

Prepared for:

PILANESBERG PLATINUM MINE

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EXISTENCE OF A POSSIBLE
GRAVE ON WILGESPRUIT 2JQ WITHIN THE PROPOSED
SEDIBELO PROJECT AREA NEAR THE PILANESBERG IN THE
NORTH-WEST PROVINCE**

Prepared by:

Dr Julius CC Pistorius

Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant

8 5th Avenue, Cashan x 1

Rustenburg 0299

1 September 2020

CONTENTS

1	DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST	3
2	DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	4
3	BACKGROUND	5
4	THE POSSIBLE GRAVE SITE	6
4.1	Emily Maretlwa's account of a possible grave	6
4.2	Location of the possible grave	7
5	DISCUSSIONS	10
6	RECOMMENDATIONS	11

1 DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST

Profession: Archaeologist, Museologist (Museum Scientists), Lecturer, Heritage Guide Trainer and Heritage Consultant

Qualifications:

BA (Archaeology, Anthropology and Psychology) (UP, 1976)

BA (Hons) Archaeology (distinction) (UP, 1979)

MA Archaeology (distinction) (UP, 1985)

D Phil Archaeology (UP, 1989)

Post Graduate Diploma in Museology (Museum Sciences) (UP, 1981)

Work experience:

Museum curator and archaeologist for the Rustenburg and Phalaborwa Town Councils (1980-1984)

Head of the Department of Archaeology, National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria (1988-1989)

Lecturer and Senior lecturer Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Pretoria (1990-2003)

Independent Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant (2003-)

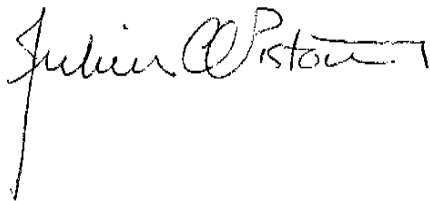
Accreditation: Member of the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists. (ASAPA)

Summary: Julius Pistorius is a qualified archaeologist and heritage specialist with extensive experience as a university lecturer, museum scientist, researcher and heritage consultant. His research focussed on the Late Iron Age Tswana and Lowveld-Sotho (particularly the Bamalatji of Phalaborwa). He has published a book on early Tswana settlement in the North-West Province and has completed an unpublished manuscript on the rise of Bamalatji metal workings spheres in Phalaborwa during the last 1 200 years. He has excavated more than twenty LIA settlements in North-West and twelve IA settlements in the Lowveld and has mapped hundreds of stone walled sites in the North-West. He has written a guide for Eskom's field personnel on heritage management. He has published twenty scientific papers in academic journals and several popular articles on archaeology and heritage matters. He collaborated with environmental companies in compiling State of the Environmental Reports for Ekurhuleni, Hartbeespoort and heritage management plans for the Magaliesberg and Waterberg. Since acting as an independent consultant he has done approximately 800 large to small heritage impact assessment reports. He has a longstanding working relationship with Eskom, Rio Tinto (PMC), Rio Tinto (EXP), Impala Platinum, Angloplats (Rustenburg), Lonmin, Sasol, PMC, Foskor, Kudu and Kelgran Granite, Bafokeng Royal Resources, Pilanesberg Platinum Mine (PPM) etc. as well as with several environmental companies.

2 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Dr Julius CC Pistorius declare the following:

- I act as an independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even, if this result in views and findings that are not favourable for the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialists report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the applications;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and other applicable legislation;
- I will consider, to the extent possible, the matters listed in Regulation 13;
- I understand to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority; and
- I realise that a false declaration is offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



1 September 2020

3 BACKGROUND

The author was approached by Peter Lentsoane and Dimakatsu Maseremule of Pilanesberg Platinum Mine's (PPM) Environmental Department to assist with establishing the presence of a possible grave on the farm Wilgespruit 2JQ where the proposed new Sedibelo Platinum Mine is to be established and to advise how to proceed in order not to affect the grave as a result of the proposed mine development program.

A site visit was conducted on 27 August 2020 to identify the presence of the possible grave. The author accompanied Dimakatsu Maseremule of PPM when visiting Emily Maretlwa who reported the presence of the possible grave. The meeting was attended by Emily Maretlwa the spokesperson who brought the existence of the possible grave to public attention, her uncle and individuals who either live on the property or who are neighbours, friends and visitors. Security personnel from PPM as well as another official from PPM (Vincent) attended the meeting all of whose names were recorded in the attendance register.



Figure 1- The possible grave site on Wilgespruit 2JQ visible on Google Earth imagery (above).

4 THE POSSIBLE GRAVE SITE

4.1 Emily Maretlwa's account of a possible grave

According to Emily Maretlwa who lives on a farm small holding on Wilgespruit 2JQ her mother Motsabi Alice Pilane who used to live on the property lost a daughter (Emily's sister) soon after the latter was born. The deceased child was then buried next to Motsabi's home which she at the time occupied.

