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Department of Arts and Culture

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PUBLIC NOTICE

19 March 2020

SAHRIS SITE ID: 117044
SAHRIS CASE ID: 15029
Enquiries: H.Weldon/B.Mwasinga

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION TO DECLARE THE ROCKLANDS COMMUNITY HALL; ERF 11553, MITCHELL'S PLAIN, CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE 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 Rocklands Community Hall, situated on Erf 11553 in Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town, 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to be protected as a heritage site for six (6) months from the date of service of this notice or until the notice is withdrawn or the place is declared to be a heritage site by notice of a Government Gazette, whichever is the shorter period.

Brief Statement of Significance:

Rocklands Community Hall, built by the City of Cape Town Council in 1981, was the venue of an historic gathering on 20th August 1983 which saw the establishment of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and signified a turning point in the struggle against Apartheid.

The UDF was formed to unite people and organisations across South Africa despite racial, social and religious differences, and called for a united non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa. The gathering was attended by over 500 organisations from youth/student organisations, trade unions, church groups, civic, and women organisations, in response to the social economic and political changes that had been taken place since the 1976 Youth Uprisings. This included, and was in fact, spearheaded by, the introduction of the Tricameral



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Parliamentary system, a government system along racial lines which excluded the majority (Black) South Africans.

The gathering at Rocklands heralded a new phase in the Liberation Struggle as the UDF placed itself at the forefront of intensified and sustained mass protests that took place across South Africa between 1984 and 1986. The UDF demonstrated that a diverse coalition of groups and individuals could stand together, even in the most difficult times of suppression, despite differences in ideologies, to successfully put pressure on the Apartheid regime.

Socially, Rocklands Community Hall was built as a multi-amenities facility to provide for the social and recreational needs of the Mitchell's Plains community (many of whom were forcefully removed from District 6), a "people's place". Rocklands continues to be such a "people's place" to the residents of Mitchell's Plain, providing various social and recreational needs such as issuing of social grants, sports clubs, church services, library, creche and senior citizens meeting place.

Architecturally, Rocklands Hall was one of eight halls built by the City of Cape Town in the Cape Flats between 1970s and 1980s, based on the design by Graham Parker. Parker was awarded the Architectural Award of Merit by the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects for the design. This led to the design being used for several community halls across South Africa.

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: hweldon@sahra.org.za or bmwasinga@sahra.org.za.



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Should you have any queries with regards to the above, please contact Mrs Heidi Weldon (012-941-4960) or Mr Ben Mwasinga (021-202-8627).

Sincerely

Adv. L. Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER