



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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CaselD: 15672

Date: Monday November 09, 2020

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## **PERMIT: Test Excavation**

### **In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Permit Holder: Mr Trust Mlilo

Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants

Head Office/Gauteng Office 135 Pitzer Road Glen Austin Midrand 1685

**Site:** Klipspruit Colliery Tombstones (Klipspruit Tombstones)

Sativa Consultants have been appointed to conduct test excavations on the grave-sites that were exhumed with tombstones left scattered on site. The test excavation is proposed to assess if there are still human remains buried in these sites. The site is protected by a fence and trench. There is no sign of any family member visiting the site for any purpose. Sativa heritage team confirmed that the tombstones are probably not in their original positions. It is most likely that the graves were removed from somewhere but due to the size of the tombstones the undertaker may have failed to relocate the tombstones together with the human remains and other grave goods. However, it is also possible that the affected family/families may have requested the undertaker to preserve the tombstones at the burial site. The worst-case scenario would be that the burial site might have been destroyed during clearance and earth moving activities at the site. It is the last scenario that makes it imperative to apply for a test excavation permit from SAHRA Burial Grounds and Grave Unit to verify if indeed the graves and remains were relocated.

SAHRA BGG has no objection to the requested Test excavation provided that the following conditions are adhered to.

#### Conditions

1. If the permit holder is not to be present on the site at all times then the heritage authority must be provided with the names and qualifications of the authorised representatives.
2. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Heritage Resources Act must be employed.
3. A standard site record form must be lodged on SAHRIS.
4. If human remains are uncovered during test excavations, all activities must stop until SAHRA BGG Unit has issued a relocation permit.
5. Human remains must at all times be handled with respect and graves should not be disturbed except where unavoidable. The consultation procedures as indicated in the Regulations and the National Heritage Resources Act must be observed as appropriate. The recommendations for removal of

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graves and exhumations and for re-burial stipulated in SAHRA's Policy 'What to do when graves are uncovered', section 3, must be observed as far as possible.

6. A permit report is due by **30 November 2021**.
7. If a published report has not appeared within three years of the lapsing of this permit, the report required in terms of the permit will be made available to researchers on request.
8. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.
9. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to fill in excavations and protect sites during and after excavation to the satisfaction of the heritage authority and the landowner.
10. The heritage authority shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.
11. The heritage authority reserves the right to cancel this permit by notice to the permit holder.

This permit is valid from  
**09/11/2020 to 09/11/2021**

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Thingahangwi Tracy Tshivhase  
Heritage Officer: Permitting  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Mimi Seetelo  
Manager:Burial Grounds & Graves Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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#### Additional Info:

Please note that this permit may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.

**ADMIN:** Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/543185>