



**THE PROPOSED DIAMONDS (ALLUVIAL) MINING RIGHT COMBINED WITH A WASTE
LICENCE APPLICATION ON THE REMAINING EXTENT, PORTION 3, PORTION OF
PORTION 9 AND PORTION OF PORTION 10 OF THE FARM PIENAARSFONTEIN 113,
REGISTRATION DIVISION: HO; NORTH WEST PROVINCE.**

Compiled for:

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Prepared by

Banzai Environmental

April 2021

Declaration of Independence

I, Elize Butler, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent palaeontological specialist in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting palaeontological impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favorable to the applicant or not
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- I will perform all other obligations as expected a palaeontological specialist in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and
- I realize that a false declaration is an offense in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.

Disclosure of Vested Interest

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations.

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed Diamond Mining Right Application combined with a Waste Licence Application on the Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, North West Province

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SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elize Butler' with a stylized flourish at the end.

This Palaeontological Impact Assessment report has been compiled considering the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Regulations 2014 as amended, requirements for specialist reports, Appendix 6, as indicated in the table below.

Table 1 - NEMA Table

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
1.(1) (a) (i) Details of the specialist who prepared the report	Page ii and Section 2 of Report – Contact details and company and Appendix A	-
(ii) The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Section 2 – refer to Appendix A	-
(b) A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page ii of the report	-
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 4 – Objective	-
(cA) An indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	-
(cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 9	-
(d) The duration, date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	Desktop Assessment	
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used	Section 7 Approach and Methodology	-
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 1 and 10	
(g) An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	Section 5	No buffers or areas of sensitivity identified

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
(h) A map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history	
(i) A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 7.1 – Assumptions and Limitation	-
(j) A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment	Section 1 and 10	
(k) Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	Section 1 and 10	
(l) Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	Section 11	
(m) Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 11	
(n)(i) A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised and	Section 11	
(n)(iA) A reasoned opinion regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and		
(n)(ii) If the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	Section 1 and 10	-
(o) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A	Not applicable. A public consultation process will be conducted as part of the EIA and EMPr process.

Requirements of Appendix 6 – GN R326 EIA Regulations of 7 April 2017	Relevant section in report	Comment where not applicable.
(p) A summary and copies if any comments that were received during any consultation process	N/A	
(q) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A	Not applicable.
(2) Where a government notice by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	Section 3 compliance with SAHRA guidelines	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by Milnex CC to conduct the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment assessing the proposed Diamonds (Alluvial) Mining Right combined with a Waste License Application on the Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, Registration Division: HO; North West Province. In agreement with the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), a Palaeontological Assessment is necessary to establish if fossil material is present within the planned development. This study is therefore necessary to evaluate the effect of prospecting on the palaeontological finds.

The study area is underlain by the Quaternary Superficial Sediments as well as the underlying Ventersdorp Supergroup. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary Superficial Sediments and that of the Ventersdorp Supergroup is Moderate (Almond and Pether 2008, SAHRIS website). A medium significance has been allocated to the proposed development. It is therefore considered that the proposed mining development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area.

However, if fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation can be carry out by a paleontologist.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Milnex CC was commissioned by Jodeo Four (Pty) Ltd as the independent environmental consultant to conduct the EIA process for the proposed Diamonds (Alluvial) Mining Right combined with a Waste License Application on the Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, Registration Division: HO; North West Province. (Figure1-2). The proposed application area will be 1489.89ha in extent.

Information provided by Milnex CC

Diamondiferous gravels in the North West Province are distributed mainly in three major areas:

- area underlain by dolomite from the east of Ventersdorp towards Lichtenburg and Bakerville and beyond (VLB),
- the Lichtenburg–Delareyville–Bloemhof–Klerksdorp–Lichtenburg area (LDBKL), which is mostly underlain by Ventersdorp Supergroup basalt and Dwyka Group tillite
- the area associated with the Vaal River terraces and gravels.

Diamondiferous gravels are concentrated along straight and meandering runs, sinkholes and dolines in the VLB area. In the LDBKL area, the diamonds are present in ancient and current river channels, terraces or banks and as alluvial and colluvial deposits.

