

Public Participation Contributions regarding proposed development to establish Haskeenpan, Mier Municipality, Northern Cape as an Extreme Land Speed Track.

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Draft

Public Participation Contributions regarding proposed development to establish Haskeenan, Mier Municipality, Northern Cape as an Extreme Land Speed Track.

Background

Northern Cape is repositioning itself as **Africa's 'Extreme Sport Destination'** as it is host to a range of large-scale events i.e. the Green Kalahari Canoe Marathon, with the capacity to catalyse economic growth and development.

Hakskeen Pan, owing to its optimal terrain, located within Mier Local Municipality, is preparing to establish itself as the worldwide extreme land speed destination.

The speed on land events includes the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car initiative from the United Kingdom and the Kalahari Speed Week.

Bloodhound aims to design and manufacture a super-sonic car capable of setting a new land speed record (of 1 000 miles/1 610 km per hour) and is scheduled to demonstrate this ability at Hakskeen Pan in 2016 or shortly thereafter. To stage this event, a high speed facility has to be developed on and around Hakskeen Pan which include a dedicated track of 20km (for Bloodhound; a trackside Airstrip, Corporate Hospitality Area, A technical Camp, A domestic Camp and A Fuel Depo.

Kalahari Desert Speed Week, offering motor and speed enthusiasts an opportunity to test their vehicles top-speed under ideal racing conditions. The pan offers a 7km specially prepared clay track, a landside airstrip, camping and caravan space, tent rentals, ablution facilities, communication services, and a well-equipped main tent offering meals and drinks.

Eco Speed Week, also hosted on the pan, caters for all zero-emission vehicles including those powered by hydrogen, bio-fuel, gas and electricity and showcasing some of the latest green technology.

An associated performance is the Upington All Tar Speed Week hosted at the Upington International Airport. As it has one of the world's longest runways (5.5.km) it is an ideal location for top-speed attempts and simultaneously identified as a cargo hub as the runway allows for the landing of jumbo jets capable of accommodating massive cargo loads.

Related, though not part of this project, is the development of Upington Airport into a world-class cargo hub and storage facility ('mothballing' of ±350 private and government owned aircraft on a 50ha platform). It also ensures that Upington Airport becomes a preferred destination for project teams transporting large equipment such as those involved in the Bloodhound SSC and other technology ventures.

The Hakskeen Pan development is leveraged by the Bloodhound SSC initiative. The development aims to sustain socio-economic development for the Mier Local Municipality and the wider region. Hence its *Strategic Vision is to enhance local livelihoods and facilitate economic growth in the Mier Local Municipality and wider Green Kalahari region by establishing the area **and Hakskeen Pan** as a*

top tourism destination. To achieve this vision, event related opportunities, additional activities outside of the event and establishing an event legacy are the three drivers to establish the Pan as the World's speed destination. The strategy and vision is therefore part of a holistic attempt by the Northern Cape Provincial Government to address structural challenges in the rural economy, to capacitate communities in locally driven development, and to facilitate business establishment and job creation.

The most significant impact of the Bloodhound SSC event on the local economy will occur in the tourism industry. Direct impacts include an increase in demand for accommodation, meals, drinks and guided tours of the region. The event will also encourage lasting infrastructure and service delivery including the development of new tourism facilities, improved transportation networks and communication infrastructure. According to the Integrated Development Strategy, the Bloodhound SSC initiative has direct linkages to several local industries, namely tourism, SMMEs community services and infrastructure, science and technology, sports and recreation, education and renewable energy. Although much of this demand will occur in the lead up to, during, and after the land speed record attempt, there is significant potential to leverage this into sustained economic growth.

The Bloodhound SSC event will stimulate the purchase of consumables, crafts and other goods by the Bloodhound team and event spectators. These visitors are also likely to demand a range of local community and personal services including healthcare, entertainment and laundry services. These industries will also receive an indirect boost through the anticipated expansion of tourism following the event. To deliver the required services, community and personal services i.e. education and skills development is a top priority for the Bloodhound team. In collaboration with local authorities the Bloodhound team can implement school education programmes while also encouraging youth to develop a passion for science and engineering.

