

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

NO. 7008

21 January 2026

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND THE DECLARATION THAT PROHIBITS CERTAIN MINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SUTHERLAND CENTRAL ASTRONOMY ADVANTAGE AREA IN TERMS OF THE ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007.

I, Prof Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, in terms of Section 50 of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, 2007 (Act No. 21 of 2007), hereby give notice of my intention to amend the Declaration that prohibits certain mining activities within the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area (SCAAA).

In terms of the SCAAA Regulations, published in Government Gazette No. 42492, under Notice No. 806, on 29 May 2019, certain mining activities are prohibited within the SCAAA as detailed below:

- (a) Open cast mining and mining dumps at ground level; and
- (b) Hydraulic fracturing (or fracking).

The proposed amendment will extend the prohibition to include exploration and prospecting activities within the SCAAA.

In accordance with Section 51(2) of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, 2007, interested and affected parties are invited to submit written representations, within 60 (sixty) calendar days from the date of the publication of this Notice.

Written representations and any enquiries regarding this notice, may be addressed to Ms. Tebogo Mashile at 066 479 3376 or email Tebogo.Mashile@dsti.gov.za.



PROF B E NZIMANDE, MP
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION