



**eTHEMBENI
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

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4 June 2014

Attention Mrs Annie van der Venter

Dear Mrs van der Venter

APPLICATION FOR AN EMERGENCY EXHUMATION PERMIT

**Exposure of graves during earthmoving activities associated with the construction of the Imvutshane Dam,
Maphumulo, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Umgeni Water has appointed eThembeni Cultural Heritage to manage the relocation of traditional burial places that will be affected by the construction of the Imvutshane Dam near Maphumulo. Identification of burial locations and discussions with next-of-kin has proceeded in compliance with the requirements of national and provincial heritage legislation, COGTA and the Department of Health. Applications for the exhumation and reinterment of these graves will be made to Amafa as the project proceeds.

However, during the grading of a new sports field for the local community, outside of the full-supply level (FSL) of the dam, graves not identified in the HIA audit were impacted on. The Khanyile family are the owners of the graves although they are no longer resident at the site of the burials. As a consequence of the disturbance they wish to make peace with the ancestors and also relocate the graves to their current place of residence further upslope in the Mvutshane valley.

On their behalf we request an emergency permit to allow a registered undertaker (DOVES) to conduct the exhumations and reinterments as heavy machinery activity continues in the vicinity of the graves.

Please find the letters of consent from the Khanyile family representative and supporting affidavits as loaded on SAHRIS case File No. 5399.

We trust that this permit can be urgently expedited, firstly in favour of the Ntshangase family and the sentiments associated with disturbance of their ancestors' spirits and further, the ongoing threat of disturbance damage to the partially exposed graves by heavy machinery activity.

Yours sincerely

Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl