

**WHO SHOULD CONSERVE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Pretoria, 7 April 2015.** 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 and it has the real potential of destroying nation building.

She is of the opinion that if these kind of actions continue, there would very soon be no question of a unique and non-renewable heritage, which the National Heritage Resources Act (act 25 of 1999) aims to protect. More specifically the 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"

The conservation of endangered heritage resources that are especially of cultural and historical value to the Afrikaner and Afrikaans speaking population (but not exclusively), is the main aim of the Heritage Foundation (NPC). According to Lombard it is therefore the moral duty of this organisation to encourage an authentic debate to find a solution.

Although at this stage only hypothetically, one of the interim solutions could be to temporarily move the statue of Paul Kruger to the Voortrekker Monument site to ensure it's protection and continued existence.

The Heritage Foundation will be cleaning the Kruger statue on Church Square this morning. The Tshwane Metro police would guard the square and the statue and have also undertaken to guard other heritage sites, amongst which the Voortrekker Monument and public statues. However, by this morning at 10:0 there has been no sign yet of a Metro police's presence on the Voortrekker Monument site.

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