



# arts and culture

Department:  
Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### QUESTION NO 1901

“1901 Ms. A M Meyer (DA) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:

1. **Whether she has been informed of the environmental impact assessment that has been completed for purposes of a housing development on portion 26 of a certain farm (name furnished) in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site under the authority of the West Rand District Municipality; if so, what are the outcomes and recommendations of the assessment;**
2. **whether she has been informed of the ruling of the High Court of South Africa (details furnished) that no dwelling may be erected on the property unless it is erected in terms of applicable laws, by-laws and regulations; if so,**
3. **whether there have been any contraventions of the court order, if so, (a) what steps has she taken to ensure compliance with the rule of law and (b) what are the relevant details;**
4. **whether she has been informed that the illegal development of the area could threaten the continued status of the area as a World Heritage Site; if so, what steps has she taken (a) to safeguard the integrity of the World Heritage Site and (b) to meet the requirements for the management of the area to ensure its continued status as a World Heritage Site;**

5. **whether any plans/programmes are in place to provide the illegal occupiers with alternative accommodation in a more suitable environment; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in respect of (a) timelines, (b) alternative accommodation and (c) programme of action?**

**NW2287E**

**REPLY:**

1. No, I was not informed about the Environmental Impact Assessment for a housing development in the Cradle of Humankind. However, I did receive the application to develop a Community Multipurpose Centre by the West Rand District Municipality, as an interested and affected party,. The application did not include the Heritage Impact Assessment.
  
2. No.
  
3. No, my department was never informed that there is a court order regarding the matter;  
(a) World Heritage sites management is the responsibility of the Ministry for Water and Environmental Affairs. It is therefore their responsibility to ensure compliance with the ruling in this regard.  
(b) Not applicable.
  
4. No, I have not been informed of the threat to the Outstanding Universal Value to the property;  
a) However, when asked to comment on the application to develop a Community Multipurpose Centre, my department did not support the development because the following activities and assessments were omitted from the application:
  - (i) Heritage Impact Assessment;
  - ii) Environmental Impact Assessment;
  - iii) Environmental Management Plan;
  - iv) Public Participation process; and

v) Traffic assessment report.

b) Same as 4(a)

5. As indicated above, the responsibility of World Heritage Management in the country is the responsibility of the Ministry for Water and Environmental Affairs. The Cradle of Humankind has got its own management authority that is empowered to deal with the matter of illegal occupiers.