Emily Maretlwa's mother Motsabi Alice Pilane was born on 20 November 1947 and passed away during 2011. She was buried in Lesetleng.

Whilst living on the property on Wilgespruit 2JQ Motsabi gave birth to a daughter during 1970 or 1971. However, the girl unfortunately passed away when she was approximately eight to nine months old. The child was thereafter buried next to the house which Motsabi Alice Pilane at the time occupied.

Emily Maretlwa (daughter of Motsabi Alice Pilane and sister of the deceased) was not living on the property at the time of her sister's death. Consequently, she is not sure where the burial took place. However, she is of the opinion that the child was buried directly next to Motsabi Alice Pilane's house. She indicated a spot where she thought the grave may be located. This is in close proximity of part of the cement floor of the house, now demolished, which Motsabi Alice Pilane occupied (Figures 1 & 2). (The coordinates for the possible grave is 25° 06.385's; 27° 02.009'e).

Emily Maretlwa is not aware of the existence of any birth or death certificates for the deceased girl.

The grave was probably not decorated after the burial otherwise its existence would not have been questioned.

4.2 Location of the possible grave

The homestead on the farm holding which Emily Maretlwa currently occupies holds at least one house which she occupies whilst the remains of others (foundations and rubble) can still be seen. The deceased child was buried directly next to Motsabi Alice Pilane's former house which now is demolished and which is located directly adjacent to the house which Emily Maretlwa currently occupies. The remains of other houses which were occupied by family members in the past but which are now demolished are still partly visible around Emily Maretlwa's house (Figures 3 & 4).

These remains date from the last five to six decades but do not hold any historical significance.



Figure 2- The possible grave's location next to Emily Maretlwa's house on Wilgespruit 2JQ as is visible on Google Earth imagery (above).



Figure 3- The possible grave may be located next to the piece of cement floor which used to be the floor of the house which Motsabi Alice Pilane occupied. Emily Maretlwa's house is located directly next to the foundation (above).



Figure 4- Upright stones in a line indicate the presence of a former dwelling in close proximity of Emily Maretlwa's and Motsabi Alice Pilane's dwellings (above).

The possible grave's position directly next to the house which Motsabi Alice Pilane occupied is indicated by part of the cement floor which used to be the floor of the house which the latter occupied. Emily Maretlwa's house is also situated directly next to the cement floor (Figure 3.

No other evidence for any possible grave is visible in the direct vicinity of these two houses.

5 DISCUSSIONS

Discussions between Dimakatso Maseremule and Emily Maretlwa lead to the following outcome and agreement between the two parties, namely:

- That the spot where the possible grave is located must be demarcated after the farm homestead has been abandoned and Emily Maretlwa has vacated her house. This will prevent that the possible grave be affected when new developmental activities on the property commence.
- That the possible grave be exhumed and relocated when it appears that the possible grave may be affected by any newly planned developmental activities. When this situation arises the process of exhumation and relocation of the possible grave must be discussed and negotiated between the mine and interested and affected parties.

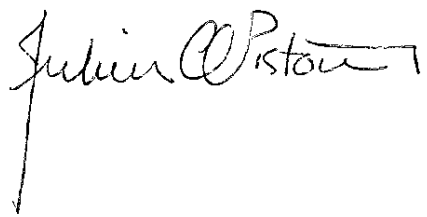
6 CONCLUSION

It is most likely that the possible grave will eventually be affected as the mining development project progresses. All graveyards and graves can be considered to be of high significance and are protected by various laws. Legislation with regard to graves includes Section 36 of the NHRA in instances where graves are older than sixty years. However, this will not apply to the possible grave as it is younger than sixty years. Other legislation with regard to graves includes those which apply when graves are exhumed and relocated, namely the Ordinance on Exhumations (No 12 of 1980) and the Human Tissues Act (No 65 of 1983 as amended). Municipal laws with regard to graves and graveyards may differ and professionals involved with the exhumation and relocation of graves and graveyards must adhere to these laws.

The exhumation and relocation of human remains is undertaken by forensic archaeologists or reputed undertakers who are acquainted with all the administrative procedures and relevant legislation that have to be adhered to whenever human remains are exhumed and relocated. This process also includes social consultation with a 60 days statutory notice period for graves older than sixty years. However, this would not apply to the possible grave as it is younger than sixty years.

Permission for the exhumation and relocation of human remains have to be obtained from the descendants of the deceased (if known), the National Department of Health, the Provincial Department of Health, the Premier of the Province and the local police. Municipal laws with regard to graves and graveyards may differ and professionals involved with the exhumation and relocation of graves and graveyards must adhere to these laws.

It is therefore recommended that a reputed funeral undertaker be task to exhume any remains that may exist from the possible grave and to relocate these remains to a destiny as determined by interested and affected parties if and when a situation arose which may negatively affect the possible grave's unaffected future existence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julius CC Pistorius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the 'J'.

DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS

Archaeologist & Heritage Consultant

Member ASAPA