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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Date: 14 March 2014

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Organisation : SA Heritage Resource Agency

Head office
111 harrington street
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Tel : 021 462 4502

To: Phillip Hine

MESSAGE: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF ACCOMODATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES AT BLOEMHOF DAM GAME RESERVE

Lesekha Consulting has been appointed by the North West Parks & Tourism Board (NWP&TB) to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the upgrading of Accommodation and Tourism facilities at Bloemhof Dam Game reserve. You have been identified as the as the stakeholder/interested and Identified Parties on the project.

The purpose of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is not merely to assess the impact of a development on the environment. EIA also facilitates improved decision making by the competent authority, tasked with either granting or refusing an environmental authorisation for a development to proceed. The EIA Regulations promulgated under section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA),¹ sets out the minimum requirements regarding public participation by interested and affected parties (I&APs).

This background information document aims to invite interested and affected parties (I&AP's) and all the stakeholders to participate in the process and to obtain comments their inputs for environmental authorization. Your participation will assist in identifying environmental consequences of the proposed project and ensure that they are evaluated in the EIA process. Should you want to participate, you will receive further EIA reports and notification of the decision from the relevant authority

Project Description

The proposed upgrading of the accommodation and tourism facilities at Bloemhof Dam Game Reserve. The proposed project will entail the following: The construction of new self catering chalets to accommodate 50-100 per person; building of five new staff accommodation facilities; building of three new Ablution blocks, Upgrade of existing Tourism facilities this includes (Group camp, Hunting camp and Log cabins) with Solar Technology; Upgrade of Ou Kliphuis as an Environmental Education camp for school children around the reserve; Upgrade of gate entrance complex with additional new office and storage space; Renovation and upgrade of the boat area and slipway ;Renovation and Upgrade of 86 kilometres of game fence within the reserve and Upgrading of tourist roads 54 kilometres.

Project Location:

The site is located on Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve within the jurisdiction of Lekwa Teemane Local Municipality, in the North West Province

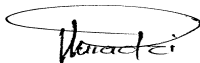
Importance of your participation:

Everyone has the right to be involved in decisions that may affect their livelihood. Participation by Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) is in everyone's best interest because:

- ❖ It provides opportunities for I&AP's and the authorities to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the expected environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- ❖ it assist to incorporate views and concerns of I&AP's into the design phase and augment the information requirements to attain a record of decision (RoD) from Department of Environmental Affairs that will facilitate legislative compliance and project inception.
- ❖ It provides members of the public with the opportunity to voice their concerns and to raise questions regarding the project.
- ❖ It provides affected parties with the opportunity to suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any negative impacts of the project, and for enhancing its benefits.
- ❖ It will enable the project proponent to consider the needs, preferences and values of affected parties in their decisions.
- ❖ It provides opportunities for the clearing up of misunderstandings about technical issues, resolving disputes and reconciling conflicting interests.
- ❖ It is vital for ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making.
- ❖ It contributes towards maintaining a healthy, vibrant democracy.

Trust you find this in order;

Regards;



Mulaudzi N.C