



**mineral resources**

Department:  
Mineral Resources  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NAME OF APPLICANT: **Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd**

REFERENCE NUMBER: (FS) 30/5/1/2/2/10020MR

## **SCOPING REPORT**

**SUBMITTED WITH DUE REGARD TO**  
**CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITIES AND**  
**INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

**AS REQUIRED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 49 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (ACT 28 of 2002), AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD DIRECTIVE FOR THE COMPILATION THEREOF AS PUBLISHED ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES.**

## **A. Definitions**

**‘consultation’** means a two way communication process between the applicant and the community or interested and affected party wherein the former is seeking, listening to, and considering the latter’s response, which allows openness in the decision making process.

**‘community’** means a group of historically disadvantaged persons with interest or rights in a particular area of land on which the members have or exercise communal rights in terms of an agreement, custom or law: Provided that, where as a consequence of the provisions of the Act negotiations or consultations with the community are required, the community shall include the members or part of the community, directly affected by prospecting or mining, on land occupied by such members or part of the community.

**‘Interested and affected’ parties** include, but are not limited to; –

- (i) Host Communities
- (ii) Landowners (Traditional and Title Deed owners)
- (iii) Traditional Authority
- (iv) Land Claimants
- (v) Lawful land occupier
- (vi) The Department of Land Affairs,
- (vii) Any other person ( including on adjacent and non-adjacent properties) whose socio-economic conditions may be directly affected by the proposed prospecting or mining operation
- (viii) The Local Municipality,
- (ix) The relevant Government Departments, agencies and institutions responsible for the various aspects of the environment and for infrastructure which may be affected by the proposed project.

## **STANDARD DIRECTIVE**

**All applicants for, mining rights, in terms of the provisions of Section 29 (a) and in terms of Regulation 49 (4) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, directed to submit report strictly in accordance with the following format and subject headings, and as informed by the guideline posted on the Departments Official Website, within 30 days of notification by the Regional Manager of the acceptance of such application.**

1. The methodology applied to conduct scoping,

- 1.1. Name the communities as defined in the guideline, or explain why no such community was identified.

**There is no community identified as the area comprises a farm amongst a number of commercial farms.**

- 1.2. State whether or not the Community is also the landowner.

**The Land Owner is Dr S Jacobs, a director in the company that is applying for a mining right.**

- 1.3. State whether or not the Department of Land Affairs been identified as an interested and affected party

**We requested our legal firm to do a land claim search on the property in question and the results came back negative. Therefore the Department of Land Affairs are not considered as an interested and affected party.**

- 1.4. State specifically whether or not a land claim is involved

**No land claim is involved on the property.**

- 1.5. Name the Traditional Authority identified by the applicant.

**There is no traditional authority over the property in the application.**

- 1.6. List the landowners identified by the applicant. (Traditional and Title Deed owners)

**No Traditional land owners and one title deed owner: Dr S Jacobs**

- 1.7. List the lawful occupiers of the land concerned

**Dr S Jacobs**

- 1.8. Explain whether or not other persons' (including on adjacent and non-adjacent properties) socio-economic conditions will be directly affected by the proposed prospecting or mining operation and if not, explain why not.

**The surrounding properties are used for mixed farming purposes. There are two small sand minings operations in the area. The socio economic conditions will remain exactly the same for adjacent properties as this is a small mining project with very limited impacts.**

- 1.9. Name the Local Municipality identified by the applicant.

**Ngwathe Local Authority. We are still awaiting a reply from the Ngwathe Municipality.**

- 1.10. Name the relevant Government Departments, agencies and institutions responsible for the various aspects of the environment , land and infrastructure which may be affected by the proposed project.

**Department of Agriculture  
Department of Water Affairs  
Department of Environmental Affairs**

- 1.11. Confirm that evidence that the landowner or lawful occupier of the land in question, and any other interested and affected parties including all those listed above, were notified, has been appended hereto.

**Notification letters were sent out by hand or email to neighbouring land owners and Government Departments. A notification was also placed on the gates of the farm to notify anyone passing by of the application for a Mining right on the property.**

**The owner of the land is a Director in the company applying for the mining right. The farm was bought with the sole**

**purpose of mining sand Direct Consultation letters were given to the persons on the surrounding farms little response has been received so far. Please see appendix A for the project summary and consultation letter.**

2. A description of the existing status of the cultural, socio-economic and biophysical environment, as the case may be, prior to the proposed mining operation; which description must include:-

**No traditional settlements are present in the area, land use is mostly residential and mixed farming and residential purposes.**

- 2.1. Confirm that the identified and consulted interested and affected parties agree on the description of the existing status of the environment.

