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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

HARMONY MPONENG LOWER COMPARTMENT TAILINGS STORAGE
FACILITY





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1 INTRODUCTION

Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation and associated consultation processes. EIMS will compile and submit the required documentation in support of applications for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the NEMA- Listed activities:
 - GNR983 Listing Notice 1, Activities 10, 12, 19, 21D, and 21F.
 - GNR984 Listing Notice 2, Activity 6 and 15.
 - GNR985 Listing Notice 3, Activities 12, 14, and 23.
- Waste Management Licence in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act- NEM:WA (Act 59 of 2008) - Listed activities:
 - GNR921 Categories B7, B10 and B11.
- Water Use Licence (WUL) in accordance with the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998) - Listed activities:
 - Section 21 (a), (c), (g) and (i).

Additional activities to be applied for may be identified during the process and added in the final application forms.

The applicant owns and operates a number of Gold Mines and Plants in the West Wits region in the Gauteng Province. The Savuka Plant currently deposits tailings onto the Savuka 5a, 5b, 7a & 7b Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs). However, these facilities are approaching their final and approved height, and the current planned Life of Mine (LOM) for the West Wits region exceeds the available deposition capacity of these TSFs. Accordingly, the applicant is undertaking a feasibility assessment to recommence deposition on the Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF. The applicant is proposing to recommence deposition on the Mponeng Tailings Storage Facility Lower Compartment (hereafter referred to as Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF). The Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF is located at 26°27'11.18"S; 27°24'43.88"E. Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF is an existing TSF, however, the TSF is no longer in operation and is currently utilised as a Holding Dam, and a portion (approximately 200m²) of the 110ha TSF footprint is used as an authorised Landfill Facility.

In order to redeposit on the Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF, from the Savuka Plant, slurry pipelines will need to be constructed from the Savuka Plant to the TSF. The proposed slurry and return water pipes extend from the south of Savuka Plant at starting point 26°25'24.95"S; 27°23'58.94"E, extending southwards, parallel to each other until reaching the northern extent of Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF where they split. Thereafter, the slurry pipeline extends to west before connecting to Mponeng TSF while the return water pipeline extends east then south around the TSF to the return water dam. There is an alternative slurry and return water pipeline route which extends to the east through Western Deep Levels then south along Mponeng Gold Mine before heading to the west where it connects to Mponeng Lower Compartment TSF.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: "*The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement*". This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the



National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 15th of August 2025 to the date of finalization of this report. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.



3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • African National Congress (ANC) | • Gauteng Department for Economic Development |
| • Agricultural Research Council | • Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) |
| • Blybank Library | • Gauteng Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs |
| • Carletonville Herald | • Gauteng Department of Economic Development |
| • Carletonville Library | • Gauteng Department of Health |
| • Carletonville/Fochville Herald | • Gauteng Department of Human Settlements |
| • Chamber of Mines South Africa | • Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport |
| • Democratic Alliance (DA) | • Gauteng Department of Social Development |
| • Dienssentrum Library | |
| • Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd | |
| • Far West Rand Dolomitic Water Association (FWRDWA) | |



- Gauteng Directorate Public Health
- Gauteng Provincial Government - Department of Community Safety
- Gauteng Provincial Government - Department of Infrastructure Development
- Gauteng Tourism Authority
- Laerskook Blyvooruitsig
- Merafong City Local Municipality
- Merafong Libraries
- Mineral Council South Africa
- National Department of Agriculture (NDA)
- National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- National Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
- National Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, (DMPR)
- National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)
- Presidential Climate Commission
- Provincial Heritage Resources Authority Gauteng (PHRAG)
- Rand Water
- Rockland Primary School
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Department of Defence (SO1 Military Integrated Environment Management (MIEM) Governance)
- South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
- South African Human Rights Commission
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Defence Force (SANDF)
- South African National Roads Agency
- Transnet Freight Rail
- Transnet Pipelines
- Water Research Commission
- Welverdiend Library
- West Rand District Municipality

4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- AfriForum
- Agri Gauteng
- Agri SA
- Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU)
- BirdLife South Africa
- Blyvoor Committee
- Blyvoor Community Forum
- Botanical Society
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Council for Geoscience
- Earthlife Africa



- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE)
- Gauteng Water Sector Forum
- Gauteng Wetland Forum
- GroundWork SA
- Lajuma Environmental Research Centre
- Lawyers for Human Rights
- Legal Resource Centre (LRC)
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA)
- Natural Justice
- Randfontein Environmental Action Group
- South African Wetlands Society
- Specialist World Wide Fund South Africa
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- World Wildlife Fund

5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 15th of August 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 15th of August 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process were placed in the Carletonville Herald with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 21st of August 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the Gauteng Provincial Gazette on the 3rd of September 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;



- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.

5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Twenty-three (23) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) were placed at 23 locations around the proposed project study area on the 21st of August 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs on the 30th of September 2025 and the 1st of October 2025 in the following manner.

- Registered letters (only where no other communication method could be established with the I&AP) with details on where the scoping report can be obtained and/or reviewed, public meeting date and time, EIMS contact details as well as the public review comment period;
- Facsimile notifications with information described above;
- Email notifications with a letter attachment containing the information described above;
- Site notices and posters placed at and around the vicinity of the site and surrounding communities; and
- Newspaper advertisement in the Carletonville Herald

Contact details were provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the Scoping Report was placed at the Deelkraal Library (Deelkraal Drive: 26° 27' 32.534" S, 27° 19' 28.271" E) and at the Carletonville Public Library (c/o Beryl & Emerald St.: 26° 21' 19.839" S, 27° 24' 4.129" E) for a period of thirty (30) days.

