



WHO IS SAHRA?

South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) is a statutory organisation established under the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, as the national administrative body responsible for the protection of South Africa's cultural heritage.

VISION

A nation united through heritage

MISSION

SAHRA's mission in fulfilling its mandate is promote social cohesion in South Africa by:

- Identifying, conserving and managing heritage resources in South Africa so that they can contribute to socio-economic development and nation building;
- Developing norms, standards and charters for the management of heritage resources in South Africa and codes of international best practices; and
- Contributing to skills and knowledge production and transformation in heritage resources management in South Africa and beyond.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

ENQUIRIES

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

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Department of Arts and Culture



ERECTION AND REMOVAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE



Modjadji memorial



SA Parliament



Moses Kotane memorial



Rahima Ally Moosa memorial



Shipwreck, Robben Island



John Beaver Marks memorial

WHAT IS OUR HERITAGE

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.

“Our heritage celebrates our achievements and contributes to redressing past inequalities. It educates, it deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathise with the experience of others. It facilitates healing and material and symbolic restitution and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs,” (Preamble NHRA, 1999)

SAHRA’S ROLE

SAHRA’s main objectives are the regulation, management and protection of heritage resources. SAHRA further aims to promote social cohesion and social upliftment through heritage resources management and its mandated identification, conservation, protection and promotion of heritage resources aligns its initiatives to the national socio-economic and developmental objectives. SAHRA also strives to maximise immovable heritage assets for the purposes of conservation and income generation, where possible.

SAHRA or any members of the public can identify places with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance to be declared national heritage sites. These will be marked with a badge/plaque. Specific movable objects or collections may be formally declared as a heritage objects if SAHRA considers it necessary to control their export.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW BEFORE A MONUMENT OR STATUE IS ERECTED

There is a legal process to be followed if an organisation or group wishes to erect a monument or statue. The applicable portion of the Act, Section 27 would apply if the statue or memorial is to be placed on a declared Provincial or National Heritage Site. An extensive public participation process should be followed, where interested and affected parties, interested groups and/or stakeholders are consulted, their views collated and presented as part of the impact study or assessment.

The process should begin at the local authority level (municipalities) and, if necessary at Provincial Heritage or National Authority level depending on the location of the statue. A Heritage Impact Assessment may have to be done before erection of the monument, memorial or statue. It is understood that such an act of memorialisation would be undergirded by a historical study or heritage study to ascertain the significance of the person or event to be celebrated.

SAHRA will only be involved if the statue is to be located on a declared National Heritage Site, ie Parliament, Union Buildings, etc.

What is a Heritage Impact Assessment?

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is a study that is conducted to assess the effect that any intervention may have on a heritage site or resource.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW FOR THE REMOVAL OF A STATUE

The NHRA (National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999) Section 27 stipulates explicitly that no National, Provincial or Local heritage sites (landscapes or built structures) may be altered without applying for a permit and/or comments from the relevant heritage resources authority. Furthermore, any structure that is older than 60 years may not be altered or demolished without obtaining the necessary permission from the relevant heritage resources authority. A statue (or any other monument) would fall under the category of ‘built structures’ and is therefore governed by Section 27 and 37 of NHRA. Procedurally, the legislation makes statutory provisions for specific requirements that need to be fulfilled before the erection or removal of statues on Heritage Sites.

These requirements are:

- Submission of plans to the relevant heritage authority;
- Conducting an HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment);
- Giving notice of intentions to the relevant stakeholders; and
- Engaging in a public participation process with the relevant stakeholders

Once these requirements have been met, the relevant SAHRA subcommittee, which would make a final decision or provide a final comment either supporting or objecting to an application (including an application to remove a statue), will then review the application.