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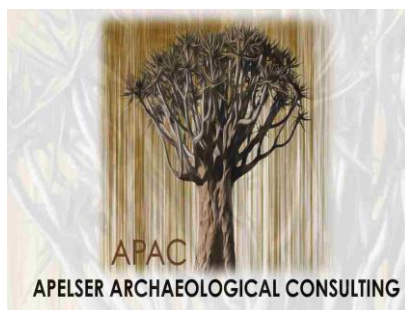
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Comprehensive and Professional Solutions for all Heritage Related Matters

**CK 2006/014630/23**

**VAT NO.: 4360226270**

**APAC023/31**

**2023-03-25**

To: Whom it May Concern  
**South African Heritage Resource Agency**  
**P O Box 4637**  
**Cape Town**  
**8000**

**RE: Motivation for Exemption from full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment – Proposed Closing of 20 Public Parks, City of Matlosana Local Municipality**

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by AB Enviro Consult to provide a motivation for Exemption from Full Phase 1 HIA's, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Process, for the proposed closure of 20 Public Parks in the City of Matlosana (Klerksdorp), Northwest Province. The rezoning and subdivision of the Erven on which these Public Parks are situated will form part of the process.

***Background to the Project***

AB Enviro Consult was appointed by the City of Matlosana Local Municipality to obtain Environmental Authorization for the proposed closing, rezoning and subdivision of 20 Public Parks under their authority. The intention is to propose erven that are more or less the same size as the ones currently available in the area. These Parks have become a safety risk for the residents of the area as they are not properly maintained. Illegal dumping has become the order of the day and some of them are also being used by homeless people for illegal squatting.

*"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 prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.*

*The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see the web site of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists [www.asapa.org.za](http://www.asapa.org.za)) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large*

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development takes 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.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary, a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on SAHRIS to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area.

***If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments. 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."***

Last mentioned option was decided on for this project which entailed desktop research as part of the assessment. Although a physical assessment of the individual sites (Erven/Parks) was not undertaken by the Heritage Specialist, the client provided photographs of the areas for use in the report as part of the motivation for exemption from Full Phase 1 HIA.

### **Relevant Legislation**

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

#### **The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artefacts, structures and sites older than 100 years;
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g., prehistoric rock art) and ethnography;
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts;
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years;
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years;
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites;
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years;
- h. Meteorites and fossils; and
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

#### **The National Estate includes the following:**

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- c. Historical settlements and townscapes;
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance;
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance;
- g. Graves and burial grounds;
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery; and
- i. Movable objects (e.g., archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.).

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is the process to be followed in order to determine whether any heritage resources are located within the area to be developed as well as the possible impact of the proposed development thereon. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) only looks at archaeological resources. According to Section 38 (1) of the Act an HIA must be done under the following circumstances:

- a. The construction of a linear development (road, wall, power line, canal etc.) exceeding 300m in length.
- b. The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.
- c. Any development or other activity that will change the character of a site and exceed 5 000m<sup>2</sup> or involve three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof.
- d. Re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m<sup>2</sup>.
- e. Any other category provided for in the regulations of SAHRA or a provincial heritage authority.

***Results of Desktop Heritage Assessment: Proposed Closing of 20 Public Parks, City of Matlosana Local Municipality***

The study area is located on various Erven in a number of suburbs situated in Klerksdorp and surrounds (City of Matlosana Local Municipality) in the Northwest Province. A list of the Parks, and their intended rezoning and subdivisions, are given below (from AB Enviro Application Forms for Environmental Authorisation to Department of Economic, Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism):

**1. Erf 1251 Flamwood Ext 7**

This erf is 0.3999 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 6 Residential 1 erven. The erf sizes will vary between 518 m<sup>2</sup> and 835 m<sup>2</sup>.

**2. Erf 306 Flamwood Proper**

This erf is 0.7334 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 6 Residential 1 erven, 1 Municipal Erf (To accommodate a Telkom Sub-Station) and 1 Public open space erf to accommodate storm water. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 670 m<sup>2</sup> and 1172 m<sup>2</sup>.

**3. Erf 302 Flamwood Proper**

This erf is 1.0672 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 12 Residential 1 erven. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 714 m<sup>2</sup> and 1245 m<sup>2</sup>

**4. Erf 564 Flimieda**

This erf is 0.5798 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 8 Residential 1 erven and 1 Public Open Space erf to accommodate service infrastructure. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 590 m<sup>2</sup> and 896 m<sup>2</sup>

**5. Erf 1253 La Hoff**

This erf is 1.1420 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 15 Residential 1 erven and 1 Municipal erf to accommodate service infrastructure. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 599 m<sup>2</sup> and 879 m<sup>2</sup>

**6. Erf Re 103 Wilkoppies**

This erf is 74.430 ha in extent. This erf is influenced by a water course and after assessment, it is proposed that only 0.4211 ha of the site will be rezoned into 1 Business erf and 2 Recreational erven.

7. **Erf 410 Freemanville**

This erf is 1.040 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Institutional erf and 2 Public Open Space Erven. The Public Open Spaces erven will be established to accommodate the sensitive koppie that located on the erf.

8. **Erf Re 412 Freemanville**

This erf is 0.5958 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Residential 2 erf.

9 & 10. **Erf 216 and 217 Songloed**

These two erven are located adjacent to each other. Erf 216 is 0.9134 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Residential 2 erf and 1 Municipal erf to accommodate service infrastructure. Erf 217 is 0.6397 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Residential 2 erf

11. **Erf 938 Boetrand**

This erf is 0.3769 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 5 Residential 1 erven and 1 Public Open Space erf. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 416 m<sup>2</sup> and 727 m<sup>2</sup>

12. **Erf 943 Boetrand**

This erf is 0.2124 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 4 Residential 1 erven. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 481 m<sup>2</sup> and 570 m<sup>2</sup>

13. **Erf 2379 Flamwood Ext. 34**

This erf is 0.4663 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Business erf and 1 Public Open Space Erf.

14. **Erf 1251 La Hoff**

This erf is 0.3999 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 6 Residential 1 erven. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 518 m<sup>2</sup> and 835 m<sup>2</sup>.

15. **Erf 762 Meiringspark**

This erf is 0.7869 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 2 Residential 2 erven and 1 Public Open Space Erf.

16. **Erf 213 Songloed**

This erf is 0.1631 ha in extent and it is proposed to be rezoned into 2 Residential 2 erven.

17. **Erf 212 Songloed**

This erf is 1.2153 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 1 Residential 2 erf and 1 Public Open Space erf.

18. **Erf 616 Ellaton**

This erf is 1,7266 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 15 Residential 1 erven, 2 Business erven, 1 Municipal erf and roads. The Residential erf sizes will vary between 600 m<sup>2</sup> and 852 m<sup>2</sup>