An electronic copy of the Scoping Report has been made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website: <https://www.eims.co.za/2025/08/25/1658-harmony-mponeng/>. A Data-free alternative will be provided upon request to anyone who might be facing any limitations with respect to data downloads.



Please refer to **APPENDIX 5**, **APPENDIX 6**, and **APPENDIX 7** for proof of notifications in the scoping phase.

5.3 PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting with all Interested and affected parties to discuss the findings of the Scoping Report was scheduled for the 09th of October 2025 at the Carletonville Civic Centre. It should be noted that no I&APs showed up to the meeting.

As per the request of Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE), a virtual focus group meeting was scheduled for the 10th of October 2025. The Focus Group Meeting was scheduled with Mariette Liefferink, a representative of FSE. The aim of the meeting was to engage Mariette as part of the public participation process for the Harmony Mponeng lower compartments Tailings Storage Facility (EIA). Specifically, the session aimed at discussing the Scoping Report, providing clarifications or additional information to concerns and/or questions as well as recording the comments for formal response and to add to the comments and responses as part of the public participation for the project. Please refer to **APPENDIX 9** for the meeting minutes.

5.4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) regarding the availability of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs in the following manner.

- Registered letters (only where no other communication method could be established with the I&AP) with details on where the scoping report can be obtained and/or reviewed, public meeting date and time, EIMS contact details as well as the public review comment period;
- Facsimile notifications with information described above;
- Email notifications with a letter attachment containing the information described above;
- Site notices and posters placed at and around the vicinity of the site and surrounding communities; and

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be placed at the Deelkraal Library (Deelkraal Drive: 26° 27' 32.534" S, 27° 19' 28.271" E) and at the Carletonville Public Library (c/o Beryl & Emerald St.: 26° 21' 19.839" S, 27° 24' 4.129" E) for a period of thirty (30) days.

An electronic copy of the Scoping Report has been made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website: <https://www.eims.co.za/2025/08/25/1658-harmony-mponeng/>. A Data-free alternative will be provided upon request to anyone who might be facing any limitations with respect to data downloads.

Proof of Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability notification will be provided in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted to DMPR for review.

6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.



Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	15 August 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Twenty-three (23) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) were placed at 23 locations along the proposed project study area.	21 August 2025
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Carletonville Herald Newspaper. The Gazette Notice was placed in the Gauteng Provincial Gazette	21 August 2025 (Newspaper) 03 September 2025 (Gazette Notice)
Availability of Scoping Report for public review	Notification to I&APs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered letters with details on where the scoping report can be obtained and/or reviewed, public meeting date and time, EIMS contact details as well as the public review comment period; Facsimile notifications with a letter attachment, and the information described above; Email notifications with a letter attachment containing the information described above; Site notices and posters placed at and around the vicinity of the site and surrounding communities; Newspaper advertisement in the Carletonville Herald 	29 September 2025
	Placement of hard copy Scoping Report.	Hard copies of the reports were placed at the Deelkraal Library and Carletonville Public Library where members of the public can access the reports.	30 September 2025



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Public Meeting / Focus Group Meeting	Placement of Scoping Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website on https://www.eims.co.za/2025/08/25/1658-harmony-mponeng/ . A Data-free alternative will be provided upon request to anyone who might be facing any limitations with respect to data downloads.	30 September 2025
	Scoping Phase Public Meeting / Focus Group Meeting	A public meeting and/or Focus Group Meeting was undertaken during the public review of the Scoping Report.	09 October 2025 & 10 October 2025
Availability of Environmental Impact Assessment Report for public review	Placement of hard copy Environmental Impact Assessment Report.	Hard copies of the reports will be placed at the Deelkraal Library and Carletonville Public Library where members of the public can access the reports.	TBC February 2026
	Placement of Environmental Impact Assessment Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website on https://www.eims.co.za/2025/08/25/1658-harmony-mponeng/ . A Data-free alternative will be provided upon request to anyone who might be facing any limitations with respect to data downloads.	TBC February 2026
Public Meeting	EIA Phase Public Meeting	A public meeting will be undertaken during the public review of the EIA Report	TBC March 2026

7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- I&AP registration
- Request for site maps
- South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL): No objection to proposed project.
- Transnet Properties: Not affected by proposed project.
- Transnet Freight Rail: Requested project layout and information to determine if they are an I&AP.
- Centre for Environmental Rights requested for a virtual engagement.
- Merafong City Local Municipality: No objections to the proposed project.
- Concerns raised about complex corporate structures when it comes to mine closure.



- Query on alternatives that were considered.
- Concerns about the site being converted to a landfill site.
- Query on where the spring will be diverted.
- Questions on plans regarding the lining of the TSF.
- Enquiries on a dust management plan.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **APPENDIX 10** Please refer to **APPENDIX 11** for proof of correspondence.

8 CONCLUSION

The comments received during the initial call to register and Scoping phase period were used to inform the compilation of this PPR.



9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: IAP DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

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APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE PROOF



APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF



APPENDIX 5: SCOPING REPORT NOTIFICATION PROOF

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APPENDIX 6: SCOPING PHASE SITE NOTICE PROOF



APPENDIX 7: SCOPING PHASE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



APPENDIX 8: SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REGISTER



APPENDIX 9: FOCUS GROUP MEETING MINUTES



APPENDIX 10: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE



APPENDIX 11: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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