



MPRDAB 17

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**AGGREGATE AND SAND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MINERALS
AND ENERGY ON THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AMENDMENT BILL B10-2007**

CLAUSE 22: SECTION 27

Aspasa has noted the proposed changes in the Bill relating to the so called 1.5 hectare area allowed for mining under the permit system.

Aspasa agrees with the Bill's proposal not to allow these permits to be adjacent to each other. In regard to the increase from 1.5 hectares to 5 hectares, Aspasa wishes to request that this should only be considered for Alluvial Diamond Mining and not for general mining activities.

Background to the above proposal

At present under the MPRDA it has been found that the Small Scale Mining Divisions in the Department of Mineral and Energies offices in the regions are misusing this provision. In the Western Cape it is understood that one operator hold 15 x 1.5 hectare permits adjacent (next to each other) on a river bank. This type of action does cause major environmental problems, setting of precedents to the extent that other legal operators are alledging double standards.

In certain areas, the 1.5 hectare has also been used for fully fledged stone quarries that did not apply for the necessary mining licence when it should have been done.

The issue of issueing these permits is that it is "easier" to get into mining and often allows for an operator to cause environmental damage within the 2 years period the permit is issued and then disappears. This normally results in jobs being lost, low wages being paid and maximum profits to the "operator". Environmental damage is not dealt with.

In Conclusion

Aspasa wishes to plead with those who are to finalise the changes, to please consider the consequences of allowing bigger easier ways of getting involved with mining but not having to follow the same rules as others in this part of the industry. Ensuring strict licence compliances and equal playing fields is what Aspasa is calling for.

Your indulgence in this problem is highly appreciated.

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