



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

SITE INSPECTION REPORT: Tumeke Mine: Mogale Graves

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HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

Date: 10 June 2021

APP Indicator Number: 4.1





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1. Introduction

Section 5 (1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) states that “Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of the South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival”.

2. Purpose of the Report

The purpose is to give a report on the meeting and site visit held at Anglo American-Tumeka Mine on the 8th of June 2021.

3. Background

On the 28th of May 2021, the HPU received a complaint that was addressed to the DMRE, and then forwarded to us.

4. Meeting Undertaking

On the 8th of June 2021, The HPU had a meeting with Anglo American Mine, the family representatives, the Tribal authorities, and the Department of Mineral Resources regarding the destruction of the Mogale graves.



Figure 1: Meeting Undertaking

In the meeting it was stated that this has been an ongoing issue for the past three years and no outcome was reached. The mine representative stated that a study was done, and a Heritage Impact Assessment was done by archaeologist Dr. Matenga together with Dr Magoga. The study shows that there were graves on the site, however the graves are no longer visible. The mine states that no mining has been done in that specific area and do not know what happened to the graves.



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In 2006 the mine constructed a memorial in honour of those family members that were buried there. The memorial currently has 26 names listed on it. The names were researched through the local Roman Catholic church. The land belongs to the Chief and the Tribal Authority.



Figure 2 & 3: The Memorial and the Palisade Fencing

The family is very aggrieved as they cannot access their grandparents grave, thus they cannot perform any rituals in their African culture. This situation is giving them a lot of ailments in life.

The meeting then proceeded for a site visit to view the memorial and the alleged site where the graves are. Upon arrival the delegation viewed the memorial which has been demarcated with palisade fencing. There was no evidence of the graves.

5. Recommendations

- It was suggested that a spiritual repatriation must be done, in order for the family to find closure and rest.



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- A phase 2 must be done according to phase 1 recommendations, which stated that a GPR must be used to ascertain if there are any human remains.
- The family will send the Wishlist to the mine for further engagements outside this meeting.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the graves have not been found, however the phase 2 of the project will continue. The SAHRA will be updated at all times of the proceedings.

Heritage Officer: Kim Ngobeni

Date: 24 June 2021

Heritage Protection Manager: Ms. Nkosazana Machete

Date: 24 June 2021



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