



**TSHIKOVHA
ENVIRONMENTAL &
COMMUNICATION
CONSULTING**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING OF VARIOUS
MINERALS IN FARM TAUNG 894 HN WITHIN GREATER TAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOPATSI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN NORTH WEST
PROVINCE**

PROJECT PROPONENT: BATLAPING BA GA PHUDUHUCWANA COMMUNITY

REFERENCE NUMBER: NW 30/5/1/1/2/11836 EM

DATE: MARCH 2016

OUR VALUES ARE PASSION, TECHNIQUE AND WE DELIVER ON TIME

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Batlaping Ba Ga Phuduhucwana Community proposes to conduct prospecting activities in Farm Taung 894 HN within Greater Taung Local Municipality under the jurisdiction of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mopatsi District Municipality in North West Province. The commodities to be prospected are: Coal, Natural Gas, Diamond, Gold, Oil, Rare Earth Minerals, Shale/slate, Zinc and Uranium. The prospecting activities will be undertaken over a period of 5 years.

The prospecting activities will be conducted in phases, with the next phase depending on the results and success of preceding phase. The phases in sequence are the planning phase, field mapping, geophysical survey, soil sampling, preliminary drilling and assaying, detailed drilling and assaying and geological modelling and evaluation.

THE NEEDS AND DESIRABILITY

South Africa's total mineral reserves are estimated at \$2.5 trillion, with the mining sector contributing 18% of GDP and over 50% in foreign exchange earnings. The sector brings in an annual income exceeding R330 billion and accounts for 20% of all investment in the country. All that revenue generated needs spending somewhere – of the R441 billion in expenditure which the mining industry generates, R407 billion is spent locally, further stimulating the economy. Mining also contributes significantly to the State Treasury – around R17 billion in corporate tax and R6 billion in royalties. Having helped found the JSE, today mining houses still provide around 30% of its market capitalisation. A successful prospecting of the reserves in Taung will further enhance the revenue of the country and mainly that of the North West Province which has an unemployment rate which is higher than the national rate.

The Mining Intelligence Database points out that, currently, the mining and related industries not only employs over one million people – spending R78 billion in wages and salaries – but is the largest contributor by value to Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). Importantly, mining provides job mining opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled people. Although the prospecting activities will not require large number of employees, a successful prospecting project will eventually lead to the realisation of mining activities which will require a large number of both skilled and unskilled labours.

It was observed that there is illegal prospecting and mining activities on site, and as such permitting the proposed activities will curb illegal mining activities on site and also help fight selling of commodities through the black market which is a loss of revenue as such sales are not taxed.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed site is located about 40 km south of Vryburg in the North West Province. The site is within the Greater Taung Local Municipality under the Jurisdiction of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality.

