



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

SITE INSPECTION REPORT: Nchabeleng Family Graves.

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HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

Date: 13 March 2021

APP Indicator Number: 4.1





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1. Introduction

Section 5 (1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) states that “Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of the South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival”.

2. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to give a report on the site visit meeting at the Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality in Lebowakgomo Limpopo on the 10th of March 2021.

3. Background

The HPU received a complaint from the Department of Sports Arts and Culture that came from the Nchabeleng family regarding the damage of graves.

4. Meeting undertaking

On the 10th of March 2021, the HPU had a meeting with Local Municipality, Department of Sports Arts and Culture, the complainants, the Limpopo Heritage Authority Council (LIHRA) member and the Landowner at the Lepelle Nkumpi local municipality hall.



Figure1: Meeting at the Local Municipality

It was stated that the municipality, in partnership with COGSTA had allocated a stand to the Makwela family in 2007. The Nchabeleng family (Complainant) was allowed to have access to the graves and have family rituals in the yard. When the municipality handed over the stand with the RDP, the three graves were demarcated and enclosed with a fence, and the Makwela family was told not to touch/disturb the graves.



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However, in 2010 the Makwela family decided to erect back rooms for additional income. The Makwela family has never approached the municipality for a building plan and erected the rooms in their own accord.



Figure 2: The Makwela Residence and

Rooms

In the meeting, Ms Makwela confessed that she has been aware of the graves, and indeed the back rooms have been built on two graves. There is an area outside of the yard, where there is one remaining grave.

After the meeting we went for a site inspection at the Makwela household. Upon arrival, the team observed that the four back rooms are really constructed and one of them has two graves underneath. The third grave is outside the yard and not fenced. The grave cannot be destroyed if the plot closer to it can be given to somebody else.



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Figure 3: Area of one grave

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, a contravention notice will be drafted and issued to the Makwela Family. A second contravention notice will be drafted by the municipality for building and illegal structure on the premises. It is up to the Nchabeleng Family to open a case against the Makwela family if they wish. The Makwela Family will be responsible for the exhumation and reburial of the human remains.

Heritage Officer: Kim Ngobeni

Date: 13 March 2021

Heritage Protection Manager: Ms. Nkosazana Machete



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