



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Applicant:

Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 11
Modderfontein
1654
Tel: 011 606 3116
Fax: 011 608 2056

To Whom it may Concern:

20 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 102 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 28 OF 2002) AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS OF 2014 (AS AMENDED BY GNR 326 EFFECTIVE 7 APRIL 2017)

Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, currently holds a Mining Right and an approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) over portion 4 of the farm Woodlands 407 (437.8330ha), which falls in the Ngwathe Local Municipality in the Fezile Dabi Magisterial district, Free state Province. Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, intends to apply for a mining right amendment, to include alluvial diamonds and gravel into the mining right, and to amend the EMP to include processing.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The farm Woodlands 407 is situated approximately 3.98 km southwest of Vaal Oewer, 22.26km north-east of Parys, 21.6km east of Sasolburg, Free State Province. The area is currently being mined by SPH Kundalila (contractor), under the old mining right (FS 30/5/1/2/2/10020 MR).

The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining area are as follow:

- A. 26°45'17.62"S 27°36'23.60"E
- B. 26°45'15.81"S 27°37'23.58"E
- C. 26°45'23.53"S 27°37'53.44"E
- D. 26°45'52.42"S 27°37'38.48"E
- E. 26°46'5.48"S 27°37'40.79"E
- F. 26°46'24.86"S 27°37'29.26"E
- G. 26°45'54.36"S 27°35'59.29"E
- A. 26°45'17.62"S 27°36'23.60"E

the goal isn't to live forever, it is to protect a planet that will

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LEGAL COMPLIANCE

An application for a mining right amendment in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA] will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), to include alluvial diamonds and gravel into the mining right.

The proposed project triggers the following listed activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) [NEMA] and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended by GNR 326 effective 7 April 2017), and therefore requires a basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation:

GNR 326 Amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014

Part 2: Amendments where a change in scope occurs

Amendments to be applied for in terms of Part 2

31. *An environmental authorisation may be amended by following the process prescribed in this Part if the amendment will result in a change to the scope of a valid environmental authorisation where such change will result in an increased level or change in the nature of impact where such level or change in nature of impact was not—*

- (a) assessed and included in the initial application for environmental authorisation; or*
 - (b) taken into consideration in the initial environmental authorisation;*
- and the change does not, on its own, constitute a listed or specified activity.*

Process and consideration of application for amendment

32. (1) *The applicant must within 90 days of receipt by the competent authority of the application made in terms of regulation 31, submit to the competent authority—*

- (a) a report, reflecting—*
 - (i) an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed change;*
 - (ii) advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change; and*
 - (iii) measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change; and*
 - (iv) any changes to the EMPr;**which report—*

(aa) had been subjected to a public participation process, which had been agreed to by the competent authority, and which was appropriate to bring the proposed change to the attention of potential and registered interested and affected parties, including organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity, and the competent authority, and

(bb) reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority; or

- (b) a notification in writing that the report will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the report, which changes or information was not contained in the report consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised report will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.*

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(2) *In the event where subregulation (1)(b) applies, the report, which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority, must be submitted to the competent authority within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority.*

Decision on amendment application

33. (1) *The competent authority must within 107 days of receipt of the report contemplated in regulation 32, in writing, decide the application;*

(2) *On having reached a decision, the competent authority must comply with regulation 4(1), after which the holder applicant must comply with regulation 4(2).*

Other legislation triggered by the proposed project includes:

- An amendment of the Mining Right Application in terms of Section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resource, to include alluvial diamonds and gravel into the mining right.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The mining method to be used on Barrage Bulk Sand Mine will be strip mining. Mining will take place via a contractor (SPH Kundalila) who will load the material via a front end loader and hauled out of the excavation to the mobile crushing and screening plant. From the plant the material will be loaded via front end loader directly onto client's trucks. The material will be mined in strips with no more than one strip being open at any given time. The maximum depth of the excavations will be 10 meters in some areas (building sand and gravel) and 5 meters in other areas (plaster sand). All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

The proposed mining area is approximately 437.8330ha in extent and the applicant, Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, intends to win material from the area for at least 10 years. Silica Sand and Gravel (aggregate) to be removed from the mine will be used for building material in the vicinity. Application is also being made for alluvial diamonds, in the case that these minerals will be found during mining. The proposed mine will therefore contribute to the building industry in and around Parys, Vanderbijlpark and Sasolburg area.

The mining activities will consist out of the following:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil;
- Excavating;
- Crushing and Screening;
- Stockpiling and transporting;
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site; and
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetation the disturbed area.

The mining site will contain the following:

- Excavating equipment;

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- Earthmoving equipment;
- Mobile crushing and screening plants;
- Temporary Office;
- Weigh bridge; and
- Storage yard for storing equipment.

DUST:

- Speed on the access road will be limited to 30 km/h to prevent the generation of excess dust.
- Roads will be sprayed with water or an environmentally friendly dust-allaying agent that contains no PCB's (e.g. DAS products) if dust is generated above acceptable limits.
- All disturbed or exposed areas will be re-vegetated as soon as possible during mining to prevent any dust source from being created.
- Water from the existing boreholes will be pumped and reused for dust suppression.

