



Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act 4 of 2008)

Attention: Newcastle Municipality
Private Bag X6621, NEWCASTLE, 2940

37 Murchison Street, NEWCASTLE

INTRODUCTION Newcastle Local Municipality has appointed UDIDI Environmental, Planning and Development Consultants to undertake the Basic Environmental Assessment for the proposed extension of the Muslim Cemetery in Newcastle. The site is bounded on the north by a railway line, on the east by Ni-Da Transport, on the west by an existing cemetery site and on the south by Falkirk Street. Extending the Muslim Cemetery will ensure that there is capacity to address the demand for additional burial space at least for the very near future. **PROJECT BACKGROUND** The motivation for the development is in response to the apparent demand for burial ground, as the existing cemetery has almost reached its capacity. This new proposed site is approximately 1,136 hectares in extent. It is important to respect and recognise every possible cultural and religious requirements regarding burial, as it is within the Muslim religion that the deceased be buried as quickly as possible, this making it urgent to speed the process of the extension of this burial site. This site is currently undeveloped and the major portion of the site is currently covered by concrete slabs, bricks, soil material and other refuse as a result of illegal dumping in the area. Therefore; there are currently no significant biodiversity features present and the proposed activity will not cause any further degradation to the site. **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT** The development include the following components: ? Surfaced access road ? Ablution facilities ? Water supply ? Electricity supply ? Fencing around the site ? Security gate The site will need to be cleared of construction rubble and debris, it will then be levelled and landscaped in preparation for the development including associated infrastructure. A Municipal cemetery operator or manager will be appointed to manage the cemetery staff; check/service the excavator; inspect work undertaken on site; and maintain a true register of all burials in the cemetery. The following informants were considered upon formulation of the development proposal: hydrological and geotechnical opportunities and constraints (slope); existing infrastructure; adjacent development; economic feasibility and legislative requirements.

We acknowledge receipt of your invitation for comment with regards to the proposed development. The object of Amafa is to administer, conserve and protect heritage resources of the Province within the terms of KZN Heritage Act no. 4 (2008) and the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999. Newcastle area generally has sites dating to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Late Stone Age, Iron Age and Historical Period Over the years we have also witnessed informal graves in open spaces in the vicinity of graveyards, on roadsides and near rivers . As such it is important that the proposed area of development be subjected to a survey including a historical report on the existing cemetery.

Considering the heritage value of the area of proposed development, **a Heritage Impact Assessment is required for the above proposed project** in terms of the KwaZulu Natal Heritage Act No. 4 of 2008 and the National Heritage Resources Act No.25 of 1999 (Section 38 (1)). This must include the historical and





archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Amafa KZN Heritage therefore requires the appointment of an Amafa accredited Heritage Practitioner to assist in the provision of recommendations and mitigation procedures.

Please download our list of Heritage Practitioners from our website www.heritagekzn.co.za.

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

Yours faithfully

Bernadet Pawandiwa
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Amafa/Heritage KwaZulu Natal

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Amafa/Heritage KwaZulu Natal

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/123994>
(DAEA, Ref: DC25/0011/2012:KZN/EIA/00007321/2012)

Terms & Conditions:

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 Amafa immediately.
3. Amafa reserves the right to request additional information as required.

