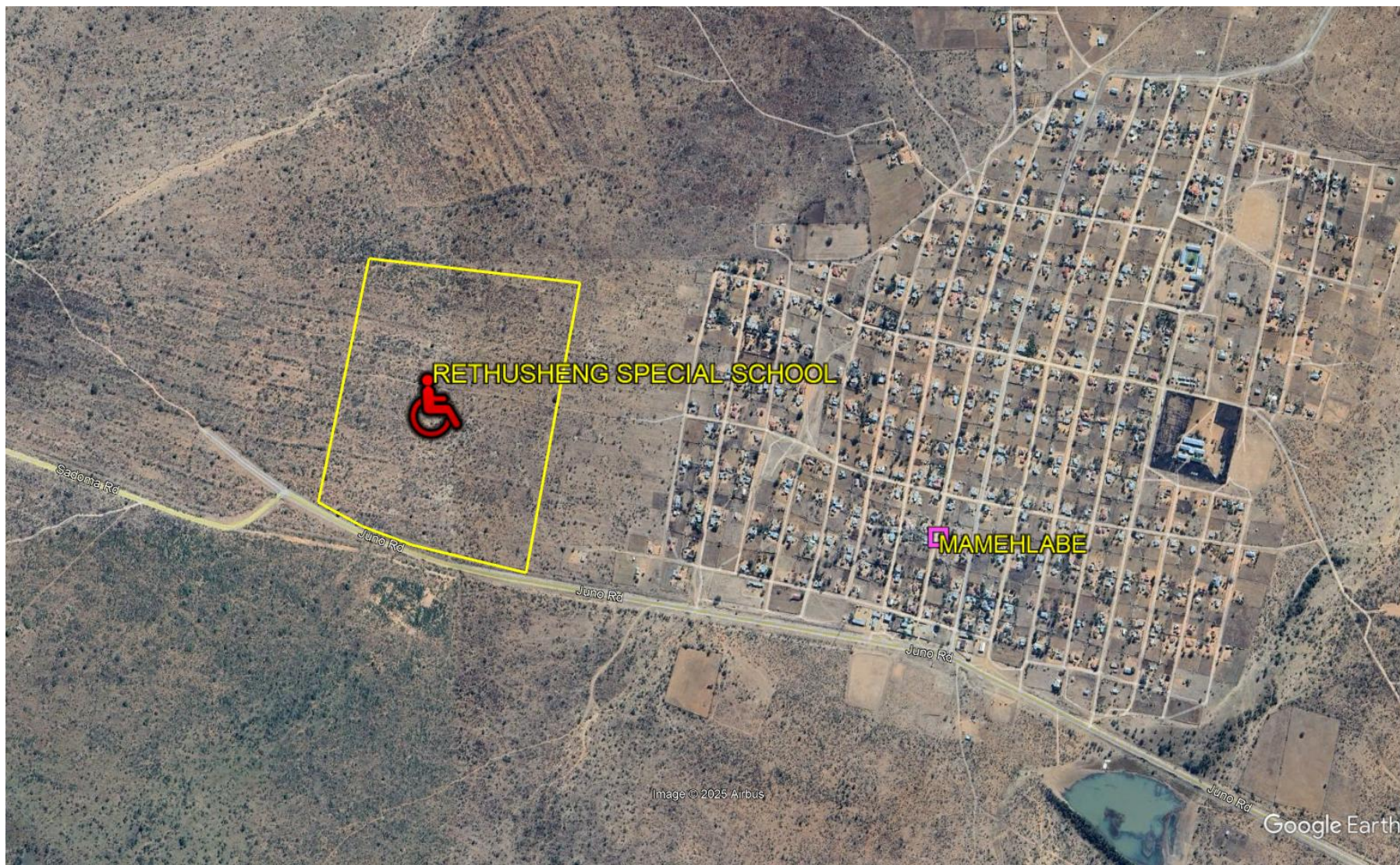
There is No virtual or in person public or stakeholder meetings have been scheduled (unless requested).

BRIEF BAR PROCESS

- Public meeting with I&APs and regulatory authorities (if required).
- Submit application to the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
- Public & authority review of draft BAR (30 calendar days). Update the draft BAR with comments received during the review period.
- Submit updated Final BAR to the competent authority
- Review of the Final BAR by the competent authority.
- Circulate decision to I&APs on the project database



Pictures showing some of the site notice posted on site.





28 August 2025

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party and/or bring to the attention of Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd the following comments
(please use additional sheets of paper if required).

(In order for your contact details to be captured on our database - Please fill out the sheet below)

I&AP Details:	
Name:	
Organisation:	
Telephone Number:	
E-mail :	
Physical Address:	
Postal Address	
Fax Number	

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Date:.....

Closing Dates: 29 September 2025