**We have sent out consultation letters to the parties listed above but have not received replies yet. As and when reponses arrive we will notify the DMR of the respective responses.**

- 2.2. Describe the existing status of the cultural environment that may be affected

**Properties to the East of the proposed mine is open farmland. No persons live on this property. To the West of the proposed mine, there is a sand mine. The rest of the darms surrounding the proposed mining area are used for mixed farming purposes.**

- 2.3. Describe the existing status of any heritage environment that may be affected

**There are no heritage environments on the farm in question. The previous owner and the Provincial Administration of the Free State have mined sand on this property for years before Dr Jacobs bought the property.**

- 2.4. Describe the existing status of any current land uses and the socio-economic environment that may be directly affected

**The current land use is grazing. No major impact will occur on current farming practices. The previous owner and the**

**Provincial Administration of the Free State have mined sand on this property for years before Dr Jacobs bought the property.**

2.5. Describe the existing status of any infrastructure that may be affected.

**There are two existing farmhouses on the farm. These have been excluded in the mine plan. A dirt road and tar road services the farm and surrounding properties. Some of the concerns raised by the interested and affected parties verbally is the deterioration of the tar road due to the increased truck traffic in the area.**

2.6. Describe the existing status of the biophysical environment that will be affected, including the main aspects such as water resources, flora, fauna, air, soil, topography etc.

**The study area lies within the Highveldt Grassland veldt type of Low and Rebelo (1996) (veldt type no. 39). Previous land uses on the study area were agriculture (planting of crops) and sand mining. These have resulted in the study area containing very few elements of what is described and considered to be natural to this veldt type.**

**In pristine conditions the Redgrass *Themeda triandra* dominates entirely, and few other species occur, particularly forbs. Other grasses encountered include the Broom Needlegrass *Triraphis andropogonoides*, Sawtooth Lovegrass *Eragrostis superba* and a few others. Forbs include the Fishbean *Tephrosia semiglabra*, Wild Petunia *Ipomoea obscura* and others.**

**When the veldt is in poor condition as it is now, other elements invade, including karroid shrubs such as Bitterkaroo *Pentzia globosa*, Bankrupt bush *Stoebe vulgaris* and other, as well as woody dwarf shrubs such as *Eragrostis obtuse*, *Aristida congesta* and forbs such as *Chamaesyce prostrata*, *Hibiscus trionum* and *Blepharis integrifolia*.**

**Typical fauna that occur on the farm is guinea fowl, mongoose, ground squirrel, hares and francolin. None of these species are endangered.**

**Air quality is already impacted negatively by the close proximity of the SASOL chemical plant and Mittal steelworks situated 20 kilometers to East North East and East South East of the mine respectively.**

2.7. Provide any relevant additional information.

**None at this stage**

3. Identification of the anticipated environmental, social or cultural impacts, including the cumulative impacts, where applicable.

3.1. Provide a description of the proposed project including a map showing the spatial locality of infrastructure, extraction area, and any associated activities.

**Mining will take place via a contractor who will get paid per cubic meter of sand mined and loaded. Sand will be loaded by means of a front end loader onto awaiting client's trucks. The sand will be mined in strips with no more than one strip being open at any given time**

**One caravan will be on site for admin purposes and as a rest area for the contract operator. Equipment to be used is one front end loader, one tractor and one water trailer for dust suppression.**

**The following mining method will be followed:**

**The mining area would be clearly demarcated along its boundaries and indicated on the layout plan. Topsoil would be removed and stored separately and would be replaced during rehabilitation. Earthmoving equipment would be used to remove the sand and loaded onto the awaiting client's trucks. The disturbed areas would be sloped, the topsoil replaced and then monitored in terms of re-vegetation**

**Please see the appended map of the mine layout. Appendix B**

3.2. Describe any listed activities (in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations) which will be occurring within the proposed project.

**Apart from Activity 21 Mining, no other listed activities will take place on the farm.**

- 3.3. Specifically confirm that the community and identified interested and affected parties have been consulted and that they agree that the potential impacts identified include those identified by them.

**A mine project summary was issued as part of the consultation process to the identified interested and affected parties. We are still awaiting written responses from these parties. (Appendix A)**

- 3.4. Provide a list and description of potential impacts identified on the cultural environment.

- 3.4.1. Provide a list and description of potential impacts identified on the heritage environment, if applicable.

**During consultation with interested and affected parties no sites of archaeological or cultural interest were identified. The farm lies just outside the Vredefort dome area which is a world heritage site. The mining activities will have no impact on this site.**

- 3.4.2. Provide a list and description of potential impacts identified on the socio-economic conditions of any person on the property and on any adjacent or non adjacent property who may be affected by the proposed prospecting or mining operation.

**The social impact of the proposed development was considered at the macro (provincial) meso (district) and micro (farm) levels. This was investigated thoroughly as part of the social and labour plan as contemplated in regulation 46 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (28 of 2002) that makes out part of this application.**

**Macro (provincial) level**

**The relative small extent of the proposed mining operations implies that the development will not have a significant social impact at the macro level. The financial gain from any such mining operation always has the possibility to contribute positively towards the socio-economic aspect at any level. The mine have a very large beneficial impact on the development projects in Gauteng and the Vaal Triangle.**

**Meso (district) level**

**As for the macro level, the relative small extent of the proposed mining operations implies that the development will not have a significant social impact at the meso level. The financial gain from any mining operation always has the potential to contribute positively towards the socio-economic aspect at any level**

**Micro (farm) level**

**No local labourers will work in the mining operation or will be sourced from the immediate area. As such the proposed development will not contribute to the Micro (farm) level.**

- 3.4.3. Provide a list of potential impacts (positive & negative) on: employment opportunities, community health, community proximity, and links to the Social and Labour Plan.

**According to the social and labour plan no significant employment opportunities will be generated in the first 24 months of the project. The mine plan is to step up production and increase employment later as the mining progresses. The mine will support the local municipalities development projects particularly the provision of bursaries at the local FET College for promising HDSA students.**

- 3.4.4. Provide a list and description of potential impacts identified on the biophysical environment including but not be limited to impacts on: flora, fauna, water resources, air, noise, soil etc.

**Geology and Soil**

**Deep, silica sand inter layered with clay underlain by oukclip and in some instances floor granites from the Vredefort dome (andesitic lava (Ventersdorp Supergroup)) and some other substrates, predominate. Sand will be removed during the mining operation by using earthmoving equipment. The mined sand will be stockpiled on site. The removal of sand could not affect the geology of the area.**

**Regulation 7(f) of government notice 704 states that 'Every person in control of a mine or activity must take reasonable measures to prevent the erosion or leaching of materials from any residue deposit or stockpile from any area and contain material or substances so eroded or leached in such area by providing suitable barrier dams, evaporation dams or any other effective measures to prevent this material or substance from entering and polluting any water resources'.**

**Erosion from the sand stockpiles has been identified as an unlikely possibility, due to the drainage characteristics of the sand. Rehabilitation of the excavation areas will be done during the operational phase, i.e. excavation areas will be restricted to certain cells to be mined at a time and these cells will be rehabilitated as soon as they have been exhausted and the operation moves to the next excavation cell. The possibility for exposed and disturbed area to generate high sediment runoff at any point in time will therefore not be very big. These rehabilitated areas will be re-vegetated.**

### **Vegetation**

**Vegetation will be removed during the mining operations when the topsoil is removed. The disturbance caused by the mining activity will 'reset' the process of vegetation succession. The process of succession is still in its early stages on the already disturbed areas (from the preceding prospecting project) and at present constitutes mostly areas that are still in the early phases of this process (in the primary succession stage). The current state of some areas on the farm is therefore undesirable. Rehabilitation will be implemented during the operational phase of the development. Three options of rehabilitation (post mining land-use) exist, these being:**

**□ Grazing: Establishing natural grass species - from an environmental point of view, this option is the most preferable option.**

**□ Grazing: Establishing a planted pasture - Although less desirable than the previous option, it still represents an improvement from the current status.**

**□ Crops: Establishing crops - Although the least preferred of the options, the land will be put to sustainable economic use and is therefore more desirable than leaving the area in its current state where is of little conservation value and of no economic value.**

### **Topography**

**The natural topography of the area is reasonably flat and the altitude is about 1 500 meter above sea level. Previous mining activities have left some depressions in the topography. The removal of sand during the mining process will cause more depressions that would change the natural topography of the area further more but to a fairly small degree. The possibility of levelling these areas of land during the rehabilitation process will be investigated and addressed in the Environmental Management Plan.**

### **Visual Aspects**

**A visual assessment was done in accordance with the principles described in: Alonso, Aguilo and Ramos (1986). Applicable parameters**

**Visual Absorption Capacity (VAC): VAC is the measure of a landscapes ability to absorb development into it without noticeable intrusion into the landscape. An area with high VAC will suffer less visual impact with structures imposed onto it, than an area with low VAC. VAC is a function of the slope, visual pattern (texture) and vegetation height.**

**☐ Flat slopes have a low VAC/steep slopes have a high VAC**

**☐ Uniform visual patterns have a low VAC/diverse visual patterns have a high VAC**

**☐ Low vegetation has a low VAC/high vegetation has a high VAC**

#### **Visual intrusions**

**Visual intrusions originating from the mining activities will be:**

**☐ Active cells where mining is taking place;**

**☐ Topsoil stockpiles;**

**☐ Sand stockpiles.**

**The mining operation will not be stationary at one specific site, but will move systematically from one excavation area to the next as the previous area is exhausted. Some part of the mining operations will be visible from Vaal Oewer.**

#### **Noise**

**The method of sand mining will be by excavating. The sand will be removed by a front end loader loaded onto the client's trucks. This will be done in consecutive cells. The earth moving machines will thus create noise. The project environment is located within an agricultural setting in which heavy equipment, e.g. tractors already operate. Mitigation measures will include very strict working hours.**

#### **Animal Life**

**Small mammals that are currently occurring on the farm might temporarily leave the immediate area of mining for the duration of the mining activities. Proper mitigation measures will ensure the return of the small mammals after the mining activities have ceased.**

#### **Surface water**

**No surface water will be used in the mining process and the cells will not transgress water courses. Water for the dust suppression water cart will be provided by a borehole on site.**

#### **Groundwater**

**The mining processes should not have any influence on the quality or quantity of ground water. A negative impact on groundwater usually occurs where subsurface water is pumped out of an excavation pit. This can lower the water table in the immediate surroundings of the excavation, which can negatively impact upon boreholes. The proposed method of mining will not entail deep excavations from**

**which groundwater will need to be removed and there is no known wetlands on the farm.**

- 3.4.5. Provide a description of potential cumulative impacts that the proposed operation may contribute to considering other identified land uses which may have potential environmental linkages to the land concerned.

**One small scale sand mining operation (mine permit - 1.5ha) is currently operating on the Farm Woodlands. Another sand operation is situated on the same stretch of road next to the N1. A possible cumulative effect is the deterioration of the tar road due to the increased traffic from trucks transporting sand.**

4. Land use or development alternatives, alternative means of carrying out the proposed operation, and the consequences of not proceeding with the proposed operation.

- 4.1. Provide a list of and describe any alternative land uses that exist on the property or on adjacent or non-adjacent properties that may be affected by the proposed mining operation.

**Alternatives and the 'No Go' option were considered. Evaluation of the different options was based on the environmental guideline standard, the Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO).**

**The sand contained within the area makes mining a reasonable land use. The only other reasonable alternatives are:**

- ☐ **Grazing**
- ☐ **Planting crops**

**Rehabilitation of the mining activities will entail the establishment of planted pastures, natural veldt or crops. The proposed land-use of mining is therefore a temporary change of land use, with the alternative of grazing or growing crops being realized once the mining operation has ceased and the area has been rehabilitated.**

**Alternative land uses on the property is grazing for livestock or dry land grain production. These will not be impacted by the mining operations.**

- 4.2. Provide a list of and describe any land developments identified by the community or interested and affected parties that are in progress and which may be affected by the proposed mining operation.

**On the farms directly adjacent to the proposed mine, no developments.**

- 4.3. Provide a list of and describe any proposals made in the consultation process to adjust the operational plans of the mine to accommodate the needs of the community, landowners and interested and affected parties.