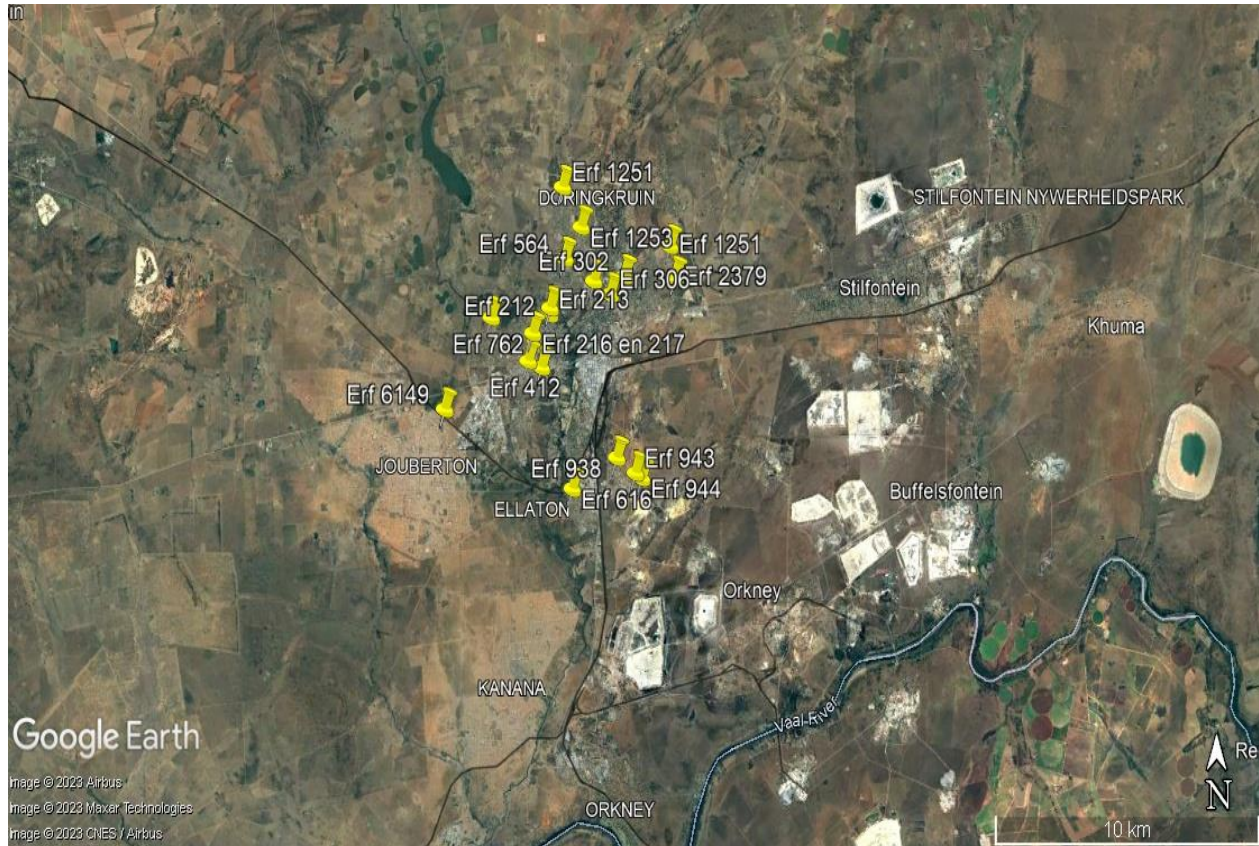


19. **Erf 944 Boetrand**

This erf is 0.2886 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 2 Business 1 Erven.

20. **Erf 6149 Jouberton Ext 10**

This erf is 3.7219 ha in extent and it is proposed to be subdivided into 44 Residential erven, Public open space erf and roads.



**Figure 1: General location of the study area and the various Erven/Parks (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 2: Closer view Erf 1251 Flamwood (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 3: Closer view Erf 302 Flamwood (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 4: Closer view Erf 306 Flamwood (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 5: Closer view Erf 564 Flimieda (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 6: Erf 1253 La Hoff (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 7: Closer view Erf 103 Wilkoppies (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 8: Closer view Erf 410 Freemanville (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 9: Closer view Erf 412 Freemanville (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 10: Closer view Erven 216 & 217 Songloed (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 11: Closer view Erf 938 Boetrand (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 12: Closer view Erf 943 Boetrand (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 13: Closer view Erf 1251 La Hoff (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 14: Closer view Erf 762 Meiringspark (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 15: Closer view Erf 213 Songloed (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 16: Closer view Erf 212 Songloed (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 17: Closer view Erf 944 Boetrand (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 18: Closer view Erf 6149 Jouberton (Google Earth 2023).**



**Figure 19: Closer view Erf 2379 Flamwood (Google Earth 2023).**





**Figure 20: Closer view Erf 616 Ellaton (Google Earth 2023).**

A general background to the archaeology and history of the study area is given below.

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic (stone) material was mainly used to produce tools. In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in basically into three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. A basic sequence for the South African Stone Age (Lombard et.al 2012) is as follows:

Earlier Stone Age (ESA) up to 2 million – more than 200 000 years ago  
 Middle Stone Age (MSA) less than 300 000 – 20 000 years ago  
 Later Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 2000 years ago

It should also be noted that these dates are not a neat fit because of variability and overlapping ages between sites (Lombard et.al 2012: 125).

