

PAUL KRUGER STATUES CLEAN

Pretoria, 10 April 2015. Personnel of the Heritage Foundation started cleaning the Paul Kruger statues on Church Square on Tuesday, 7 April after they were vandalized with paint over the Easter weekend.

The Heritage Foundation cleaned the statues over three days at a cost of ± R40 000. The process included a high pressure hose with warm water. One has to be careful with old statues as the heat of the water and the pressure should be just right. No chemicals were used as the paint was water based. If it was a different paint, certain specialised chemicals would have had to be utilized. The Heritage Foundation makes an urgent request to members of the public not to randomly start cleaning statues and monuments with anything at hand.

According to Ms Sonja Lombard, Managing Director of the Voortrekker Monument and the Heritage Foundation, the onslaught of students, so-called politicians, opportunists and ordinary vandals on public statues and monuments these past weeks, is rather divisionary as opposed to reconciliatory in nature.

She is of the opinion that these kinds of actions will continue if government and the responsible authorities do not take a stand and broker public dialogue with all role players. The current legislation aims to "promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to nurture and conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations."

People and organisations who would like to become involved in the conservation of this legacy can contact ms Cecilia Kruger at the Heritage Foundation on bewaring@es.org.za or at 012 325 7885.

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