



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

SUBMISSION TO THE SAHRA ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY, METEORITES, AND HERITAGE OBJECTS AND BURIALS UNITS PERMIT COMMITTEE:

SUBMITTED BY: Nolitha Ngcai

DATE: 1 October 2013

RE: Genadendal Mission Museum (GMM) – Specifically Declared Collection

PURPOSE:

To inform the Permit Committee on the progress made up to now and perhaps request guidance on issues they feel have not been dealt with in a manner that is acceptable.

BACKGROUND:

Genadendal Mission Museum Content is a Specifically Declared Collection. The Contents of the Museum were declared under the National Monument Act which then had no provisions on Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The new act NHRA requires a CMP in order for an object or collection to be declared. HOU has therefore budgeted for the CMP for GMM. For a very long time, HOU has been trying to secure a meeting with the Director of GMM but all the attempts and efforts to meet him failed. When HOU employed a new staff member who used to work at DCSA, she provided HOU staff with the contact details of an official responsible for GMM. A meeting was therefore held with an official from DCAS (Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport). It was in this meeting that HOU established that there is a draft CMP that has been developed. HOU then decided to write another letter to the Director requesting a meeting with him to discuss HOU's intentions to help on developing a CMP for the collection. The request was accepted and a meeting was held with the Director. HOU staff was taken through the collection as a whole. But, it was established that not all what was displayed was declared. Some of the objects and collection in the museum were there on loan and some were donated by people after the collection was declared.

Lack of funding was established, shortage of staff and staff incapacity was also established and the fact that the Director was in due course going to retire. The question was, who will take over from the Director as he started the Museum. It also became clear from what he was sharing to HOU staff that the provincial department has no interest in funding the museum. The museum got funding from the German Government to install CCTV cameras.

Currently, the museum is funded by the board. Director was informed of the CMP and he was happy and he complimented HOU staff for this and he was further told that HOU will advise of any developments from their side regarding the CMP.

As the collection was inventorised by SAHRA- Inventory unit. There were 12 young people employed but when the project was over, only 2 people were the museum managed to absorb or keep. A follow up meeting was called with DCSA wanting to find out what is the role of government and its financial contribution in the museum. HOU was informed that the department does give funding to the museum but there is no monitoring hence there is no report given to the department. An explanation was given of how the GMM and other museum are being funded by the department. Further discussion was on the collection itself as there were rumors that if the Director retires, people who made donations to the museum will come and take back the collection. As a result, it was agreed that HOU will write a letter to the Director and request that all the collection in the museum should remain intact until the CMP has been developed. A letter has thus been drafted and will be sent to him.

RECOMMENDATION

