



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

SAHRA 60/2026R

**APPOINTMENT OF A SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED
EXPERT TO INVESTIGATE CLAIMS OF DISTURBED HUMAN
REMAINS NEAR SYDNEY-ON-VAAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE**



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TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

- 1.1. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) invites suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists with a background to the archaeology and heritage of the Northern Cape Province to submit proposals for an independent assessment of an alleged disturbance of a burial ground located on Portion 1 of Farm MOZIB 279 near Sydney-On-Vaal in the Northern Cape.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.2. SAHRA is a statutory organisation established in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA) mandated to identify and protect places of and objects of cultural significance.
- 1.3. In February 2024, SAHRA received a community complaint noting that their ancestral graves, located on Portion 1 of Farm MOZIB 279 near Sydney-On-Vaal in the Northern Cape had been damaged by mining activity and that exposed remains were deposited in a mass grave.
- 1.4. An archaeologist was appointed by the mine to investigate and report on the claims made by the complainants; however, the findings are disputed, citing concerns of independence.
- 1.5. SAHRA therefore seeks to appoint an independent consultant to conduct a professional investigation, including review of existing documentation, mapping of heritage resources, and test excavations, to determine the veracity of claims made.

2. SCOPE AND SERVICES REQUIRED

- 3.1. The following is required from potential service provider:
 - 3.1.1. Conduct research, including own literature review, and review of documents submitted to SAHRA as part of investigations.
 - 3.1.2. Undertake a physical site assessment and map all visible heritage resources using appropriate survey techniques, including the identified cemetery on the property.
 - The grave site is located at Latitude: -28.455892, Longitude: 24.274048
 - 3.1.3. Undertake test excavations of the area identified by the complainant as the mass grave.
 - 3.1.4. Document findings appropriately
 - 3.1.5. Engage with relevant stakeholders and local communities



- 3.1.6. Compile a well-structured and referenced report on the findings of the investigation and present the report to SAHRA.
- 3.1.7. The service provider must apply for all necessary permits from SAHRA to undertake the test excavations and any other permits that may be required.
- 3.1.8. Travel and accommodation costs must be included in the quotation.

