



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: B 4 FARM, OHRIGSTAD

BY

Ms Nkosazana Queenie Machete nmachete@sahra.org.za



HERITAGE INSPECTORATE UNIT

8 May 2017

APP Indicator Number: 2.1



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Introduction

Section 36 subsection 3(b) of National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) 25 of 1999 states that no person may destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 Years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority. In section 36 (5), it is stated that SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority may not issue a permit for any activity under subsection 3(b) unless it is satisfied that the applicant has, in accordance with regulations made by responsible heritage resources authority - (a) made a concerted effort to contact and consult communities and individuals who by tradition have an interest in such grave or burial ground; and (b) reached agreements with such communities and individuals regarding the future of such grave or burial ground.

According to section 36 (6), any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of graves, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority – (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this act or is of significance to any community.



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Picture 1: Human remains discovered on site of African people destroyed

Background

On the 26th April 2017, SAHRA attended the meeting between the Mr Bongani Mahome, Mr Johnson and Mr Corrie Cross owner of the B4 Farm in Ohrigstad in Limpopo after receiving a complaint that on the 12 July 2012 Mr Cross the farm owner destroyed graves of their ancestors. SAHRA attended a meeting to establish facts about the destruction of graves by Mr Cross. MR Cross is alleged to have destroyed several graves of different families and planted oranges.

Assessment and findings

SAHRA first had a meeting with Mr Cross who did not allow the complaints to talk to him as he was accusing them of telling lies about him destroying graves. After SAHRA official has spoken with Mr Cross he allowed the complaint to have the meeting and after we conducted an inspection. During the inspection Mr Mahome and Mr Mdluli searched for the human remains without success. Ms Machete assisted them and she discovered the human



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remains in different places along the fence erected inside and outside the fence. Mr Cross was called to look at the humans remains that he denied to have destroyed. Mr Cross insisted that there is no proof that they are human remains and he wants scientific evidence. The families asked to be given access to perform a ritual in the area as they cannot know whose remains that they have discovered. They want Mr Cross to erect a plague with inscription of all the names of the people whose remains were destroyed without consulting the families.



Picture 2: Graves of Mr Cross family and other families which are maintained



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Picture 3: Other human remains discovered which are destroyed

Conclusion

The contravention notice is drafted and sent to the legal advisor for proof reading.

Manager: Nkosazana Machete

Date:

Executive Officer:

Date: