



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15636

Date: Tuesday November 24, 2020

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## Final Comment

**In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Limpopo Economic Development Agency

**The Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) is proposing to develop a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which spans across parts of both the Musina and Makhdo Local Municipalities of the Limpopo Province (“the Project”). The Project is adjacent to the National Route 1 (“N1) highway and includes eleven plants and ancillary infrastructure associated with the metallurgical and mineral beneficiation value chain. The Project requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).**

Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) is proposing to establish the Musina-Makhado Energy and Metallurgy SEZ located on farms Somme 611 MS, Lekkerlag 580 MS, Van der Bijl 528 MS, Dreyer 256 MS, Joffre 584 MS, Antrobus 566 MS, Battle 585 MS, Steenbok 565 MS, Makhado Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The total area of the SEZ will be 8048 hectares, of which 6000 hectares will form part of the SEZ development footprint. The SEZ will allow for the construction of various heavy industrial plants, for processing coal, iron and platinum ores etc and the construction of an already approve coal fired power station.

Digby Wells Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake an environmental assessment as part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

Digby Wells Environmental (Pty) Ltd in house Heritage Specialist has submitted a NID and HIA report to SAHRA for commenting, and the PIA report by Prof M Bamford has also been submitted.

*Hardwick, S. and Du Piesanie, J. July 2019. Notification of Intent to Develop - Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone Development Project, Limpopo Province.*

*Hardwick, S. and Du Piesanie, J. October 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment - Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone Development Project, Limpopo Province.*



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The authors undertook a field assessment of the proposed SEZ and identified 4 heritage resources. Two (2) of the sites are burial ground and graves (BGG-01; BGG-02), which are highly sensitive. One of them will be negatively impacted without mitigation. They also identified 2 historical structures (STE-01; STE02), one is of low significance and the other is of moderate to low significance. An isolated Middle Stone Aged (MSA) find was also identified on site, which was not in context. The plans for the various proposed plants have not been finalised as they are awaiting the results of the specialist studies including heritage.

The author recommends a 50m buffer zone around the relevant heritage resources and that all proposed infrastructure is designed around conserving the identified sites. The author recommended a chance finds procedure in case any other heritage resources are identified during construction.

*Bamford, M. March 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development of a SEZ, Musina-Makhado Limpopo Province.*

The study area is underlain by narrow bands of palaeontologically very highly sensitive sediments of the Tshidzi, Madzaringwe and Mikambeni Formations (Karoo Supergroup). They could potentially contain fossil plants of the very early *Glossopteris* flora in the shales and mudstones. There are granite and gneiss outcrops of the Beitbridge Complex in the central parts of the SEZ, which have no palaeontological significance. The central area is capped by Quaternary sands.

The author undertook a field survey of the very highly palaeontological sensitive areas on farms Dreyers 526 MS and Van der Bijl 528 MS and a representative area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity that will be affected by the new infrastructure. The overall impact on fossil heritage will be very low and the author recommends the chance finds procedure contained in the report to be implemented.

## Final Comment

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

The recommendations included in the HIA report under section 9 must be fully implemented.

- The identified buildings must be retained in situ with a 50m buffer zone around them, if that cannot be done then comments on historical buildings must be obtained from the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LHRA).



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- The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures as detailed in the PIA report under appendix 2 must be included in the EMPr.
- The ECO and Construction manager must obtain training in identifying archaeological/historical artefacts common to the local area.
- A CMP should be developed for the long term maintenance of the identified heritage sites.
- Once LEDA finalises the layout for the SEZ a walkdown by the heritage specialists must be undertaken and a report must be submitted to SAHRA.

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.

If there are any new heritages resources 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 8652).

The SAHRA Burial Ground and Graves (BGG) Unit accepts the recommendations provided in the HIA report and endorses the condition that: both BGG-01 and BGG-02 must be retained in situ with a 50m buffer zone around them.

Should a change in the Project infrastructure layout not be feasible, LEDA must undertake a Graves Relocation Process, which will require permits issued by SAHRA in terms of Section 36 of the NHRA for those graves older than 60 years. This process must comply with Chapter IX and XI of the NHRA Regulations.

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the

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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).

The Final EIAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

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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: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/542083>  
(LDEDET, Ref: )

Terms & Conditions:

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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.