NOISE:

- The project environment is located within an agricultural setting in which heavy equipment, e.g. tractors, already operate.
- It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.
- All mining vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.
- The noise generated from the mining machinery will be similar to noise generated along the Vaal Eden road by public vehicles, and by the adjacent sand mine (Pure Source Minerals Mining Co (Pty) Ltd).

ACCESS ROUTE:

- Informal roads already exist on the farm and no new roads will be constructed. Vehicular movement will be restricted to existing access routes to prevent crisscrossing of tracks through undisturbed areas.
- Should any other access roads to the mining area be required it will be established in consultation with the landowner however existing roads will be used as far as practicable.

SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:

- The proposed activities are not expected to have a negative impact on any surface and ground water of the area.
- The Barrage Bulk Sand Mine is located more than 500m from the edge of the Vaal river, no mining will be done within 100m from the Vaal river bank.

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VEGETATION:

- The mining area falls within the Soweto Highveld Grassland (GM8) (Threatened Status) - northern variation of the *Cymbopogon Themeda* grassveld (Acocks Veld Type No 48 – Grassveld Biome), which is a sparse tufted veld type. Trees such as the Fire Thorn (*Rhus Pyroides*), Acacia species and Buffalo Thorn *Ziziphus mucronata* can also occur on the site. The site is impacted by the cultivation of grazing and no undisturbed or virgin veldt is present on site.

GEOLOGY & SOILS:

- red to yellow or greyish soils with low to high medium base status. These soils are structure less.
- The underlying geology comprises of quaternary deposits of river gravels an aeolean sand overlying the rocks forming a portion of the ring synclinorium surrounding the Vredefort domes. The geology for the area comes from a portion of the Transvaal sequence from the Malani dolomite.

CLIMATE:

According to SA Explorer, Parys normally receives about 496mm of rain per year, with most rainfall occurring during summer. The chart below (Figure 1) shows the average rainfall values for Parys per month. It receives the lowest rainfall (0mm) in July and the highest (89mm) in December. The monthly distribution of average daily maximum temperatures (Figure 2) shows that the average midday temperatures for Parys range from 17.2°C in June to 28.2°C in January. The region is the coldest during July when the mercury drops to 0.1°C on average during the night. Consult the chart below (Figure 3) for an indication of the monthly variation of average minimum daily temperatures.

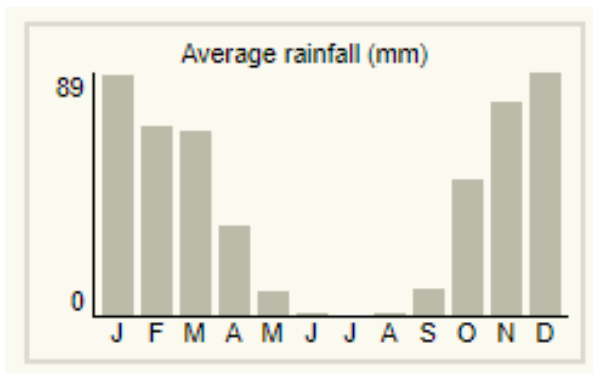


Figure 1: Average rainfall for Parys

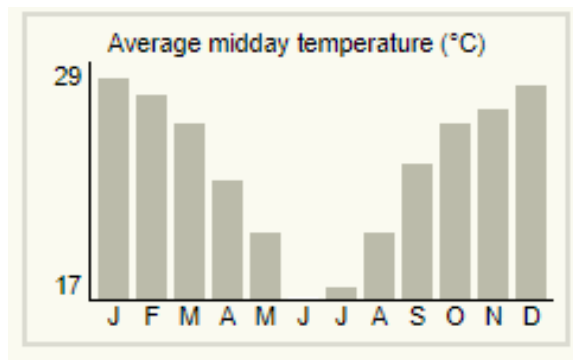


Figure 2: Average midday temperature

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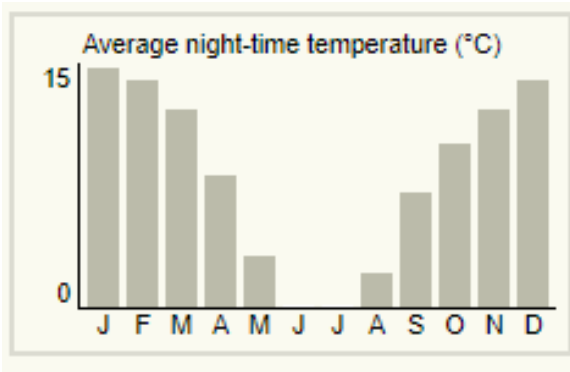


Figure 3: Average night-time temperature

SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES:

- The Vaal River is located within 500m from the mining area
- There are no protected areas (game parks/ nature reserves or monument) in close proximity to the proposed site.

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST:

- No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection as the site has been extensively used for agriculture and grazing purposes.

