

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**(BID)**

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION & MINING PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED MINING EXPEDITION ON PORTION OF PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM WITRAND 52 IT, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF CAROLINA, CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AREA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER: MP30/5/1/1/3/15477 MP**

<b>APPLICANT DETAILS</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS DETAILS</b>
<b>BLACK SAND MINERALS (PTY) LTD</b> <b>OFFICE 116C</b> <b>SMOKEY MOUNTAIN</b> <b>WITBANK</b> <b>1035</b>	<b>MADZANGA PROJECTS AND SERVICES (PTY) LTD</b> <b>8784 HORNBILL STREET</b> <b>LENASIA SOUTH</b> <b>HILLSIDE</b> <b>JOHANNESBURG SOUTH</b> <b>1829</b>

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and its EIA Regulations as amended, certain listed activities require environmental approval and require that a Basic Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted before an activity can commence.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are provided with information about the proposed development, the process being followed and an opportunity to be involved in the Basic Assessment process as stipulated in the EIA Regulations 2017, promulgated in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

**Madzanga projects and Services (Pty) Ltd** has been appointed by **Black Sand Minerals (Pty) Ltd** as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed development. An EIA is an effective environmental planning and decision making tool. The fact that this project will trigger some listed activity/ies in terms of the NEMA Regulations, 2017, Environmental Authorization issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) is required.

This Background Information Document also provides Interested and Affected Parties with the opportunity to:

- Register as Interested and Affected parties in the public participation process; and
- Comment and make contributions to the proposed project.

Registering as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) allows individuals or groups the opportunity to contribute ideas, issues and concerns regarding the proposed development. I&APs also have an opportunity to review all reports submitted to the Competent Authority that will decide whether or not to issue an Environmental Authorization.

