



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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PARLIAMENT PRECINCT: OLD ASSEMBLY

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: REMOVAL OF RUBBLE IN OLD ASSEMBLY,

NATIONAL & NEW ASSEMBLY

BUILT ENVIRONMENT UNIT

DATE: 14 – 04 – 2022



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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	page	3
2. Statement of Significance	page	3
3. Project Description	page	4
4. Permit Request	page	5
5. Images - in accordance to CDC Report	page	6
6. Extent of the fire damages at the Old Assembly building	page	8



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1. Introduction

The Old Assembly building site has an extensive history in the Parliament Precinct which dates back to the late 1800's where the original House of Assembly presided and other buildings were added to it in the early 1900's. Architects; Charles Freeman, Henry Greaves and Sir Herbert Baker contributed to the predominantly Neo Classical and Cape Dutch expression of the design the building.

Old Assembly is situated in the Parliament Precinct which looks onto the prestigious Company Gardens, deeming it a major landmark in the history of Cape Town. The use of the building has changed over the years however preserving its original look has been a priority due to the conservation of historical value.

The value and integrity of the Old Assembly was severely compromised due to a large fire that broke out on the 2nd January 2022. The Fire damaged the Old Assembly as well as the National Assembly buildings. Ongoing investigations are still underway to establish the cause of the fire and no one was permitted to access the building until the Forensic Investigations were concluded.

Further Structural Investigations need to be undertaken to test the integrity of the building by specialist engineers. The building is however not a safe and conducive environment for professionals and construction workers to access and execute works. There is much rubble and debris which has accumulated on site which poses as a health and safety hazard. This submissions aims to obtain urgent permit from SAHRA for the removal of rubble so that works may be compliant with OHS regulations.

2. Statement of Significance

The location of the Western Cape has had a significant role to play in the global trade history and the political landscape of South Africa. Because of the historical contributions, Cape Town Parliament Precinct is deemed a Grade 1 Heritage Resource and declared a National Heritage Site by the South African Heritage Resources Agency. Such heritage sites are protected under the terms of Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no changes may be done on such sites without a permit.



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3. Project Description

The Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, being the custodian of national immovable assets, is amassed with the task of delegating by making safe and handle the restorative works of the Parliamentary houses; Old Assembly, National Assembly and New Assembly (alongside Parliament Committees) since the fire broke out on 2nd January 2022. The focal point of this submission is the removal of the accumulated rubble on site which is a hindrance on ongoing works.

The intricate nature of the “*Parliament Fire Damage Project*” has been handled with sensitivity since the incident which caused severe damage on Public Infrastructure, security breach of a National Key Point and the overall safety risks amongst others that were posed by the unfortunate incident.

The scale of the project is huge and the process is layered with processes and procedures. The restorative works of the building await the finalisation of structural safety assessments, criminal/forensic investigations by the HAWKS and structural integrity assessments by specialists.

A summary of milestones accomplished in the project to date:

- DPWI professional engineering team conducted preliminary visual assessment of the damages
- National Assembly was cordoned due to safety risk
- Coega was appointed to appoint in turn Specialist appointed Engineers conducted further detailed inspection
- The HAWKS and Forensic Investigations conducted their investigations which prohibited access to the affected areas
- HAWKS and Forensic Investigations are now concluded

Further Structural Engineering Investigations need to be conducted to test the structural integrity of the remaining structure, before any design proposals can be done. However, there is debris which has accumulated that poses as a health and safety risk for further works on affected areas. The debris consists of the following:

fire damaged concrete, bricks, wooden beams, office furniture, wooden fixtures including doors, dry walling, ceiling structures, damaged air con units, curtains, blinds, carpets, wooden floors, wooden and steel roof beams, slate roof tiles, etc.

The Debris needs to be removed so that further investigations may commence.

Cape Town is at the brink of winter season which comes with prevailing winds and rains.

The affected areas are as follows in accordance to visual representation:



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4. Permit Request

DPWI intends on obtaining full Permits for all professionals and construction personnel to access the Parliament Precinct for the restorative works on the “*Parliament Fire Damage Project*”. However it has become evident that an application for urgent permits needs to be submitted so the affected area may be cleared and made safe for works ASAP.