FAUNA:

- Duiker, Guinea fowl and Adidas were spotted during the site inspection. There is also some spoor of Rooikat in the area.
- Birds commonly associated with the area include Guinea fowl, plovers, pigeons swaisons's francolin amongst other common airborne species.
- Ground squirrels, mongoose, moles and rats also occur in the area. The specific habitat in the area of interest however is not necessarily typical of their presence. Some of the animals that are currently occurring on the farm might temporarily leave the immediate area of mining for the duration of the mining activities. Proper mitigation measures will ensure the return of the small animals after the mining activities have ceased. No threatened amphibians, reptiles or fish that are listed in the red data book occur on or near the mining site.

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- The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed mining activity as they will be able to move away or through the site, without being harmed. Workers should be educated and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed.

VISUAL EXPOSURE:

- The mining area was identified to constitute the lowest possible visual impact on the surrounding environment. The surrounding area has previously been disturbed by mining activities.
- The site will be visible from the Vaal Eden road.
- The applicant should however ensure that housekeeping is managed to standard, as this will mitigate the visual impacts during the operational phase of the mine.
- Upon closure the site will be rehabilitated and sloped to insure that the visual impact on the aesthetic value of the area is kept to a minimum.
- The site will have a neat appearance and be kept in good condition at all times.

ABLUTION, WASTE WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL:

- Ablution facilities will consist of chemical toilets hired from a contractor and serviced regularly.
- Any effluents containing oil, grease or other industrial substances will be collected in a suitable receptacle and removed from the site, either for resale or for appropriate disposal at a recognised facility.
- Spills would be cleaned up immediately to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager by removing the spillage together with the polluted soil and by disposing of them at a recognised facility.
- No mining waste will be generated. General waste will be disposed at the authorised Parys or Vanderbijlpark Disposal facility.
- Non-biodegradable refuse such as glass bottles, plastic bags, metal scrap, etc., will be stored in a container at a collecting point and collected on a regular basis and disposed of at a recognised landfill site.
- Biodegradable refuse generated will be handled as indicated above.
- No waste will be burned or buried on site.

FINAL REHABILITATION:

- Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), and weed / alien clearing.
- All infrastructures, equipment, and other items used during the mining period will be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, will be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognised landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- Weed / Alien clearing will be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species categorised as weeds according to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of

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2004) [NEMBA] Alien and Invasive Species Regulation GNR 598 and 599 of 2014 Species regarded as need to be eradicated from the site on final closure.

- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

Tja Naledi Beafase Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd will make use of temporary infrastructure during the mining operations. Workers will be transported to and from the site daily.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This document is to inform you about the proposed activity and to determine whether there are any concerns or objections from Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) that need to be considered.

As an Interested and Affected Party you are kindly requested to complete the comments form and give any comment, concern or input with regard to the current land use of the area, the environment as well as socio-economic conditions that you feel might be affected by the proposed activity. When submitting response please provide suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impact of each identified activity.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are invited to provide written comments. I&AP's must provide their comments with their name and contact details to the environmental consultant indicated below within 30 days from the date of this notice (**21 September 2018 – 27 October 2018**). Should additional information be required it can be obtained from Greenmined Environmental.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are invited to attend the public meeting on **27th October 2018**.

- Location: Parys, Town Hall (84 Kort Street, Parys- Ngwathe Local Municipality)**
- Time: 09:00 – 11:00 am**

Interested and Affected Parties who registered in response to the first notification have been included on the project I&AP database. Any stakeholders who have not yet registered but would like to register are invited to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP). Further information is available on Greenmined Environmental's website at www.greenmined.com or via the contact details provided below.

Please contact Yolandie Coetzee at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at yolandie.c@greenmined.co.za through any means should you need more information, have concerns or comments that need to be considered or if you want to be registered as an interested and / or affected party and would like to receive a copy of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) on or before **27 October 2018** If we do not receive any comments from you within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections / comments with regard to the project.

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A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be opened and maintained containing the names, contact details and address of all persons who have submitted written comments, attended meetings or have in writing requested to be registered and all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity.

Please note that only registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be entitled to comment on reports and plans to be submitted to the Department provided that the party provide its name, contact details and address and discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which he / she may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Free state, for review purposes. This report will also be made available to the public for a 30 days review period. An electronic copy of the report will be published on the Greenmined Environmental website (www.greenmined.com).

The DBAR will then be updated to reflect the comments received during the public commenting period. Upon which, the Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) will be submitted to the DMR for its consideration as part of the authorization process in terms of the NEMA regulation. A copy of the final report will be made available on the Greenmined Environmental website (www.greenmined.com). All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified in writing within 14 days of the date of the decision of the outcome of the application, including the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal.

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CONTACT DETAILS:

Name/Naam	
Organisation/Instansie	
Interest/Belange	
Postal Address/Pos Adres	
Tel	
Fax/Faks	
E-mail/E-pos	

COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS:

No Objection:	
Request additional information:	
Concerns:	

Signature: _____

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Are there any other organisations or individuals that you feel should be invited to comment? If so, please provide their contact details:

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Your feedback is valued and will be addressed appropriately.

Kind Regards



Yolandie Coetzee
Greenmined Environmental