

Enquiries: Ms Stephanie Cliff

Reference: P/39 Nietgedacht 535JQ_ S24G

Date: 22 July 2025

Email/By hand: Email



APPLICATION FOR A NEMA SECTION 24G RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR THE UNLAWFUL COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUATION OF LISTED ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 39 OF THE FARM NIETGEDACHT 535 JQ, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide you, as an identified Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with **information** regarding the application for the **unlawful commencement of activities** as provided for in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, in terms of section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act (as amended), on Portion 39 Nietgedacht 535 JQ, "Impact for Christ Ministries" project.
- **Explain the S24G Application and Public Participation process** to be followed for the project, in terms of applicable environmental legislation (National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No. 107 of 1998)), as amended; 4 December 2014.
- Provide Interested & Affected Parties with the opportunity to:
 - **Register** as stakeholders in the public participation process; and
 - Make initial **comments** on and contributions to the proposed project BY identifying potential concerns or issues related to the application.

The assessment process to be followed for PPP is in accordance with the best practice stipulated in the Government Notice Regulation 982, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014). This Background Information Document (BID) forms part of the Public Participation Process (PPP), which is requirement of the rectification process. It aims to elicit comments, questions and responses from parties who may be affected by or have an interest in the project.

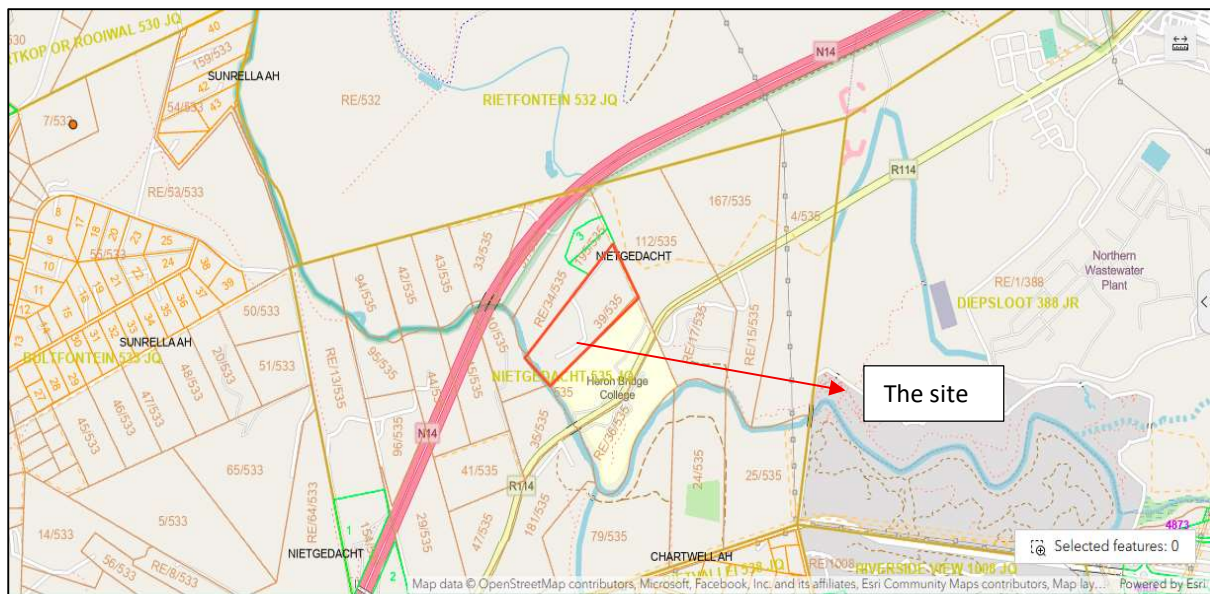
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2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Seedcracker Environmental Consulting (SEC) has been appointed by **Impact for Christ Ministries** (the applicant), as the registered, independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to conduct the rectification process for the unlawful commencement of several EIA listed activities on the Portion 39 of the Farm Nietgedacht 535 JQ, Fourways, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province.

The small holding measures 14.5ha in extent and is situated 3.5km southwest of Diepsloot West. The site is located between the N14 highway and the R114. The Southernwood dirt road forms the north-eastern boundary of the site and provides access to the site. The Jukskei River forms the western boundary of the site.



Impact For Christ Ministries purchased the property in 2009 and inherited the past landowners' illegal activities. Various land uses and built infrastructure activities were historically (pre-1996) undertaken on site, without the required environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998. The previous landowner commenced with construction without the knowledge that a seep wetland system was present on the property. A recent (May 2025) wetland delineation study confirmed the presence and extent of the seep wetland on site, thereby triggering retrospective compliance obligations under NEMA.

Impact For Christ Ministries seeks to legalise these activities in terms of Section 24G of NEMA, to ensure environmental compliance, avoid further degradation of sensitive resources, and maintain lawful land use operations.

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Reg no: CK2008/012791/23

In accordance with Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GNR 326), the construction of buildings and other structures located within the seep wetland on site, required Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Competent Authority – the Gauteng Department of Environment (GDE). The required authorization was not obtained prior to the environmental activities occurring on site.

Illegal and unmitigated activities on site pre-date 1996.

The intention of this S24G application is that the activities listed in section 3 of this document, are authorised by the GDE, and can continue, legally, into the future. The voluntary submission of a Section 24G application by Impact For Christ Ministries—despite not being responsible for the original unlawful activities—reflects a strong commitment to environmental accountability, legal compliance, and the principles of sustainable development. This proactive approach sets a positive example for other landowners and strengthens the culture of environmental responsibility in the adjacent and surrounding rural and peri-urban areas of Nietgedacht.

Although the unlawful activities were not committed by the current landowner, Section 28 of NEMA places a duty of care on any person who causes or may cause significant environmental degradation—or who owns land on which such degradation has occurred—to take reasonable measures to prevent or remedy such impacts. By submitting a Section 24G application, the landowner is fulfilling this legal duty in good faith and prioritising environmental restoration.

Impact for Christ Ministries proposes the upgrade; or where necessary, the complete re-build; of the dilapidated, existing structures on the site, within the same transformed footprints, using the same internal access roads, to enhance the Churches public benefit objectives, namely the religious, charitable, and community support initiatives for the Nietgedacht community. These activities are non-profit.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998, as amended, (NEMA), specifies that it is necessary for an applicant to undertake an EIA, which meets the minimum requirements of section 24(7) of NEMA, where an activity requires permission by law. The minimum requirements of section 24(7) of NEMA are regulated by the EIA Regulations, of which the latest Regulations were promulgated in December 2014 (Government Notices R983 and R984).

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (amended), the following listed activities were relevant at the time of commencement: Government Notice (GN) R1182 of 1997, Activities 1d,1g,1k,2,9 & 12; GN R386: Listing Notice 1, Activities 1,4,12,15,16,19, GN No. R544 Activity 11,13,18; GN 546, Activity 12, GN R983, as amended, Activity 12(ii)(a)(c), 19, 24, 25, GN R985 Activity 12&14.

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4. S24G RECTIFICATION PROCESS

The steps to be followed for the 24G rectification process consist of the following:

Step 1: Ascertain whether he/she/they are responsible for the commencement or continuation of an activity-requiring authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations without the necessary authorisation. -

> **Completed**

Step 2: Voluntarily submit an application for rectification to the GDE. > **Underway**

Step 3: The GDE register and acknowledge the recipient of the application.

Step 4: The application is reviewed and a site inspection may be conducted to verify information provided.

Step 5: The GDE will advise the applicant on further procedural and information requirements by means of a notice.

Step 6: Compiling the Environmental Impact Report and conduct the subsequent Public Participation Process (PPP) as per the EIA Regulations 2014 under NEMA (as amended).

Step 7: The applicant submits the required reports together with proof of PPP.

Step 8: The GDE reviews the reports and advises the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) to inform his decision.

