



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 12 320 8490 / +27 12 941 4960 | F: +27 12 320 8486
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

SITE INSPECTION REPORT: Steelpoort Dubatsane Graves: Mr Davis

Prepared By: Kim Ngobeni {kngobeni@sahra.org.za}

HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

Date: 15 April 2021

APP Indicator Number: 4.1





an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 12 320 8490 / +27 12 941 4960 | F: +27 12 320 8486
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

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 is to give a report on the site visit held at Steelpoort Dubatsane Limpopo Province on the 12th of April 2021.

3. Background

On the 17th of February 2021, The HPU received a complaint from Mr Davis, stating that their ancestral burial ground is being endangered by land invasion.

4. Site Visit Assessment

The HPU conducted a site visit inspection on the 12th of April 2021 at Steelpoort due to the complaint received.

It was stated that the yard was fenced, and the invaders destroyed the fence in 2020. The Complainant, who is currently 67 years, approached the Tribal Authority for assistance but there was no success. A Case was opened and heard in Schoonoord court wherein it was dismissed indicating that the complainants are refusing services to be brought to the people.



Figure 1: The burial Ground



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 12 320 8490 / +27 12 941 4960 | F: +27 12 320 8486
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

It was stated that there are currently houses that were built on top of graves. The Graves belong to the Motswane family.

There are two main issues going on, viz: The Chief states that he is not the one giving out the land, on the other hand, the municipality states that the Chief is the one that gives out the land. They have tried to liaise with the mayor, and the mayor keeps on sending them back to the Chief.

The current issue is that there are people busy erecting iron corrugated informal housing around the burial ground. When the complainants go and check the side, they always see new housing.



Figure 2& 3: Some of the damaged graves

5. Recommendations

- It is recommended that a letter be written to the Mayor and Municipal Manager to obtain more information regarding the stands.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, there is no clear evidence of where they get permission to build houses around the vicinity. The Chief denies giving people land to build housing that side. All the houses were vacant, and thus HPU couldn't consult the owners.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 12 320 8490 / +27 12 941 4960 | F: +27 12 320 8486
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

Heritage Officer: Kim Ngobeni

Date: 20 April 2021

Heritage Protection Manager: Ms. Nkosazana Machete

Date: 20 April 2021