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

This present study has been conducted by Mrs Elize Butler. She has conducted approximately 300 palaeontological impact assessments for developments in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern, Central, and Northern Cape, Northwest, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga. She has an MSc (*cum laude*) in Zoology (specializing in Palaeontology) from the University of the Free State, South Africa and has been working in Palaeontology for more than twenty-five years. She has experience in locating, collecting, and curating fossils, including exploration field trips in search of new localities in the Karoo Basin. She has been a member of the Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) since 2006 and has been conducting PIAs since 2014.

3 LEGISLATION

3.1 National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)

Cultural Heritage in South Africa, includes all heritage resources, is protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Heritage resources as defined in Section 3 of the Act include **“all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens”**.

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources may not be unearthed, broken moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

This Palaeontological Impact Assessment forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and adhere to the conditions of the Act. According to **Section 38 (1)**, a HIA is required to assess any potential impacts to palaeontological heritage within the development footprint where:

- the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—
 - a. (exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - b. involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - c. involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - d. the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority
 - e. the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000m² in extent;
- or any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial heritage resources authority.



Figure 1: Google Earth Image (2020) indicating the locality (in orange) of the proposed development on Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, North West Province.

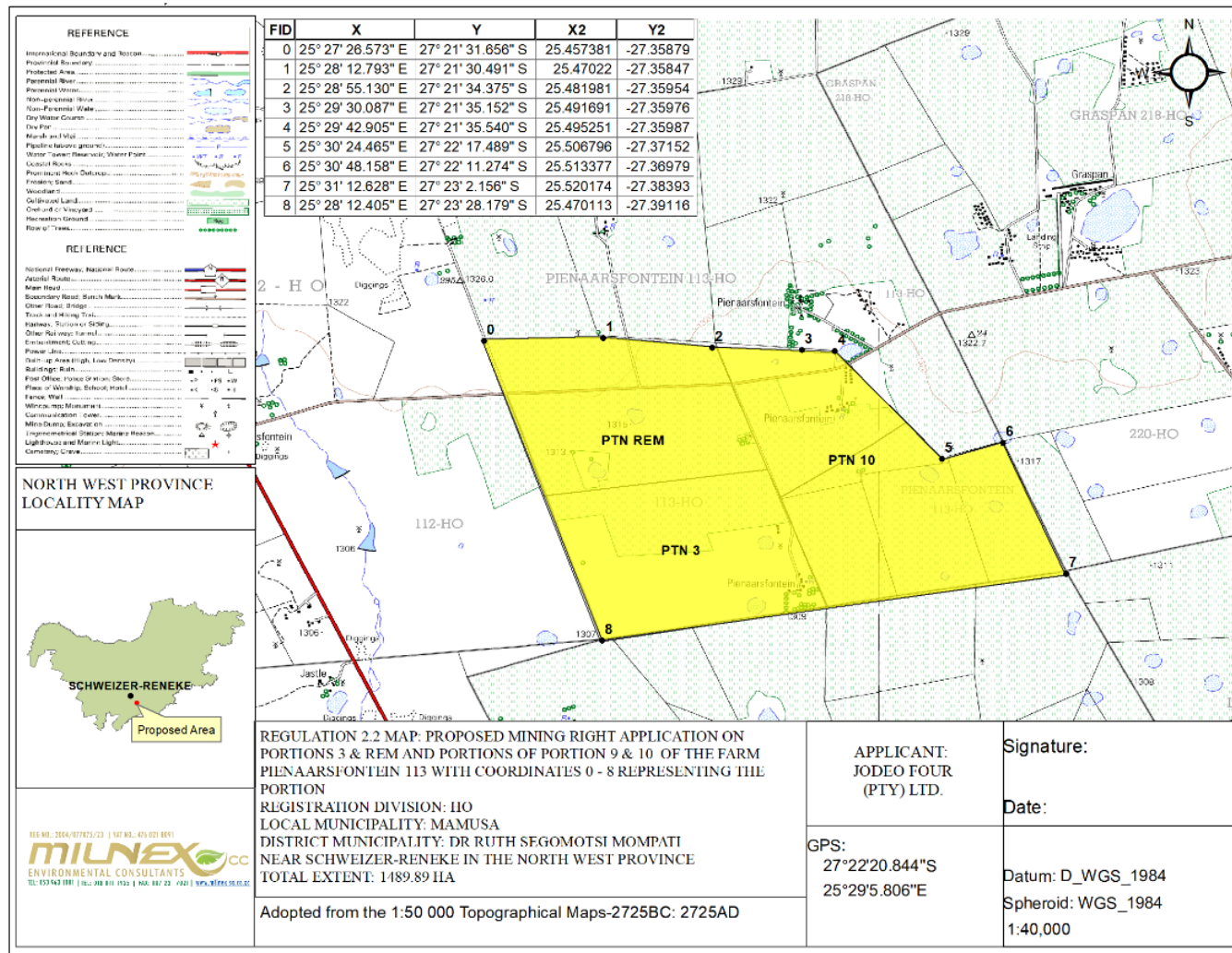


Figure 2: Locality of the proposed development on Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, North West Province.

