

NOTICE 919 OF 2012

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF "THE GRAVE OF RAHIMA MOOSA", SITUATED IN NEWCLARE CEMETERY, JOHANNESBURG, AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency in terms of section 27(5) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999, SAHRA hereby declares "the grave of Rahima Moosa as a National Heritage Site.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Rahima Moosa and her twin sister, Fatima Seedat was born in the Strand in the Western Cape.

After completing High School at Trafalgar High in Cape Town, Rahima and her twin sister Fatima went to work in a food factory. Rahima worked in an office as a secretary. In 1943, she was approached by Mrs. Ray Alexander, the General Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union who recognised Rahima's dynamic personality, compassion towards others and her skill as a people's person, to stand for election as a shop steward. Rahima worked tirelessly to enlist workers from other food factories and fruit canning plants. She also took part in organising and attending union meetings. She later became branch Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union in the Cape.

In 1955, she moved to Johannesburg and joined the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) working together with the African National Congress (ANC), the Coloured Peoples Congress (CPC) and the Congress of Democrats (COD) including Braam Fischer, Joe Slovo, Ruth First. She contributed to the drawing up of the Freedom Charter, while working closely with the Natal Indian Congress (NIC).

Rahima Moosa was also a member of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and played an important role together with her comrades in collecting signatures for a petition against the law which forced "African" women to carry "passes". The petition was also to protest against the unjust treatment of women, the Bantu election system and appalling living conditions. The first march of about 2 000 women of all races to the Union Buildings took place on the 27th October 1955. Rahima Moosa was more than eight months pregnant (when she led the march together with Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi and Sophia Williams De Bruyn as the four representatives to hand over the petitions to the Minister of Native Affairs.

In the early 1960's, Rahima Moosa became a "listed person" which meant that she was under constant surveillance, harassed and her movements restricted. She was refused a passport. In 1970 she suffered a heart attack and her health slowly deteriorated. As soon as the ANC became unbanned, she encouraged her four children to remain active in the organisation and sadly, she did not live to see the liberation of her beloved people and country.

ALLAH (swt) says in Sura Bagarah verse 193:

"And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression and there prevails justice and faith in Allah, but if they cease, let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression".

LOCALITY PLAN