According to Bergh there are no known Stone Age sites close to Klerksdorp, although a number of rock engraving sites are known to occur in the larger geographical area (Bergh 1999: 4-5). Although no Stone Age sites or material were recorded during the September 2018 survey, some tools were identified during a survey for the Wilkoppies Extension 108 Township development by Pelsner (**See APAC013/75**). If any Stone Age artifacts are to be found in the various Park areas, then it would more than likely be single, out of context, stone tools.

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce metal artefacts. In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases (Bergh 1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.  
 Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.  
Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

There are no known EIA/MIA sites in the area, although there are some Late Iron Age sites in the larger geographical area north and west of the town (Bergh 1999: 6-7). One such site is Palmietfontein (around 30km north of the town), excavated in 1975 by D.A. White. In an article on this work, it is also indicated that the area north of Klerksdorp is relatively rich in terms of Late Iron Age sites, and that the Rolong capital of Thabeng lies within this area (White 1977: 89).

Based on the research by Huffman it is possible that sites related to the so-called Olifantspoort facies of the Urewe Tradition, dating to around AD1500-1700, and the Thabeng facies of the same tradition (AD1700-1840) could possibly be found in the area ((Huffman 2007: 207). No Iron Age sites, features or cultural material was found during the assessment of the area.

The historical age generally starts with the first recorded oral histories in an area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. The earliest traveler through this area was Cornwallis Harris in 1836, followed by missionaries and the Voortrekkers (Bergh 1999: 13-14).

According to Wikipedia the town was founded in 1837 when the Voortrekkers settled on the banks of the Schoonspruit which flows through the town. Most prominent of the first settlers was C.M. du Plooy who claimed a large farm called Elandsheuwel. He gave plots of land and communal grazing rights on this farm to other Voortrekkers in return for their labour in building a dam and an irrigation canal. This collection of smallholdings was later given the name of Klerksdorp in honour of the first landdrost (magistrate) of the area, Jacob de Clerq.

In August 1886 gold was discovered in the Klerksdorp district by M.G. Jansen van Vuuren as well as on the Witwatersrand, which lies about 160 km to the east. As a consequence, thousands of fortune-seekers descended on the small village, turning it into a town with 70 taverns and even a stock exchange of its own. However, the nature of the gold reef demanded expensive and sophisticated equipment to mine and extract the gold, causing the majority of diggers to move away in the late 1890s and leading to a decline in the gold mining industry.

During the Second Boer War (1899-1902), heavy fighting occurred in the area, which also housed a large concentration camp. The most famous of the battles around Klerksdorp, is that of the Battle of Ysterspruit during which the Boers under General Koos de la Rey achieved a great victory. On April 11, 1902, the Battle of Rooiwal, the last major engagement of the war, was fought near Klerksdorp during which a Boer charge was beaten off by entrenched British troops. The graves of the victims of the British Concentration Camps near Klerksdorp are located in the old cemetery just outside of town.

Klerksdorp was connected by rail to Krugersdorp on 3 August 1897 and to Kimberley in 1906. The gold mining industry was revived by large mining companies in 1932, causing the town to undergo an economic revival, which accelerated after World War II.

The above information was obtained from ([www.wikipedia.org.za](http://www.wikipedia.org.za)).

Aerial images (Google Earth) of the various erven that comprise the 20 Public Parks clearly show the heavily disturbed nature of the general areas/suburbs within which the Parks are located. They are situated in urban residential areas that has nearly completely altered the original natural and historical landscape within which they are located. The erven (Public Parks) themselves (although open spaces) themselves have been impacted through various associated activities such as ground clearance and levelling, the erection of some associated structures and infrastructure (such as recreational equipment) and recent illegal dumping and squatting. As such, if any sites, features or material of cultural heritage origin or significance did exist here, it would have been extensively disturbed or destroyed as a result. It is therefore very unlikely that any cultural heritage resources will be located in these areas. The site photographs provided to the Heritage Specialist by the client seems to confirm this scenario (**see photographs below courtesy AB Enviro**).

The author of this report has also conducted numerous assessments in the study area, and in some of the suburbs of Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana) over the last decade or so (See List of References). Although some archaeological and historical sites, features and material were identified and recorded during these assessments (some forming the focus of subsequent Phase 2 Mitigation work), most were deemed of Low Significance as a result of many factors (mostly due to extensive disturbance through recent urban and industrial-related developments).



**Figure 21: Erf 1251 Flamwood.**





**Figure 22: View of Erf 306 Flamwood.**



**Figure 23: Another view of Erf 306 Flamwood.**





**Figure 24: A view of a section of Erf 302 Flamwood. Recent ground clearance is visible.**



**Figure 25: Another section of Erf 302 Flamwood.**





**Figure 26: General view of Erf 564 Flimieda.**



**Figure 27: General view of Erf 1253 La Hoff.**





**Figure 28: Parks-related building on Erf 1253 La Hoff. The structure is less than 60 years of age.**



**Figure 29: General view of Erf 103 Wilkoppies.**





**Figure 30: View of the Wilkoppies Tennis Club building and tennis courts on Erf 103.**



**Figure 31: A view of a section of Erf 410 Freemanville. Note the informal dumping.**





**Figure 32: Another section of Erf 410. The koppie in the picture should be avoided by future development.**



**Figure 33: A view of a section of Erf 412 Freemanville.**





**Figure 34: Another view of Erf 412 Freemanville.**



**Figure 35: General view of Erven 216 & 217 Songloed.**





**Figure 36: Another view of Erven 216 & 217 Songloed.**



**Figure 37: View of Erf 938 Boetrand.**





**Figure 38: Another general view of Erf 938 Boetrand.**



**Figure 39: General view of Erf 943 Boetrand.**





**Figure 40: Another view of Erf 943 Boetrand. Note the illegal dumping.**



**Figure 41: View of Erf 944 Boetrand.**





**Figure 42: General view of Erf 944 Boetrand.**



**Figure 43: General view of Erf 1251 La Hoff.**





**Figure 44: General view of Erf 762 Meiringspark.**



**Figure 45: Another view. Note the illegal dumping.**





**Figure 46: General view of Erf 212 Songloed.**



**Figure 47: Illegal dumping on Erf 212.**





**Figure 48: General view of Erf 213 Songloed.**



**Figure 49: General view of Erf 6149 Jouberton.**





**Figure 50: Another view of Erf 6149 Jouberton.**



**Figure 51: General view of Erf 2379 Flamwood.**





**Figure 52: Another general view of Erf 2379.**



**Figure 53: General view of Erf 616 Ellaton.**





**Figure 54: Another view of Erf 616 Ellaton.**

Based on the aerial images of the area, site photographs provided by the client and the heritage desktop study, it is therefore deemed unlikely that any significant sites, features or material of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) origin and/or significance will exist in the study areas (the various Erven/City of Matlosana Public Parks). Recent historical activities (mainly urban and related development activities) would have impacted on any if they did exist here in the past and would have disturbed or destroyed these to a large degree. Known archaeological and historical sites, features and material have been identified in the larger geographical area and this needs to be taken into consideration during actions related to any possible future development related to the proposed rezoning and subdivision of the various Erven. It is recommended that a Chance Find Protocol be drafted and implemented for this in order to ensure that if any previously unknown and invisible (subterranean) sites, features or material are uncovered that those could be investigated by a Heritage Specialist, who will then make recommendations on the way forward in terms of required mitigation measures.

It is therefore recommended that Motivation for Exemption from a full Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment as part of the Environmental Authorization Process related to the City of Matlosana Local Municipalities Public Parks in the Northwest Province, be granted to the applicants taking into consideration the recommendations provided above, as well as:

**The subterranean nature of cultural heritage (archaeological and/or historical) resources must always be kept in mind. Should any previously unknown or invisible sites, features or material be uncovered during any development actions then an expert should be contacted to investigate and provide recommendations on the way forward. This could include previously unknown and unmarked graves and/or cemeteries.**

Should there be any questions or comments on the contents of this document please contact the author as soon as possible.

Kind regards



Anton Pelser

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General & Closer Views of Study Area location and the various Erven/Public Parks: Google Earth 2022.

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