4 OBJECTIVE

The objective of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is to determine the impact of the development on potential palaeontological material at the site.

According to the “SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports” the aims of the PIA are: 1) to **identify** the palaeontological status of the exposed as well as rock formations just below the surface in the development footprint 2) to estimate the **palaeontological importance** of the formations 3) to determine the **impact** on fossil heritage; and 4) to recommend how the developer ought to protect or mitigate damage to fossil heritage.

The terms of reference of a PIA are as follows:

General Requirements:

- Adherence to the content requirements for specialist reports in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended;
 - Adherence to all applicable best practice recommendations, appropriate legislation and authority requirements;
 - Submit a comprehensive overview of all appropriate legislation, guidelines;
 - Description of the proposed project and provide information regarding the developer and consultant who commissioned the study;
 - Description and location of the proposed development and provide geological and topographical maps;
 - Provide Palaeontological and geological history of the affected area;
 - Identification sensitive areas to be avoided (providing shapefiles/kmls) in the proposed development;
 - Evaluation of the significance of the planned development during the Pre-construction, Construction, Operation, Decommissioning Phases and Cumulative impacts. Potential impacts should be rated in terms of the direct, indirect and cumulative:
 - a. **Direct impacts** are impacts that are caused directly by the activity and generally occur at the same time and at the place of the activity.
 - b. **Indirect impacts** of an activity are indirect or induced changes that may occur as a result of the activity.
 - c. **Cumulative impacts** are impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future activities.
 - Fair assessment of alternatives (infrastructure alternatives have been provided);
 - Recommend mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the proposed development;
- and

- Implications of specialist findings for the proposed development (such as permits, licenses etc).

5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL HISTORY

The proposed Diamonds (Alluvial) Mining Right combined with a Waste License Application on Remaining Extent, Portion 3, portion of Portion 9 and portion of Portion 10 of the farm Pienaarsfontein 113, North West Province is depicted on the 1:250 000 2724 Christiana Geological Map (1994) (Council of Geoscience) (Figure 3). The 2724 Christiana Geological Map indicates that the development footprint is primarily covered by Quaternary aeolian sands (Qw). Outcrops of Tertiary to Quaternary Calcrete (T-Qc-dark yellow; carbonate-cemented surface deposits) is also present near the development as well as river-terrace gravels which are diamondiferous in places. Outcrops of the Ventersdorp Supergroup (Ra-Allanridge Formation; Rb-Bothaville Formation and Rr-Rietgat Formation) in areas east and west of the proposed development is present (Figure 3), According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary aeolian sands and Ventersdorp Supergroup is moderate (Almond and Pether 2008, SAHRIS website), while that of the Tertiary to Quaternary Calcrete is High.

The fossil assemblages of the Quaternary are generally Low in diversity and occur over a wide range. These fossils represent terrestrial plants and animals with a close resemblance to living forms. Fossil assemblages include bivalves, diatoms, gastropod shells, ostracods and trace fossils. The palaeontology of the Quaternary superficial deposits has been relatively neglected in the past. Late Cenozoic calcrete may comprise of bones, horn cores as well as mammalian teeth. Tortoise remains have also been uncovered as well as trace fossils which includes termite and insect's burrows and mammalian trackways. Amphibian and crocodile skeletons have been uncovered where the depositional settings in the past were wetter.

Quaternary deposits are the most widespread body of terrestrial sediments in southern Africa. The sands and calcretes range in thickness from a few metres to more than 180m (Partridge et al., 2006). Quaternary alluvial gravels also known as high level gravels is mapped along both the Vaal and Orange River and is associated with diamond mining (De Wit *et al.*, 2000). Windsorton is located northeast of Douglas and is known to have heavily calcretized "Older Gravels". These gravels have been allocated to the Windsorton Formation and are supposed to be Miocene-Pliocene in age (Partridge & Brink 1967, De Wit *et al.*, 2000, Partridge *et al.* 2006). The "Younger gravels" of the Vaal River System comprise of the Rietputs Formation.

