



## **PROJECT 3B / 4B EIMS: Reaching Out to the Grassroots Communities**



### **REPORT ON COMMUNITIES SURVEYS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED INFORMATION INTO COMMUNITIES**

**31 July 2023**

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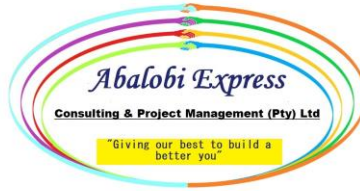
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### 1. Introduction / Background

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Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) tasked Abalobi Express to utilize its expertise and proven working methods to reach out to the grassroots communities in the provinces of Northern Cape and Western Cape. Project 3B/4B EIMS. EIMS as tasked on one hand with environmental assessment by the companies for Oil and Gas Offshore Exploration, the purpose of Abalobi Express Project 3B / 4B EIMS is two-folds:

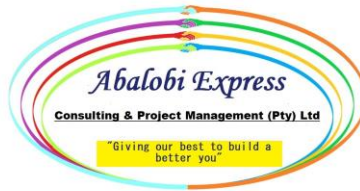
- a) To distribute information to identified communities so that they can, if they see fit, register among Interested and Affected Parties (IAP's). This is important to ensure that they are not left out by EIMS to participate during engagements on matters regarding Oil and Gas Offshore Exploration.
- b) To conduct surveys as part of community scanning in order to collect information that will assist EIMS better understand dynamics of the communities to engage with. This is equally important as there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to local dynamics, some that have been attributed to delays on progress in general on matters around oil and gas exploration and not forgetting extreme cases that even attracted demonstrations and/or courts.

### 2. Methodology and Project Execution

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Abalobi Express's methodology that has been tried and tested has been deployed. This methodology is based on the following:

- a) Ensuring that the language used to engage with locals is fully understood by them to ensure that they fully understand what is expected from them;
- b) Local consultants and field workers engage with locals in areas they are familiar with. These are consultants who do not only know surroundings of interest better, but also know other local dynamics that could hinder distribution of information or reaching out to people.
- c) Surveys are clear and quick to do to save time while getting usable information for further decision making
- d) People in the communities are treated with the highest level of respect and with full understanding that some may choose not to do surveys or allow posting of information in



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their places, hence, permission is first requested. In this regard, no poster is plugged without consulting the owner or person in charge in any area. Abalobi Express's team ensures that pictures are taken as proof of information distribution.

- e) Data collection on surveys is done in such a manner that there are zero ghost participants that can be reported. Real-time data collection tool provides information as the survey is conducted, with photos of participants as they allow to be photographed.

### 2.1. The Survey / Questionnaire

In order to achieve the required results; i.e. getting to know a little more about the communities and/or individuals in relation to oil and gas offshore exploration; it can be summarized that the survey has been structured to collect information on individuals and their households, their associations and levels of trusts to information disseminators and leaders in general, their awareness of oil and gas matters as well as their willingness to participate on further engagements on this matter. As such, one could unpack the questionnaire and re-group fields into the following data families:

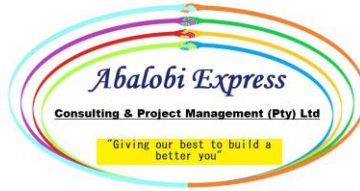
- a) Demographics - Family background and its Socio-Economic Status;
- b) Information on Associations/Leadership and Trust
- c) Oil and Gas Exploration Specific Information

*Please see attached spreadsheets, Annexure A, Annexure B as they contain data for all the above.*

## 3. Findings and Recommendations

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It is important to note that communities scanned and/or surveyed participated on this exercise willingly with full understanding that, not only that their inputs will always be valuable, but they were also free not to answer questions that either do not have answers for or feel they wanted to skip. They also knew that they could provide answers anonymously. Anonymous responses are undoubtedly acceptable to ensure that respondents who do not want to reveal their identity are still comfortable to provide relevant information; however, personal details are more favourable for



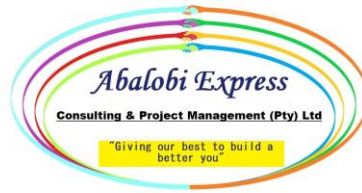
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directed feedback where required. In this regard, Abalobi Express was fortunate enough to engage with individuals who preferred to:

