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SANParks removes Apartheid-era statues in the Kruger National Park

TWO apartheid-era statues in the Kruger National Park (KNP) have been identified for removal by South African National Parks (SANParks) management in line with the government's policy on the removal of Apartheid monuments in the country.

Mavuso Msimang, Chief Executive of SANParks, announced today that the statues of Paul Kruger at Kruger Gate and the busts of Lt Col Steven Hamilton and Piet Grobler, at Skukuza Rest Camp will be relocated soon. All the statues were erected in 1976.

"A decision has been taken by SANParks management to remove the structures. Kruger national Park is a great national heritage and asset. We are doing our very best to manage and conserve it for the benefit of present and future generations of all South Africans, indeed of humankind. The statues themselves do not really add any value to conservation," said Msimang.

"We appreciate the role played by these gentlemen in the establishment and early days of the park," Msimang said, adding that the creation of Kruger Park was steeped in controversy. A safe place has been identified in Skukuza where the statues will be kept. If there are any expressions of interest by authorised entities or individuals to acquire the statues, SANParks will be willing to discuss these. The area where the Paul Kruger statue is presently situated will be rehabilitated.

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