



Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Application for Exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment
Rural Subsidized Housing Project in the Dlomo Traditional Authority
(Ward 3) Nkandla Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal**

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE KZN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (6 OF 2008)

Project Area and Project description¹

The project entails the construction of one thousand 40 m² houses for beneficiaries earning less than R3500 per month. Houses will be built and each structure will be supplied with a JoJo tank and rainwater harvesting system, as well as a VIP latrine. The new houses will be built adjacent to existing dwellings within exiting homestead precincts. The beneficiary sites will be formally leased from the Ingonyama Trust Board by individual homeowners.

The project area comprises the Farm Cunu No 16620 (diagram SO No 396/1994) and is a compilation of two farms:

- Portion 12 of the Farm Reserve No 19 No 15839, and
- Portion 24 of the Farm Reserve No 18 No 15838.

Even though the properties have been surveyed neither the parent properties, or its component parts, have ever been registered at the Deeds Office. Thus, the property is State Land administered by the Ingonyama Trust Board.

One thousand one hundred (1100) beneficiaries have been formally approved and were consented to by the Dlomo Traditional Authority on 7 July 2012. Exemption and authorizations have been obtained from DEAA, DOT, ESKOM, COPTA, the Ingonyama Trust and the Ilembe District Municipality.² Application has now to be formally advertised in terms of the Planning and Development Act and the Development Act and Spatial and Use Management Act (SPLUMA).

While the total area of the Dlomo Ward is over 1100 ha, the total area to be developed based on a 41m² constitutes 41 000m² or 4,1ha.

¹ Information provided by Vines Masupha Associates _ TRP Consultants

² See Appendixes



FIGURE 1 LANDSCAPE OF STUDY AREA

Observations

eThembeni staff visited the study area on 19 and 20 May 2016. The Dlomo Traditional Council area is some 18km north-west of Nkandla town and is in one of the more isolated and desolate parts of the Nkandla Municipality. It is located on the high altitude interfluves of the Nsuze and Mhlatuze drainage basins and historically comprised a sourveld mistbelt grassland. The general aspect is to the south and southwest. Feral black wattle is the predominant woody element providing fuel and structural timber.

It is a forbidding and harsh landscape that has only witnessed increased settlement since incorporation of the area into the erstwhile KwaZulu Homeland in the late 1970's, and it serving as a relocation destination for people forcibly removed from previous "White-only" areas. Historically, the area would have been eschewed for settlement and most likely only served as a grazing resource for a short window period in Spring and early summer. Current subsistence agriculture is limited and livestock numbers are low. Homesteads comprise a variety of modest building types with both mud and block walls. Roof sheeting is the preferred method of roofing as the high winds in winter are said to more easily damage thatch or tiles.



FIGURE 2 CURRENT HOUSING IN THE STUDY AREA

No significant archaeological remains are expected in this marginal landscape and spot checks revealed none.

The SAHRIS Palaeontology sensitivity map indicates the area to be of low to insignificant/zero potential. Consequently no palaeontology assessment is required.

As human settlement is very recent in the study area graves are located within and immediately adjacent to existing homestead precincts. Household residents are custodians of their own family graves.

Recommendations

Accordingly, we request that Amafa grant an exemption from an HIA for the proposed housing construction activities, allowing the project to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

Appendix 1

FROM

(MON) JUL 30 2012 16:02/ST. 16:01/No. 9405310829 P 2



agriculture & environmental affairs

Department:
Agriculture
& Environmental Affairs
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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Date: 30 July 2012
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Fax Transmission

ECA Consulting
PO Box 56382
Chatsworth
Durban
4030

Attention: Leena Ackbar
Fax no: 0866 199 945

Dear Madam

RE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RDP 40m² IN-SITU HOUSING UPGRADE FOR 1000 UNITS IN WARD 3 OF NKANDLA.

- 1) Our site visit conducted on the 19 April 2012 and your correspondence dated 23 July 2012 regarding the abovementioned subject refers.
- 2) This Department has studied the information provided in your correspondence and is of the opinion that the above mentioned project does not constitute an activity which is identified in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and therefore does not require environmental authorization.
- 3) However, you are reminded of your obligation to comply with the provisions for duty of care and remediation of damage in accordance with Section 28 of NEMA as well as other relevant legislations
- 4) Please contact this Department should you have any queries regarding this correspondence.

Yours faithfully


for: Head of Department:

Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs