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Environmental Consultants



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PROPOSED MAKHOBA CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Introduction
- Scope of Works
- Project Importance
- Conclusion

MONTHLY PROJECT ARTICLE - JULY 2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Greater Kokstad Municipality (GKM) proposes to develop a 1.9ha cemetery within the Makhoba Community. The Makhoba community has been established to meet the need for housing and associated infrastructure, including the need for a cemetery. The Makhoba community is a newly founded low-cost area that the GKM has established to facilitate the growing population. The development of this community is continuously growing momentum thus the establishment of this cemetery will contribute to the continued betterment of society. The proposed development is located within the lower-income area of Makhoba, where potential transportation costs for burial is a considerable financial factor to most. This cemetery's proximity will assist the community by providing a dignified burial of deceased persons whilst assisting with budgets. The proposed development area is currently vacant and not being utilised to its full potential.

SCOPE OF WORK

To remain compliant with Environmental Legislation, the Municipality has appointed Hanslab to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use processes (WULA) for this development. The development of a newly established cemetery is crucial to the socio-economic development and improved service delivery to the Makhoba District and the GKM as the existing two cemeteries are fast approaching their maximum capacity. The project site consists of suitable land that is environmentally feasible and possesses the characteristics to accommodate a newly established cemetery. Hanslab's scope of work includes:

- Compilation and submission of the BAR and WULA
- Specialist assessments
- Public Participation
- SPLUMA
- Environmental monitoring during the construction



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PROJECT IMPORTANCE

The proposed cemetery site is part of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP). It responds to a need for a burial facility raised by local communities and prioritised by the Municipality. The Greater Kokstad 2017/18 - 2021-22 IDP outlines an under-supply of cemeteries in the area. At Hanslab we believe that projects such as these add value to the region but also improve the standard of living within the community. The development is vital due to the expected number of HIV/AIDS-related deaths over the next ten years and the current COVID-19 death rate. Appropriate facilities need to be provided throughout the area with due cognisance of religion, culture and tradition.



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Hanslab has extensive experience with undertaking environmental processes for various cemetery establishments throughout KZN. Our services included feasibility studies, BARs and WULAs. To establish a formalised cemetery, several requirements have been considered. These requirements include the biophysical environments (e.g. ground conditions, water bodies and surrounding flora and fauna), which may potentially be impacted as well as the social environment.



Image Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd

CONCLUSION

Hanslab (Pty) Ltd undertook to identify the potential biophysical impacts associated with establishing a newly proposed cemetery (e.g., geotechnical conditions, biodiversity and archaeological factors). The social consequences of not having a formalized cemetery are clear as it compromises an individual's human rights and the service provisions for the community. The EIA Application has been submitted to the authorities for their final review and decision. The Hanslab team is honoured to be part of this development for this community.