



## **SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY**

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DATE: 16 November 2012  
ENQUIRIES: Mr. Azola Mkosana  
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OUR REF:3/3/8/3

Ms Nomaxabiso Majokweni  
Chief Executive Officer  
Business Unity South Africa  
P.O Box 652807  
Benmore  
2010

Fax No: 011 784 8004

### **A FUND TO RETAIN HERITAGE OBJECTS OF NATIONAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Dear Ms. Majokweni

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), established in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999, is responsible for identifying, managing and conserving South Africa's heritage objects.

SAHRA would like to request a meeting with you in order to discuss the critical role that Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) can play in retaining heritage objects that SAHRA prohibits from being exported.

Section 32 of the Act stipulates that no person may export or attempt to export from South Africa any heritage object without a permit issued by SAHRA. The Act further stipulates that in the event of SAHRA refusing to issue a permit, the applicant may within 30 days after such refusal by written notice require the compulsory purchase of the heritage object to which such refusal relates.

When SAHRA prohibits export, a local buyer has to be found to purchase the object. Often, museums would like to purchase such objects but the prices are too exorbitant in comparison with their limited budgets.

Given the fact that a Gerard Sekota artwork sold for R1 million at an auction in London and an Irma Stern fetched R7 million at an auction in South Africa, it is unlikely that any South African museum would be in a position to purchase artworks or other objects that SAHRA prohibits from being exported. However, it would be in the interest of the nation if BUSA were to establish such a fund or to assist SAHRA in obtaining buy in from the private sector in order to retain heritage objects of significance in the country.

We would like to propose a meeting with you during the first week of February 2013 to discuss the matter further. It would be a cost cutting measure if the meeting with SAHRA can co-incide with a meeting you may have in Cape Town given SAHRA's budgetary constraints. You are welcome to give us any dates that would suit you during that period and then we will revert back to you to confirm our availability.

Please do not hesitate to come back to me should you need any clarity in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Regina Isaacs

Heritage Objects Manager

for ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER