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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK ON PAUL KRUGER STREET PRETORIA CITY OF TSHWANE

With the development of the Rapid Bus Service in Paul Kruger Street the engineers have specified that the surface of the street has to be removed and be excavated to a depth of one metre.

In this process of excavating the street by heavy earth breaking machinery (Back actors) we do expect archaeological material to be unearthed. We know that the old water furrow system which supplied Pretoria with fresh water will be found underneath the tar surface. The old tram rails are also covered by tar. We also expect rubble from the households to be found as in the early days rubbish was dumped in the streets.

What we have agreed with the engineers is that if they excavate a section of the street an archaeologist must be present. If Archaeological material is unearthed, work on that specific section will stop till the material has been retrieved and documented.

The construction company will supply a six metre container to store all retrieved material. If large objects like the water furrows or tram tracks are unearthed they will be documented before they can be destroyed. In the case of the tram tracks a section will be retrieved to be exhibited on the sidewalk of Church Square.

We propose that a representative sample of all unearthed material will be collected which will be analysed by Joanna Behrens.

The excavations should reveal good information on the early history of Pretoria.

PHRA COMMENTS

As far as PHRA Gauteng is concerned they only issued the comments I send you. I asked for another copy soon afterwards but in vain as the person who worked with the issuing of comments has left PHRA and the information can't be retrieved.

As far as the beautification of Church Square is concerned I attach PHRA's comment. The landscape architect is still in the process of designing. When he has completed his work the report will be send to PHRA and SAHRA.