



Vhufashu Heritage Consultants

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To: South African Heritage Resource Agency (Graves and Burial grounds Office)

RE: RESCUE OF UNCOVERED HUMAN REMAINS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING PROJECT ON FARM UITVLUIGHT 887KS, NEAR DE HOOP DAM, GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF THE SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

This letter serve to apply for a rescue permit of human remains uncovered during the construction of housing project on farm Uitvluight 887KS. The farm is located approximately 45kilometers west of Steelpoort CBD, in close proximity of De hoop Dam and main tarred road (R555) from Burgersfort to Rossenekal the area fall within Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province. Site global positioning system co-ordinates South 24°.59' .25.1" and East 29 ° .53.56.01.

The proposed housing project form part of the relocation process, where several families were affected by the construction of De hoop dam (Presidential Project). The EIA process for the proposed demarcation of residential units on farm Uitvluight 887KS was done by Hluli Environmental and Engineers in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) NEMA as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) regulation of 2010. Archaeological Impact Assessment of the project was done by Vhufashu Heritage Consultants (2013). The studies only identified an archaeological site of the late Iron Age period indicated by few scattered potsherd and high concentration

of Vitrified dung deposits. The area was demarcated as a “no go” area by the construction activities pending permit application with SAHRA.

On 31 of July 2014 the construction crew members’ uncovered human remains on unmarked burial ground when they were clearing vegetation in preparation of access roads and residential units’ foundation. The remains were noted approximately 600meters north east of newly constructed three residential units. The site is further a kilometer away from the identified archaeological site. The remains were uncovered at the depth of 15cm from the surface. Some of the identifiable bones includes, crushed skull cranial bones, section of mandible with molars, tibia and clavicle and tarsal. An archaeologist from Vhufahashu Heritage Consultants was instructed by the Environmental Consultants to intervene and assess the uncovered remains. The archaeologist investigated the remains in the presence of Rossenekal Police on the same date and instructed the Construction crew to cordon off the site any construction related activities. The site was barricaded with danger tape. The uncovered remains were reported to the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority.

This remains are older than 60 years and should be protected in terms of Section 36 of Act 25 of 1999 (National Heritage Resources Act) as well as the Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983) and are the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA). The procedure for Consultation Regarding Burial Grounds and Graves (Section 36(5) of Act 25 of 1999) is applicable to graves older than 60 years that are situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority. The National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999, **Section 36 (3) maintains that**, No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority:

- (i) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (ii) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Graves in the category located inside a formal cemetery administered by a Local authority will also require the same authorization as set out for graves younger than 60 years over and above SAHRA authorization.

In order to give way for the construction activities to precede without hindrances the uncovered remains should be rescued to a safe local community's cemetery.

Kind regards,

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