

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 9872

Date: Monday March 27, 2017  
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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: HC VAN WYK DIAMONDS (PTY) LTD

#### **Prospecting (Bulk sampling) of diamonds on the Remaining Extent of the Farm 503, Magisterial District of Hay, Northern Cape Province.**

Boscia Ecological Consulting was appointed by HC van Wyk Diamonds Limited to prepare an Environmental Authorisation Application for a Prospecting Right Application for proposed prospecting activities on the Farm 503 (Werda), near Lime Acres, Northern Cape Province. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting activities will include 300 boreholes, opencast pitting (150 pits of 2 m x 3 m) and trenching (20 trenches of 100 m x 50 m). The location of the trenches will be verified after pre-feasibility studies are completed. Supporting infrastructure will include the diamond rotary plant, haul roads, access roads, water reservoir, dangerous goods storage, temporary stockpiles, slimes dams, water pipelines, slurry pipelines, return water pipelines, return water dam, an office complex, workshop facilities, concrete bund walls and ablution facilities. Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd was contracted to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed project.

An Interim Comment was issued by SAHRA on the 01/03/2017 requesting that the PIA be revised to include a signed declaration of independence of the Palaeontologist and a Fossil Finds Procedure.

*Chikumirike, J. 2017. Heritage and Palaeontological Impact Assessment requested in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25/1999 for the Mining Right on the Remaining Portion of the Farm Jacobsfontein (Plaas 503 / Werda) near Postmasburg in the Northern Cape Province.*

The Campbell Rand Subgroup underlies the proposed prospecting area and has yielded well preserved stromatolites as well as filamentous microfossils.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- During prospecting and mining the environmental control officer should be aware of the possibility to strike important fossils and should periodically monitor all major excavations;
- In the event of major fossil finds being discovered, they should be safeguarded preferably in situ and reported to the relevant heritage resources authority so that appropriate mitigation by a palaeontologist

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- can be considered and implemented;
- These recommendations must form part of the environmental management plan (EMP) to be implemented during the mining phase; and
  - A Fossil Finds Procedure has been included as an Appendix to the report and must be followed.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that the revised Palaeontological Report has been copied word for word from the previous Palaeontological Report by N. Vilakazi. SAHRA APM Unit will not accept the submitted Palaeontological Report by J. Chikumirike as it does not acknowledge or reference the previously submitted report.

Before SAHRA APM Unit issues further comment, one of the following must be submitted for comment:

- An explanation of the lack of acknowledgement by J. Chikumirike;
- Submission of a new - not revised- Palaeontological Report by J. Chikumirike;
- A revised version of the previous Palaeontological Report, revised by N. Vilakazi as stated in a previous comment from 1 March 2017; or
- A revised version of the previous Palaeontological Report signed by both authors including an explanation of the contribution of each author.

Additionally, J. Chikumirike should explain the situation in a statement submitted to SAHRA.

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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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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John Gribble  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and  
Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/367354>  
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/11779 PR)