The Ventersdorp Supergroup comprise of the biggest and most wide-spread system of volcanic rocks in the Kaapvaal Craton. The best exposures of the Ventersdorp Supergroup are in the Northern Cape and North West Province as well as Gauteng and southern Botswana. This Supergroup consists of (from oldest to youngest) the Kliprivierberg Group, which is overlain by the Platberg Group, followed by the sedimentary Bothaville Formation (Rb) and the volcanic Allanridge Formation (Ra) (uppermost Ventersdorp unit and youngest Formation).

The Platberg Group is subdivided in four formations namely the Kameeldoorns-, Goedgenoeg-, Makwassie-, and Rietgat Formations. These formations consist of heterogeneous rock varying from chemical and classic sediments, to felsic and mafic volcanics (Visser et al, 1975-1976, Buck, 1980).

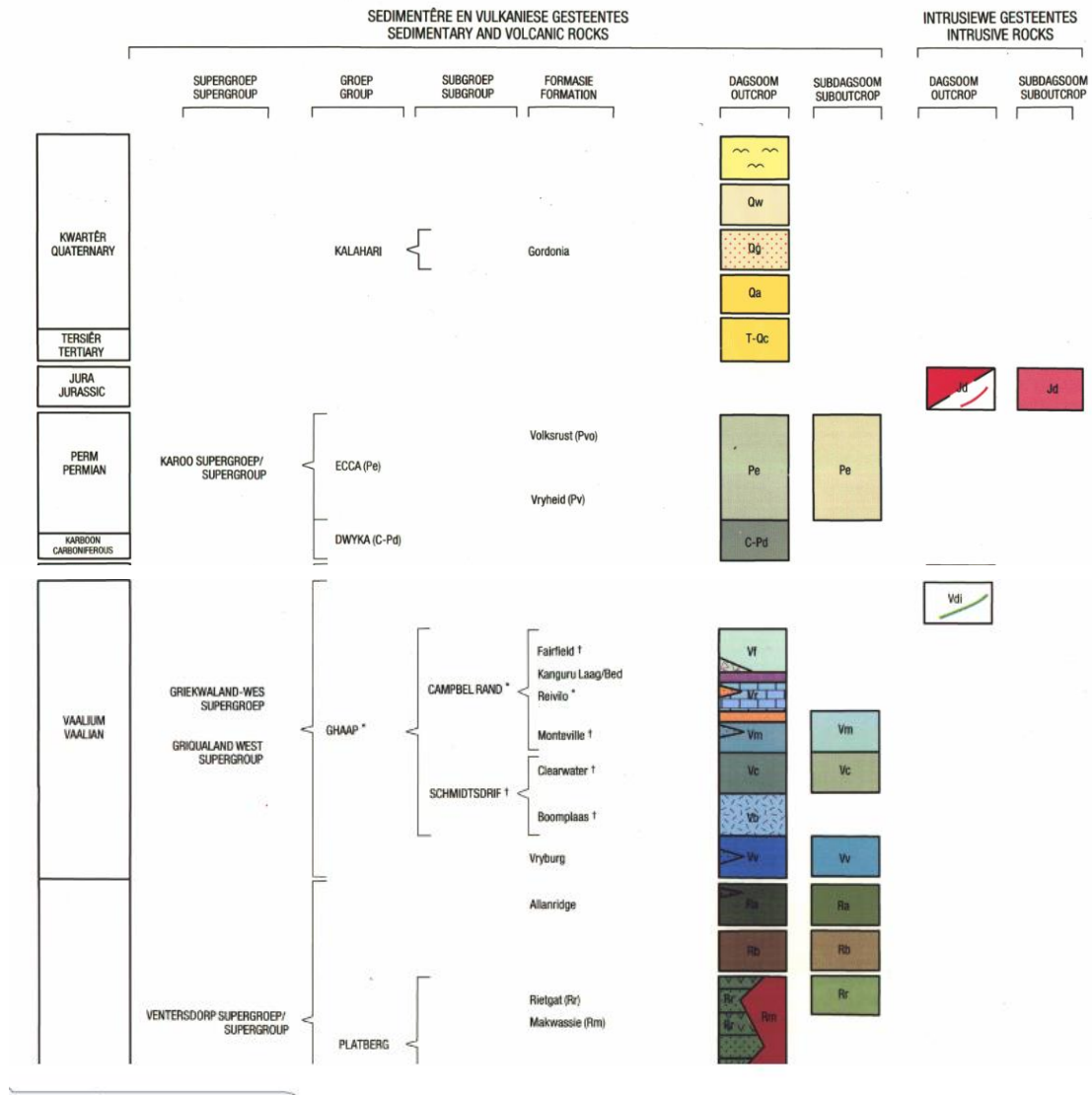
The Allanridge Formation comprise mostly of light-greenish grey porphyritic lava, dark-green amygdaloidal lava, and pyroclastic rocks (Keyser, 1992). The lavas are approximately 2700 million years old and comprise of basaltic andesites. The Allanridge Formation is unfossiliferous. The Vryburg Formation overlies the Ventersdorp Supergroup and is interpreted as a fluvial to marginal marine deposit that comprise of basal transgressive conglomerate and quartzites, subordinate stromatolitic carbonates and shales (Eriksson et al., 2006).



