



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

SUBMISSION TO THE HRM COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL – 20 January 2017

SUBMITTED BY: Grading and Declaration Review Committee

DATE: 20 December 2016

FILE REF: 9/2/209/014

ENQUIRIES: T.Tshivhase / H.Weldon / M.Seetelo

ITEM: Proposal for National Heritage Site Declaration: Chris Hani's Gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance

A1. BACKGROUND

- A1.1. Thembisile Chris Hani was an influential leader, both in the South African Communist Party and Umkhonto we Sizwe. His dedication to the strategic armed struggle led to structural changes within the ANC through the drafting of the "Hani Memorandum". Committed to a negotiated transition, he was vital in ensuring that the armed struggle was abandoned. His assassination almost threw the country into chaos and tested the commitment to a peaceful transition. His death hastened the negotiations and agreement on a date for the first democratic elections.
- A1.2. Hani was born in the rural Cofimvaba region in Eastern Cape on the 28th of June 1942. Inspired by the arraignment of the Treason Trialists in 1956, he joined the ANC Youth League in 1957 when he was only 15 years old.
- A1.3. After joining the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the then fledgling Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1961, he was later deployed as the Political Commissar for the Luthuli Detachment in the joint ANC/ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) Wankie Campaign and he was present for three battles during the campaign. He narrowly escaped into Botswana but was arrested and detained for 2 years. This arrest led to his and others criticism of the ANC Leadership in the Hani Memorandum which led to the Morogoro conference in May 1969. The resolutions of this conference led to the ANC opening membership to non Africans and more strategic leadership, where political policy informed military action and not vice versa.

- A1.4. When the SACP and ANC were unbanned in 1990, Hani returned to South Africa to play a crucial role in the negotiations. He became known as a charismatic and popular speaker at rallies across the country explaining the process of the negotiations. He stepped down as MK Chief of Staff in support of the negotiation process and played a crucial role in convincing the militants to abandon the armed struggle in favour of the negotiation.
- A1.5. On 10th April 1993, he was shot and killed at his home in the newly multi racial suburb of Dawn Park, Boksburg by a Polish far-right anti-communist immigrant Janusz Walus who was later arrested. Clive Derby-Lewis, a senior South African Conservative Party MP and Shadow Minister for Economic Affairs were found to be complicit in the murder by lending Walus his pistol.
- A1.6. Hani's death sent the country to the brink of civil war as tension spread across the country. It was a stern test for the leadership of the ANC, particularly those who thought that it could hold its followers to the course of negotiations; and to the National Party. Consequently, Mandela made a presidential appeal to the country for calm and collaborative struggle for the achievement of Freedom
- A1.7. However, riots followed after Hani's death which hastened the CODESA negotiations and within 6 weeks a date for the first democratic elections was set. Thus his assassination marked a pivotal point in the history of a democratic South Africa.
- A1.8. Hani was buried at the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park in Boksburg, formerly known as the South Park Cemetery. The Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance were unveiled in 2015. Please see the attached image indicating the location of the sites within the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Garden.
- A1.9. Chris Hani was undoubtedly one of the most popular and influential leaders during the armed struggle and transition negotiations in the early 1990s. His gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance commemorate his life, work and sacrifice and contribution to a free and a democratic South Africa and mark a pivotal point in our history in which the leadership and commitment to peaceful transition was proved. Hence the site deserves national acknowledgement and declaration.

A2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A2.1. Ekurhuleni Municipality unveiled the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance, located near his gravesite in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Garden, on 10th April 2015. The memorial was constructed in honour of the work and role played by Chris Hani in the liberation of South Africa. During the unveiling the President, Mr. Jacob Zuma, announced the grave of Chris Hani as a National Heritage Site. Therefore, the site was nominated by the City of Ekurhuleni for National Heritage Site declaration in response to the president's statement and graded as a Grade 1 site by SAHRA's Council on 29th April 2016.
- A2.2. It was not deemed necessary to hold public meetings as the declaration of the site would have limited impact on any local residents or businesses, as the site is located within a formal cemetery. Letters of notification were sent to the Chris Hani Family, the

Municipality and other relevant interested and affected parties on the 11 November 2016. Therefore the 60days notice period will expire on the 11 January 2016.