Approach to public participation

Public participation is required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended ("NEMA"), Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, and the Section 24G Application in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010 and the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) and Land Use Planning Act (LUPA), 2015.

The proposed Speed Week Facility at Hakskeenpan includes activities listed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 and the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010 and requires a Land Use Application in accordance with LUPA, 2015.

EnviroAfrica cc has been appointed by the Mier Local Municipality, to undertake the NEMA Application for Environmental Authorisation process, Leap Sustainable Development was approached by EnviroAfrica to conduct the public participation process.

To engage, inform and consult as broadly as possible across the community i.e. community members, civil entities and the private sector who may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project the public participation process was conducted according to the following phases:

- Phase 1: Preparing & Announcing community participation sessions
- Phase 2: Interactive sessions, preliminary report, focus groups to refine mitigation measures (six community sessions, a session for municipal and government officials and a session for business and industry. On completion of session the number of focus groups will be determined)
- Phase 3: Compiling final report and mitigation measures
- Phase 4: Announcing and conducting feedback sessions & determine way forward



A workshop session was convened for municipal and government officials during the preparation stage. Officials required to attend the community sessions to provide technical input were identified and attended the community sessions.

Advertisements to announce the community sessions and project information documentation were displayed at public places and were followed by Public Open Meetings held at the following venues and dates (8 and 9 February 2016):

Town	Venue	Address	Time	Date
Askam_Kameeldoring	Community Hall	92 Seringboom Street	10:00	8 March 2016
Groot Mier	Primary School	Primary School Hall	15:00	8 March 2016
Klein Mier	Community Hall	498 Buite Street	17:00	8 March 2016
Philandersbron	Community Hall	64 Van Der Westhuizen Avenue	10:00	9 March 2016
Louwsbos	Community Hall	449 Gorrel Street	15:00	9 March 2016
Rietfontein	Community Hall	53 Daanswanepoel Street	17:00	9 March 2016

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the application and invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments and identify any issues, concerns or opportunities relating to this project.

Contributions by public and responses

The workshop outcomes are documented as conducted.

Askam, Askam Community Hall, 8 February 2016

1.	Happy about Bloodhound	Noted
2.	Accommodation (Home Stays) - not everyone got the opportunity, only some members of the community got the opportunity.	NCPG: There is a committee that promotes Hospitality and Sophie Coetzee is the Chairperson. The committee forms part of the provincial initiative to promote tourism.
3.	Askam community felt that the messages/communication regarding Bloodhound does not reach them. They request that a CDWP representative and Mrs. S van Wyk for part of the committee.	NCPG & Mier Municipality to liaise to facilitate the request.
4.	Community members unclear about requirements to sell food.	NCPG: To enable community members to sell food that meet health standards, members have to obtain a certificate of compliance from the health inspector. The health inspectors also provide training and local community members should make sure they get the appropriateness certificates and register as vendors. Bloodhound: The OHS Act requires that a contingency plan be drawn up for each event. The plan will deal with hygiene, safety and security
3	Safety of people is also a problem: some spectators get drunk. A security company is required to maintain order. At the Pan will be Events Security which will include Marshalls and security guards.	NCPG: To become a security guard, you have to complete training successfully. The local community should make sure they are trained so that they can act either as Marshalls or as qualified guards Bloodhound: Will have its own security, including the police.
4	A Community Member envisaged a laundromat .	NCPG: It would be beneficial if the laundry is part of the tourism network so that it forms part of the service the community renders to guests.
5	Craft and sewing: Community members want to register as vendors to sell crafts.	NCPG: These members should also form part of the tourism network
6	Banking facilities on the pan is required.	NCPG: In the past, arrangements were made with the Post Office to keep more cash in stock. This arrangement will be made again.
7	When is the car arriving?	Bloodhound: The car arrives in 2017. The car

		will be flown from abroad to Upington. There will be a truck that transports the car from Upington to Hakskeenpan.
8	How can we promote religion, especially our people who are disadvantaged?	NCPG: The church can register as vendor. Social contributions can be investigated.
9	Let's make a human chain along the road as the car will be driving down to the Pan	Noted, have to inform Events Management (a company appointed by Bloodhound).