Figure 3: Extract of the 1:250 000 2725 Christiana Geological map (1994) (Council of Geoscience) indicating the proposed development in orange. Surface geology indicates that the development footprint is underlain by the Quaternary aeolian sand (Qw).

GEOLOGIESE LEGENDE

GEOLOGICAL LEGEND



Legend to Map and short explanation.

Qw- Quaternary aeolian sands,

Qa- Tertiary to Quaternary Calcrete

Mining activity –(DA) Diamonds

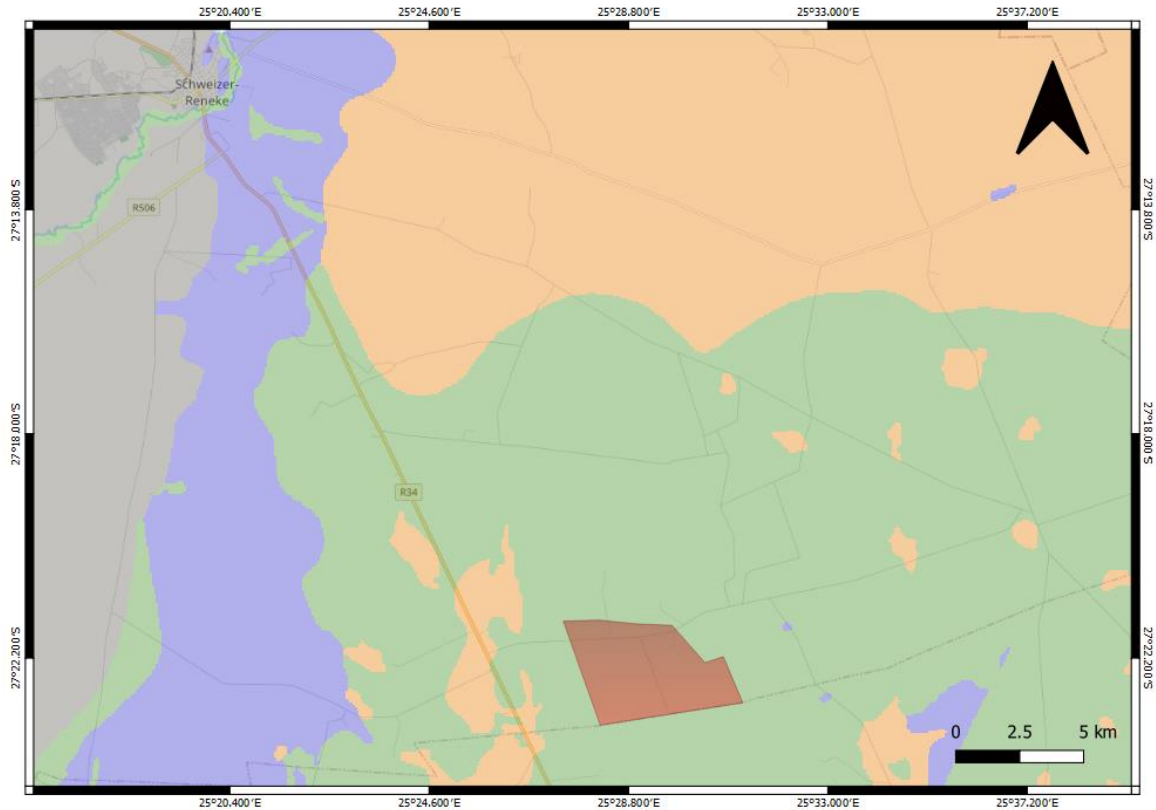


Figure 4: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences). Location of the proposed development is indicated in brown.

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study; a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

According to the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map (Figure 4) there is a moderate chance (green) of finding fossils in this area.

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

Pienaarsfontein 113 HO is situated about 26 km south-east of Schweizer-Reneke in the North West Province and is 1489.89 hectares in extent. The depth of gravel fluctuates from 0.5 meters to 2 meters below surface.

7 METHODS

The aim of a desktop study is to evaluate the risk to palaeontological heritage in the proposed development. This includes all trace fossils and fossils. All available information is consulted to compile a desktop study and includes: Palaeontological Impact Assessment reports in the same area; aerial photos and Google Earth images, topographical as well as geological maps.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

The focal point of geological maps is the geology of the area and the sheet explanations were not meant to focus on palaeontological heritage. Many inaccessible regions of South Africa have never been reviewed by palaeontologists and data is generally based on aerial photographs alone. Locality and geological information of museums and universities databases have not been kept up to date or data collected in the past have not always been accurately documented.

Comparable Assemblage Zones in other areas is sourced to provide information on the existence of fossils in an area which was not documented in the past. When using similar Assemblage Zones and geological formations for Desktop studies it is generally **assumed** that exposed fossil heritage is present within the footprint. **A field-assessment will thus improve the accuracy of the desktop assessment.**

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED

In compiling this report the following sources were consulted:

- Geological map 1:100 000, Geology of the Republic of South Africa (Visser 1984),
- 1: 250 000 2725 Christiana Geological map (1994) (Council of Geoscience),
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from Milnex CC.,
- 1:50 000 Topographical Maps 2725BC AB, 2725AD.

9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

9.1 Impact Rating System

Impact assessment must take account of the nature, scale and duration of impacts on the environment whether such impacts are positive or negative. Each impact is also assessed according to the following project phases:

- Construction
- Operation
- Decommissioning

Where necessary, the proposal for mitigation or optimisation of an impact should be detailed. A brief discussion of the impact and the rationale behind the assessment of its significance should also be included. The rating system is applied to the potential impacts on the receiving environment and includes an objective evaluation of the mitigation of the impact. In assessing the significance of each impact the following criteria is used:

Table 2: The rating system

NATURE		
Include a brief description of the impact of environmental parameter being assessed in the context of the project. This criterion includes a brief written statement of the environmental aspect being impacted upon by a particular action or activity.		
GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT		
This is defined as the area over which the impact will be experienced.		
1	Site	The impact will only affect the site.
2	Local/district	Will affect the local area or district.
3	Province/region	Will affect the entire province or region.
4	International and National	Will affect the entire country.
PROBABILITY		
This describes the chance of occurrence of an impact.		
1	Unlikely	The chance of the impact occurring is extremely low (Less than a 25% chance of occurrence).
2	Possible	The impact may occur (Between a 25% to 50% chance of occurrence).
3	Probable	The impact will likely occur (Between a 50% to 75% chance of occurrence).
4	Definite	Impact will certainly occur (Greater than a 75% chance of occurrence).

DURATION		
This describes the duration of the impacts. Duration indicates the lifetime of the impact as a result of the proposed activity.		
1	Short term	The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural processes in a span shorter than the construction phase (0 – 1 years), or the impact will last for the period of a relatively short construction period and a limited recovery time after construction, thereafter it will be entirely negated (0 – 2 years).
2	Medium term	The impact will continue or last for some time after the construction phase but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (2 – 10 years).
3	Long term	The impact and its effects will continue or last for the entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter (10 – 30 years).
4	Permanent	The only class of impact that will be non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or such a time span that the impact can be considered indefinite.
INTENSITY/ MAGNITUDE		
Describes the severity of an impact.		
1	Low	Impact affects the quality, use and integrity of the system/component in a way that is barely perceptible.
2	Medium	Impact alters the quality, use and integrity of the system/component but system/component still continues to function in a moderately modified way and maintains general integrity (some impact on integrity).
3	High	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component is severely impaired and may temporarily cease. High costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
4	Very high	Impact affects the continued viability of the system/component and the quality, use, integrity and functionality of the system or component permanently ceases and is irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation and

		remediation often impossible. If possible rehabilitation and remediation often unfeasible due to extremely high costs of rehabilitation and remediation.
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REVERSIBILITY

This describes the degree to which an impact can be successfully reversed upon completion of the proposed activity.

1	Completely reversible	The impact is reversible with implementation of minor mitigation measures.
2	Partly reversible	The impact is partly reversible but more intense mitigation measures are required.
3	Barely reversible	The impact is unlikely to be reversed even with intense mitigation measures.
4	Irreversible	The impact is irreversible and no mitigation measures exist.

IRREPLACEABLE LOSS OF RESOURCES

This describes the degree to which resources will be irreplaceably lost as a result of a proposed activity.

1	No loss of resource	The impact will not result in the loss of any resources.
2	Marginal loss of resource	The impact will result in marginal loss of resources.
3	Significant loss of resources	The impact will result in significant loss of resources.
4	Complete loss of resources	The impact is result in a complete loss of all resources.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT

This describes the cumulative effect of the impacts. A cumulative impact is an effect which in itself may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts emanating from other similar or diverse activities as a result of the project activity in question.

1	Negligible cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects.
2	Low cumulative impact	The impact would result in insignificant cumulative effects.
3	Medium cumulative impact	The impact would result in minor cumulative effects.
4	High cumulative impact	The impact would result in significant cumulative effects

SIGNIFICANCE

Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics. Significance is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both physical extent and time scale, and therefore indicates the level of mitigation required. The calculation of the significance of an impact uses the following formula:

(Extent + probability + reversibility + irreplaceability + duration + cumulative effect) x magnitude/intensity.

The summation of the different criteria will produce a non-weighted value. By multiplying this value with the magnitude/intensity, the resultant value acquires a weighted characteristic which can be measured and assigned a significance rating.

Points	Impact significance rating	Description
6 to 28	Negative low impact	The anticipated impact will have negligible negative effects and will require little to no mitigation.
6 to 28	Positive low impact	The anticipated impact will have minor positive effects.
29 to 50	Negative medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate negative effects and will require moderate mitigation measures.
29 to 50	Positive medium impact	The anticipated impact will have moderate positive effects.
51 to 73	Negative high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an acceptable level of impact.
51 to 73	Positive high impact	The anticipated impact will have significant positive effects.
74 to 96	Negative very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant effects and are unlikely to be able to be mitigated adequately. These impacts could be considered "fatal flaws".
74 to 96	Positive very high impact	The anticipated impact will have highly significant positive

9.1.1 Summary of Impacts

Only the site will be affected (1). It is probable that the impact will occur (3). The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term (4). The impact on fossil heritage will be irreversible and a complete loss of fossil heritage will take place (4). The cumulative effect of the impact will be Low (1). The magnitude of the impact happening will be low (1)

Significance = (Extent (1) + probability (2) + reversibility (4) + irreplaceability (4) + duration (4) + cumulative effect) (2) x magnitude/intensity (2) =34.

The Impact significance will therefore be a negative medium Impact.

10 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study area is underlain by the Quaternary Superficial Sediments as well as the underlying Ventersdorp Supergroup. According to the PalaeoMap of South African Heritage Resources Information System the Palaeontological Sensitivity of the Quaternary Superficial Sediments and that of the Ventersdorp Supergroup is Moderate (Almond and Pether 2008, SAHRIS website). A medium significance has been allocated to the proposed development. It is therefore considered that the proposed mining development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area.

However, if fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that mitigation can be carry out by a paleontologist.

11 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

A following procedure will only be followed if fossils are uncovered during excavation.

11.1 Legislation

Cultural Heritage in South Africa (includes all heritage resources) is protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA)**. According to Section 3 of the Act, all Heritage resources include “**all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens**”.

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA and are the property of the State. It is thus the responsibility of the State to manage and conserve fossils on behalf of the citizens of South Africa. Palaeontological resources may not be excavated, broken, moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

11.2 Background

A fossil is the naturally preserved remains (or traces) of plants or animals embedded in rock. These plants and animals lived in the geologic past millions of years ago. Fossils are extremely rare and irreplaceable. By studying fossils, it is possible to determine the environmental conditions that existed in a specific geographical area millions of years ago.

11.3 Introduction

This informational document is intended for workmen and foremen on construction sites. It describes the actions to be taken when mining or construction activities accidentally uncovers fossil material.

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Site Officer (ESO) or site manager of the project to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. In the absence of the ESO, a member of the staff must be appointed to be responsible for the proper implementation of the chance find protocol as not to compromise the conservation of fossil material.

11.4 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately **stop working** and all work that could impact that finding must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find.
- The person who made the find must immediately **report** the find to his/her direct supervisor which in turn must report the find to his/her manager and the ESO or site manager. The ESO or site manager must report the find to the relevant Heritage Agency (South African Heritage Research Agency, SAHRA). (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za). The information to the Heritage Agency must include photographs of the find, from various angles, as well as the GPS co-ordinates.
- A preliminary report must be submitted to the Heritage Agency within **24 hours** of the find and must include the following: 1) date of the find; 2) a description of the discovery and a 3) description of the fossil and its context (depth and position of the fossil), GPS co-ordinates.
- Photographs (the more the better) of the discovery must be of high quality, in focus, accompanied by a scale. It is also important to have photographs of the vertical section (side) where the fossil was found.

Upon receipt of the preliminary report, the Heritage Agency will inform the ESO (or site manager) whether a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.

- The site must be secured to protect it from any further damage. **No attempt** should be made to remove material from their environment. The exposed finds must be stabilized and covered by a plastic sheet or sand bags. The Heritage agency will also be able to advise on the most suitable method of protection of the find.
- In the event that the fossil cannot be stabilized the fossil may be collected with extreme care by the ESO (site manager). Fossils finds must be stored in tissue paper and in an appropriate box while due care must be taken to remove all fossil material from the rescue site.
- Once Heritage Agency has issued the written authorization, the developer may continue with the development on the affected area.

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Appendix A – Elize Butler CV

CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIZE BUTLER

PROFESSION: Palaeontologist

YEARS' EXPERIENCE: 26 years in Palaeontology

EDUCATION: B.Sc Botany and Zoology, 1988
University of the Orange Free State

B.Sc (Hons) Zoology, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

Management Course, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

M. Sc. *Cum laude* (Zoology), 2009
University of the Free State

Dissertation title: The postcranial skeleton of the Early Triassic non-mammalian Cynodont *Galesaurus planiceps*: implications for biology and lifestyle

Registered as a PhD fellow at the Zoology Department of the UFS

2013 to current

Dissertation title: A new gorgonopsian from the uppermost *Daptocephalus Assemblage Zone*, in the Karoo Basin of South Africa

MEMBERSHIP

Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) 2006-currently

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Part-time Laboratory assistant Department of Zoology & Entomology
University of the Free State Zoology 1989-1992

Part-time laboratory assistant Department of Virology
University of the Free State Zoology 1992

Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 – 1997

Principal Research Assistant National Museum, Bloemfontein
and Collection Manager 1998–currently

TECHNICAL REPORTS

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- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed Overvaal Trust PV Facility, Buffelspoort, North West Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of the H2 Energy Power Station and associated infrastructure on Portions 21; 22 And 23 of the farm Hartebeestspruit in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Nkangala District near Kwamhlanga, Mpumalanga Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed upgrade of the Sandriver Canal and Klippan Pump station in Welkom, Free State Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed upgrade of the 132kv and 11kv power line into a dual circuit above ground power line feeding into the Urania substation in Welkom, Free State Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed Swaziland-Mozambique border patrol road and Mozambique barrier structure. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed diamonds alluvial & diamonds general prospecting right application near Christiana on the remaining extent of portion 1 of the farm Kaffraria 314, registration division HO, North West Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2017.** Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed development of Wastewater Treatment Works on Hartebeesfontein, near Panbult, Mpumalanga. Bloemfontein.
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- Butler, E. 2018.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of the new Mutsho coal-fired power plant and associated infrastructure near Makhado, Limpopo Province. Bloemfontein.

- Butler, E. 2018.** Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the authorisation and amendment processes for Manangu mine near Delmas, Victor Khanye local municipality, Mpumalanga. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2018.** Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed Mashishing township establishment in Mashishing (Lydenburg), Mpumalanga Province. Bloemfontein.
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- Butler, E. 2018.** Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed electricity expansion project and Sekgame Switching Station at the Sishen Mine, Northern Cape Province. Bloemfontein.
- Butler, E. 2018.** Palaeontological field assessment of the proposed construction of the Zonnebloem Switching Station (132/22kV) and two loop-in loop-out power lines (132kV) in the Mpumalanga Province. Bloemfontein.
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INTERNATIONAL VISITS

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