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Reference: **CaseID: 15345 & PermitID: 3171.**

REPORT OF TEST EXCAVATION ON PTN 10 OF THE FARM NEW GATE 802 MS

I refer to the *Amended HIA report RE of Ptn 10 of the farm Newgate 802 MS* submitted for the permit application on **CaseID: 15345**.

PermitID: 3171 was issued to me on Thursday November 19, 2020 of which I was only notified on the SAHRIS messages page on Saturday 5 December 2020. The application for a permit was submitted because an isolated human skull was exposed in a services trench during building activities at the Avoca Vale Country Lodge near Makhado. This skull was removed by the SAPS and sent to the forensic unit at Elim Hospital. The SAHRA permit was for a test excavation in order to search for any other skeletal material.

Para 2 of the permit stipulates that "**Upon discovery of any part of the human remains, SAHRA must be contacted to arrange for the removal of the remains for off-site analysis. The remains are not to be removed from their original position(s) without a permit from SAHRA**".

I visited the site on 10 December 2020 in order to undertake the test excavation. I initially cleaned-up the trench from rubble and debris that had washed in due to rain to create a square of approximately 1.5m X 1m on the original trench depth at the spot where the skull was located. The square was initially excavated to a further depth of 10cm as layer 1. In layer 2 an isolated ulna (lower arm bone) was uncovered together with some metal pieces. The ulna was not articulated to any other bone; neither the radius nor humerus was present at that level. No hand bones were uncovered either. I then ceased the excavation because of the stipulation in Para 2 of the permit and cover the find. However, the isolated non-articulated ulna strengthens my previous observation in the HIA report that the skeleton had previously been dislocated and moved around before the trench was excavated. This probably occurred during the establishment of an orchard in the first half of the 20th century.

I reported the find to the SAPS in Louis Trichardt because they have an interest in the case. The SAPS's Capt. Tinyani (rmtinyani65@gmail.com) insisted that any other recovered skeletal material be reconciled with the skull in order to complete their forensic analysis. The

Capt however undertook not to exhume the remains, but would wait for our process and accompany me when the work continues.

The purpose of this short report is to apply for the amendment of the conditions of permit 3171 to allow for the removal of the finds in layer 2 and to continue the excavation to its full conclusion. Thereafter the remains will be lodged with the SAPS in Louis Trichardt to reconcile the remains with the skull for the conclusion of the forensic analysis.

The result of the excavation finds and the forensic report will be submitted as a final report and will determine the consultative process to be followed for the reburial of the remains.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roodt', written in a cursive style.

FRANS ROODT



Figure 1. View of the trench being cleaned of rubble and debris.



Figure 2. View of trench after cleaning. Scale 1m.



Figure 3. Level 1 of the square excavated. No finds were uncovered. Scale 1m.



Figure 4. The ulna and metal pieces uncovered in layer 2. Scale 1m.



Figure 5. Detail of Figure 4 above.