Groot Mier, School Hall, 8 February 2016

1	Need a list of skills in the community, and what training was received and who attended the training.	NCPG: noted and will facilitate request
2	People who are trained required certificates.	NCPG: noted and will facilitate request
3	People were unaware of the training that was taking place. Some had never received training; others were chosen to be trained. There is a lack of communication between the Groot Mier community and the Mier Municipality.	NCPG: noted and will facilitate
4	Transportation is a problem.	NCPG & Bloodhound: noted and will facilitate
5	Will there be training to prepare food?	NCPG: It can be arranged with the district municipality to issue a compliance certificates. The training will be advertised at the community hall. The certificate issued now is a temporary certificate; later official certificates will be issued.
6	Home Stays must be addressed - the program must be repeated. How are home Stays coordinated? Conduct a survey to establish how many home stays were established and an evaluation to determine the appropriateness of the houses where Home Stays are offered and what their status is.	NCPG & Bloodhound: The events coordinator will have to get a detailed contract that includes the marketing of local vendors including Home Stays.
7	The Pan must be maintained.	Noted by PCPG & Bloodhound
8	UIF: contract workers could not claim UIF after working in the Pan, because they did not have the correct forms.	NCPG: noted and will facilitate
9	The monument in Rietfontein does not bear everyone's name. All names have to be engraved on the monument.	NCPG: noted and will facilitate
10	The process and criteria of how vendors are selected should be made clear to the	Bloodhound: Bloodhound appoints an Events Management Company who is neutral and will

	community. One community member mentioned that she had a certificate but was not selected for training.	have to work according to the criteria. The Events Management Company will be informed that the local community needs to get preference and outsiders should not take preference over the local people.
11	There are many people who feel excluded. We need to look at quotas.	NCPG: Allocations of work done thus far was based on quotas.
12	Will there be permanent opportunities created for example to be a barman.	NCPG: Not in the case of the Bloodhound event only, but the establishment of the Pan as a land speed track could create continuous work (not necessarily permanent).
13	Training on the Pan was informal (while the work was done): How can we promote training? How can the experience gained translate to individual CVs?	NCPG: 317 people were given the opportunity to work on the Pan and the number of people doubled (800 people). Thus the training received by each person varies as it depends on how long they kept their job. Individuals have to refer to it on their CV.

Klein Mier, Community Hall, 8 February 2016

1	Home Stays - how do we get our homes up to standard? Can the program be expanded? Some Home Stays small building works are not finalized. R100 000 per house was allocated. The building work was done badly and has not been completed. Thus guest cannot be accommodated. The building work should be finished.	There are 1x home stay in Groot Mier and 1x home stay in Klein Mier. NCPG: Not aware of unfinished building work.
2	Mr. Farmer designed a Bloodhound 'draad' car (wire car) and an apparatus to scrape the pan - which replaced spades used to scrape the pan. He wants to designs things and he wants to train children in what he does.	Bloodhound: Purchase the care for showcasing the community's inspiration. Some thinking about how Mr. Farmer talent can be unlocked will be done and facilitated to enhance his development.
3	Fear - Want to know what will happen if the car breaks through the sound barrier. How will it affect the community and fans? Is there need earplugs?	The environmental assessment should address this concern.
4	Will local people have the opportunity to see the race?	Bloodhound: The Events Management Company will issue concessions on the number of local people that can attend the race daily.
5	Do people have to register as vendors (be accredited).	NCPG: Yes, people have to register. To enable community members to sell food that meet health standards, members have to obtain

		<p>a certificate of compliance from the health inspector (District Municipality).</p> <p>The District Municipality (health inspectors) also provides training and local community members should make sure they get the appropriate certificates and register as vendors.</p> <p>Bloodhound: The OHS Act requires that a contingency plan be drawn up for each event. The plan will deal with hygiene, safety and security. People have to prepare themselves to comply.</p>
6	How many years will the car run?	Bloodhound: Two
7	Training is necessary for everyone - adults and young people and school children.	NCPG: Noted, there is training and more training will be facilitated to provide for all target groups.
8	Speed up the building of the school - Can Bloodhound help.	Bloodhound: Noted and request will be discussed.
9	How deep will the wheels of the car pierce into the ground?	<i>Bloodhound: 2cm (80km / h)</i>
10	How are we going to reach the poor people in our community and improve their homes?	Xx
11	How are we creating permanent jobs?	NCPG: Not in the case of the Bloodhound event only, but the establishment of the Pan as a land speed track could create continuous work (not necessarily permanent).
12	The community needs a preschool - can Bloodhound help?	Bloodhound: Noted and request will be discussed.

Philandersbron, Community Hall, 9 February 2016

1	We need to make sure that the surface will be ready when the car arrives to race.	Enviro Africa: Noted, therefore the various applications to comply with the legislation
2	The event will be a financial boost employment for the area and will address unemployment.	Agreed
3	The Health Inspector should help determine how many people are selling items and what they are selling so everyone is not selling the same: roosterkoek, fish or ginger beer	<p>NCPG: There is a committee that promotes hospitality and forms part of the provincial initiative to promote tourism. They will be involved and determine sales opportunities.</p> <p>Bloodhound: Bloodhound appoints an Events Management Company who is neutral and will have to work according to the criteria. The Events Management Company will coordinate the number of vendor and</p>

		types of produces.
4	The youth choir would like to sing – the youth choir sang at Speed Week, but has not been paid as yet?	NCPG: The choir should work with the Hospitality Committee, promoting tourism and the Events Management Company. Nonpayment will be facilitated with Mier Municipality.
5	Entrepreneurship programs for youth are required.	NCPG: Noted and will be facilitated.
6	A Research Centre for youth is required.	NCPG & Bloodhound: Note and will be facilitated.
7	The Children's program introduced in some schools should be offered to all children in the area (the Rietfontein area), similar to the other schools.	Bloodhound: Noted and will facilitate the consideration to implementation the programme in all schools in the area.
8	The children's race should be promoted between schools. This program should also be implemented amongst all the schools.	Bloodhound: Events Management Company to coordinate activities in anticipation, during and after the race.
9	Transportation of workers to work on the pan is expensive. Workers got compensated only R3 / km, and the taxi's charge more.	PGNC: Noted
10	Philandersbron should be granted an equal number of workers, not according to quotas. Rietfontein got more.	NCPG: All towns had quotas. The other towns were awarded the same number of workers to go working on Pan than Philandersbron. Rietfontein has a larger population and had thus more people than the other towns.
11	How are the pan and its surface maintained? How is the pan maintained during the event (how can Marshalls be assisted)? There are other works for people with some skills / qualifications.	Bloodhound: Appoints an Events Management Company who shall see to the maintenance of the surface during the event. They are neutral and will have to work according to the criteria. The local community will get preference over outsiders.
12	Will tickets be made available at a cheaper price for the community?	Bloodhound: Will arrange and Events Management Company will execute it.
13	Local vendors must be given preference.	NCPG & Bloodhound: Noted and agreed.
14	Affordable transport for the duration of the race is needed.	Noted
15	There is a route around the pan (behind the fence) - the road is very sandy and suitable for a donkey cart and bicycle, but it will be difficult walking there - the road needs to be hardened (or tarred). If the route is not drivable, people should drive to Rietfontein to get to the pan. This	Xx

	is a serious detour with a donkey cart or bicycle.	
16	There should be options for children to get to the pan – how are they going to be transported.	Xx