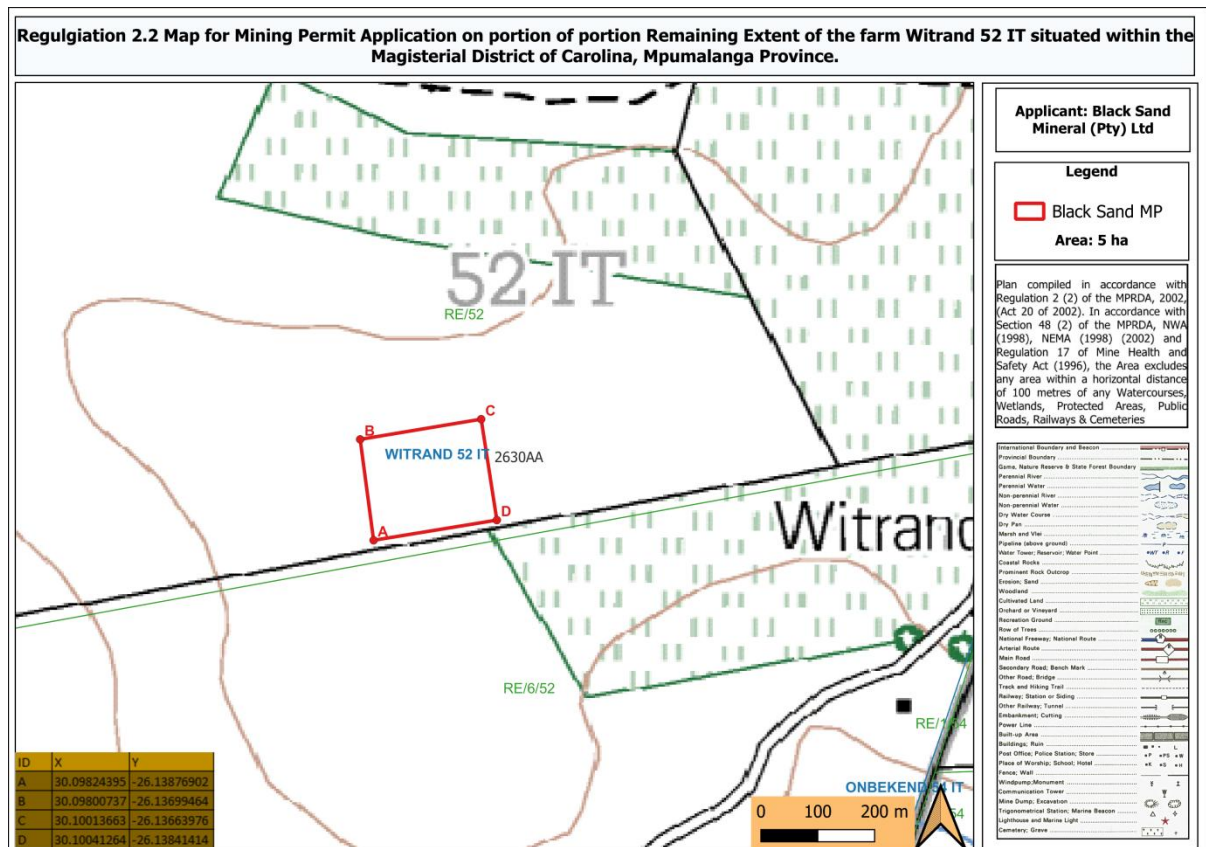
## **2. LOCALITY**

The proposed development/mining activities are located on **Portion of Portion** of the remaining extent of the farm **Witrans 52 IT**, within the Magisterial District of **Carolina, Chief Albert Luthuli** Local Municipality, **Mpumalanga** Province. The farm is approximately +/- **8 Kilometers** South West of **Carolina** town.

The farm in question covers approximately **± 5 Hectares** in extent.

The farm Coordinates are as follows: **30.09824395; -26.13876902**

## 2.1. LOCALITY MAP



## 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Black Sand Minerals (Pty) Ltd** has embarked on a process for applying for a Mining Permit and has been accepted. The proposed project is to mine for **Coal** on **Portion of Portion** of the remaining extent of the farm **Witrand 52 IT**, situated in Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed activity is mining for minerals, which involves the following activities: excavation on site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, and access route.

The farm/portion is preferred due to the sites expected mineral resources. **Black Sand Minerals (Pty) Ltd** requires a Mining Permit in terms of NEMA and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act to mine **Coal** within **Chief Albert Luthuli** Local Municipality in the **Mpumalanga Province** (refer to a locality map attached).

### A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE MINERAL RESOURCE AND MINERAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE MINING AREA WILL BE DETERMINED

Mining Permit for **Coal**.

The activities will be undertaken in relation to the development stages of the mine.

Stage 1: Construction - the activities to be undertaken in this stage of the mine are site preparation/assessment and clearance, transportation, sample storage, site office and accommodation etc.

Stage 2: Exploration- activities such as desktop studies, site evaluation, geophysical investigation, field mapping, and drilling will be undertaken.

Stage 3: Extraction - this stage is characterized by the use of heavy duty trucks and machinery to achieve the objective. Open pit mining methods will be applied in the extraction of minerals. Operations will commence with the removal of the overburden, followed by the removal of the waste rock. Both the overburden and waste rock will be stockpiled at their respective sites. The extracted chrome ore will also be stockpiled at the allocated location.

Stage 4: Closure and Post-care - this stage is characterized by decommissioning of all structures and building, replacing the topsoil, landscaping and re-vegetation of disturbed areas, post-closure maintenance and monitoring.

### **REHABILITATION**

Roll over method of mining will be used whereby all waste rock will be backfilled in pit. It is assumed that the open pit will be sloped for rehabilitation.

### **WATER SUPPLY**

Water uses under section 21 a-k of the NWA may be triggered, thus a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) will be needed in cases where there will be encroachment. When needed a WULA will be lodged with the department of Water & Sanitation (DWS).

### **ABLUTION**

Chemical toilets shall be used. No trench drains and pits shall be permitted.

### **STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

During mining activities, limited quantities of diesel and fuel, oil and lubricants if any will be stored on site. These goods should be placed in a bunded area one and a half times the volume of the total amount of goods to be stored.

A regular maintenance schedule will be implemented to ensure maximum availability is maintained. Oil and diesel will need to be stored on site.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA Regulations of April 2017, Basic Assessment Report for any development triggering listed activities within Listing 1 before commencement of the construction phase of the project.

The main purpose of applying for Environmental Authorization is to ensure compliance to the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 and the associated Regulations.

## **4. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2017) promulgated in terms of section 24 (5) of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) identify activities which may not commence without an authorization from the Competent Authority. In order to apply for authorization for the activity, the assessment and communication of

potential impacts of activities must follow the procedure as described in the EIA Regulations. The application for environmental authorization for this project will involve the following listed activities.

<p><b>Activity No. 21 of the GNR 983:</b> Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002(Act No.28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002(Act No. 28 of 2002)".</p>	<p><b>Activity No. 22 of the GNR 983:</b> The decommissioning of any activity requiring - (i) a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or (ii) a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure</p>	<p><b>Activity No. 27 of the GNR 983:</b> The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation. <i>Relevance: the area applied for is 5 hectare consisting of indigenous vegetation.</i></p>
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##### **5. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE INVESTIGATED**

It is anticipated that the following environmental aspects will be significant and will hence be addressed by the project team during the EIA process:

During the preparation of the mining site, construction of related infrastructures and operation, direct and indirect damage to wildlife will occur and therefore should be taken into consideration during site selection and minimized where possible. The impacts may result primarily from disturbing, removing and redistributing the land surface. Some impacts are short-term and confined to the mine site if proper management plans are in place, whereas others may have far-reaching, long term effects.

The most direct effect on wildlife is destruction or displacement of species in areas of excavation and piling of mine wastes. Mobile wildlife species, like game animals, birds and predators leave these areas. Other animals like invertebrates, many reptiles, burrowing rodents, and small mammals may be more severely affected.

If streams, lakes, ponds or marshes are filled or drained, fish, aquatic invertebrates and amphibians are severely impacted. Food supplies for predators are reduced by the disappearance of these land and water species.

Acid Mine drainage can result in potential impacts on the ground water resources. When mined materials (such as the walls of open pits and underground mines, tailings, waste rock, and heap and dump leach materials) are excavated and exposed to oxygen and water, acid may be formed if there is insufficient amount of neutralizing materials to counteract the acid formation. The acid will, in turn, leach or dissolve metals and other contaminants from mined materials and form a solution that is acidic, high in sulfate and metal-rich. If not controlled, the acid mine drainage may run-off into streams or rivers and leach into groundwater. Proper measures will be put in place to prevent the impact where possible and minimize the extent of the impacts.

Mine facilities, their location and construction can result in severe impacts on the water quality. Such facilities include wet tailings impoundments, waste rock, heap leach and dump leach. These facilities should be located away from any water bodies and sources. Impermeable liner should be fitted at the bottoms of these facilities during their construction. Toxic substances can leach from these facilities and contaminate the groundwater beneath them and surface water.

Due to the large area of land that will be disturbed by mining operations and large quantities of earthen materials exposed on site, erosion can be a major concern if proper management plans are not in place during the beginning of the mining operations. Soil erosion may be influenced by main factors such as volume and velocity of run-off from precipitation events, the rate of precipitation infiltrating downward through the soil, amount of vegetation cover, the slope length or distance from the point where deposition begins.

The types of impacts associated with erosion and sedimentation are numerous, typically producing both short term and long term impacts. Sediments deposited in layers in flood plains or terrestrial ecosystems can produce many impacts associated with surface waters, groundwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

Minerals associated with deposited sediments may depress the pH of surface run-off thereby mobilizing heavy metals that can infiltrate into the surrounding subsoil or can be carried away to nearby surface waters. Contaminated sediments may also lower the pH of soils to extent that vegetation and suitable habitats are lost.

Major sources of erosion at mining sites can include open pit areas, heap and dump leaches, waste rock and overburden piles, tailings piles, haul roads and access roads. Erosion control will be done from the beginning of the operations throughout completion of reclamation.

Mining activities result in the change of land use. Due to the excavation, removal of top soil and vegetation result in the land not suited for agricultural purposes. Therefore, the top soil should be protect and preserved for rehabilitation process. Mine dumps should also be protected to prevent erosion and contamination of the adjacent properties.

The air quality will possibly be affected during the mining operations. Airborne emissions occur during each stage of the mine cycle, but especially during exploration, development, construction and operational activities. Mining operations mobilize large amounts of material and waste pile containing small size particles that are easily dispersed by the wind.

The largest sources of air pollution in mining operation are:

- Particulate matter transported by the wind as a result of excavations, blasting, transportation of materials, wind erosion (more especially in open-pit mining), fugitive dust from tailing facilities, stockpile waste dumps and haul roads. Exhaust emissions from mobile sources (cars, trucks, heavy equipment) raise these levels.

- Gas emissions from the combustion of fuels in stationary and mobile sources, explosions and mineral processing.

Noise pollution associated with mining may include noise from vehicle engines, loading and unloading of rock into steel dumper, chutes, power generation and other sources. This will have an impact on the animal and the public located on close proximity with mining site. Such impacts can be minimized by maintaining the machineries and vehicles.

Management guidelines will be developed for the above mentioned issues and be incorporated in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). You are welcome to comment on above list and provide anticipated issues/studies and possible impacts which should be address.

## **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision-making and forms an integral part of the EIA process. The PPP provides people who may be interested and/or affected by the proposed development, with an opportunity to raise comments and issues of concerns, or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Comments and issues raised during the public participation process will be captured, evaluated, and included in an Issues and Response Report, which will inform and be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Steps to be taken to notify interested and affected parties: The process of identifying and contacting landowners and other IAPs will commence as soon as the prospecting application gets accepted by the DMR.