- 1) Provide their full names and surnames;
  - 2) Addresses where they live; and
  - 3) Allow themselves to be photographed.
- **Please note** that attached spreadsheet does not contain all personal details, however, participants' names are contained.
  - *Following are selected fields to cover demographics, but without leaving behind the main purpose that links the whole exercise to oil and gas consultations:*
    - 1) Town
    - 2) Local Municipality
    - 3) District Municipality
    - 4) Province
    - 5) Participant Name and Surname
    - 6) Permission to conduct the survey
    - 7) Participant's name and surname
    - 8) Group name or Tribe
    - 9) Number of occupants living on the property
    - 10) Employment status
    - 11) Types of leadership they either trust or don't trust
    - 12) Main source of information
    - 13) Urgent needs and what can be done to assist in their communities (please see attached summary as translated to English)
    - 14) Whether they have ever been aware of consultations or been invited.

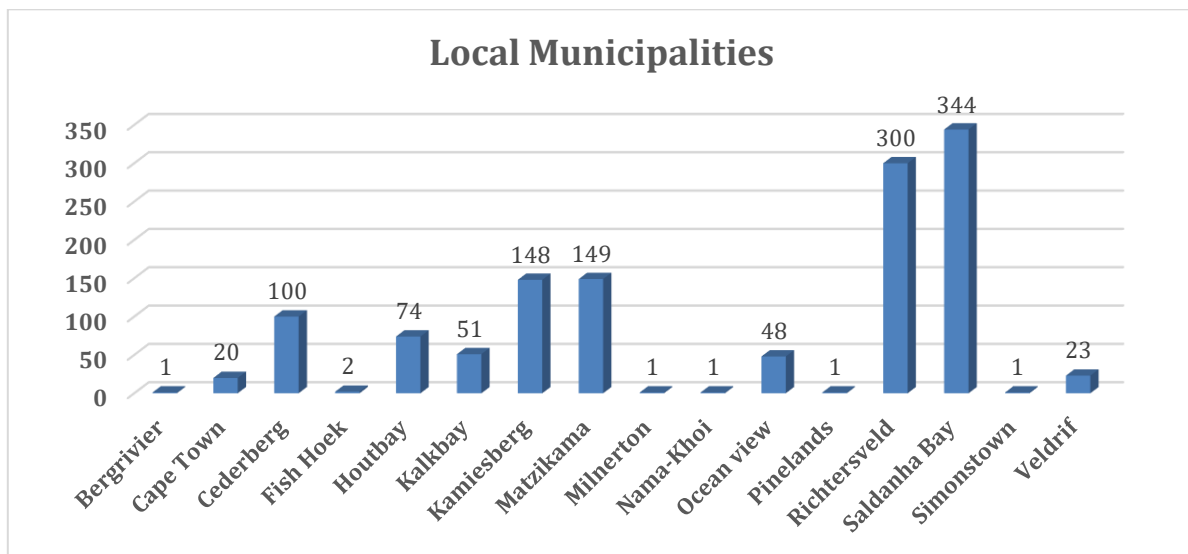
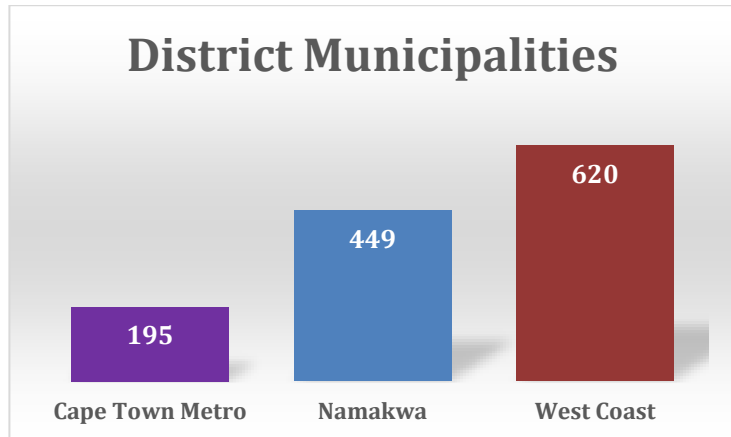
### 3.1. Findings from Demographics Data

From information provided, the following can be reported:

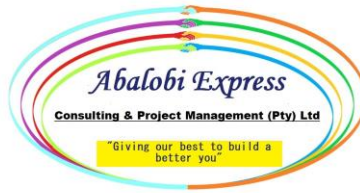


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- Apart from information posted in various areas for communities to read for understanding as part of the awareness, a total of 1264 households participated on surveys across sixteen (16) local municipalities and in three (3) district municipalities in the Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces.