Loubos, Community Hall, 9 February 2016

1	Marketing - need a true example/ replica of the car	Bloodhound: Noted will facilitate
2	School Program - Principals should be involved whilst speed demonstrations should be held here as in other schools in the country and in the world.	NCPG: Noted, programme is translated into Afrikaans and will be introduced soon. Speed demonstrations?
3	Accommodation of events team and management as indicated on posters - who determines where they stay? How can Loubos benefit from it?	NCPG: Loubos has to ensure they join the Hospitality committee promoting tourism.
4	Issuing coupons for food was chaos. People duplicated the coupons.	NCPG: Noted and will inform Hospitality committee
5	Bloodhound Logo: Can the community use it?	Bloodhound: There are negotiations on it way so that the logo can be used.
6	Can we create a Facebook page for Mier?	NCPG: Good idea; Liaise with Hospitality Committee and inform them about the initiative.
7	Race course – from what is it constructed?	Bloodhound: The surface of the Pan, no new construction.
8	Economic Development - should communicate more often and in different ways.	NCPG: Noted and will be facilitated
9	Schools need a clothing bank and bookcases - with the Bloodhound logo. Schools also need equipment (projectors)	Bloodhound: Noted
10	Question: Events organizers - will determine who can be vendors, will determine how much and what different items can be sold. This will be determined by the number of spectators.	Bloodhound: Confirmed.
11	Upington and Mier - how does Mier retain the advantage as municipality should they merge with the Upington Ward?	NCPG: Noted and will be facilitated
12	The Domestic camp should be located at Loubos. What are the requirements, what is the norm and how can Loubos benefit. Loubos competes with Philandersbron and Molopho.	NCPG: Loubos have to ensure they join the Hospitality committee promoting tourism.
13	Some infrastructure is required: i.e. bank and petrol station - Economic Affairs should	NCPG: In the past, arrangements were made with the Post Office to keep more cash

	coordinate local suppliers (e.g. Corporation to keep more fuel and different types - banks will be mobile units - it will not be permanent).	in stock. This arrangement will be made again. The same arrangement will be made with the Corporation who operates the fuel station.
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Rietfontein, Community Hall, 9 February 2016

1	Event List – Is the coordinator making events lists available so that visitors can do sightseeing or recreation activities when the car is not running.	Bloodhound: Events Management Company in liaison with Hospitality Committee will take care of events list.
2	Vendors and service providers must register to get on the list.	NCPG: Yes, people have to register. To enable community members to sell food that meet health standards, members have to obtain a certificate of compliance from the health inspector (District Municipality). The District Municipality (health inspectors) also provides training and local community members should make sure they get the appropriate certificates and register as vendors. Bloodhound: The OHS Act requires that a contingency plan be drawn up for each event. The plan will deal with hygiene, safety and security. People have to prepare themselves to comply.
3	Economic Development and Tourism: The 28 guest houses on the list provide 450 beds, but there are 20,000 to 40,000 people expected. Six (6) Guest houses were completed by the Home Stay project funded by Economic Affairs. Will they provide the GPS coordinates for each home stays and guest house so that tourists can easily find it? Extra home Stays and guest houses are required.	NCPG: The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Sophie Coetzee, promotes tourism. Rietfontein should ensure they serve on the committee to raise the challenge of accommodation and ensuring the Home Stays GPS coordinates are made publicized.
	LED should coordinate that tourism should be supported - for example, is Speed Week going to take place at the same time? Mr. Matthyse (Municipal LED officer) need more support.	NCPG: Noted, will be facilitated.
5	Houses were upgraded, geysers were installed, down duvet and double beds were donated. A budget of R500 000 was spend for each of the 6	NCPG: Not aware, will be facilitated

