



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

**111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8000
PO BOX 4637, CAPE TOWN, 8000
TEL: (021) 462 4502 FAX: (021) 462 4502**

DATE: 10 September 2012
ENQUIRIES: Mrs. Regina Isaacs
OUR REF: 3/3/8/4/3/1

Mr Eben de Vos
Mount Croix Motor Museum
P.O. Box 27422
GREENACRES
6057

Dear Mr de Vos

RE: SAHRA SUPPORTS THE EXTENTION OF THE ST CROIX MOTOR MUSEUM's LEASE LOCATED ON ERF 150 MILLPARK, STATE WAREHOUSE, PORT ELIZABETH

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) established in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act No.25 of 1999, (NHRA) is responsible for the identification, conservation and management of heritage resources for present and future generations.

It has come to our attention that the lease on Erf 150 Millpark, that serves as the repository for the St, Croix Motor Museum in Port Elizabeth (The Motor Museum) shall be expiring in March 2013 after being in operation for 25 years.

Although this is a privately owned museum, it is accredited by the South African Museums Association. In addition, Port Elizabeth is known for manufacturing motor cars since both Ford and General Motors had their manufacturing plants there. Therefore, SAHRA is deeply concerned about the fact that the lease is not going to be renewed. Similar museums like the Heidelberg Transport

Museum (Gauteng), Midmar Transport Museum (Natal) and the Inggs Collection (Grahamstown) all no longer exist and if the St Croix Museum's lease is not extended, the same would befall this museum. For 25 years Mr de Vos maintained the building in which the Collection is housed as well as the Collection and much resources were ploughed into the maintenance of the building and the Collection to ensure that it is conserved according to best practice and accessible to future generations.

The Museum is a well known landmark in Port Elizabeth and visitor records indicate that it was visited by the locals, South Africans in general as well as by foreigners. In addition, there are some rare cars (only one of a kind such as the first 1926 Chevrolet manufactured in Port Elizabeth is on display in the Museum as well as some associated with leaders in the history of South Africa. The Museum has strong links with various State Institutions and serves as training ground for some of them.

South Africa is a developing country that relies on tourism to generate income for the locals. If this lease is not extended there are going to be many implications some of which would be as follows:

1. Port Elizabeth would be robbed of income generated by tourism as a result of the Museum either being relocated or no longer existing;
2. the landmark that the Museum is to the community would be no more;
3. a part of the history and heritage of Port Elizabeth as an attraction for those interested in preserving motor cars of heritage value would be no more as there is no certainty that a suitable repository would be found and even if it is found, it would take a long time to get it up and running; and
4. it is going to be costly and a logistical nightmare for the Museum to be relocated from where it would have to first ensure that the repository meets standards for best practice.

SAHRA strongly urges that the lease be extended so that this important landmark continues to attract local, national and international visitors to view this significant collection of motor cars so that it may be accessible to future generations. In addition, if there is consideration for the Museum to be relocated then the owner must be informed and given at least ten years in which to do so and the future of the Collection must be discussed by relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely



DUMISANI SIBAYI
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER