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Take pride in heritage

Deur **Benneli Vdwalt** | Donderdag 28 Mei 2015 08:04

THE urban development in the previously small town of Kathu is surely one of the fastest cases in the country.

In the past four years, the town has seen the development of three new neighbourhoods, extensive road development, the expansion of the local shopping mall and the addition of two brand-new shopping centres.

In the midst of these developments, however, lies several heritage sites of immense cultural and historical value.

Micheal Chazan, an archaeologist at the University of Toronto, and Dr Leon Jacobson of the University of the Free State, claims that these archaeological sites are similar in value to that of the famous Cradle of Humankind site in Gauteng.

There are currently two archaeological sites within 10 km of the town limits that are in danger of being spoilt beyond repair by the fast-moving developments.

Although these two local sites are protected under the South African law for the preservation of historical and archaeological sites, it seems that contracted developers and the Gamagara Local Municipality do not in any practical sense pay heed to these protection laws.

Recent developments are creeping ever closer to the Khai appel area (Kathu Pan), where one of the two archaeological sites are situated.

Surely the community of Kathu can take pride in the fact that sites of such incredible historical value are right on their doorstep.

One of the new shopping mall additions to the town is already built over countless irretrievable archaeological artifacts. These artifacts will now never be able to tell the rich history of the indigenous people that lived here thousands of years ago.

In recent months, the South African youth were in uproar over colonial statues that offended them. After a massive public protest, the statue of Cecil John Rhodes was removed from the University of Cape Town's campus. This movement, although mainly politically motivated, shows that historical

Chazan states that the Kathu archaeological sites are already renowned in the international scientific community.

Surely this must be motivation for not permanently destroying a site of such importance.

Kathu needs to take pride in these unique historical and archaeological sites and take steps to discourage local government institutions and commercial developers from causing potential lasting damage in their efforts in managing a ever-growing Kathu

MELD AAN of REGISTREER om kommentaar te lewer. Dit neem net twee minute!