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SITE INSPECTION REPORT: FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE MONUMENT (HEROINES AND HEROIN ACRE) IN PRETORIA

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HERITAGE OBJECTS & HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

Date: 08/10/2018

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National Heritage Monument Heroines and Heroin Acre in Pretoria



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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”.

On the 08/10/18, Heritage Protection Unit Art Bank and Iziko Museum and Mr Sipho Mndada conducted an inspection at the Freedom Park and National Heritage Monument at the Fountain where the Struggle Icons Statues are displayed. The National Heritage Monument is a group of copper statues representing anti-apartheid activists, Zulu chiefs and missionaries. The monument is meant to reflect the struggle for liberation going back into the 1600s. It is in Groen Kloof Nature Reserve.

Purpose of the site visit

The site visit was conducted as part of monitoring national art work which is heritage related in Gauteng Province. The Art Work and Iziko Museum wanted to establish if the site is national declared site. This was done to ensure that the authority responsible follows section 5 of the NHRA which states that “Heritage Resources contribute significantly to research, education, tourism and they must be developed and presented for these purposes in a way that ensures dignity and respect for cultural values.”



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Background

The National Heritage Monument aims to bring South Africa's liberation legacy to the world. Located in the Fountains Recreation Resort it is built around The Long March to Freedom (A collection of currently 56 life size bronze sculptures), it will provide a centre of learning while offering local and international visitors an unsurpassed tourist experience. Nelson Mandela, Oliver and Adelaide Tambo, Walter and Albertina Sisulu, Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, John Langa Libalele Dube, Steve Tshwete, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, King Nyabela, Samora Machel, Fidel Castro and my friend and late Neighbour Wilton Mkwayi and many more are here walking in unison toward the SA desired future.

Assessment

SAHRA officials were accompanied by Mr Sipho Mdanda who is the curator of Freedom Park. He indicated that they are negotiations that National Heritage Monument must be managed by Freedom Park. The current status of the monument does not look good as there is no proper fencing of the area. The fence is not covering the whole area where the statues are. However, there is a security guard in the crate that is provided as the security house. The monument is not declared as a national heritage site although it does have a potential to be a national and world heritage site.



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Picture 1: Stalwarts of the battlefields, and wars in South Africa and in other countries



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Conclusion

This site needs to be declared as a national heritage sites as it speaks to different battlefields, and wars that happened in South Africa.

Heritage Protection Manager: Ms. Nkosazana Machete

Date: 08/12/2018

Executive Officer:

Date:



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