



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

SAHRA

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION DECLARE: BOOMPLAATS ROCK ENGRAVING SITE COMPLEX

JUNE 2021

 /FACEBOOK  @YOUTUBE  @LINKEDIN

WWW.SAHRA.ORG.ZA

• • SAHRA • •

AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



SITE FILE REFERENCE: 9/2/236/0034

SAHRIS SITE ID: 93055

Enquiries: H.Weldon/A.Salomon

08 June 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION TO DECLARE THE BOOMPLAATS ROCK ENGRAVING SITE COMPLEX; FARMS BOOMPLAATS 24 JT & BOOMPLAATS 29 JT; LYDENBURG; MPUMALANGA AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act No, 25 of 1999 (“the NHRA”), SAHRA hereby notifies all stakeholders of the declaration of the Boomplaats Rock Engraving Site Complex comprising of numerous clusters of rock engravings situated on the Farms Boomplaats 24 JT & Boomplaats 29 JT; Lydenburg Mpumalanga as a National Heritage Site in line with the provisions of section 27(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999 (referred to henceforth as “NHRA”).

SAHRA has identified the site as having qualities so exceptional that it is of special national significance and warrants the declaration as a National Heritage Site.

In terms of Section 27(10) of the NHRA, the site shall be deemed to be protected as a heritage site for six (6) months from the date of service of this notice or until the notice is withdrawn or the place is declared to be a heritage site by notice of a Government Gazette, whichever is the shorter period.

Statement of Significance:

The Boomplaats rock engraving complex contains the most significant collection of rock engravings made by pre-colonial Later Iron Age farming communities in South Africa and serves as an invaluable historic record of a deep-rooted cultural identity associated with the landscape. This identity survives to the present day where local descendants of the Later Iron Age farmers identify with the site. The site also has significant potential to be developed for tourism and to serve as a place where this rich cultural heritage can be dispersed to visitors. Boomplaats was the first site of its kind to be recorded more than a century ago, and has been the at the centre of scientific research for this type of archaeological site ever since, greatly contributing towards our understanding of Later Iron Age farmer communities’ social organisation, and also served to corroborate interpretations of researchers regarding Later Iron Age settlement layout and function, serving as a window into the world of the BaKoni. These socio-cultural, historic and scientific research values, along with the stunning aesthetic value of the engravings, coupled to their fine state of preservation, bestow on Boomplaats a site significance of national importance.





Implications of Declaration:

SAHRA is responsible for the protection of all National Heritage Sites and will, therefore, be the responsible heritage resources authority to ensure the protection of the site according to section 27 (15) of the NHRA. In terms of Section 27 (18), no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site declared a National Heritage Site without a permit from SAHRA, and, in terms of section 27 (22) of the NHRA, no person may damage any fence, wall or gate constructed or sign erected by SAHRA in terms of subsection (21).

You are hereby given 60 (sixty) calendar days from delivery hereof to make representations or written submissions regarding the proposed declaration and to propose, if any, conditions under which the declaration will be acceptable to you, in accordance to Section 27 (8) (b) or (c) of the NHRA.

Please make written submissions to the following postal address: **SAHRA, P.O. Box 4637, Cape Town, 8001**. Alternatively, you may submit via email to the following email addresses: asalomon@sahra.org.za or hweldon@sahra.org.za

Should you have any queries with regards to the above, please contact Mr Andrew Salomon (021-462-4502) or Ms Heidi Weldon (012-941-4960).

We look forward to your response and continued interest in the national protection of this unique heritage resource.

Yours faithfully

Adv Lungisa Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