**No feedback has been received on the consultation yet but as and when any concerns arise the EIA process and EMP will be adjusted to accommodate these concerns.**

- 4.4. Provide information in relation to the consequences of not proceeding with proposed operation

**The 'No Go' option for development was considered. However, this was adjudged to not be the best land-use option for the following reasons:**

**The grazing value of the land is at present considered to be extremely low due to the high level of disturbance, resulting in the area being characterized by non-palatable grasses and low biomass. The potential of the area to support these land uses will be greater after the mining operation has rehabilitated the area, than what it is at present. Implementation of the proposed mining operation will therefore facilitate better and more sustainable future land-use options compared to the 'No Go' option, which implies that the status quo will be maintained.**

**Not proceeding with the proposed operation will entail that a mineral which if mined will contribute towards the local social and economic features of the area, will not be mined, and that this opportunity will be lost. It is important to note that as previously discussed, that execution of the mining operation will not leave the land unproductive, so that the proposed mining operation can be considered to be a sustainable land-use option for the area.**

- 4.5. a description of the most appropriate procedure to plan and develop the proposed mining operation The applicant must:-

**Keep surface disturbances to the absolute minimum during operations. Work strictly according to business hours and no weekend work.**

4.5.1. Provide information on its response to the findings of the consultation process and the possible options to adjust the mining project proposal to avoid potential impacts identified in the consultation process.

**We are currently awaiting the responses from the interested and affected parties but commit to address their legitimate concerns.**

4.5.2. Describe accordingly the most appropriate procedure to plan and develop the proposed mining operation with due consideration of the issues raised in the consultation process.

**The location, dimensions and extent of the sand does not allow for any other alternative means of mining that will be financially viable. The mining process has been designed from the outset to have the least possible impact on neighbours and the environment.**

5. A description of the process of engagement of identified interested and affected parties, including their views and concerns

5.1. Provide a description of the information provided to the community, landowners, and interested and affected parties to inform them in sufficient detail of what the prospecting or mining operation will entail on the land, in order for them to assess what impact the prospecting will have on them or on the use of their land.

**The information provided was in the form of a summarised table. The table and standard consultation is appended to this report as Appendix A**

5.2. Provide a list of which of the identified communities, landowners, lawful occupiers, and other interested and affected parties were in fact consulted.

**Chris Gerber - owner of the remaining extent of the farm du Pont 228**

**Mark van Wyk - owner of the Farm Woodlands**

**Robert Schimpers - Farm Manager Woodlands**

**C Tereblanche - owner of the farm Vaaldraai**

**As soon as the rest of the consultation letters and attendance register are received back this list will be updated.**

5.3. Provide a list of their views in regard to the existing cultural, socio-economic or biophysical environment, as the case may be,

**We are still awaiting their views in writing. Verbally during the consultation process the following issues were raised.**

**Increased traffic on the road to the area**

5.4. Provide a list of their views raised on how their existing cultural, socio-economic or biophysical environment potentially will be impacted on by the proposed prospecting or mining operation;

**No written concerns we received up to date. We are still awaiting responses from interested parties. Verbally during the consultation process the following issues were raised.**

**Increased traffic on the road to the area**

5.5. Provide a list of any other concerns raised by the aforesaid parties.

**No written concerns we received up to date. We are still awaiting responses from interested parties. Verbally during the consultation process the following issues were raised.**

**Increased traffic on the road to the area**

5.6. Provide the applicable minutes and records of the consultations.

**An attendance register are appended to this report as Appendix C**

5.7. Provide information with regard to any objections received.

**None at this stage**

6. Describe the nature and extent of further investigations required in the environmental impact assessment report, including any specialist reports that may be required.

**The Environmental impact assessment is still in progress, so as and when, specialsit report requirements are identified this will be conducted in order to have the all possible available information to manage possible impacts associated with the project.**

## **B. IDENTIFICATIONOF THE REPORT**

The report on the results of consultation must, at the end of the report include a certificate of identification as follows;

Herewith I, the person whose name and identity number is stated below, confirm that I am the person authorised to act as representative of the applicant in terms of the resolution submitted with the application, and confirm that the above report comprises the results of consultation as contemplated in Section 16 (4) (b) or 27 (5) (b ) of the Act, as the case may be.	
Full Names and Surname	<b>Stephen Jacobs</b>
Identity Number	<b>6109295009081</b>

- END -