



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Ref: 12/1/9/2-V87 Enq: Mothapo SW Tel: 015 293 8396 E-mail: Mothaposw@ledet.gov.za

NEAS Ref No.: LIM/EIA/0000880/2019

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM HEAD OFFICE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT 19 -11- 2019 P.O. BOX 55464 POLOKWANE. 0700 LIMPOPO PROVINCE

For attention: Antonie van Staden

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E-mail: antonie@zz2.co.za

CLOSURE LETTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONEMNTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 450 HECTARES OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR TOMATO LANDS ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 3 OF THE FARM CONISTON 699 MS WITHIN MAKHADO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF VHEMBE DISTRICT

1. The application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above mentioned development refers.
2. The application form together with the Scoping Report (SR) for consultation for the project indicated above were received by the Department on 03 June 2019 and acknowledged on 11 June 2019.
3. The Department further received the SR required in terms of regulation 21(1) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 on 05 August 2019. As part of processing the SR, the Department undertook a site visit on 15 August 2019, which revealed clearance of vegetation which was undertaken within the property.
4. The Department out of the review of SR, accepted the submission and suspended the application on the 5th of September 2019. In the suspension letter, the Department requested the applicant to provide authorisation which legalized the following cleared areas:
 - Approximately 37.8ha of vegetation was cleared in 2007, according to Google earth satellite imagery and information submitted to the Department;
 - Approximately 22ha of vegetation was cleared in 2013, according to Google earth satellite imagery and information submitted to the Department; and
 - Approximately 17.20ha of vegetation was cleared in 2016, according to Google earth satellite imagery and information submitted to the Department.
5. In response to the suspension, the Department received a written submission from Mr JH Botha of AGES (Pty) Ltd appointed as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for the above mentioned application for EA. The EAP indicated that "the applicant bought the farm in good faith assuming the land were legal". Proof of opinion to buy the property signed on 14 November 2018 as evidence was attached.

HEAD OFFICE

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6. Based on the request of suspension, no authorisation was provided which legalized the above cleared areas. The clearance of vegetation in 2016 triggered a listed activity as follows:

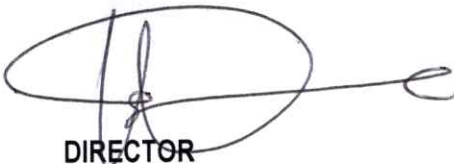
Listed in the EIA Regulations R. 984 of 2014 as: -

Activity 15 – “The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation”.

7. Therefore, the undertaking of the above vegetation clearance without an EA contravened section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended.
8. In light of the above, please note the application for the above mentioned proposed development on the above mentioned property is officially **closed** and will be dealt with accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department should you have any queries in this respect.

Yours faithfully



**DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**

DATE: 19/11/2019

Cc: AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd

Attention: Mr Botha JH

E-mail: limpopo@ages-group.com