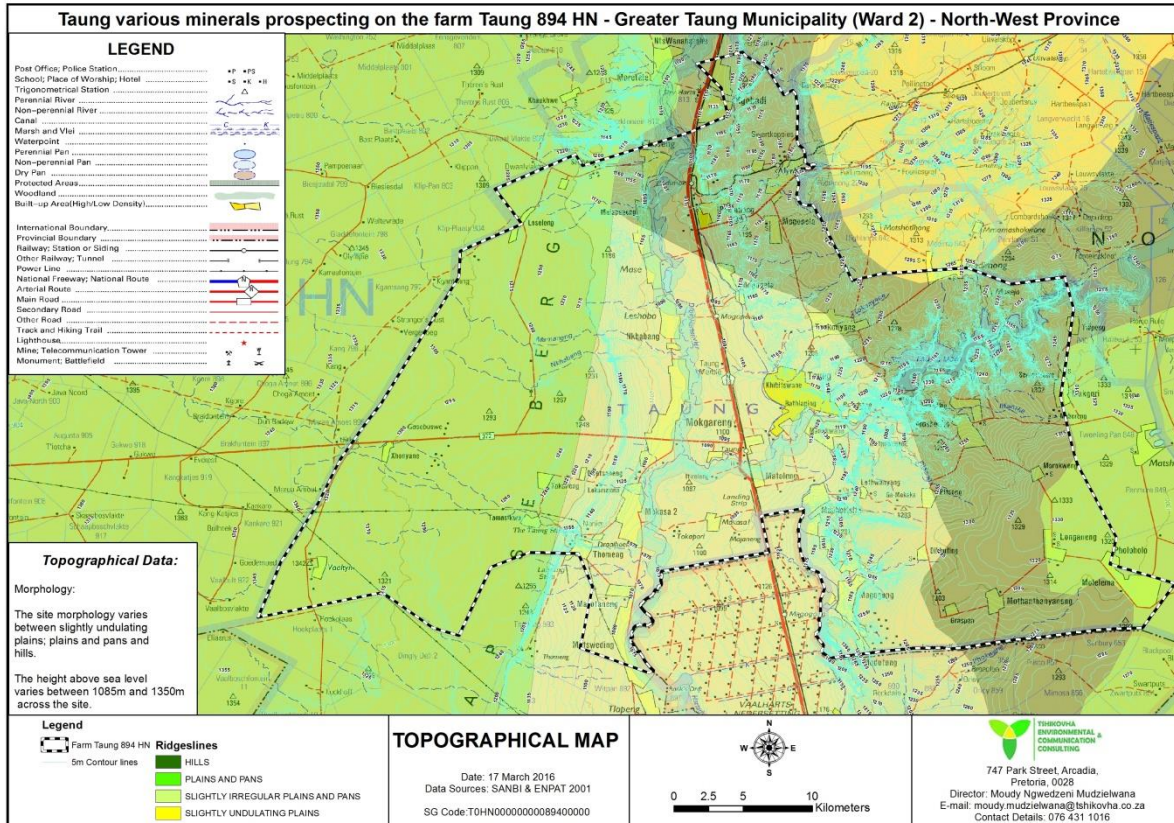


Figure 1 Proposed prospecting site

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The proposed activity requires a Basic Environmental Assessment (BA) to be undertaken in compliance with the regulatory requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998, the Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act (MPRDA), Act No 28 of 2002 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, Government Regulation Notice (GRN) 982. North West Department of Economic, Finance and Enterprise Development on behalf of Batlaping Ba Ga Phudukwana Community appointed Tshikovha Environmental & Communication Consulting (TECC) to conduct the Basic Assessment (BA) process.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document, the Background Information Document (BID), is intended to provide information about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development and provides:

- An overview of the project;
- An overview of the legislative context and a description of the manner in which the EIA will be undertaken;
- An indication of how interested and affected parties (IAPs) may become involved in the project; and
- Contact details of the person to whom I&APs may submit their issues and concerns associated with the projects.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO LISTED ACTIVITIES

In terms of Regulations 982 promulgated under Chapter 4 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) in Government Gazette 38282 on December 2014, a Basic Assessment (BA) process is being conducted for the proposed bridge development. The need for a Basic Assessment is triggered by the inclusion of, amongst others, the following activity listed in **GN R 983**

EIA REGULATION PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT NOTICE	ACTIVITY NO.	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 983 Listing Notice 1 of 8 December 2014	20	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to prospecting of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No.28 of 2002)

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment process being implemented can be summarised as follows:

Step 1: apply for prospecting right with the Competent Authority which is North West Department of mineral Resource. The application was lodged on the 04th of March 2016 and was given Reference Number **NW30/5/1/1/3/2/11836 EM.**

Step 2: Notify I&APs and identify issues. The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be announced through an advert in the Taung Daily news local newspaper. The advert is to inform Interested & Affected Parties of the proposed project and invite them to register on the database for the BA process. Letters will be sent to I&APs on the I&AP register and this database will be updated through-out the BA process. I&APs will be provided with a Background Information Document (BID) on the project, including a locality map and a comment form. I&APs will be provided with opportunity to raise any issues of concern related to the project, for inclusion in the Draft Basic Assessment Report.

Step 3: Prepare a Consultation Basic Assessment Report and release for I&AP review. All issues raised will be investigated and responded to by the BA team, with findings provided in the Consultation Basic Assessment Report. This report will include an issues trail and will be released for a 30 day comment period. All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the opportunity to comment on the report, and provided with a concise summary of the Draft Basic Assessment Report.

Step 4: Compile a Final Basic Assessment Report and submit to authorities. The Final Basic Assessment Report, Comments and Responses Trail, will be compiled for submission to the authorities for decision making. All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the outcome of the application, including reasons for the decision and the appeal process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process forms an integral part of the Basic Assessment process. The following activities will be carried out during the phase of the project:

- Placing notice boards at the proposed sites.
- Advertising the process in a local newspaper.
- Giving written notice to:
 - ✓ The landowners and occupiers of the site.
 - ✓ Owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site.
 - ✓ The municipal councillor of the affected ward.
 - ✓ The municipality which has jurisdiction in the area.
 - ✓ Organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.

Interested and affected parties will have the opportunity to flag issues, and provide comments on the proposed activities. Issues of concern and suggestions raised by interested and affected parties will be recorded and responded to in the Consultation Basic Assessment Report.

The time frames of the activities involved in the public participation process are as follows:

- 30 days for public participation process according the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ By registering your interest in the project with the consultant indicated below.
- ✓ By responding to our invitation for your involvement advertised in local newspaper.
- ✓ By mailing or faxing a comment form to the participation consultant indicated below.
- ✓ By telephonically contacting the participation consultant if you have a query, comment, or require further project information.
- ✓ By reviewing the various reports within the 30-day comment period.
- ✓ By attending any feedback meetings, which may be held during the review period. Should you be registered as an I&AP you will be invited to attend these meetings.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Consultant: Tshikovha Environmental and Communication Consulting

747 Park Street,

Arcadia, Pretoria,

Telephone: 012 343 9820

Fax: 086 600 1016

Vele Khangale: vele.khangale@tshikovha.co.za (General Enquiries)

Khuliso Ramulondi: Khuliso.ramulondi@tshikovha.co.za (Technical Enquiries)

Moudy Mudzielwana: moudy.mudzielwana@tshikovha.co.za (Technical Enquiries)

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

I&AP CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	
Organisation	
Telephone Number	
Physical Address	
Postal Address (if other than the above)	
Fax Number	
E-mail Address	

Please indicate the nature of your interest with respect to the application for the proposed Project (i.e. business, financial, personal, or other)

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Please provide us with any comments, issues or concerns which you think should be included in the environmental assessment process

Please provide details of any other I&APs (individuals or organisations) that should be involved.
