



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

SAHRA

NOTIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENT GAZETTE NOTICE 431 OF 13052

OCTOBER 2021

 /FACEBOOK  @YOUTUBE  @LINKEDIN

WWW.SAHRA.ORG.ZA

• • SAHRA • •

AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



OBJECT REFERENCE: 9/2/015/0010/001

SAHRIS OBJECT ID: 23151

Enquiries: H.Weldon/R.Isaacs/N. Ngcai

28 October 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENT TO GAZETTE NOTICE 431 OF 13052 WITHDRAWING THE DECLARATION OF THE HUMAN SKULL AS PART OF THE GENADENDAL MISSION MUSEUM SPECIFICALLY DECLARED COLLECTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 32 (4) (B) 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 32 of the National Heritage Resources Act No, 25 of 1999 (“the NHRA”), SAHRA hereby notifies all stakeholders of the amendment of Gazette Notice 431 of 13052 withdrawing the declaration of the human skull as part of the Genadendal Mission Museum Specifically Declared Collection in line with the provisions of section 32 (4) (b) of the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999 (referred to henceforth as “NHRA”)

The socio-historical collection of the Genadendal Mission Museum as housed at the Genadendal Mission Museum was declared a cultural treasure in terms Section 5 (c) of the then National Monuments Act, no 28 of 1969 on 8 March 1991. In terms of the Section 58 (11) (f) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, all previously declared cultural treasures are Specifically Declared Heritage Collection/Objects.

The Specifically Declared Genadendal Mission Museum Collection included a human skull as, at the time of the declaration, it was not uncommon nor considered unethical, for human remains to be exhibited and viewed in the same way as objects. This perception has changed dramatically, and it is now considered unethical for museums to keep human remains in their collections. The Genadendal Mission Museum have deaccessioned the human skull from the collection, returned it to the rightful family, and the skull has been reburied on 13 September 2021 in Genadendal Mission Museum. Attached is a copy of the amendment notice published in the Government Gazette on Friday 17th September 2021.

SAHRA wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to you for your continued interest in the ethical representation of our unique heritage.

Yours faithfully,

Adv. Lungisa Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

