

**WATER RETICULATION FOR THE GA-MOGASHOA TRIBAL
AUTHORITY AREA, MAKHUDUMATAGA IN THE SEKHUKHUNE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESCUE OF HUMAN BONES EXPOSED
DURING TRENCHING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A BULK
SUPPLY PIPELINE AT GA-MOGASHOA VILLAGE**

HERITAGE CONSULTANTS	CLIENT
<p>Mbofho Consulting and Project Managers 89 Hans van Rensburg Street Office 209 Polokwane 0700</p> <p>Tel: 015 280 0088 Cell: 079 1930 634 Email: info@mbofhoconsulting.co.za</p>	<p>Sekhukhune District Municipality 7A Van Riebeeck Street, Bareki Mall, Groblersdal</p> <p>Tel: 013 262 7300 / 7301/7302 Email: sekinfo@sekhukhune.gov.za</p>

Wednesday, 04 August 2021

LIMPOPO

89 Hans van Rensburg Str/ 90 Schoeman Str
Office 209, Polokwane, 0699
P.O Box 54, Polokwane, 0700

GAUTENG

1 Looper Road
51 Hill of Good Hope
Midrand, 1682

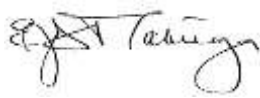
NORTH WEST

No 2, Kudu street
Elandsrand, Brits
PO Box 3119, Brits, 0250

MPUMALANGA

Pet Street 26
Ermelo
2350



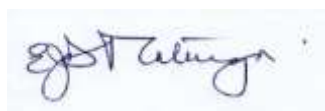
	Name	Signature	Date
FIELD WORK & REPORT	E. Matenga		3/08/2021

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

We hereby declare that we have no interest, be it business, financial, personal or other vested interest in the undertaking of the proposed activity, other than fair remuneration for work performed, in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

DISCLAIMER

All possible care was taken to identify and document heritage resources during the survey in accordance with best practices in archaeology and heritage management. However it is always possible that some hidden or subterranean sites are overlooked during a survey. The researcher will not be held liable for such oversights and additional costs thereof.



Full Name: Edward Matenga

Title / Position: Principal Researcher

Qualification(s): PhD Archaeology (Uppsala/Sweden) MPhil, Archaeology (Uppsala), Certificate in International Training on the Conservation of Heritage Territories and Landscapes of Heritage Value (ICCROM / Rome)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.....	5
3. PROPOSED MITIGATION	10
4. SITE VISITS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.....	10

1. INTRODUCTION

On 25 August 2020 human bones were unearthed during trenching for installation of a bulk water supply pipeline at Ga-Mogashoa Village in the Ga-Mogashoa Tribal authority area, Makhudumataga, Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo Province (Lat: 24°48'17.50"S Long: 29°59'24.60"E). Water supply in rural areas is one of Government's critical service delivery priorities. On noticing the human bones the civil works were suspended, the site was barricaded, and the Environmental Control Officer was notified. An archaeologist was called to the site for a preliminary assessment of the situation.



Fig 1. Map showing location of the burial at Ga-Mogashoa Village.

Ga-Mogashoa is a small village located on the foot of the Kgalatlou Mountain Range. It is one of several villages under the jurisdiction of a Tribal Authority of the same name situated 12 km southeast of Jane Furse. Kgalatlou Mountain forms part of the Leolo Mountain range extending south to Stoffberg. The mountain range curves gently to form a wide horseshoe opening to the west. In a large scale overview, the Village is situated in a trough, with the mountain range forming the western fringes of the Limpopo Drakensberg mountain system. More significantly this area is part of the Bushveld Igneous Complex, a mineral rich belt stretching from Lydenburg and

Burgersfort in the east to the Northwest Province and border with Botswana. This belt is endowed with the Platinum Group of Minerals (PMG).



Figure 1: View of Kgalatlou Mountain Range from the burial site

2. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The human bones seem to represent a single individual, possibly an adult female buried with funerary goods including two lower grinding stones, potsherds, sherd of a cast iron pot. These goods suggest a kit of household utensils (Figure 7-9).



Figure 2: The area was barricaded



Figure 3: The unmarked grave was a village pathway between 2 homesteads



Figure 4: Human limb bones exposed during trenching for installation of a water pipeline



Figure 5: Set of bones includes sherds of the skull



Figure 6: Set of bones with broken limb bones



Figure 7: Two lower grinding stones



Figure 8: Potsherds found together with the human bones



Figure 9: Sherd of a cast iron pot found together with the human bones

3. PROPOSED MITIGATION

The fact that the burial is located in a residential area and no one in the village has come forward with information about the deceased is circumstantial proof that it is an old burial, forgotten and dating back to a generation bygone. This points to a much older archaeological provenance, probably dating to the 19th century. Graves of unknown persons or older than 60 years are curated in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 / 1999). Furthermore in line with SAHRA Guidelines on the treatment of human remains a permit application must be sent to the SAHRA for archaeological salvage of the remains.

4. SITE VISITS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

During a site visit on Friday 16 October 2020, the Environmental Officer and Heritage Specialist met with the Site Project Manager before proceeding to Chief Ga-Mogashoa's residence for consultation. The Chief was approached through his secretary, and the procedure explained to him concerning unidentified human remains in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act and Regulations (gazetted in 2000). Chief Ga-Mogashoa expressed concern about the requirement that remains of unidentified persons accidentally found during excavations must be re-interred in a formal cemetery outside the village. He wanted the remains to be reinterred in the same village. Subsequently at a meeting of the Traditional Council it was agreed that the remains will be buried at the Ga-Mogashoa-Monamane Cemetery c. 600m northwest of the graves site (Lat: 24°48'00.6"S Long: 29°59'18.0"E) (Figure 10)

On 12 February 2020, the bones were retrieved from the site and taken to the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre at the University of Pretoria for temporary storage while reburial arrangements were being made. The grinding stones and pottery were taken to the Ga-Mogashoa Traditional Authority Offices for temporary storage, and will be reinterred with the human remains.



Figure 10: Ga-Mogashoa – Monamane Cemetery

END