

Our Ref: MP30/5/1/2/2/10259MR

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Attention: Mr. Tony Carnie

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR A MINING RIGHT, INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE, AND A WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR TENBOSCH MINING (PTY) LTD FOR COAL ON PORTIONS 21, 55, 56, 64, 65, 66, 69, & 213 OF TENBOSCH 162 JU: PROTION 2, 5 & 6 OF TURFBELT 593 JU; REMAINING EXTENT OF TECKLENBERG'S RANCH 548 JU SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BARBERTON IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

REFERENCE: MP30/5/1/2/2/10259MR

Your letter dated Friday, 06 October 2023 bears reference.

Without Prejudice, the contents of this letter and responses herein are provided with the intent to provide clarity rather than admission to any interpretation. In addressing your inquiries, we aim to offer accurate and factual information to the best of our knowledge. We believe the information below will shed light on the project's various aspects and may not necessarily align with the specific interpretations presented in your questions.

## **1. Your Question**

How can registered I&APs or ordinary members of the public access the draft EIA/EMPR and other related documents about this project? (Though I have obtained a copy of the draft report and some of the specialist studies from other parties, I visited the Kimopax website and was not able to view or download any documents in this regard). If such documents are not accessible on your website, are they accessible from another website? If not, can you please comment on whether you believe Kimopax has conducted a fair, transparent and open public participation process with regard to this project?

## **Our Response**

Yes, Kimopax, an Independent EAP Consultant to Tenbosch project has conducted a fair, transparent and open public participation process with regard to this project. In April 2023, Stakeholder Registrations were invited and opened between April 2023 until



September 2023. From inception, Background Information Documents (BID) on Tenbosch project and the comments sheet were provided. An opportunity was extended to All registered interested and affected parties (IAPs) to request relevant documents. Furthermore, Site notices were placed in and around the affected communities, newspaper advert was issued, report was made available at the municipality offices and library, and public meeting was held on 23 September 2023 where all stakeholders were invited. Draft EIR and specialist reports are now available on [www.kimopax.com](http://www.kimopax.com) (projects).

## 2. Your Question

Tenbosch has stated that it will appoint an independent contractor for the maintenance and operation of the proposed coal processing plant. Why is that? Does Tensbosch not have the resources or capacity to operate the plant on its own? Does Tenbosch/Manzolwandle have any prior experience in coal mining - and if so, what are the relevant details of its current coal mining operations/experience?

## Our Response

Be rest assured, Tenbosch company personnel have experience in mining.

Typically, a mining project encompasses multiple phases within its development cycle. At Tenbosch, we believe in a comprehensive and strategic approach to our mining development lifecycle. Human Resource recruitment and the appointment of the independent contractors are integral components of our evolving process. The decision to appoint independent contractors for some of our operational processes should not be misconstrued for lack of lack of resources or capacity within Tenbosch. Instead, it is part of our evolving project strategy aimed at ensuring efficiency, expertise, and seamless operations. The project understands the importance of local procurement and employment. Most assuredly, we are committed to maximizing local opportunities for employment and procurement. Our goal is to create a positive impact on the local community by fostering job creation, skill development, and sustainable economic growth.

### 3. Your Question

The draft EIA/EMPR is ambiguous about whether Tenbosch intends to pursue underground or open-cast mining techniques, or a combination of both. While the EIA suggests that underground mining is the preferred method, it does not rule out the possibility of open-cast mining in some areas if a mining permit is granted. Yet, the specialist studies appear to be confined to assessing the impacts of underground mining alone. As the EAP, how can you offer an informed and impartial opinion to DMRE on whether mining should be permitted or not when the impacts of open-cast mining do not appear to have been evaluated in any detail during the EIA process?

### Our Response

The proposed and intended mining method is underground mining, with limited surface excavations/workings confined to the area where the shaft will be sunk. Any other surface excavations serve as preparations for the subsequent underground workings. Please note that these are included in the EIA study.

### 4. Your Question

The EIA appears to have confined itself to assessing the impacts of mining solely from the initial mining operation (as detailed in the Figure 20 site layout map) rather than all future operational phases to the north of the N4 highway. Do you disagree with this conclusion - and if so why?

### Our response

Yes, I disagree. The proposed planned surface infrastructures are located in the southern section of the N4 road, where the area is anticipated to be affected. As previously alluded to, mining projects evolves, thus, we recognise that there might be modifications in the future. If such changes/modifications necessitate authorization, Tenbosch, as a dedicated company, pledges to adhere to relevant regulations. We are committed to conducting comprehensive studies addressing the impacts of these potential alterations or developments on the area during future mining operations.



## 5. Your Question

Has Kimopax developed its own in-house methodology for ranking environmental impact assessments? If so, how do you respond to suggestions that the Kimopax methodology under-estimates impacts in comparison to industry assessment benchmarks such as the Cabanga Environmental assessment methodology?

### Our Response

Kimopax has developed its in-house methodology for ranking environmental impact assessments and has no intention to adopt other companies ranking methodologies. We therefore welcome you to compare with the Cabanga Environmental assessment methodology for reference purposes.

## 6. Your Question

What are the remaining timelines and procedures for final authorisation of the current Tenbosch mining rights/permit application?

### Our Response

To date, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 is the date of final submission to the DMRE.

It is important to highlight that Kimopax has sought an extension pending approval from DMRE in response to requests from the Marloth Park Property Owner's Association whom we also value as a stakeholder to the Tenbosch project.

The above stakeholder requested an additional meeting considering that a public meeting was conducted on 23 September 2023 at a venue that they requested changed for reasons provided on various emails exchanged with the EAP.

Emphasizing our commitment to meaningful participation, we have proactively arranged a meeting to take place on the 21st of October 2023 at the Marloth Park Community Hall. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting, as your input is highly valued and appreciated.



**kimopax**  
your future in safe hands

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## 7. Your Question

Are there any further comments Kimopax/Tenbosch wish to make about the EIA process or the project proposal?

## Our Response

I appreciate your interest in our Tenbosch project and your dedication to ensuring accurate and comprehensive reporting. I appreciate all your comments and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Lufuno Nengwani