- Majority of people in these communities relatively live below the poverty line and in areas that require serious development.
- Following is the summary of the needs as indicated on the surveys::
  - Poverty prevails and therefore there is urgent need for employment – from total households that participated, 749 households, i.e. close to 60%, has no member that is employed on a permanent basis. They live on income from either seasonal jobs, casual



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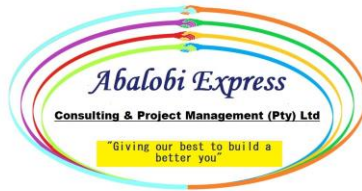
work and/or grants. There is a number of households that seem to have no income that can be reported as per the survey.

- Housing is also among primary needs in many communities
- Provision and/or upgrading of infrastructure like roads is a requirement in some communities.
- A need for feeding scheme, which on the other hand suggests that there is noticeable hunger in some areas.
- Community safety is among the cited primary needs, with the requirement for streets to be patrolled for 24 hours. This means some communities have a problem of criminal activities day and night.
- A need for strong and trusted leaders suggests that some participants feel that a lot is desired in their areas because of lack of leadership that can be accountable as well as trusted.
- Youth campaigns and/or programmes are among requirements. With high unemployment, coupled with criminal activities in areas, it only make sense that some participants would be happy if their youth is saved by economic and/or development-based youth programmes.
- Citing rehabilitation centres among the needs suggest that drug abuse is also a problem.
- A requirement for schools and health centres may not be left out as well, and so as
- Cleaning out of drug dens is indicated by many.

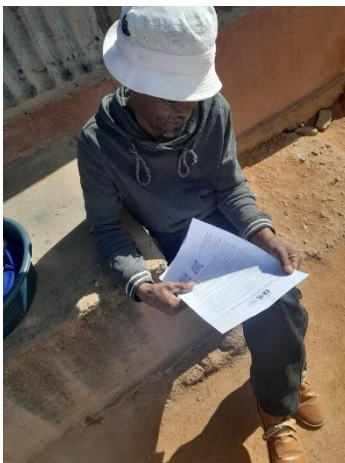
More information on the above may be accessed on Annexure A as attached.

- Permission to be photographed did not only assist in the audit trail of the project, but provided much needed information that can be read from them to further understand the conditions local people live under, which assists in understanding the resistance that has been experienced in general by engagers in development-based projects. One who understands art and visual language could easily write more by merely looking at photos like the following:





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**Please note** that photos above were randomly picked from the collected gallery of project. Those not picked are equally important with their own stories as well. Further, the gallery itself is an attachment that completes this report as well.

### 3.2. Findings on Associations/Leadership and Level of Trust

- It can be reported that there is number of the participants who have lost trust in any local structure, with the majority trusting religious leaders the most. Political structures on the other hand are least trusted as per the results of the survey.





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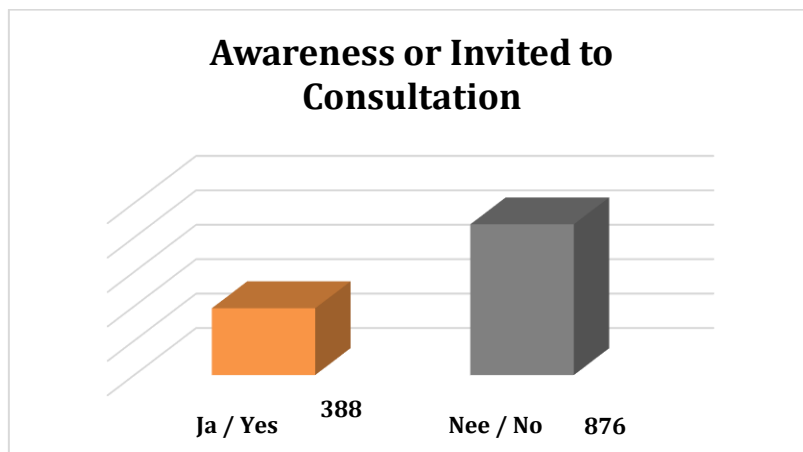
### 3.3. Source of Information

- The survey reveals that locals get information from a combination of information sources. It is not clear which source reaches the locals the most as many participants combined social media with TV and radio while few added the newspaper into this combination.