Step 9: The MEC communicates his/her decision to the applicant.

Step 10: The applicant implements the MEC's decision.

5. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

In terms of the NEMA, Public Participation forms an integral part of the environmental assessment process. The Public Participation Process provides people who may be affected by the proposed development with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project, 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 a Comment and Response Report (CRR). These issues will be addressed and included in the S24G Report which will be submitted to the GDARDE.

To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

- Letters of invitation accompanied by this Background Information Document and comment sheet to be distributed to adjacent landowners within 100m from the area of the proposed development, key individuals and organisations, announcing the project and inviting their comment.

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- Advertisements in Local newspaper (The Citizen) announcing the proposed project and providing opportunity to comment;
- Site notices erected at strategic places on the property in accordance with the requirements of the S24G Regulations, in order to announce the project;
- Key stakeholders in the area will be informed by telephone, e-mail.
- All issues received from stakeholders will be captured in the comments and response report (CRR) which will be used to screen and prioritise issues for evaluation

The EAP will open and main a register of I&APs to provide access to all reports or information related to this Section 24G process. The PPP will be undertaken in accordance with NEMA, the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and the Section 24G Fine Regulations, 2017. A minimum of two commenting periods are anticipated for this Section 24G process. These will be as follows: 1. Preliminary PPP in terms of Regulation 8 of the Section 24G Fine Regulations, 2017, with a 20 calendar day registration and comment period (this process). 2. Statutory PPP in terms of Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This will be a 30 calendar day comment period. All comments or concerns from I&APs will be captured, considered and responded to in the Section 24G Report.

6. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The S24G Rectification Application is available for review and comments on the SEC website: <http://www.seedcracker.co.za/publications>, from **24 July 2025 till the 14th August 2025**. Parties who do not have access to the internet, must please contact SEC directly to make alternative arrangements. Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&AP) wishing to formally comment on the application, are requested to register and forward their comments (with reasons) to Seedcracker Environmental Consulting CC as indicated above, no later than 20 days after the publication of this notice in The Citizen, dated 24 July 2025. A copy must be submitted to the GDE, for attention:

The Head of Department of Environment

Attention: Ms MaryJane Ramahlodi: Section 24G Unit Manager; GDE

P O Box 8769, Johannesburg, 2000

Tel: 011 240 3020/3021/3022

Email: maryjane.ramahlodi@gauteng.gov.za,

Omolayo.ilemobade@gauteng.gov.za,

Phindy.Malaze@gauteng.gov.za, no later than 20 days after the publication of this advertisement: 24 July 2025.

Only registered I&APs will be notified and updated throughout the process.

Please Note: When registering as an I&AP, you consent to the lawful processing of personal information for the intended purposes, as prescribed by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013).

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7. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE EAP

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8. WAY FORWARD

The **draft Section 24G Report**, which includes a detailed description of the project, an overview of the affected environment, the potential impacts identified, as well as the relevant specialist studies conducted, will be circulated for comment to registered I&APs, state departments, and organs of state during the **Statutory PPP**. Registered I&APs, state departments, and organs of state will be notified by the EAP when the draft Section 24G Report is available for public review and comment.

All reports will be made available on SEC's website at the following link:
<https://www.publications.seedcrackers.co.za>.

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**SECTION 24G RECTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR EX POST FACTO ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION FOR THE UNLAWFUL COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUATION
OF LISTED ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 39 OF THE FARM NIETGEDACHT 535 JQ,
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG**

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS FORM

Please complete & return this form to Seedcracker Environmental Consulting CC on or before 14 August 2025

TITLE	
NAME	
SURNAME	
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	
POSTAL CODE	
TEL	
EMAIL	

Please formally register me as an interested and affected party (I&AP) so that I may receive further information and notifications during the Environmental Impact Assessment process	YES	NO
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In terms of this Public Participation process I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application:

COMMENTS ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (Pls use additional pages if required)

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

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APPENDIX A: LOCALITY MAPS



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