



**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE
RESOURCES AGENCY**

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DATE: 14 November 2006
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YOUR REF: NC 30/5/1/3/3/2/1/1016 EM
OUR REF: 9/2/008/0001

Mr Samuel Oliphant
P.O. Box 292
Barkly West
8375

Dear Sir

**PRELIMINARY COMMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY
AND METEORITE UNIT FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MINING
PERMIT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF FARM GONG-GONG 371,
SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BARKLY WEST:
NORTHERN CAPE REGION**

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) any other applicable heritage components and appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

In your application received by SAHRA there was no indication of an assessment of the archaeological resources. The quickest process to follow

for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see attached accreditation lists) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment. This must be done before any large scale trenching or mining take place (SAHRA will expect a copy of the annual report received by DME to indicate that trenching/mining has not impacted the area). This must be done before any large development take place.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

If any road cuttings or disturbance of the country rock or of ancient sediments such as old river gravels is to be undertaken, a palaeontologist must be asked whether or not it is important to assess the area and again provide an Impact Assessment Report.

Any other heritage resources 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 viewsapes must also be assessed.

Attached please find a list of accredited archaeological and palaeontological specialists who may be contacted to undertake the necessary archaeological or palaeontological impact assessments.

Yours sincerely



PP Mary Leslie
SAHRA: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit
For: Chief Executive Officer

Copy: SAHRA Northern Cape Office