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## Media release

Pretoria, 10 May 2010

### **African countries unite at Freedom Park**

Freedom Park today hosts Ambassadors and High Commissioners from various African countries to discuss sustainable partnerships to promote African heritage, culture and spirituality inter-continently. The breakfast meeting starts at 10:00 and concludes with the delegates touring the Park.

“Our aim with this initiative is to strengthen the framework of African solidarity,” says Dr M W Serote, CEO of Freedom Park. “The ties that bind us span country borders and unite our brothers and sisters into a global African community. Freedom Park is synonymous with reconciliation – with the coming together and strengthening of the ties that bind us. Today marks another step on the route of reconciliation amongst our fellow African countries. If we are to realise the ideals of Pan-Africanism, we are to explore and embrace our shared roots.”

“I believe that this marks the beginning of a dedicated relationship between Freedom Park and these African nations. As an international icon of humanity and freedom, the message of Freedom Park is one that speaks directly to all the people of Africa. Our culture, history and heritage have been obscured for too long. As all eyes focus on the African continent, it is our duty to showcase our proud identity as a united people,” concludes Dr Serote.

The following countries will be represented at Freedom Park:

- Botswana
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Guinea
- Rwanda

### **Editor’s notes**

#### **About Freedom Park**

Hailed as the most ambitious heritage project of our democratic government, Freedom Park is located on a 52-hectare site on Salvokop in Pretoria. The Park offers a unique and exceptional opportunity to experience and appreciate South Africa’s history. As a national and international icon of humanity and freedom, it weaves the story of where we come from and the historical and cultural events that shaped what South Africa is today.

Freedom Park is the heartbeat of all that is South African – the hub through which to know this land of promise in all its diversity.

The Park comprises a number of areas, each with its distinct symbolism and attraction. A number of these spaces are open for tours, which take place daily at 09:00, 12:00 and 15:00.

### **Upcoming events**

Freedom Park is in the process of completing its final element, namely //hapo. The word //hapo comes from a Khoi proverb and means 'dream'. In //hapo, the history of the Southern African region dating back 3.6 billion years will be told in a narrative and interactive form. Members of the press will be treated to a preview of this newest edition to Freedom Park in coming months.

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For further information:

Ilse Posselt  
Public Relations Officer  
+27 (0)12 336 4103  
+27 (0)79 515 3371