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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commemorating Black History Month: Storytelling as a Bridge Between Pain and Progress

Pretoria, 03 February 2025 – As the world observes Black History Month this February, Freedom Park calls on all South Africans to reflect on the power of storytelling in preserving our liberation history and African heritage. More than a celebration, Black History Month is a time to acknowledge the struggles and triumphs that have shaped our shared identity, ensuring that the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom are never forgotten.

At the heart of this commemoration lies the art of storytelling—a timeless African tradition that connects generations, fosters healing, and strengthens social cohesion. Freedom Park stands as a custodian of these narratives, preserving and amplifying the voices that have shaped South Africa's path from oppression to democracy. Through its monuments, exhibitions, and oral history projects, Freedom Park remains a sacred space where memory and history intersect to inspire future generations.

The Power of Storytelling in Healing and Unity

Storytelling is more than a recollection of past events—it is a transformative tool that bridges divides and nurtures national unity. By giving voice to the lived experiences of those who endured apartheid and colonial oppression, storytelling cultivates empathy, reconciliation, and a deeper understanding of our collective past. At Freedom Park, the Wall of Names, Isivivane, and the Eternal Flame serve as living testaments to the courage and resilience of our forebears. These spaces not only honour our heroes and heroines but also invite reflection on the ongoing journey toward justice and equality.

“Black History Month serves as a global reminder that history is not just a record of the past; it is a foundation for the future,” says **Freedom Park CEO, Dr Jane Mufamadi**. “Through storytelling, we affirm our commitment to truth, reconciliation, and nation-building.”

A Call to Commemorate, Educate, and Inspire

Freedom Park encourages all South Africans to embrace the spirit of Black History Month by engaging in meaningful conversations, sharing family histories, and visiting heritage sites. Through storytelling dialogues, educational programmes, and digital archives, Freedom Park remains dedicated to ensuring that these stories are passed down to future generations.

Council Members: Ms. CV Adams-Kruger (Chairperson), Ms BE Watson, Adv C Naidoo, Prof S Cooper, Mr Z Gordon, Ms. Moleboheng Matli, Mr. SS Masemola, Mr T Plaatjie, Dr J Mufamadi (CEO)

By commemorating Black History Month, we not only honour the past but also reaffirm our responsibility to build a more inclusive and unified society. As South Africa marks 30 years of democracy, let us continue to tell our stories, celebrate our heritage, and move forward—together.

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