

Additions to Mthombowesizwe Secondary School within Nongoma, KwaZulu Natal

Interim Comment

**IN TERMS OF SECTION 38 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)
AND SECTION 41(1) OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT (ACT
05 OF 2018)**

Attention: Independent Development Trust

Corner Oberon & Sprite Streets
Faerie Glen, Pretoria
0043

The nature of the proposed projects involves upgrades and additions to Mthombowesizwe Secondary School in Nongoma Local Municipality. The proposed development will entail associated infrastructure, the construction of structures, internal roads, parking area, fencing and a security wall. There are existing graves within the school site of which they will not be exhumed or relocated. The developer intends to leave the graves as is.

The Committee noted that there were graves in three separate locations. These were identified as belonging to the Khumalo family, the previous occupiers of the site. However, the grave of the donor of the site, Mthombowesizwe Khumalo, was not identified. If the donor of the land after whom the school is named is buried on the site then the grave must be identified and marked.

- Although the development would not impact the graves, the committee was of the opinion that it would be preferable to relocate all the graves to the graveyard closest to the road, fence the site with a buffer of 25m radius from the outermost graves and provide separate access to the families of the deceased. This would free the site for future development.

The committee resolved not to object to the development in principle and within the limits and mitigation measures contained in the HIA as well as the recommendations of the public consultation process, namely

- That the families as custodians of the graves be represented in the project steering committee
- That all families be informed before the project starts and be walked around the project boundary/perimeter to reassure them that no grave would be touched or affected.
- That for future preservation, all graves inside the boundary of the site be secured by fencing the

25m buffer area around the graves and that all graves are marked with tombstones so that they remain visible.

However, further information on the graves is required:

detailed photographs of the graves,

drawings of the buffer in relation to project drawing.

The names of those buried - if possible identify the donor's grave if buried on the site.

The family must be consulted regarding the exhumation of the outlying graves for reburial at the existing burial site next to the road, with private access provided for the family directly off the road. A buffer of 25m would need to be added to this enlarged burial site.

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

Yours faithfully



Ros Devereux
Head: Built Environment Section
KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute



Mxolisi Dlamuka
Head of Secretariat and Administration
KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/577415>