### 3.4. Findings Oil and Gas Specific Information

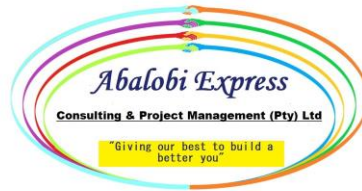
#### a) Awareness or Invitations to consultations

- Only 31% of the surveyed group indicated that they have ever been aware of the consultations or invited to any, leaving 69% of the group with a possibility of having no relevant information at all on matters around oil and gas exploration; information that can assist them to make any informed decisions towards supporting or not supporting the initiative/s. *Below is the summary figure:*



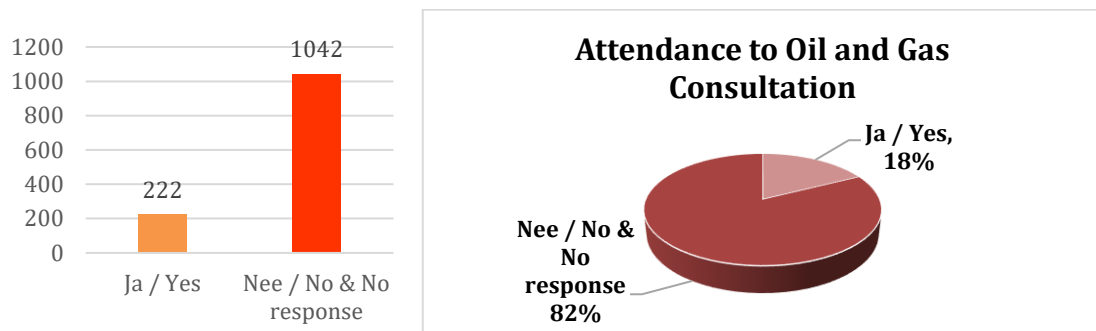
#### b) Attendance to Oil and Gas Consultations

- Survey results show that only 18% of the total group ever attended consultations. Level of participation on such consultations is not known at the moment as there is always a

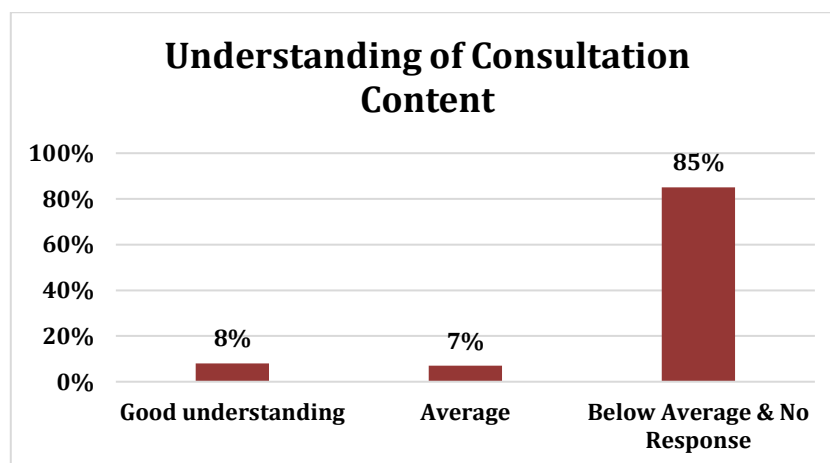


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possibility of attending as a spectator and not a player. This is where locals are called to be told about what is happening with no room of their opinions in the matter. *Below is a summary of attendance, with no indication of participation.*



### c) Understanding of Consultation Content



- Deducting from the figure above, it makes sense that the survey results documented only 8% of the participants who understood above average the content of consultation and 85% who either did not understand or did not respond to the question.
- Further, the gray matter on participation may be addressed by these findings. The fact that attendees to consultations did not understand the content can support that

