



Date 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Heritage Western Cape  
Protea Building  
Greenmarket Square  
CAPE TOWN  
8001

**To Whom It May Concern**

!Gaitses

I Kai Bi'a Hennie van Wyk, in my capacity as head of the Gorahouqua Tribal Council herewith place on record our endorsement of the letter by Chief !Garu Zenzile Khoisan of the Gorin Haiqua Cultural Council in support of the River Club Development proposal, which will be located within the broader Two Rivers Urban Parkway corridor.

We agree with the position put forward by the Gorin Haiqua Cultural Council that the decision in support of the development proposal follows a pathway of engagements with several spheres of government, Chapter 9 Institutions, State entities and the private sector.

Our support for the project does not come lightly, as the area under consideration for the proposed development is a most sensitive location both in terms of its ecology, as also its deep heritage significance.

We fully concur that this decision is a strategic act of indigenous cultural agency to secure a legacy for those who suffered the indignity of dispossession and cultural genocide.

The fact is that we believe this is a wise decision,, through which we will all be able to both celebrate our history and heritage, including our history of resistance in major battles such as the war against Francisco D'Almeida in 1510 and the first Khoi-Dutch war of 1659 – 1660, which were the first major acts of resistance against colonial aggression in our country.

Together with the Gorinhaiqua Cultural Council we have engaged government, chapter 9 institution and a range of other entities in our cause to get recognition, restitution and restoration for our people and we concur with Chief Zenzile that "our efforts in this regard have fallen on deaf ears, have been subjected to ridicule and, or bludgeoned with the arrogant silence of invisibility, which means being treated as never having spoken and not worthy of being heard."

We therefore fully support the decision of the Gorinhaiqua Council to exercise agency and to directly engage the entity involved in the proposed River Club Development.

Through this process, two pertinent results of the discussions, over a long period of time, have persuaded us to take a position in support of this proposed River Club development.

We celebrate the fact that this engagement has been fruitful and that the developer has made a firm commitment to ensure that the footprint of the Khoi and San's history of resistance, and its modern day resurgence, is incorporated into the development plan.

For us it is important that a significant commitment has been made that an area within the proposed development is to be earmarked for the building of an International Indigenous Media and Communication Centre.

This directly shows that the developer is conscious of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) which calls for indigenous peoples to have the capacity to record, report on, as well as print and broadcast matters and events of concern to them.

It is these types of engagements and outcomes which must be celebrated and emulated not only by government but also by the private sector, to ensure that justice triumphs, that the descendants of the first people are treated with respect and that the first peoples of this country are restored and recognized.

We therefore give our support and endorsement to this development proposal.

Kei gangans

**Kai bi'a Hennie Van Wyk**

Signature: -----