



**MALELANE SAFARI RESORT
INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD**

22 November 2016

Mrs. B.E.E. Molewa, MP
Minister of Environmental Affairs,
National Department of Environmental Affairs,
Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001
South Africa

By email: C/O Mr. Ziyaad Hassam – ZHassam@environment.gov.za

Dear Mrs. Molewa,

STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE MALELANE SAFARI LODGE IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Our recent communication with Mr. Ziyaad Hassam and Ms. Rudessa Harris in your Department refers.

In respect of your colleagues' request pertaining to the requirement for a Traffic Impact Assessment to commence within 6 (six) months, per the Environmental Authorisation (EA) granted to Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd on 26 August 2015, and the subsequent Appeal that upheld the EA on 15 April 2016, we hereby notify of the status of the current development.

Presently, the development is still in the final stages of detailed design and planning, and the remainder of the funding term sheets for the development are soon to be finalised with interested funding parties. Consequently, we are seeking to only commence the construction of the Malelane Safari Lodge around April 2017.

Furthermore, due to the new condition of a Traffic Impact Assessment being added to the EA from the Appeal outcomes, we held a meeting in this respect with South African National Parks (SANParks) on 7 July 2016. At this meeting, due to the traffic congestion concerns on the current public road infrastructure in the south of the Park, and the concerns of some Leopard Creek Estate residents, in lieu of impacting on the present public road infrastructure with traffic travelling to and from the new lodge, two alternative road options were considered.

The following two options were considered:

- The construction of a new private road to the lodge of approximately 4km long, which branches off the current H3 between the S114 and the S121. This will likely connect to the junction of the required re-directed S114, as detailed in the Basic Assessment (BA) application. Such an activity will trigger its own BA application process;

- The construction of a road behind (south and east of Leopard Creek to the Crocodile River, with a proposed new concrete causeway crossing the river to the site.

The outcome, communicated to us by SANParks in late July 2016 was that the preferred option would be the new private road from the H3, which SANParks stated they required anyway to alleviate traffic congestion. The planning and detail of this matter still needs to be finalised with SANParks.

The proposition is that an application be made for the proposed new private road, so that this can be in place prior to the opening of the lodge around June 2018. In the interim, during the construction period of the lodge, the present S114 road be used by construction staff, only between gate opening and closing times.

Consequently, we would like to request an extension of this provision from DEA of the requirement for a Traffic Impact Assessment being required until April 2017 so that the necessary planning can be finalised. The planning of the new road would obviously have a significant bearing on the Scope of Work for any Traffic Impact Assessment, and hence the reason for our request.


Please confirm if this is acceptable.

Following your response, we will also inform all the interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) and appellants in respect of this.

Should you have any queries in this regard at any time, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Wright
Director
Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd

cc: Ms. Rudessa Harris – RHarris@environment.gov.za