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Enquiries: **Louis De Villiers**

DMR Ref: **NC 30/5/1/2/5/2/147 MR**

South-African Heritage Resource Agency

P.O. Box 4637

Cape Town

8000

For attention: Mr. A. Salomon

NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION FOR AN INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE DIAMOND MINING OPERATION ON PORTION FARM OF ZAND PLAATS 102, REMAINDER OF VOGELSTRUISPAN 101, REMAINDER OF THE FARM VOGELSTRUISPAN 98, REMAINDER OF KLIPFONTEIN 99 AND REMAINDER OF BERGPLAATS 100, KIMBERLEY DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE

Notice is given of an application for an Water Use License (“**WULA**”) to the Department of Water and Sanitation (“**DWS**”) in terms of Section 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 (“**NWA**”) and Environmental Authorisation (“**EA**”) to the Department of Mineral Resources (“**DMR**”) in terms of the and the 2017 EIA Regulations under the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (“**NEMA**”) for the mining of alluvial diamonds inside watercourses (including the Vaal River) and other sensitive areas on the following properties in the Kimberley District of the Northern Cape:

Zand Plaats 102/5

Vogelstruispan RE/101

Vogelstruispan RE/98

Klipfontein RE/99, and

Bergplaats RE/100

This notification provides you as potential Interested and Affected Parties (“I&AP”), Stakeholder and/or Commenting Authority with the opportunity to comment on the proposed project and to indicate your interest.

1. Project Description

Current activities:

Rooipoort Developments (Pty) Ltd (“**The Applicant**”) has an existing mining right (refer to DMR Reference Number above) and a Record of Decision (“**RoD**”) for the existing alluvial diamond mining operation on the properties indicated above. The proposed application and licenses, if authorised, will allow the applicant to conduct mining activities inside, and within the 1:100-year flood line of the Vaal River and other watercourses on the mining right area.

The existing mining operation consist of opencast mining with 70-ton excavators whereby topsoil and overburden is stripped from the surface to expose the diamond bearing gravel. The gravels are excavated from the void and screened to extract the oversized materials from the gravel. Each open void has a footprint of 100m x 200m, except for some areas where the voids will be limited to an area of 100m x 50m. Only one void is opened for each deposit, but three voids will be open at any given time as one void will be stripped of overburden, gravel will be removed from the second void and transported to the Process Plant and the third void will be backfilled and rehabilitated. Topsoil and overburden removed will be stockpiled separately on the high ground size of the void to be returned to the void during rehabilitation.

The gravel from the void is transported to the Process Plant via trucks where it is screened to a size of <75mm. This screened material is then scrubbed and screened to -32mm and +2mm where after this concentrate is processed through a Dense Medium Separator (“**DMS**”) plant and the final recovery section (“**Process Plant**”). After processing of the material, it (with the oversized material) is hauled back to the same void from where it has been excavated.

Fine material suspended in water from the Process Plant is pumped back to the first excavation site (“**First Cut**”) where the fine material is allowed to settle, and water is recovered and re-used in the Process Plant. When the First Cut is filled with fine material and is dry enough the overburden and topsoil is returned, and the First Cut is rehabilitated.

Proposed activities:

The mining activities will remain as indicated above with the exception that voids will be made inside inland watercourses where the gravels will be excavated. After mining of the voids, the watercourses

will be rehabilitated and returned to their pre-mining condition. Effort will be made to rehabilitate the watercourse in such a manner to improve runoff and to reduce risks of erosion and sedimentation of downstream watercourses.

Mining activities is planned inside the Vaal River. The mining activities proposed in the Vaal River includes the diversion of the active channel to dry the bed of the river before mining occurs. After mining of the bed of the Vaal River the material will be returned, and the bed of the Vaal River will be rehabilitated before the mined out section is opened for the flow of water.

2. Legislation

The following licenses will be applied for:

- *Application for Water Use License (“WUL”) for the following water uses listed in the NWA:*
 - *Section 21(c): “Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse”; and*
 - *Section 21(j): “Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse”.*
- *Application for EA for the following activities:*
 - *GN. R. 325 of the 2017 EIA Regulations:*

Activity 15: “The clearance of an area of 20 ha or more of indigenous vegetation”,

Activity 17: “Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining right as contemplated in Section 22 of the MPRDA, including (a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource; or (b) the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classification, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing”.

- *GN. R. 327 of the 2017 EIA Regulations:*

Activity 14: “The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic meters”

Activity 19: “The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse”

Activity 24: “The development of a road—(ii) wider than 8 meters”.

The application process will include the following:

- WULA,
- S&EIR Process,
- Public Participation Process,
- Specialist studies including designs and method statements.

3. S&EIR

The impacts of all activities associated with the Project will be assessed in the S&EIR. Draft reports will be made available to all registered I&APs for comment. Comments received will be addressed and incorporated into the final reports, which will then also be made available to the registered I&APs for comment.

An Environmental Management Programme report will also be developed for all activities associated with the Project, wherein mitigation and management measures will be proposed that should be implemented during all phases of the project. The final reports will be submitted to the DMR (Kimberley) for processing of the application for EA.

Comments received regarding the WULA will be included in all reports.

4. Locality:

The proposed mining activities is planned for the 5 properties as indicated above. Please refer to the attached locality map.

The centre coordinates for the properties on which the activities are planned are as follows:

Latitude	Longitude
28°38'8.53"	24°10'24.47"

5. Invitation to participate

You are requested to send any issues and/or concerns regarding the proposed projects to Louis De Villiers at Turn180 Environmental Consultants within 30 days of the date of this letter. Any of the following contact details can be used:

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