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: Natasha Higgitt Tel: 021 462 4502 Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15735 Date: Wednesday November 25, 2020 Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Lushika Services

Alluvial Diamond Prospecting Right application. Conventional prospecting methods (Drilling) will be undertaken and will include: Drilling and Geophysical Survey. The proposed prospecting application is located on portion 3 of Zoutpan 471 RD, Portion 5 Roodelaagte 476 RD and RE of farm Heidons 335 RD In the namakwaland district, northern cape province

Lushika Services has been appointed by Sinethobeka Projects (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on portion 3 of Zoutpan 471 RD, Portion 5 Roodelaagte 476 RD and RE of farm Heidons 335 RD In the Namakwaland District, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/1/2/12540PR).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting will include 200 boreholes (49m<sup>2</sup> per drilling site), access roads and storage.

The DBAR notes risks to heritage resources and provides mitigation measures, but no assessment of the impact to heritage resources has been submitted as part of the DBAR as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

## **Interim Comment**

SAHRA requests that an assessment of heritage resources inclusive of a field survey be conducted as part of the DBAR and EA process. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. The assessment of archaeological resources must be completed by a qualified archaeologist comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports. A field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the proposed development as the footprint is located within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. The assessment of palaeontological resources must be completed by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of

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Heritage Impact Assessment Reports.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA application process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations to comply with this comment and allow for the relevant public participation process for the HIA, and to provide SAHRA an opportunity to provide comments in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA, that can be included in the Final BAR for decision making to the competent authority.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

## Sinethobeka Diamond Prospecting Right Application

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/544331 (, Ref: )