

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 15694

Date: Monday November 16, 2020

Page No: 1

Letter

In terms of Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Frans Roodt

R & R Cultural Resource Consultants

P.O. Box 1600

Polokwane

0700

Skeletal remains were accidentally discovered on 20th July 2020 during construction of an extension of the Avoca Vale Country Lodge. The lodge is located at coordinates -22.980222° 29.934611° on the Remainder of Portion 10 of the farm Newgate 802 MS. The entire trench had been excavated when a worker who had been leveling out the bottom of the trench discovered the remains on the 20th July 2020. Work was immediately ceased in the trench and the SAPS were informed. Two officers inspected the remains on the 20th July, but neglected to take further action and also apparently did not submit a report nor open a case of the incident. I inspected the site on 23 July 2020 and observed no other bone material other than the skull. The management of the lodge decided to abandon the trench and no further activities took place, and with my agreement the immediate area of the find place was marked and the rest of the trench was back-filled for safety precautions. No evidence of a grave was noted before construction. There is no evidence of a cultural deposit to link it with any indigenous population and the trench excavation has obliterated any sign of a burial pit. The Hotel was originally called the New Gate Guest Farm and then the Punch Bowl Hotel. In 2001/2, the hotel was sold and became known as the Inn on Louis Trichardt. In 2011 it was restored and named Avoca Vale. On Friday 25th September the Police again undertook a site investigation lead by detective Capt. Ndammbi and two other uniform officers from the Makhado Police Station . The skull was then removed for a forensic assessment by the SAPS.

Dear Frans,

Thank you for your permit application for test excavations at Avoca Vale Country Lodge on the Remainder of Portion 10 of the farm Newgate 802 MS, Makhado Local Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

**Rescue of accidentally discovered human remains on RE of PTN 10 of the farm
Newgate 802 MS**

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SAHRA has reviewed your application and decided to approve it. The permit is valid until 30 November 2021.

We wish you every success with this project.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/543641>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.