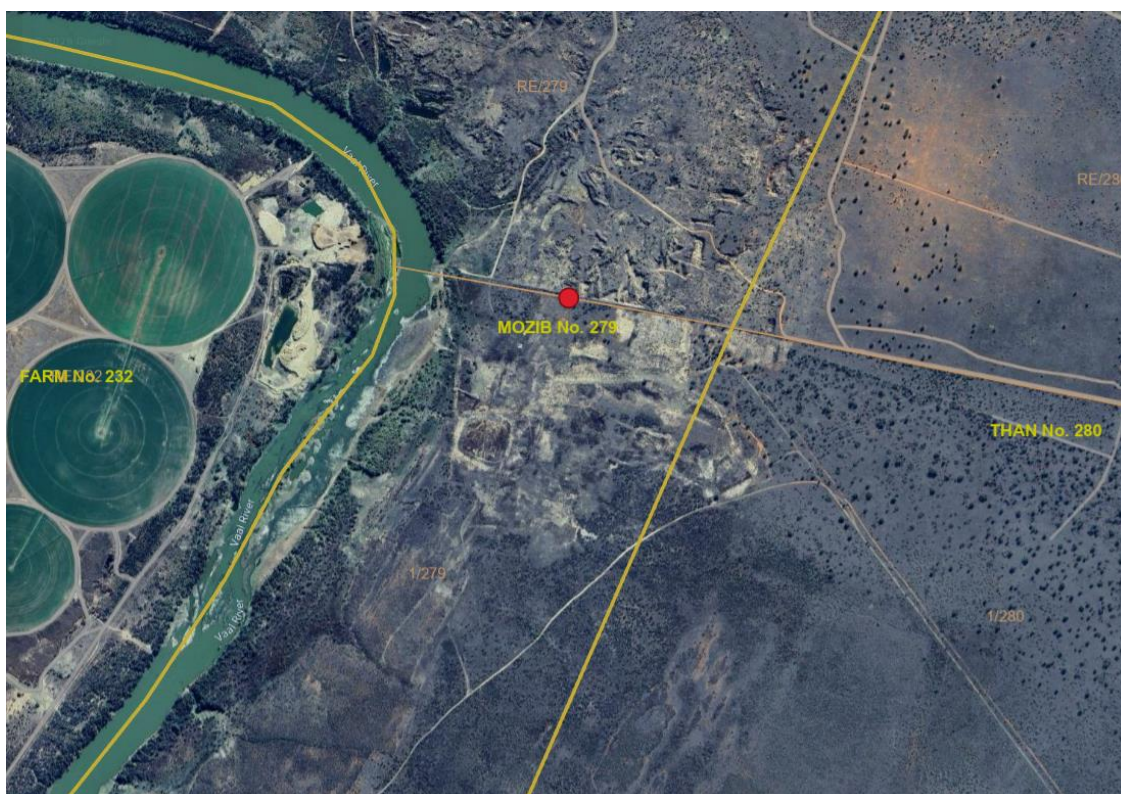


Figure 1: Location of farm and grave site (red)

3. THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED FROM THE POTENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDER:

- 4.1. Must have expertise and understanding of archaeology / Forensic anthropology and experience working within the Northern Cape.
 - a. Must hold a master's degree or higher in archaeology / Forensic anthropology and experience working with Northern Cape history and archaeology.
 - b. Demonstrate experience in grave mapping and identification.
 - c. Must not have previous history working for Scarlet Sun 15 (Pty) Ltd or any other previous mining right holder on the property.
 - d. Be available to meet deadlines and present findings as required
 - e. Must be able to operate professionally and maintain confidentiality of any privileged information provided throughout the investigation.
- 4.2. Important qualities include:

- Ability to articulate findings clearly, with clear arguments in support of findings
- Available to present findings to the various SAHRA committees
- Findings may be subjected to legal proceedings and must be available to assist SAHRA regarding the findings should the need arise.
- Adhere to the agreed deadlines. The assignment will commence on 20 October 2026, and the deadline for submission of the final report will be mutually agreed upon by both parties and confirmed during the contracting phase.

4. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. The proposal should include the following:
 - 4.1.1. Submission of a comprehensive plan, including timelines and methodology to be employed.
 - 4.1.2. List of research projects/outputs conducted by the principal expert.
 - 4.1.3. Copy of the CV of the principal expert on the project, inclusive of copies of academic qualifications.

5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROPOSALS

- 5.1. All costs and expenses incurred by the potential service providers relating to their project proposal will be borne by each respective service provider. SAHRA is not liable to pay such costs and expenses or to reimburse or compensate service providers in the process under any circumstances, including the rejection of any proposal or the cancellation of this project.
- 5.2. SAHRA reserves the right to request new or additional information regarding each bidder and any individual or other persons associated with its proposal.
- 5.3. SAHRA may require responsive bidders to present and discuss their proposals in person.
- 5.4. SAHRA reserves the right not to make any appointment from the proposals submitted.
- 5.5. Bidders shall not issue any press release or other public announcement pertaining to details of their project proposal without the prior written approval of SAHRA.
- 5.6. Bidders are required to declare any conflict of interest they may have in the transaction for which the bid is submitted or any potential conflict of interest. It is important that bidders declare their conflict of interest through completion of relevant attached forms.
- 5.7. SAHRA reserves the right not to consider further any bid where such a conflict of interest exists or where such potential conflict of interest may arise.
- 5.8. Any and all project proposals shall become the property of SAHRA and shall not be returned.

- 5.9. The bid offers and proposals should be valid and open for acceptance by SAHRA for a period of 120 days from the date of submission.
- 5.10. Bidders are advised that submission of a proposal gives rise to no contractual obligations on the part of SAHRA.
- 5.11. SAHRA reserves the right not to award the bid to the bidder that scores the highest points.
- 5.12. Disputes that may arise between SAHRA and a bidder must be settled by means of mutual consultation, mediation (with or without legal representation) or, when unsuccessful, in a South African court of law.
- 5.13. In addition to adherence to the specific terms and conditions of proposals, provided in this document, the bidder shall be bound by the provisions of the General Conditions of Contract attached hereto, an original signed copy of which must be submitted together with all other bid documentation.
- 5.14. All returnable bid documents must be completed in full and submitted together with the bidder's proposal.
- 5.15. The successful bidder will be subject to supplier clearance process as prescribed by the National Treasury. This process includes verification of supplier and its shareholders/directors/members' status on the list of defaulters and restricted suppliers.
- 5.16. The proposal must include a company profile/organization profile, comprising a description of the organization of the bidder, its primary business activity, clients experience, management etc, including at least three references for entities, to whom the service provider has supplied the same service.
- 5.17. After the successful service provider has received the purchase order, they must be able to deliver in full compliance with South African approved standards and in compliance to the specifications provided.

6. RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS

1. SBD 1 Invitation Bid
2. Tax Compliance status pin
3. SBD 3.3 Pricing Schedule
4. SBD 4 Bidders disclosure
5. SBD 6.1 Preference points claim form PPR2022 (valid BBBEE certificate/Affidavit must be submitted together with this completed document)
6. Contract Form – Rendering of Services
7. Proof of valid registration with the Central Supplier Database (CSD Report)

NB: Failure to submit original completed returnable forms as mentioned above will automatically disqualify your quotation. Please ensure that you submit an original valid tax clearance certificate

SAHRA reserves the right to revise any aspect of these timeframes at any stage, and to amend the process at any stage.

7.EVALUATION CRITERIA

7.1 All proposal offers received shall be evaluated based on the following phase out approach:

- **Phase one:** Compliance to the terms of reference and conditions of the proposal. Failure to meet any of the conditions of the proposal will automatically disqualify your proposal on this phase.
- **Phase two:** Prequalification criteria (Obtaining the minimum threshold for functionality as set out below)

No	Quality Criteria	Weight	Score	Weighted score
1	Experience in Human Remains / Forensic Archaeology / Burial Site Investigations. • 9 years and above = 5 • 7 - 8 years = 4 • 5 - 6 years = 3 • 3 - 4 years = 2 • 1 – 2 years = 1 • Less than 1 year = 0 CV of lead investigator/archaeologist must be attached. This CV will be used for the evaluation of this criterion.	40		
2	Qualifications Relevant to Human Remains & Forensic Work. • Doctoral Degree in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =5 • Master's Degree in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =4 • Honours Degree in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =3 • Bachelor's Degree in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =2 • Higher Certificate in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =1 • No Qualification in archaeology /Forensic Anthropology or closely related field =0 Copies of qualifications of the expert must be attached.	20		

3	Demonstrated Experience in Grave Identification, Exhumation and Ethical Handling of Human Remains. - Evidence of work on ≥ 10 burial/disturbance cases = 5 5–9 cases = 4 3–4 cases = 3 1–2 cases = 2 - No previous cases = 0 Portfolio or case summaries required.	20		
3	Quality project Plan to be followed in the Research, assessment and presentation - Project plan contains detailed methodologies, dates and detailed deliverables = 5 - Project plan contains vague methodologies, only deliverables and no detailed dates = 3 - Project plan exist but does not contain methodology, dates and deliverables = 1 - No project plan submitted = 0 Detailed project plan must be attached	20		
Total		100		

A bidder must obtain a minimum of 60 points on the prequalification phase in order to progress to the next phase. Failure to obtain 60 points will render your proposal non-responsive.

- Phase three:** Preference points on specific goals as follows;

Preference Point System	Points
Price	80
Special Goals	20
Black owned company	8
Women	4
Youth	5
Disability	3
TOTAL	100

7.2 Price (Vat included)

80 Points for price will be awarded with reference to the total fixed proposal amount inclusive of VAT.

The service provider with the lowest price shall score a maximum of 80 points.



8. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Project proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked as confidential and for the attention of **Supply Chain Management - Bid No: SAHRA 60/2026R**

It must be posted to the following address: South African Heritage Resources Agency, P.O. Box 4673, Cape Town, 8000, or placed in the tender box at the SAHRA Head Office, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town.

Closing date for bid offers and proposals: 28 September 2026 at 11:00am no late proposals will be accepted after the closing time.

For Technical information, please contact:

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For the Supply Chain related enquiries, please contact:

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