



Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Exposure of human remains during roadworks associated with the
Construction of 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 are proceeding satisfactorily according to the requirements of national and provincial heritage legislation and heritage authorities.

A human cranium was exposed during the construction of an access road to the dam and the project managers alerted eThembeni immediately. Mr Len van Schalkwyk instructed the managers to place a barrier around the remains to prevent further damage and then notified Ms Annie van de Venter at Amafa telephonically of the incident. eThembeni ascertained that the burial place had not been identified during the initial ancestral grave documentation process, since the next-of-kin had relocated many years ago. We have initiated steps to locate and notify the families concerned.

eThembeni staff members undertook a site inspection on 18 September 2013 and ascertained that minimal damage to the cranium had occurred (please refer to photographs submitted separately). We estimate that the burial is located approximately 1.8m below the soil surface and that it could be as old as 100 years, given local soil and weathering conditions.

We issued further instructions to project managers concerning interim protection of the remains. Although no further roadworks are anticipated in the vicinity of the burial the road will be utilised intensively by construction vehicles and there is a very real possibility that the skeletal remains will be damaged or destroyed. Accordingly Mr van Schalkwyk has submitted a permit application to Amafa for emergency excavation of the burial and storage of the remains at Amafa until appropriate reburial procedures have been negotiated with the next-of-kin.

We request Amafa to expedite the issue of this permit in light of the serious and ongoing threat of damage to the partially exposed burial.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Len van Schalkwyk in black ink.Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Wahl in black ink.

Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl