



Dirane Trading
(Pty) Ltd



TSHANDUKO
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF REATLEGILE LODGE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR VERGELEGEN, IN JANE FURSE, WITHIN MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Taking cognisance of National, Provincial and District policies and plans, one of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality's municipal priorities includes local economic development in the area. This entails the creation and management of an environment that will allow for the development, stimulation and strengthening of local economic growth. Like most rural municipalities in the country, Makhuduthamaga is characterized by weak economic base, poor infrastructure, major service delivery backlogs, dispersed human settlements and high poverty levels.

In terms of the percentage of people living in poverty for each of the locals within the Sekhukhune District Municipality, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality has the highest percentage of people living in poverty, using the upper poverty line definition, with a

total of 79.0%. This is due to fact that there was no formal town in the Municipal area for many years. However, with the growth of Jane Furse as the District Growth Point and the relocation of District offices from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse it is expected that the economic activities will boom and job creation will benefit local residents. The main economic activities are focused in the Jane Furse node with settlements' services e.g. retail, accommodation and associated ancillary services being provided in the settlements surrounding the node.

Vergelegen is one of the settlements surrounding the Jane Furse node and has been identified by the applicant, Dirane Trading (Pty) Ltd, as a suitable area for the development of a lodge and associated infrastructure.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tshanduko Environmental Engineering (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, published under Government Notice No. 983 in No. 38282 on 4 December 2014 in terms of sections 24(2), 24(5), 24D and 44, read with section 47A (1)(b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The proposed development triggers Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GNR 324 (Listing Notice 3) of 7 April 2017, therefore a Basic Assessment (BA) Process will be undertaken to obtain Environmental Authorisation from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development,

Environment and Tourism (LEDET) before the project can commence. A Water Use Licence Application will also be lodged with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The proposed project includes the development of a lodge and associated infrastructure which includes the following:

- Double storey lodge (45 rooms) including a conference venue;
- Recreational facilities including a water pond/ splash pool, deck area, and landscaped gardens;
- Staff accommodation;
- Parking area
- Rehabilitation of wetland present on site

The development footprint is approximately 0,56 ha (5600 m²) (refer to **Appendix B: Layout Plan**).

LOCATION

The site is located near Vergelegen, in Jane Furse at the following geographical co-ordinates:

S 24°45'37.47" E 29°51'11.74" (refer to **Appendix A: Locality Map**).

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Information gathered during site investigations, specialist studies and experience garnered from similar projects identified potential environmental impacts that could be associated with the proposed project. These include the following:

- Disturbance and fragmentation of wetland habitat;
- Loss of indigenous vegetation cover due to site clearing activities;

- Groundwater contamination due to construction and operational activities;
- Soil erosion due to loss of vegetation cover and placement of hardened surfaces i.e. lodge infrastructure; paving, parking areas,
- Generation of waste;
- Generation of noise;
- Generation of dust;
- Socio-economic: The creation of short and long term employment opportunities as well as supporting of local businesses during the construction and operational phases of the development.

Detailed identification and assessment of impacts, (including recommended mitigation measures to curb and/or minimise these impacts), will be undertaken and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme. These reports will also include the detailed assessments and recommendations of various specialists that form part of the EIA project team for the proposed development. All reports will be made available for public review during the Public Participation Phase of the Basic Assessment Process. The specialist studies to be undertaken include the following:

- Wetland Assessment
- Geotechnical Studies
- Geo-hydrological Studies
- Heritage Impact Assessment

APPLICABLE TRIGGERED LISTED ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE PROJECT

The proposed project activities will trigger listed environmental activities that will require environmental authorisation as per The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended in 2017) GNR 324 (Listing Notice 3). The following are the triggered listed activities:

Activity 6: *The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more: e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (hh) Areas within a watercourse; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse.*

Activity 12: *The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan, in e. Limpopo ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.*

Activity 14: *The development of (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbor in e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the*

competent authority; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.

A Water Use Licence Application will also be undertaken with DWS for the following water uses:

Section 21 (a): Taking water from a water resource;

Section 21 (c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course;

Section 21 (i): Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse;

Section 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.

REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to participate in the EIA process by completing the Comments and Registration Form (refer to page overleaf) . To ensure that you are registered as an IAP, or to lodge any issue, concern, or get clarity on the proposed project, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) indicated below:

Tshanduko Environmental Engineering (Pty) Ltd

Contact number: 079 120 2155/ 072 248 7761

Email: gauteng@tshanduko.co.za

/info@tshanduko.co.za

COMMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM

Please state your interest in the proposed project:

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the proposed project:

Please provide contact details of other persons who you may regard as potential I&AP:

Name and Surname:

Community/Organisation and
Designation:

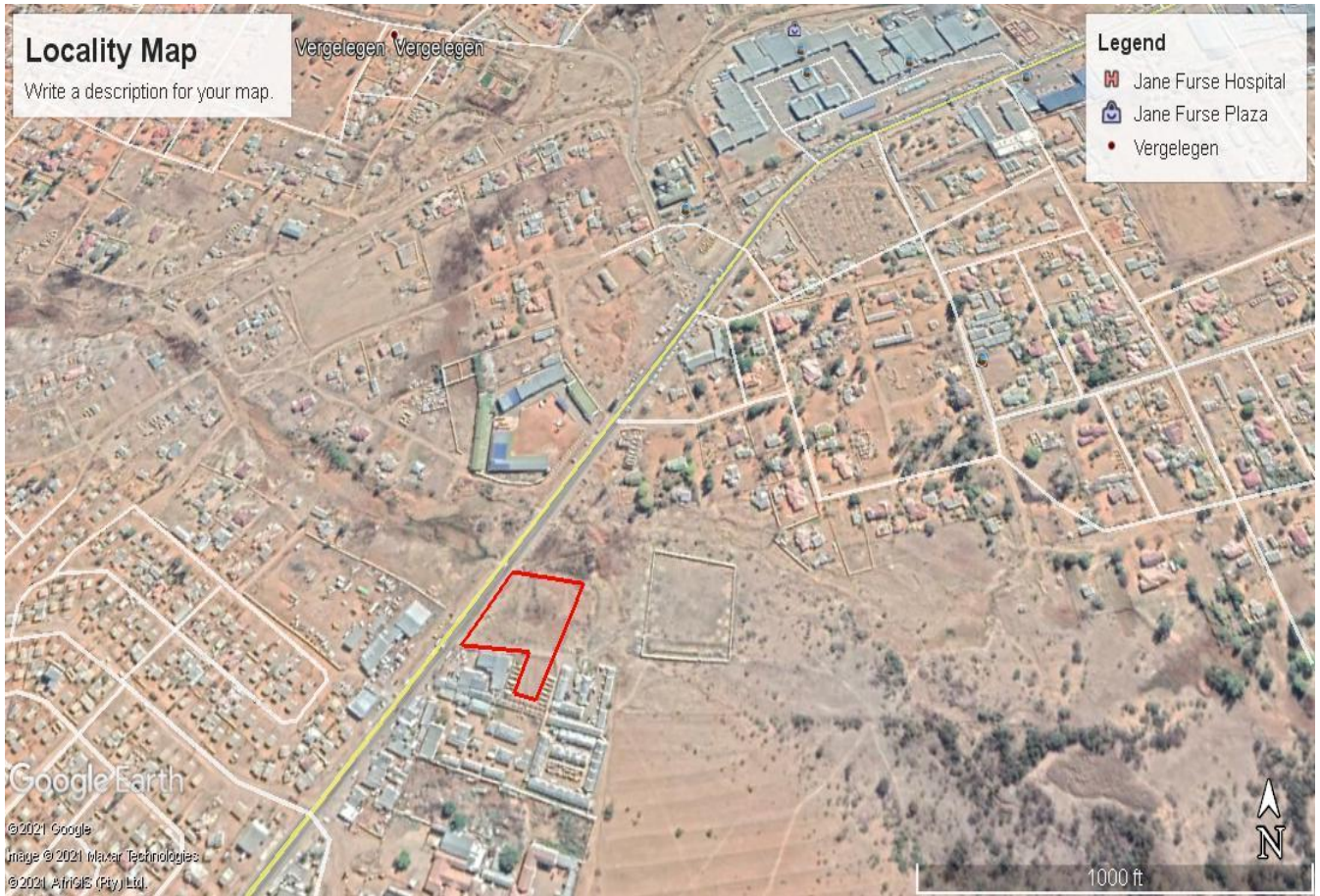
Physical Address:

Postal Address (if different from the
physical Address):

Contact Number:

E-mail Address:

APPENDIX A: LOCALITY MAP



APPENDIX B: LAYOUT PLAN