Landowners and their contact details will be identified through a Title Deeds search for the Properties falling within the prospecting area. IAP will also be identified through responses to advertisements to be placed, telephone discussions, e-mails, and faxed communication as well as public meetings to be conducted. Letters, Background Information Documents (BIDs) and Project Comment Sheets will be made available to landowners.

This documentation will be used to introduce the IAPs to the project and to invite them to participate in the process. Proof of posting will also be furnished when such time arise.

Advertisements for the project will be placed in the local newspapers, and proof of advertisements will be made available. On-site notices introducing the project and advertising the public meeting will be placed at the entrances to a few businesses and shop fronts in and around the prospecting area. Photographs of these will also be made available.

Public meetings will be held, and the minutes will be recorded for the purpose of incorporating comments and issues in the EMP. The purpose of the meeting will be to share information with IAPs regarding the project as well as an opportunity to interact with the project team. The IAPs will also make their concerns heard via the use of telephone, fax, post, or e-mail. Recording of the issues and concerns received via e-mail, post and faxes will be captured as part of consultation process.

Informal meetings will also be conducted with IAP once the prospecting right application is accepted by DMRE. The aim of these initial consultations will be to brief IAP about the prospecting project, to invite them to the public meetings and to invite them to submit their issues and concerns in writing so that these could be captured into the EMP. Information obtained will be incorporated into the IAP database.

The following Government departments will be involved in the process; these are Department of Mineral Resources & Energy; Department of Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs. The relevant local Municipality representatives will also take part in the consultation processes.

### **7. APPROVING AUTHORITIES**

The Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE), **Mpumalanga Regional Office** is the relevant authority which will review the Final EIR. The NC DMRE must reach a decision as to whether, and under what conditions, the project may proceed, based on environmental considerations. An Environmental Authorization (EA)/ Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued based on the information provided in this report. An application form has already been lodged with the said Department (NC: DMRE) and the Department has issued the following Reference Number: **MP30/5/1/1/3/15477 MP.**

### **8. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

**Madzanga Projects & Services (Pty) Ltd.** has been appointed by **Black Sand Minerals (Pty) Ltd.**, to manage and facilitate the environmental and public participation process required for this project. We would encourage you to participate in this EIA process. The public participation process is conducted for 30 days from the date of receipt of this document. Should you wish to be involved, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, and return it, to:

**Contact Person:** Harron Nefale  
**Cell No.:** +2779 108 7440  
**E-Mail:** [harronnefale@yahoo.com](mailto:harronnefale@yahoo.com)

## **REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET**

### **PROJECT**

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION & MINING PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED MINING EXPEDITION ON PORTION OF PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM WITRAND 52 IT, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF CAROLINA, CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AREA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER: MP30/5/1/1/2/15477 MP**

**Please register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by completing this form and return it within 30 days of receipt of this document.**

**Contact the person listed below:**

**Contact Person:** Harron Nefale  
**Cell No.:** +2779 108 7440  
**E-Mail:** [harronnefale@yahoo.com](mailto:harronnefale@yahoo.com)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name/Organization/ Nature of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone Number/contact Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly list any comments, concerns or suggestions to be considered during the EIA process (You may attach additional sheets of paper if required)

In the interest of an open and just process, please declare any interest in this matter, please note that failure to declare an interest may nullify your comment or even lead to legal action:

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What are your main areas of interest with regards to this development?

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Do you have any issues, comments and/or concerns regarding this proposed development?

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Thank you for your participation, please be assured that your comments will form part of the Basic Assessment Report to be submitted to the Competent Authority.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>ANSWERS</b>
How do you consider that the proposed activities will impact on your socio-economic conditions?	
Do you have any suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impacts of each activity?	
What is the current land uses and location within the area under consideration?	
Are there any environmental features on site and do you have any proposals as to how and to what standard the impacts on site can be remedied?	
Do you have any proposals as to how the potential impacts on the infrastructure can be managed, avoided or remedied?	

Are you the landowner or have information on lawful occupiers?	
Do the any communities exist within the area?	
Are the any Tribal Authorities within the area?	
Is the any other I&APs that need to be notified?	
Is the any land developments proposed?	
Is the any perceived impacts to the environment that should be considered in the BAR;	
Do you have any specific comments, concerns or objections to the proposed prospecting operation?	

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANISATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT DETAILS:** \_\_\_\_\_