A2.3. A signed consent has been received from Mrs. Hani representing the Hani Family.

A2.4. The site is managed by the Ekurhuleni Municipality. The Municipality has submitted a full conservation management plan for the site as well.

A2.5. At the Grading and Declaration Review Committee meeting on 24th November 2016, it was recommended that plans for the declaration of his house where he was shot and sites associated to him in the Eastern Cape are investigated and mentioned in the submission. The City of Ekurhuleni has recently purchased the house and the previous owners vacated to property on 29th September 2016. The City intends to convert the house into a museum and then will nominate the site for declaration. The sites in the Eastern Cape still require further investigation.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.1. The purpose of this submission is to request the approval from the Executive Committee to recommend the National declaration of Chris Hani's Gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and the Walk of Remembrance to Council via the HRM Committee of Council. The site is located in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park, Boksburg, and Ekurhuleni.

1.2.

2. LANDOWNER'S DETAILS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS DECLARATION

- 2.1. The Hani family are considered the custodians of the Chris Hani's Grave site and are represented by Mrs Limpho Hani. The City of Ekurhuleni has previously engaged with Mrs Hani regarding the declaration of the site and she had indicated her support in those discussions. SAHRA has also received a signed consent form from Mrs Hani for the declaration of the gravesite on 23rd November 2016.

Details: Mrs Limpho Hani

Mrs Limpho Hani

Per Email: limpho@limphohani.com

- 2.2. The Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance are located near the grave of Chris Hani in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park. The cemetery is under the custodianship of the local municipality, the City of Ekurhuleni.

Details: Mr. Vincent Campbell (Head of Department: Sports, Recreation, Art and Culture)

Mr. Vincent Campbell

No 41 Old Magistrate Court Building
Cnr Van Riebeck and Gerrit Maritz Street
Alberton North
1456

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

- 3.1. It was determined that there was no necessity to hold a public meeting as the sites are located within a municipal cemetery. Also because there will be no direct implications on residents or local businesses in the area. Therefore only notification letters were sent.

These were sent on 9th and 11th November 2016 (those that required the Chairperson’s signature) to the following interested and affected parties:

The Chris Hani Family
 South African Communist Party
 The African National Congress
 Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
 The City of Ekurhuleni

3.2. To date SAHRA has only received the signed consent form from Mrs Hani, however the 60 days notice period will only lapse on the 11 January 2017.

4. OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

4.1. The Chris Hani grave site and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance are both situated in the “Heroes’ Acre” section in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park on Heidelberg Rd; Dawn Park; Boksburg; Ekurhuleni.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE DECLARED (SITE BOUNDARIES)

Site Name	Cemetery	Province	Town	Municipalities
Gravesites of Chris Hani	Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park	Gauteng	Boksburg	City of Ekurhuleni
Chris Memorial and Walk of Remembrance	Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park	Gauteng	Boksburg	City of Ekurhuleni

5.1. Following from the discussions at the previous Grading and Declaration Review Committee on 24th November 2016 about defining the boundaries of sites and the amount of accuracy required when defining grave sites within cemeteries, it was recommended that a survey diagram may be necessary. A request was made to the Ekurhuleni Municipality to provide any diagrams or plans submitted during the design and construction of the Memorial together with the grave number of Chris Hani’s grave.

6. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE

6.1. Chris Hani’s grave site and the Chris Hani Memorial, and Walk of Remembrance are situated in the Thomas Nkobi Cemetery and it is managed by the City of Ekurhuleni.

6.2. The City of Ekurhuleni has a full Conservation Management Plan in place already.

7. CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL THREATS

7.1. The site is well maintained by City of Ekurhuleni and it is in good condition.

- 7.2. Potential threats stem from uncontrolled crowds attending burial ceremonies within the cemetery where low and unintentional vandalism may occur. Mitigation of this threat is proposed in the Conservation Management Plan by introducing interpretation and education programmes around the site to enhance the understanding of its significance.

8. SITE UTILIZATION

- 8.1. The site is mainly used as a memorial both to Chris Hani and to the victims of the Struggle.
- 8.2. The annual Commemoration of Chris Hani's death takes place at the grave and memorial in the month of April.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1. It is recommended that the declaration of the Chris Hani grave site; the Chris Hani Memorial; and Walk of Remembrance is recommended to Council for approval.