

**KITSO BURIAL GROUND REHABILITATION
BRIEF STATUS REPORT**

Prepared by
Edward Matenga (PhD)



(AHSA) Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd
Reg. No. 2016/281687/07

48 Jacqueline Street, The Reeds, 0157, Centurion, Pretoria

Email: e.matenga598@gmail.com.

Cell: +27 73 981 0637 / +2784 073 7774

Website: www.archaeologicalheritage.co.za

1. BRIEF REPORT

In 2018 part of a large burial ground at Kitso mine was disturbed during excavations using a TLB which inadvertently encroached, exposing the burial human bones. It is not known how many individual graves could have been affected, but certainly not many. The act, although obviously unfortunate, offended public sensibilities about graves, which sparked demonstrations by members of the Maremane community. The Maremane community are an important stakeholder holding surface rights over the mining area through a Community Property Association.

A number of meetings were held between Mine officials and the Maremane CPA. SAHRA was invited to provide oversight and to ensure that whatever remedial action was taken was in compliance with the heritage Act and supporting regulations. I was appointed by mine to provide specialist assistance as the process of finding appropriate remedial action started.

I attended two meetings between Mine Officials and the Maremane CPA executive committee in which it was eventually agreed that portion of the burial ground disturbed would be rehabilitated and the exposed bones reburied at the origin place with due respect local traditions. In accordance with my contract, my task was to put together the documentation required for SAHRA to issue a permit for reburial of the human bones and rehabilitation of the burial ground in terms of Section 36 of NHRA.

The application was referred back to the Mine because one of the community members, Mr James Pule, through an email raised an objection citing the fact that he and other community members had not been consulted.

In view of that I have had several telephone conversations and emails with the Mine officials in order to respond to Mr Pule's submission. The mine officials have not responded. The matter rest there for now.

See below the email trail which provides primary evidence of the status of the project and how it has unfolding.

2. CORRESPONDENCES

Edward Matenga <e.matenga598@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 19,
2019, 12:10 PM

to Lebogang

Dear Mr Lesetedi

The above matter refers. Things appears to have stalled because of the objection which was raised by Mr James Pule. I had advised that this claim can be resolved by way of an Affidavit which the CPA should write declaring that Mr Pule is not a bona fide stakeholder for reasons which they have to explain. And asserting that the legitimate custodian is the CPA itself, and that any such matter concerning the same matter must be referred to the CPA.

I should be grateful if you could provide an update on the position of the CPA.

Yours Sincerely

Edward

Edward Matenga <e.matenga598@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 26,
2019, 9:50 AM

from: Edward Matenga <e.matenga598@gmail.com>

to: Lebogang Lesetedi <lesetedil@gmail.com>

cc: Bev Baker <bevbaker@mnmine.com>

date: Aug 26, 2019, 9:50 AM

subject: Kitso Mine graves Rehabilitation

Dear Mr Lesetedi

Greetings. Im sure we can get the Maremane CPA to comment on the objections by Mr James Pule regarding the proposed rehabilitation of the grave. As far as I know that is the only hurdle. In my experience SAHRA would insist that such disputes are resolved before a permit is issued. A signed letter or signed minutes of resolutions of a meeting on same would be helpful.

On my part I'm keen to bring this matter to conclusion. Once SAHRA has been furnished with all necessary documents, Im sure a permit will be issued.

Let us not give up.

Warm Regards

Edward

From: Edward Matenga <e.matenga598@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 6:37 PM

To: Thingahangwi Tshivhase <TTshivhase@sahra.org.za>

Subject: Re: FW: Kitso mine rehabilitation permit

Dear Mrs Tshivase

Im sorry it has taken me so long to reply your correspondence of Monday 11 May 2020 . You may recall that in your last correspondence on the above matter you had informed me that Mr James Pule who claims to be an affected party and a member of the Maremane Community (i.e. the local community) had sent a written objection to SAHRA stating that he had not been consulted. I had many email and telephone correspondences with Kitso Mine's Community Relations Manager and on one or two occasions a phone conversation with the Secretary of the Maremane Community Property Association concerning this matter. We had agreed that the CPA would submit a sworn affidavit in which they would state their position with respect to the objection raised by Mr Pule. As I mentioned above I made several phone calls backed up with written correspondences. I have not received the affidavit, and the matter appears to have rested there. Two weeks ago I sent an email to the Mine Executive Officer inquiring about the same matter. She acknowledged that the matter had not been closed. She was hesitant to make any definitive statement under the circumstances of the health lockdown. I'm therefore sending her a reminder to act on the matter as the nationwide restrictions continue to be eased, and I will accordingly update you.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Edward

Edward Matenga <e.matenga598@gmail.com>

Mon, May 18,
6:59 PM

to Bev

Hi Bev

Greetings

Im sure it is a common cause that the graves issue at Kitso Mine must come to a conclusion of some sort. The Heritage Authority wrote to me on 11 May inquiring where this matter stands. In the current impasse I cannot provide definitive answers, and in the long term this is likely to dent my professional reputation. In my view all that is required from the Mine is statement concerning the objection raised by Mr Pule. The disturbed graves must be repaired. After that I must come and do an inspection and write a closure report. I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards

Edward

Edward Matenga (PhD) (Uppsala/Sweden)
Principal Researcher/Director