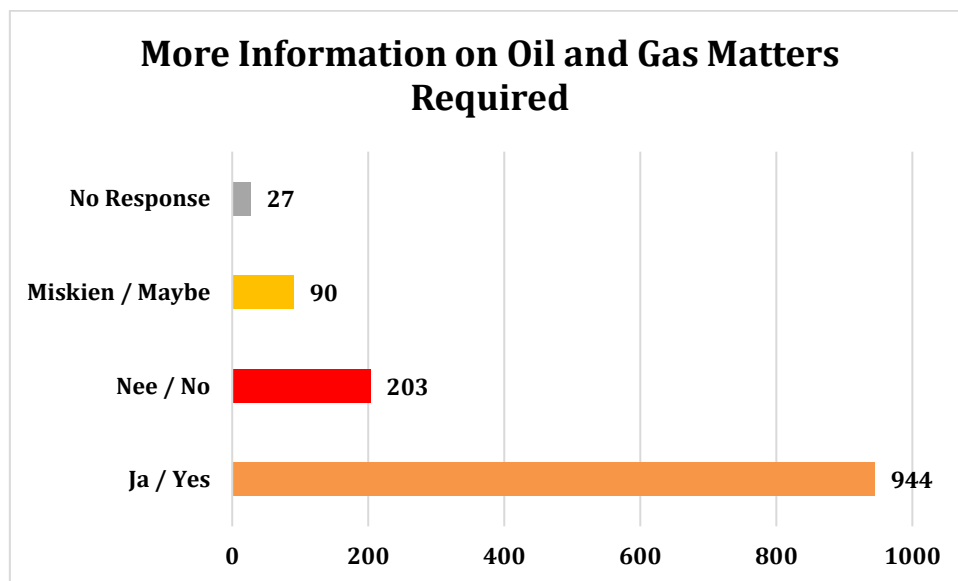


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attendees could not participate meaningfully because no one can be expected to participate on what they do not understand.

### d) Requirement for More Information on Oil and Gas Exploration

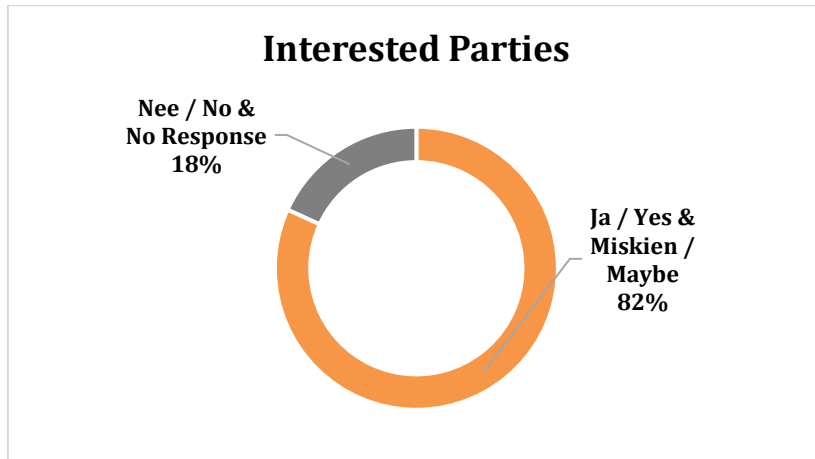
- The survey results reveal that participants are likely to attend consultations if they are aware and/or invited because they indicated that they would be happy to know no more on matters around oil and gas exploration. About 75% indicated interest on receiving more information, please see figures further below.
- It may not be ignored though that there is still a number of participants who indicated no interest at all to be informed on these matters. This group accounts for 16% of the surveyed participants.



- From above, it can then be deducted that this percentage falls within Interested Parties. Adding those who indicated “maybe” to the figure, interested parties therefore accounts for at 82% of the participants, *see summary below*:

