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**REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION AND EXHUMATION OF  
THE BURIAL OF THE LATE LLE TSA JIM TSOTETSI  
FROM JACOBS DAL FARM BETWEEN CORNELIA  
AND VREDE IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE**

For:

**Avbob Phuthaditjaba on behalf of the Tsotetsi Family**

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REPORT: APAC022/62

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## SUMMARY

Anton Pelsler (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was requested by Avbob Phuthaditjaba on behalf of the Tsotetsi Family, to assist with the exhumation & exhumation of the grave of their late grandfather Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi from a burial site on the farm Jacobsdal between the Free State towns of Cornelia & Vrede. The site is located in the Cornelia District (Phumelela Municipality), with the requested reburial site being the Mangaung Village in QwaQwa. The family requested the exhumation and relocation, with the owner of the farm (Mr. Gerhard Prinsloo) providing permission for the work to be undertaken on his farm. Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1890 and passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1958 according to the family and the grave was therefore older than 60 years of age.

After all permissions were obtained from the various authorities, including SAHRA's Burial Grounds and Graves Unit, the exhumation and relocation work was conducted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. The work was done under SAHRA Case ID 17475 & Permit Number 3414.

It can be concluded that the physical excavation & exhumation work was conducted successfully to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Anton Pelser (of APELSER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING cc) was requested by Avbob Phuthaditjaba on behalf of the Tsotetsi Family, to assist with the exhumation & exhumation of the grave of their late grandfather Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi from a burial site on the farm Jacobsdal between the Free State towns of Cornelia & Vrede. The site is located in the Cornelia District (Phumelela Municipality), with the requested reburial site being the Mangaung Village in QwaQwa. The family requested the exhumation and relocation, with the owner of the farm (Mr. Gerhard Prinsloo) providing permission for the work to be undertaken on his farm. Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi was born on the 4th of June 1890 and passed away on the 12th of December 1958 according to the family and the grave was therefore older than 60 years of age.

The exhumation and relocation work was conducted on the 7th of July 2022. Representatives of the Tsotetsi family were present on the day of exhumation & relocation.

## **AIMS**

The main aims with the excavation and exhumation of the grave/burial were the following:

- (a) The successful excavation, exhumation and relocation of the grave/burial of the late Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi from the Jacobsdal farm site to the Mangaung Village in QwaQwa as requested by his family.

## **METHODOLOGY**

***Background information*** – The results of previous work carried out in the area (Heritage Impact Assessments) are normally used to provide background to a project and the graves identified and recorded in the area under discussion. ***In this case this was not required.***

***Mapping and Photographing*** – A Google Earth image of the area, providing a location for the area and grave sites, is normally produced. Photographs of the area, as well as each individual burial, any skeletal remains and grave goods that are recovered are also taken as part of the documentation process.

***Excavation and Exhumation*** – Normally graves are excavated & exhumed by hand using picks and shovels and where possible remains are documented photographically in position. Remains are then removed, placed in coffins, described and documented. In

cases where no skeletal remains or cultural material are found in a burial a soil sample is taken for reburial as standard practice.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND SITE**

The grave site was located on the farm Jacobsdal (of Gerhard Prinsloo), between the Free State towns of Cornelia & Vrede and in the Cornelia District (Phumelela Municipality) of the Free State Province. The mortal remains of the late Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi were reburied as requested by the family to the Mangaung Village in QwaQwa.

### **EXCAVATION AND EXHUMATION OF THE GRAVE OF THE LATE LLETSA JIM TSOTETSI**

The excavation & exhumation of the grave and mortal remains of the late Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi (who passed away in 1958 at the age of 68 years) was conducted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. Family members were in attendance on the day of the exhumation.

The grave had a formal cement headstone and border. The work was done by hand by staff of Avbob Phuthadihaba. The skeletal remains of an adult individual was recovered from the burial pit and placed in the new coffin for reburial purposes. No other grave goods were found.



**Figure 1: The grave before excavation and exhumation commenced.**



**Figure 2: The excavation and exhumation work was done by hand.**





**Figure 3: Excavation & exhumation work in progress with family members & the SAP in attendance.**



**Figure 4: The mortal remains of the late Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi placed in the new coffin for reburial.**

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion it can be said that the excavation, exhumation and relocation of the grave & mortal remains of the late Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi from the farm Jacobsdal between Cornelia & Vrede was conducted successfully. The family requested the relocation and appointed AVBOB Phutaditjhaba and APAC cc to undertake the exhumation and relocation work. The physical work was done on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 with representatives of the deceased present.

Lletsa Jim Tsotetsi passed away in 1958 at the age of 68 years. His grave was marked by a formal cement headstone and border. Although not complete, some skeletal remains of an adult individual was recovered from the burial and taken for reburial in the Mangaung Village in QwaQwa as requested by the family.