

NEW MD FOR VTM AND HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Pretoria, 4 July 2016. The Board of Directors of the Voortrekker Monument and Heritage Foundation announced that a new Managing Director had been appointed for both institutions as from 1 July 2016. According to the chairman, Dr Wouter van Wyk, great care was taken after the resignation of Ms Sonja Lombard at the end of January 2016, to ensure that the daily operations of these organizations ran as smoothly as possible. The Senior Manager of heritage conservation of the Heritage Foundation, Ms Cecilia Kruger had acted as Managing Director since November 2015. The position was advertised in May 2016 and after a tough selection process she was appointed as Managing Director.

Ms Kruger joined Gen Gert Opperman at the Monument in 2000, after 15 years in the field of museums and heritage conservation and was responsible for, i.a. the establishment and development of all the professional services on the site. Apart from various applicable qualifications, she completed her MA degree on the Voortrekker Monument in 2002 in heritage conservation management. This thesis would form the basis for the declaration of the site as a National Grade I Heritage Site in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act, (Act 25 of 1999) in 2011.

Since the establishment of the Heritage Foundation in 2002 she has also been involved in various conservation projects across the country. She believes that the successful conservation of heritage resources is something that can only be achieved when communities and organizations combine efforts. Heritage conservation is emotional and egos and shortage of funds often bar the way to positive outcomes.

Ms Kruger plans on continuing the good work of her predecessors and to further develop the monument into a heritage resource and tourism destination of international acclaim. Teamwork is of the essence and staff members of the Monument and of the Heritage Foundation are all committed and passionate individuals without whose contributions these objectives cannot be achieved.

Ms Kruger's hands will be strengthened in August when the new position of Financial Manager will be filled by Mrs Marelize Swanepoel. Mrs Swanepoel completed a B.Com (Human Resources) degree at the University of Pretoria followed by an Advanced Diploma in Labor Law at the then Rand Afrikaans University. From 2009 she was part of the financial team at DAWN Ltd. During this time she completed her B. Compt degree through UNISA.

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