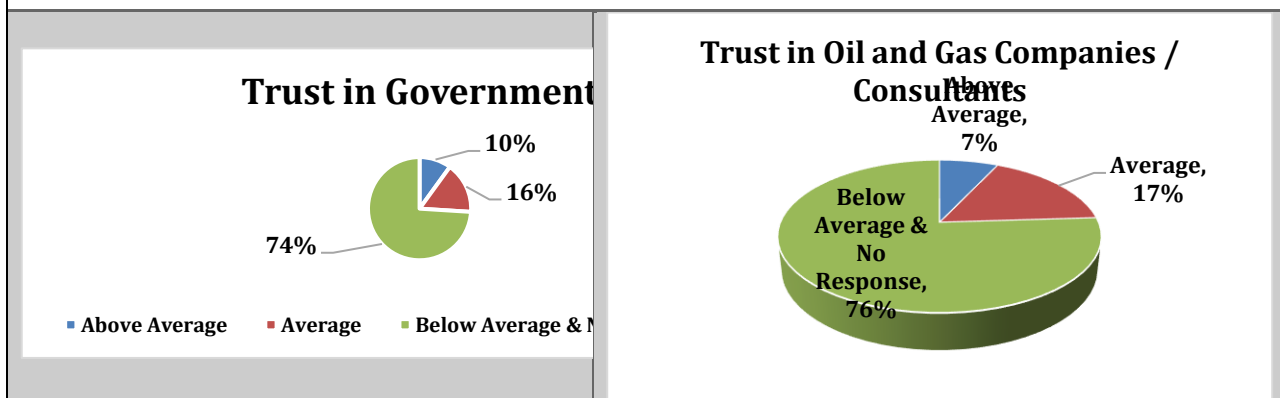
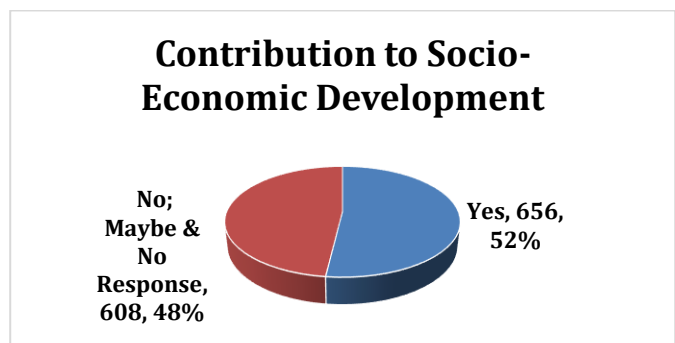


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### e) Trust in Oil and Gas Companies / Consultants and the Government

- It deserves to be noted that many participants have very little trust if any on oils and gas companies and/or the government. It may be this mistrust that make many disbelieve that there could be any positive change to socio-economic development

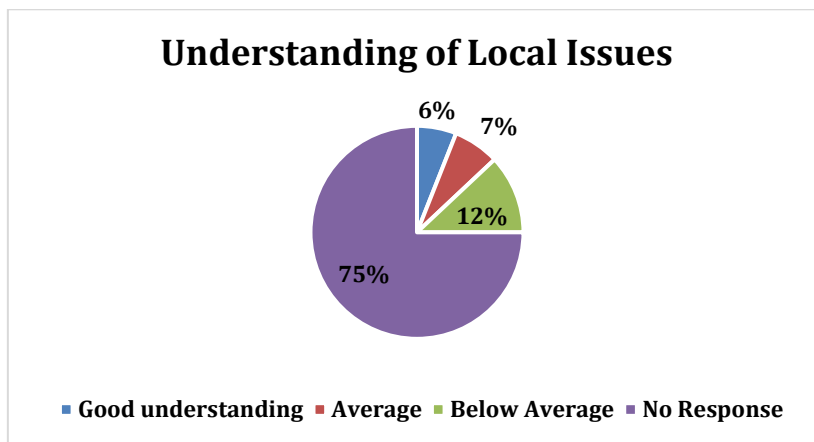




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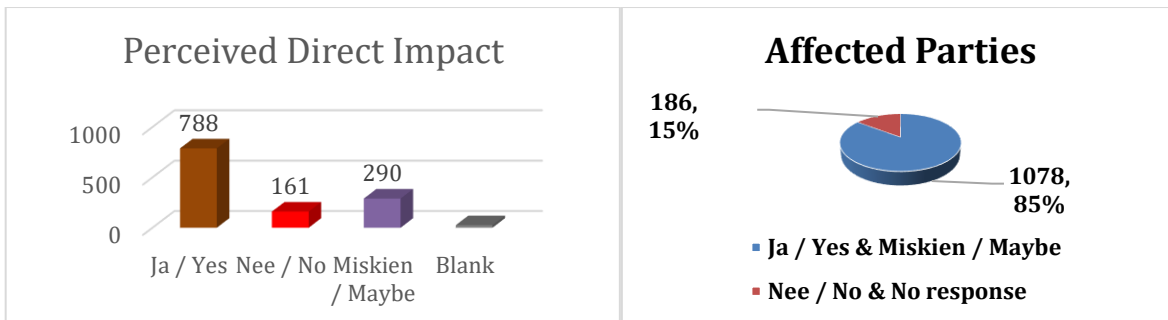
### f) Consultants' Understanding of Local Issues

- The fact that the majority of participants also believe that consultants have very little understanding of their communities, if any, could also be counted among reasons why they do not currently trust them. Figure below shows that 84% accounts for those who simply did not respond and those who believe that consultants have none or very little understanding of local issues. Only 6% believe they do have a good understanding of their local issues.



