



eThekweni Cultural Heritage

Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
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Attention Mrs Noma-Africa Maxongo

Permit Application for Construction and Upgrading of the Oliver Tambo Memorial Site at Nkantolo, Bizana District, Eastern Cape, South Africa

The South African Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) has initiated a number of Legacy Projects to honour prominent Liberation Struggle icons. The objective of the OR Tambo Legacy Project is to create a living link between the legacy of OR Tambo and the greater South Africa, while recognizing both the tangible and intangible heritage inherent to his natal district.

The OR Tambo Memorial site is one of four main visitor sites included in the OR Tambo Heritage Route in the Alfred Nzo District of the Eastern Cape Province. The site is located within the jurisdictions of Mbizana Local Municipality (EC443), close to the village of Nkantolo, within the Isikelo Traditional Authority Area.

The intention of the project includes:

- Expounding the legacy of OR Tambo as a hero of the struggle and an international iconic figure;
- Regenerating a heritage site of national significance;
- Honouring the family of OR Tambo through the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and
- Implementing a broad spectrum of interventions for community development

The development proposal currently under consideration for the OR Tambo Memorial site is to upgrade the existing facility by means of the following interventions:

- The demolition and removal of all structures currently on site that comprise the extant public memorial.
- A redesigned and realigned Legacy Pathway leading across the site with six stations depicting milestones in OR Tambo's life.
- A statue of OR Tambo surrounded by 100 pillars of different heights and proportion that pay tribute to the 100 years of the struggle for freedom, and
- A Wall of Remembrance.

These are all to be set out within an appropriate landscaping of the site and plantings of endemic Pondoland vegetation with spiritual, medicinal and other socio-cultural significances.

The Department of Arts and Culture, through their implementing agent, the Independent Development Trust are thus seeking permission to implement these interventions as described in the attached Heritage Impact Assessment Report and as illustrated by means of the attached architectural drawings.

As instructed by our client, we request that this submission be prioritised for tabling at the next meeting of the ECPHRA Built Environment Committee for their deliberation and adjudication.

Your assistance in this matter will be gratefully appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl

(for the Independent Development Trust)