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Correction Notice, Notice 5210 in Gazette 51255 is replacing the notice that was published in Gazette 51205 under the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Notice No. 5192

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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 5210 **13 September 2024**

AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE THULAMELA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SITUATED IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, LIMPOPO AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), in terms of section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), SAHRA hereby declares the Thulamela Archaeological Site, on Farm Thulamela Ruin no 7-MU, Vhembi District Limpopo in Pafuri region of the Kruger National Park, as a National Heritage Site.

Statement of Significance

Thulamela, the "Place of Giving Birth", is a dry stone-walled hilltop site overlooking the Luvuvhu River floodplain in the Pafuri section of the Kruger National Park. It was occupied by the ancestors of the Shangaan, Tsonga, and Venda from around the 13th to 17th centuries and was at the centre of what was once a thriving ivory-gold trade route, as evidenced by glass beads, bronze, Chinese porcelain, ivory bracelets, gold, and textiles. Similar sites have been found in the immediate vicinity at Makahane, Matjigwili and Shilowa, across the borders in Zimbabwe, at Masorini in Kruger and related sites in Mozambique, and as far west as Mapungubwe and Botswana. The combined evidence of these sites indicates that the East Coast trade network stimulated the establishment of high-status chieftainships all along the Limpopo corridor based on the exchange of gold, ivory, and leather for the exchange of glass beads, porcelain, and cloth. The Royal Palace is understood to have been located at the top of the Thulamela hill and the site indicates class division developed as a result of this trade networks. The power base of these settlements waned after the Portuguese waned after the discovery of the sea route to India and developed the slave trade on the east coast.

Thulamela is thus part of the greater story of the "peopling of Southern and South Africa". It is an evolving story of the past that is constantly being studied and updated. It *confirms the existence of a complex State system in pre-colonial South Africa, dispelling the propaganda of an uncivilised landscape propagated by colonial and Apartheid regimes. The abundance of archaeological material discovered at Thulamela significantly shaped our understanding of pre-colonial political states and helped redress past injustices and misconceptions."*

Schedule

The demarcation of the sites is as follows:

SITE NAME	FARM/ERF NO	TOWN	MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	SG Diagram
			Local Municipality	District Municipality		
Thulamela Archaeological Site	Thulamela Ruins no 7-MU		Thulamela Local Municipality	Vhembe District Municipality	Limpopo	5823/200

Coordinates:

Site Name	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Thulamela Archaeological Site	A	-22.429933	31.194198
	B	-22.430497	31.192528
	C	-22.430483	31.185442
	D	-22.435522	31.187828
	E	-22.446336	31.192867
	F	-22.449657	31.199942
	G	-22.433028	31.208110
	H	-22.432280	31.207026
	I	-22.431490	31.203217

END

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