	houses. Some Home Stays are incomplete.	
6	Training will be conducted to prepare the community to assist and facilitate with tourists.	NCPG: The Hospitality Committee will take care of training.
7	Entertainment during events needed: performances and activities.	Bloodhound: Events Management Company will arrange.
8	There should be closer cooperation between Economic Affairs and the municipality. It seems that the organization and preparation should be more directives and provide more structure. Strong directives are required.	NCPG: Noted
9	There is a need for a Petrol Station. The service station can be built on land owned by the Municipality so that the community will benefit.	NCPG: Noted
10	What will happen after Bloodhound? Is Speed Week going to take place? It is anticipated that film crews will come out to film the event.	NCPG: The plan will be established as an Extreme Land Speed track.
11	What about the dust on the main road? Note the road; all roads will be closed whilst the car is racing.	Enviro Africa: This will be addressed during the environmental impact assessment.
12	Will there be a main area for parking. Visitors will be transported to the Speed week event and other by bus.	Bloodhound: Logistics including parking and transportation between events will be attended to by the Events Management Company. Enviro Africa: Mobility will be addressed in the environmental assessment.
13	When the car runs no other cars can drive.	Bloodhound: Correct. Safety Regulations
14	Will a digital sign be erected at Upington and the border to indicate available capacity as there is a limited number of water, toilets, fire prevention gear and security?	Bloodhound: Good idea will be passed on to the Events Management Company.
15	Large television screens and boards are needed	Bloodhound: Good idea, will be passed on to the Events Management Company
16	Domestic camps? Do they benefit society?	NCPG: Rietfontein has to ensure they join the Hospitality committee promoting tourism.

Summary of responses

The responses can be summarized as follows:

- Communication and liaison between NCPG (Economic Development), Mier Municipality and Community should improve

- Home Stay programme should be expanded to provide for the accommodation needed. Community need to be informed how they will benefit from Events Management's and Racing team members stay at the domestic camp on the pan.
- Community members keen to register as vendors, to receive training and to obtain compliance certificates. Given previous events the community would like to share their experiences on preventing stalls selling the food and food coupons.
- Safety and security of spectators will generate employment opportunities.
- As part of the services offered to tourists, community members are interested to offer a laundromat service, crafting and sewing and choir singing.
- Infrastructure is required: Enhanced bank and Service station facilities as well as increased stock (more fuel and more money).
- The maintenance of the race track will generate employment before, during and after the race.
- Will local people have the opportunity to see the race/ buy cheaper tickets?
- People need skills training, obtain certification and skills development
- School programmes including speed races, are going to be introduced.
- Transportation is expensive and Philandersbron has a detour to take to reach the track on the Pan.
- Job creation is required. People do not know how to claim UIF.
- Everyone who worked on the Pan's name should be engraved on the monument at Rietfontein.
- What will the impact of the car be with regards to the sound barrier, dust and other modes of transport?
- How will the site be manage, where will the central parking be from where people can attend other events, electronic boards and television screens are needed for signage
- Quotas of people that can enter into employment should be allocated to each town.
- Upington and Mier - how does Mier retain the advantage as municipality should they merge with the Upington Ward?
- Marketing requires a true model of the car, and being able to use the logo, starting an own Facebook page.
- Entertainment is required during the events and an events list is required.

Conclusion and Way Forward

The public participation process enhanced the following principles:

1. It established trust between the community and project team.
2. It fostered Leadership
3. It amplify issues for implementation (and establish priorities)
4. It share the community's experience of similar events and enhanced flexibility but keep the focus
5. It created a sustainable planning and implementation process

The strengthening of these principles paved the way for:

6. Taking advantage of Available Tools and Resources
7. To be financially realistic
8. To communicate the planning process effectively
9. To make the community's social capital grow

With regards to public participation, please note that only Registered I&APs:

- Will be notified of the availability of reports and other written submissions made (or to be made) to the Department by the applicant, and be entitled to comment on these reports and submissions;
- Will be notified of the outcome of the application, the reasons for the decision, and that an appeal may be lodged against a decision; and
- Will be notified of the applicant's intention to appeal the decision of the competent authority, together with an indication of where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

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