

# NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP

FOR THE PROPOSED KOKOSI COMMUNITY LIBRARY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

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## **1 Introduction**

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated facilities comprising an area measuring 787 square metres for the library and 371 square metres for the parking area in Kokosi Extension 4, Merafong Local Municipality, Gauteng Province.

Methale Environmental Consulting has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the environmental exemption process for the project.

### **1.1 Project Location**

Kokosi Community Library will be located Erf 3335, Corner of Galane Street and C. Ramaphosa Street, Kokosi Extension 4, Merafong Local Municipality. The site is located at 26°30'22.43 S and 27°27'46.38 E. The study area is surrounded by informal and formal residential developments. The development footprint is characterised by an open field with little to no vegetation. The development of the surrounding structures, associated infrastructure and roads would have obliterated any surface indicators of heritage resources. The site is zoned institutional.

## **2 Project / Development Details**

The Gauteng Provincial Government intends to construct a community Library and associated facilities comprising an area of 787 square metres for the library and 371 square metres for the parking area.

## 2.1 NHRA Section 38 Triggers

The small size of the development does not trigger Section 38 (1) of the NHRA (Table 1).

Table 1: Section 38 Triggers

Action Trigger	Yes/No	Description
Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length.	No	NA
Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length.	No	NA
Development exceeding 5000 m <sup>2</sup>	No	NA
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions	No	NA
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions that have been consolidated in the past 5 years	No	NA
Re-zoning of site exceeding 10 000 m <sup>2</sup>	No	NA
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks or recreational grounds	No	NA

## 2.2. Activities

Construction activities would include removal of topsoil as well as trenching and excavations for the foundations and associated infrastructure for the proposed building.

### 2.3. Environmental Process

Upon coming into effect on 04 December 2014, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations **replaced** (not amended) the following Regulations given in descending order, namely the 2010, 2006 EIA Regulations and the erstwhile ECA Regulations. In light of the above, the 2014 EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R983-985 (Listing Notices 1-3) (and any other relevant legislation) must be perused for possible requirements to obtain environmental exemptions and authorisation (or other authorisations).

Methâle Environmental does foresee the proposed work package as requiring environmental exemption approval, and is therefore lodging an environmental exemption application for the project.

### 2.4. Identified / Known Heritage Resources and Potential Impacts

Stone Age sites have not been recorded in the general area, the closest being Acheul period sites at Amcor, Acacia Rd and Kantienkoppe sites (Bergh 1999). Some rock engravings were recorded close to Carltonville (Bergh 1999). No Sites dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age have been recorded or is expected for the study area. A Late Iron Age settlement complex is situated on the Gatsrand Mountain Range and can be associated with the Bakwena-ba Mare-a-Phogole. The Bakwena-ba Mare-a-Phogole's origins can be traced back to an area close to the current Zeerust (Rathateng) where Phogole I, a son of Kwena-a-Malope, lived. Between 1470 and 1500 a large famine drove Phogole I, away from the Kwena-a-Malope settlement. Through various movements between the Rustenburg and Free State the last known main settlement of the Bakwena-ba Mare-a-Phogole was at Kokosi (Losberg) in the greater study area (Vorster 1933 and Breutz 1954). Thlokwe Ruins are a tourist attraction in the area and include the remains of Tswana and Sotho kraals, used till the inhabitants were driven away by Mzilikazi in the 1820s. Between Carltonville and Parys a large number of Later Iron Age sites are on record (Bergh 1999).

From a heritage perspective no heritages related sites or features are known to exist within the study area. The impact area of around 1000 m<sup>2</sup> is considered to have a negligible impact on the heritage resources in the larger study area and does not warrant a full Phase 1 study as no *in-situ* archaeological material, cultural heritage sites, historic structures or burial grounds are likely to be present on the affected landscape and also due to significant disturbance caused by developments in the area.

### 3. Illustrative Material

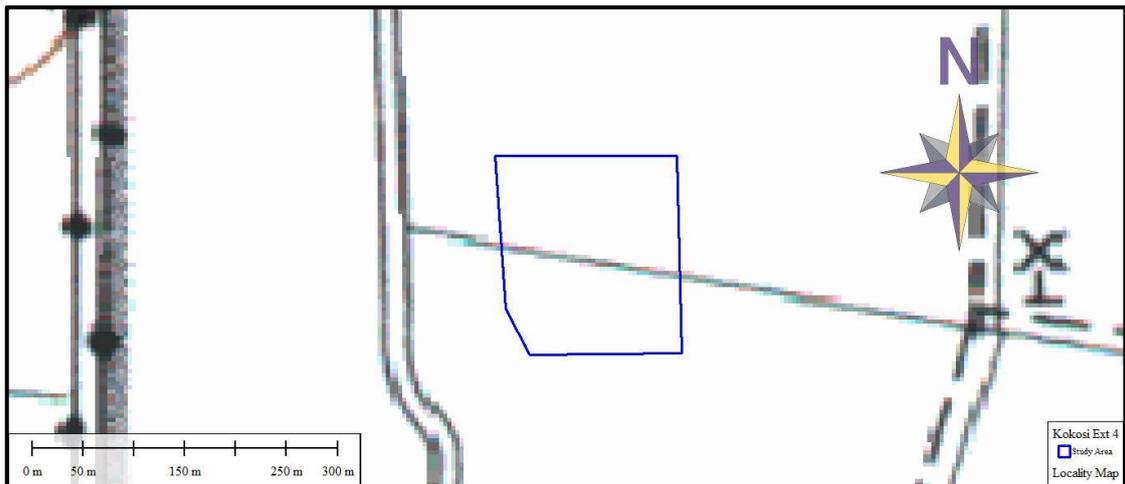


Figure 1. Locality map indicating the study area in blue.



Figure 2 Google Image of the study area



Figure 3: General Site conditions.



Figure 4: General Site conditions.



Figure 5: General Site conditions.



Figure 6: General Site conditions.

#### 4. Recommendations

HCAC supports the recommendation that the project be exempted from a full Heritage Impact Assessment as current developments have altered the landscape and the study area has been extensively disturbed by the surrounding developments. No significant Stone Age sites were recorded in the study area and no ceramics or stone walls attributed to the Iron Age were recorded. No further mitigation prior to construction is recommended in terms of Section 35 for the proposed development to proceed. In terms of the built environment of the area (Section 34), no standing structures older than 60 years occur within the study area. In terms of Section 36 of the Act no burial sites were recorded in the study area. However if any graves are located in future they should ideally be preserved *in-situ* or alternatively relocated according to existing legislation. No public monuments are located within or close to the study area.

According to a letter of exemption from Dr Lloyd Rossouw, it is also recommended that the project should be exempted from further paleontological studies (Refer to Appendix A – Rossouw (2017)).

If during construction any possible finds such as stone tool scatters, artefacts or bone and fossil remains are made, the operations must be stopped and a qualified archaeologist must be contacted for an assessment of the find.

If the above mentioned recommendations are adhered to we support the application for exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment.

##### **Recommendation made by:**

**Name:** Jaco van der Walt

**Capacity:** Archaeologist – HCAC

**Name:** Dr Lloyd Rossouw

**Capacity:** Palaeontologist

## 5. References

Bergh, J.S., (ed.) *Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies*. Pretoria: J. L. van Schaik Uitgewers. 1999.

National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999

SAHRIS (Feb 2017)

Rossouw, L. 2017. Exemption from Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Kokosi Community Library on Erf 3335, Kokosi Extension 4, Merafong Local Municipality, Gauteng Province