



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Our Ref No: 9/2/412/0018

SAHRIS Site Id: 10487

Enquires: Mr A Salomon / Ms H. Weldon

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION TO DECLARE THE SIBUDU CAVE LOCATED ON PORTION 10 OF THE FARM SINEMBE NO 16902-FU, KWADUKUZA MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL 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 historical portion of the Sibudu Cave situated on Portion 10 of the Farm Sinembe No 16902-FU, Kwadukuza Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal 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to be protected as a heritage site for six (6) months from the date of service of this notice or until the notice is withdrawn or the place is declared to be a heritage site by notice of a Government Gazette, whichever is the shorter period.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:

Sibudu Cave contributes to human evolutionary history through its archaeological evidence of Middle Stone Age occupation which dates to between 77, 000 and 38 000 years ago. Archaeological excavations in the shelter have revealed evidence of some of the earliest examples of modern human technology. It is one of only three sites in Africa with evidence of early sea-shell beads older than 70,000 years ago. Sibudu also has a rare collection of bone tools dating between 77,000 and 62,000 years ago. It has the world’s oldest bone arrowheads that imply that bow and arrow originated in Africa and was in use more than 30,000 years before they were used elsewhere. According to Geoarchaeologists, the Sibudu sediments are remarkable and amongst the best in the world for identifying behavioural moments in time. Among other finds, Sibudu has the world’s oldest evidence for bedding made from sedges, grass and leaves. The shelter is currently used for spiritual purposes while the forest around the site is utilized for herbal medicines by the local community. Due to its uniqueness, Sibudu received international recognition as one of the most important sites of its kind, and has been



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nominated as a World Heritage site as part of the “Emergence of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation sites of South Africa” serial nomination.

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 asalomon@sahra.org.za

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

Sincerely

Adv. L. Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER