

**Prospecting Right & Integrated Environmental Authorisation Application
Process on Farm Copthorne 677, near Postmasburg, ZF Mgcawu District
Municipality, Northern Cape**

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Friday May 19, 2023
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Yone STEM Frontiers (Pty) Ltd

PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION (WITH BULK SAMPLING) IN TERMS OF SECTIONS 16 AND 20 OR THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002) AS AMENDED BY SECTION 12 OF ACT 49 OF 2008; FOR DIAMONDS, MANGANESE AND IRON ORES AND ASSOCIATED AND / OR RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE, PROCESSES, ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT ON THE FARM COPTHORNE NO. 677 NEAR POSTMABURG, ZF MGCWU DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA. HERITAGE STUDIES ARE GOING TO BE UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS THAT IS UNDERWAY. A COMMENT FROM THE SAHRA IS INVITED.

Abantu Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Yone STEM Frontiers (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on the farm Copthorne No 677, near Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13449 PR).

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed activities will include 100 trenches (6 x 6 1000 m), five pits (200 x 100 x 200 m), unknown amount of drill holes, screening and crushing plant, temporary offices, temporary dump site, residue dam, water pipeline, roads, topsoil stockpiles within an application area of 2 550 ha.

The DSR notes that a Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase.

Interim Comment

SAHRA requests that the pending assessment of the impacts to heritage resources complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process.

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The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The field-based assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the EIA documents inclusive of appendices that includes the results of the requested heritage assessments.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/616369>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/13449 PR)