It is hereby DPWI requests urgent Permits to access the Parliament Precinct for the removal of the debris build up. Clearing of debris will ensure that further investigations commence that will establish the following

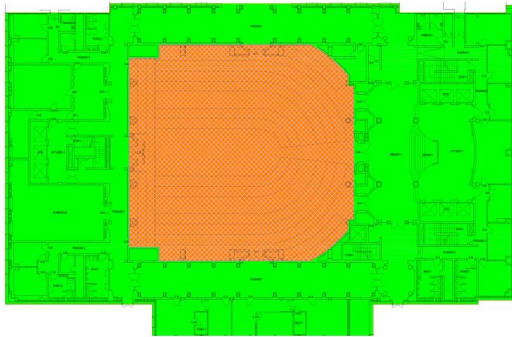
- Structural integrity of building,
- Compliance with OHS and health and safety for those on site
- Conducive construction site for upcoming restorative works.



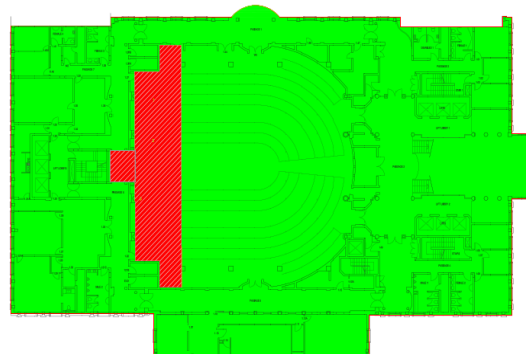
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5. Images - in accordance to CDC Report

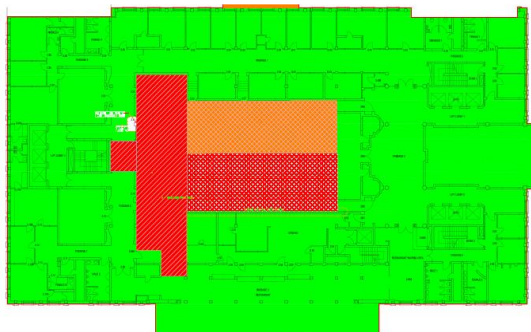
-  Green Zone is Safe
-  Amber (under close guidance by structural engineers)
-  Red (“no-go” zones until temporary access works are provided).



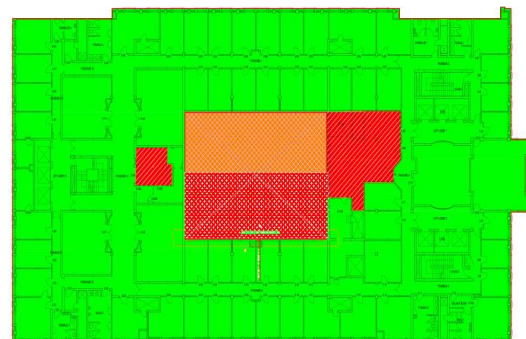
Ground Floor



First Floor



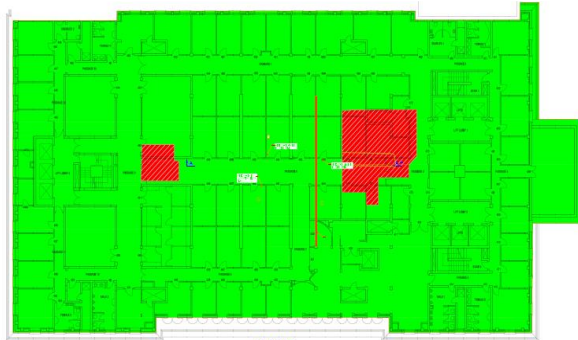
Second Floor



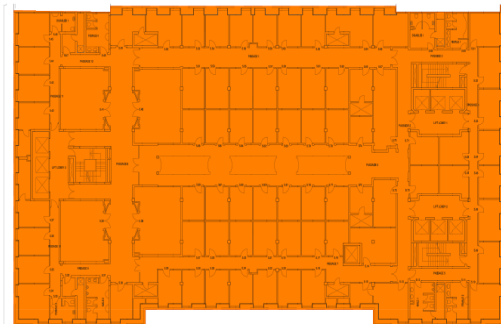
Third Floor



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Fourth Floor



Fifth Floor



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Image of Courtyard from first floor taken by DPWI official.



Image of rubble taken by DPWI official.



Image of rubble taken by DPWI official.



Image of rubble taken by DPWI official.