



Envirodu Consulting & Training Solutions cc P. O. Box 4120 Swakopmund Email: ecutscc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Public Consultation Meeting on 6 December 2025

Okombahe Service Station Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Meeting Title:	Public Consultation on Proposed Okombahe Service Station
Date:	Friday, 06 December 2025
Time:	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location:	Klaasen Camp Okombahe Community Hall
Attendance:	Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs), Project Proponent Representatives, ESIA Consultant Team, Local Authority Representatives.
Chaired By:	Insert Name of ESIA Consultant/Chairperson

1. Summary of Issues and Response Report (IRR)

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting: to present the findings of the ESIA and systematically capture public concerns regarding the proposed Okombahe Service Station. A diverse range of issues were raised by IAPs and stakeholders, which were grouped into four distinct categories for structured response and mitigation planning: **Environmental, Socio-Economic, Governance, and Sustainability**.

1. Issues and Concerns Raised by IAPs

The following table summarises the core issues and specific concerns articulated by the IAPs during the meeting:

Environmental Issues

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Groundwater Contamination	Critical Risk: Potential for leakage from Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and piping, posing a severe threat to the local aquifer. Query: What is the depth to the water table, and what continuous electronic monitoring system will be installed to ensure immediate leak detection?
Soil Contamination	Risks of surface soil contamination from routine fuel spills during refuelling operations and bulk tank filling.
Waste Management	Hazardous Waste: Disposal methods for used oil, oil filters, and contaminated rags. Solid Waste: Proper management of general domestic and convenience store waste, especially if a car wash is included.
Air Quality	Emissions from fuel vapours (Volatile Organic Compounds – VOCs) and localized air quality impacts due to increased vehicle idling and traffic.
Noise Pollution	Impact of noise during construction (heavy machinery) and operation (pumps, compressors, vehicles) on nearby sensitive receptors, including residences.

Social Economic Issues

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Safety Risks	Anxiety among residents regarding the inherent fire/explosion risk of a fuel facility and the need for a rigorous Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and sufficient fire prevention measures.

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Traffic Impacts	Concerns regarding increased traffic volume on local roads, potential congestion at the site entrance/exit on the C36, and safety risks to pedestrians and children .
Job Creation and Local Benefit	Positive: Demand for clarification on the number of permanent jobs created. Concern: Request for a clear mechanism to prioritize local Okombahe residents for employment and assurance of using local suppliers and services.
Visual Impact/Aesthetics	Potential conflict between the modern service station design, signage, and night-time lighting with the natural desert landscape and the preservation of dark skies.
Land Use Conflict	Confirmation required on the appropriateness of the site's proximity to sensitive land uses (e.g., schools, hospitals, residential areas).

Governance Issues

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Zoning and Land Use	Requirement for confirmation that the site has been formally and appropriately zoned by the local authority for a fuel retail and commercial activity.
Compliance with ECC Conditions	Concern that the Proponent may fail to uphold and implement the stipulated conditions in the final Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).
Emergency Services Readiness	Request for assurance that local emergency services (Police, Fire) are trained, equipped, and fully aware of the facility's hazards and response protocols.
Monitoring and Reporting	Clarity needed on the party responsible for long-term monitoring (e.g., groundwater testing) and the mechanism for transparent reporting of results to the local community and relevant Ministries.

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Local Authority Involvement	Clarification on the extent of the Okombahe local council's involvement in the ongoing oversight and management of the facility's operations.

Sustainability Issues

Concern Category	Specific Issues Raised
Water Usage	Concern over the high volume of water required for operations in an arid environment and its impact on local resources. Query: Will water-efficient technologies (e.g., recycled water for a car wash) be utilized?
Energy Efficiency	Demand for the inclusion of renewable energy (e.g., solar power for lighting/pumps) and energy-efficient building design to reduce reliance on the national grid.
Decommissioning Plan	Assurance required that the Proponent has a clear long-term strategy, including financial provision , to safely remove USTs, remediate contamination, and rehabilitate the site if operations cease.
Climate Change Resilience	How the facility is designed to manage future climate-related risks, such as extreme heat and potential changes in rainfall.

Way Forward

The ESIA Consultant Team acknowledged all issues and concerns raised, confirming that they will be formally incorporated into the final **Issues and Response Report (IRR)** and will directly inform the finalization of the **Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)**.

Action: The Proponent and ESIA Consultant will provide detailed, written responses to all questions concerning technical specifications (e.g., UST monitoring, fire suppression, water table depth) and governance commitments (e.g., zoning status, employment prioritization) in the final ESIA Report submitted to MEFT.

Next Step: *The meeting concluded with an invitation for IAPs to submit any further written comments within the stipulated comment period.*



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