Our Ref: 15363



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Friday March 12, 2021

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### **Final Comment**

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Trust Mlilo

Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants

Head Office/Gauteng Office 135 Pitzer Road Glen Austin Midrand 1685

Proposed establishment of an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmanns Tafelkop 135 IT, Msukalingwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The project entails formalisation of an existing informal settlement (Mabuza Informal settlement) in Ermelo

OURA Solutions was appointed to conduct the Environmental Authorisation Application for the formalisation of Mabuza informal settlement by creating an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmanns Tafelkop 135 IT in Ermelo Town of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken in terms of Section 24G of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), to rectify and undertake the listed activities in terms of NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2017 as amended.

The township establishment process entails construction/upgrading of the already existing 700 informal houses to low cost residential housing with the intention to increase the number of units to be catered for to about 1298 units including the already existing 700 households. Infrastructure associated with the proposed development includes bulk stormwater, bulk sewers, bulk water supply, bulk electrical supply, solid waste management and roads.

Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide the heritage specialist report for the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Mlilo, T. 2020. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed establishment of an integrated sustainable human settlement on Portions 8 of the farm Buhrmanns Tafelkop 135 IT, Msukalingwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The survey of the proposed development site did not yield any confirmable archaeological remains. It is assumed that the chances of recovering significant archaeological materials in situ were seriously

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compromised by erosion and other destruction agents. The survey did not record any burial grounds or graves as well.

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#### Recommendations

The site considered in this study is equally viable from an archaeological and heritage perspective. However, a paleontological study may be required to ensure protection of paleontological resources during construction.

The chance finds process will be implemented when necessary especially when archaeological materials and burials are encountered during subsurface construction activities.

The Project Public Participation Process should ensure that any cultural heritage related matters for this project are given due attention whenever they arise and are communicated PHRA throughout the proposed project development.

An Interim Comment was issued 19/09/2021 in which the SAHRA requested a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report, and it was submitted 01/02/2021.

Durand. J.F. January 2021. Proposed Formalization of the Mabuza Informal Settlement on Portion 8 of the Farm Buhrmanns Tafelkop 135, Msukaligwa Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The study area is underlain by Permian aged sandstone and shale of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. These rocks are of *Very High* Significance, and are known to contain leaf imprints of *Glossopteris Flora*, lycopods, ferns, horsetails, cordaitaleans, conifers and ginkgoaleans. If an exceptionally fossil-rich layer of shale or sandstone is exposed during construction, geological exploration or mining it is advised that the ECO must follow the Chance Palaeontological Find Procedure as stipulated below and to contact a palaeontologist for further advice.

#### **Final Comment**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead with the addition of the following.

All recommendations provided in the heritage reports must be included in the EMPr including the chance finds

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procedures and standard SAHRA conditions listed below:

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

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If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo

Heritage Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

#### ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/538836

(DARDLEA, Ref: none)

### 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.