### g) Impact and Affected Parties

- A number of participants believe that exploration of offshore oil and gas will have a direct impact on their communities and this further supports figures accounted for affected parties. The results are illustrated below:



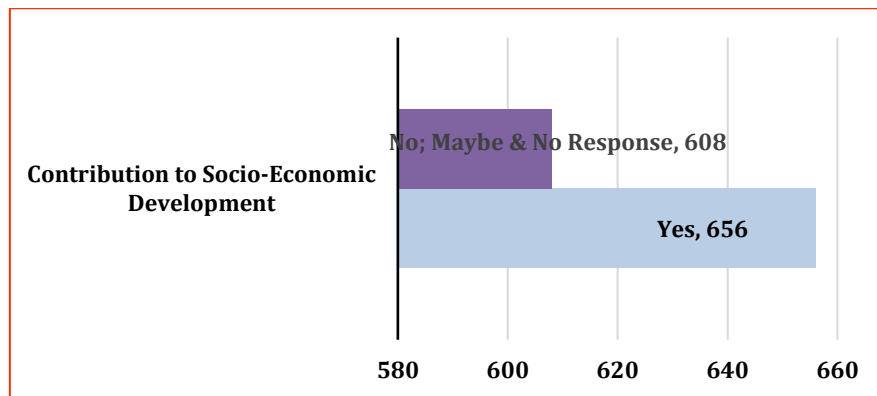


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- It deserves to be noted that many do only feel that their communities are affected, but they also see fit that in consultations local issues need to be taken into account and even communities that may not be directly affected need to be involved.

### h) Contribution to Socio-Economic Development

- Results of the survey show a little more than 50% of the participants who believe that projects of this nature contribute to socio-economic development.



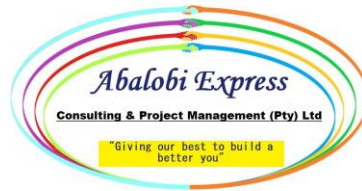
- With this result in mind, it should also be remembered that these participants have already indicated the need for information. This means it is one among responses that need a further test as more information is disseminated and locals are engaged meaningfully.

## 4. Survey Responses as supported by Visuals

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As mentioned above, the communities are relatively poor with a number of local issues they are concerned about. Specifically, poverty, unemployment, lack of infrastructure, etc. Photos as taken across the project are a living proof to their plea. Please see examples from the gallery, **the Project 3B-4B EIMS Participants Album** that contains photos taken as posters were pasted and surveys were conducted.





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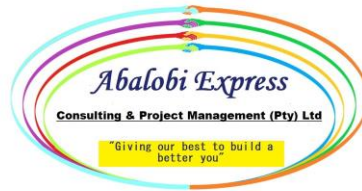
- *Even when there are needs for proper housing, some individuals can still smile maybe as a sign of hope for a better life one day.*



- *Hopeless after finding themselves neglected, but desperate for change for a better livelihood, some individuals may choose to participate in anonymity but with proof and for whatever reason they may have.*



- *Urgent need of infrastructure like roads in some communities can be visualized below:*



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Figure 1



Figure 2



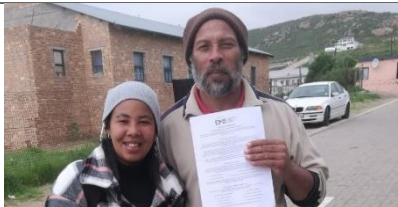
Figure 3



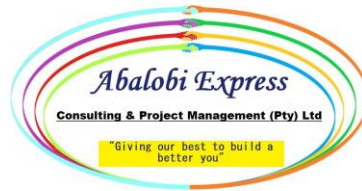
Figure 4



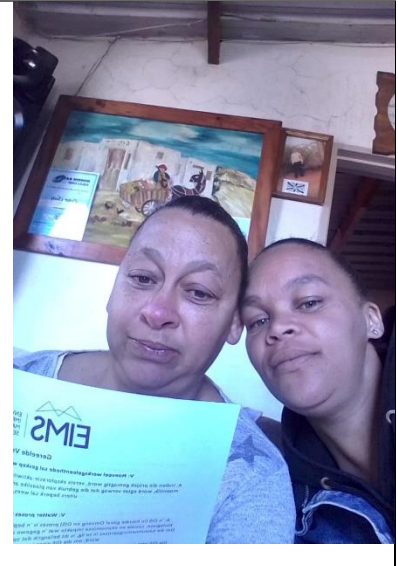
- From the gallery one can read more stories from:
  - Senior Citizens'
  - Men and Women
  - Youth
  - Children
  - Working class
  - Unemployed, etc
- Apart from surveyed individuals and their households and/or surroundings, the gallery also shows Abalobi Expresses' extent in covering areas with posters of information. Formal and informal areas were reached, with full explanation of information as contained on the posters. Below are few photos from Project 3B-4B EIMS Album of Information and Survey:

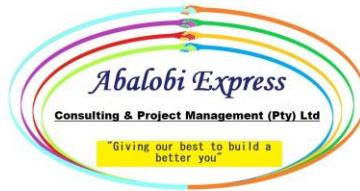






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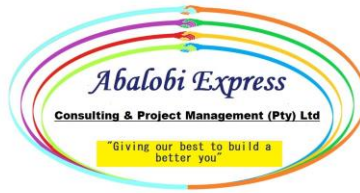
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### 5. Recommendations

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From the results of the survey; it is recommended that:

- Oil and gas companies and/or consultants need to try by all means to first understand communities to engage with prior to such engagements. This means engagements and/or consultations may not be of a generic approach as local dynamics play a crucial role in ensuring that:
  - Areas can be accessed;
  - To reach required stakeholders;
  - By people or communication media they trust;
  - in the manner and/or language they understand to be able to participate; and
  - Locals are informed on time for any upcoming engagement.
- From above, Abalobi Express recommends that:
  - Consultation venues be as close as possible to where people live. If that fails, transport be organised for locals so they can be able to attend. It must be remembered that these are stakeholders whose mobility is limited by poverty.
  - Information on any upcoming consultations is disseminated in all relevant areas for everyone to be aware, and where possible, partner with trusted structures to distribute information as well to ensure that it is well received and taken seriously by locals.
  - Engagements need to be language sensitive as to accommodate all stakeholders regardless of their level of education. It is not necessarily recommended that there should be usage of a widely used language in any area as this alone may exclude other stakeholders. In consultations where people's lives may be affected or where people must decide for themselves, the message should be understood by all. Translation is therefore part of the consultation package.
  - Where printed media is used, not only language should be considered, but reader friendliness should also be considered. From the survey very few participants cited use of newspapers. As much as this may be because of their availability and/or cost, reading printed material is becoming less popular to many who use more



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social media that shorten language and those who prefer to listen to radios and/or watch TV. As such, information to locals should be in simple and easily understood language.

- Engagers should prepare fully to disseminate information, if any, to ensure that lost hope is restored. It has been revealed by the surveys that as much as many participants would like more information on oil and gas offshore exploration, they still do not believe that initiative/s will bring any positive change to socio-economic status. Those who participate may pose questions related pros and cons of the initiative.

## 6. Conclusion

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- Abalobi Express can conclude that Project 3B / 4B EIMS has been a success.
- Further, with the results of this exercise as reference, Abalobi Express can conclude that this has been a much needed exercise to be able to:
  - Fully understand one group of the audience of engagements; the grassroots communities and their dynamics.
  - Establish the level of understanding that the communities have on matters of oil and gas – In this case the results show that they have very little if at all. The subject of oil and gas offshore exploration is still foreign to them. As such EIMS will now be in a position to prepare accordingly, provide relevant education on this subject so that even these grassroots communities can engage meaningfully.

Abalobi Express believes EIMS will draw from this report that the surveyed communities are indeed the affected communities and who are fortunately interested in learning more. Addressing the fraction that has no interest and yet in affected areas where others would welcome consultations does however needs attention as no one knows if this could attract any resistance or disturbance in general.



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