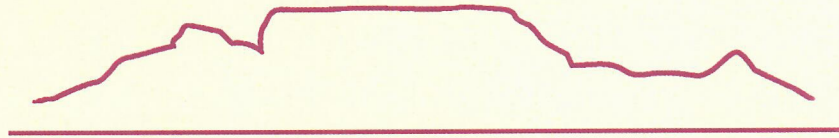




Archdiocese of Cape Town



10 June 2021

The Observatory Civic Association
and
The Goringhaicona Khoi Khoen Traditional Indigenous Council,

Honourable Members,

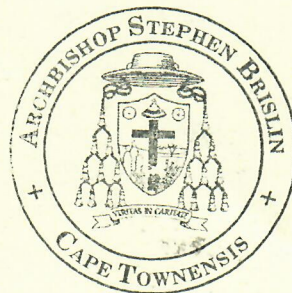
It is with great concern that I have taken note of the City of Cape Town's decision to allow the massive development of the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoen's 'sacred site', on the banks of the Liesbeek River. Of special concern is the fact that this decision seemingly ignores or discounts the significant concerns from heritage, cultural, community and environmental groups and bodies that have been expressed, as well as some incomplete environmental and heritage processes.

While development is important for economic stimulus, it should never ignore or devalue intangible heritage values nor the sanctity and historical importance of treasured spaces. Impinging on spaces that are held to be sacred or deeply significant on a cultural level as it violates all of society and is not in accordance with the values of Catholic Social Teachings or those of our South African Constitutional Democracy. Ultimately, there are other values in life, including spiritual values, which take precedence over concern for money and Economic Development.

I wish to express my support for the objections that your organisations are making against the City of Cape Town's decision.

Yours sincerely

+Stephen Brislin
Archbishop of Cape Town



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