



DRAFT EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HEROES ACRE POLICY

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DRAFT EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HEROES ACRE POLICY:

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

Historically those buried in a Heroes Acre were generally uniformed personnel who died whilst on active duty, either in the military or police force. This effectively meant that such graves and the concept of Heroes Acre became synonymous.

However, such spaces within Cemeteries ignored the fact that communities experienced the need for a range of burials to be accommodated and which would further include:

- a) Acknowledged military combatants who died during the struggle against apartheid;
- b) Acknowledged activists who either died during apartheid or had dedicated their lives to bringing about a democratic South Africa and who have subsequently passed away; and
- c) Acknowledged Heroes of late who have contributed to South Africa as a country and or to a person(s) through deed or in a positive manner.

2. GENERAL POLICY PRINCIPLES:

Hero means a person who performed a heroic act on behalf of the Country and is recognised by Council (By- laws);

Heroes Acre means an area of land set aside for the burial of a hero (by- laws);

Spouse means being the husband, wife or acknowledged life partner of the "Hero";

Heroes Acre Policy refers to the official policy that regulates the burial of heroes; and

Family means a group consisting of one or two parents and their children living together as a unit / a group of people related by blood or marriage / all the descendants of a common ancestor / a group united by a significant shared characteristics.

3. SETTING ASIDE OF HEROES ACRE GRAVES AREAS:

Council would set aside a burial block in a cemetery as a Heroes Acre for the interment of Heroes subject to availability of space.

4. PERMISSION TO BURY IN A HEROES ACRE;

No burial may take place in the Heroes Acre unless permission has been granted by the Municipal Manager in consultation with the Executive Mayor or nominee.

4.1 Criteria for conferring hero status to be permitted to be buried in the heroes acres.

- 4.1.1 A "Hero" is a person, who in life or death distinguishes oneself extraordinarily in the military field or in other unselfish service or deeds, to the people or country of South Africa
- 4.1.2 Persons who participated in the struggle for liberation should possess an Air Force Number and Army Number

- 4.1.3 A "Hero" should display the following characteristics:
- a) Loyalty to and official membership of an institution recognized by the Emalahleni Local Municipal Council or recognition by such institution of the action or heroic deed
 - b) Commitment to the Country
 - c) Consistency of involvement
 - d) Commitment to the ethos and credo of such institution
 - e) Consistency of involvement with such institution

5. PAYMENT OF BURIAL TARIFF:

Upon approval of the status of "Hero" on the deceased to be buried in the Heroes Acre, the relevant burial tariff be paid by the family of the deceased.

6. RECORD KEEPING OF DECEASED BURIALS IN THE HEROES ACRE GRAVES:

Over and above the information required in the burial register, the motivation for those being buried as Heroes in the Heroes Acre should be included in the Municipality's burial records.

7. DIMENSIONS OF GRAVE OPENINGS:

The dimensions of grave openings are as applicable in Chapter 7 Section 27 of Emalahleni Local Municipal Council Cemeteries and Crematoria By- Laws adopted as Council Resolution A.114/17 dated 31 August 2017.

8. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BURIAL SECTION:

8.1 Heroes Acre:

- a) Each of the dead should be commemorated individually by name either an inscription on the headstone or by inscription on the commemorative memorial;
- b) The tombstone should be permanent;
- c) The department responsible for the management of cemeteries shall be responsible for the subsequent embellishment and maintenance of the tombstone at the said department's cost;
- d) The dimensions of the memorial/ tombstone are done in conjunction with the family; and
- e) The Heroes Acre would be full memorial section.

8.2 Monuments in the Heroes Acres:

A proposed monument for erection in the Heroes Acre must be approved by the Section 80 Environmental and Waste Management Services Committee, the relevant building and engineering departments of the Municipality as well as the Parks Department prior to erection.

9. HORTICULTURAL MAINTENANCE OF HEROES ACRES AND MONUMENTS:

- a) Heroes Acres areas necessitate an environment that is solemn, respectful and displays reverence.
- b) Horticultural activities of turf –grass maintenance, headstone border planting, arboriculture and ornamental horticulture should be of the highest standard.
- c) Memorial and tombstones would be regularly monitored and maintained to prevent the deterioration of structures and to inhibit the growth of algae, lichen and mosses.
- d) Monuments/ tombstones in the Heroes Acre which have deteriorated, or been affected by man or natural disasters, or been vandalized, would be repaired as soon as possible by the relevant department concerned, if such repairs are not affected timeously, Council would affect the necessary repairs and bill the department accordingly.

10. UPDATING OF DATABASE ON DECEASED HEROES:

- a) Information relating to the deceased “Heroes” should regularly be updated to ensure validity of information of the late Heroes; and
- b) Such information would be made available to the public.

11. PROCEDURE FOR BURIAL IN THE HEROES ACRE

11.1 General Criteria for conferring” Heroes” status:

- a) All Ward Councillors would be made aware of approved Criteria for conferring “Heroes “status on an individual;
- b) The relevant Ward Councillor of the Ward in which the deceased would be buried, would submit an official request, detailing all required relevant information, to the Executive Director: Environmental and Waste Management;
- c) A standard formatted official form for the Conferring of Hero’s Status would be made available at the Parks offices;
- d) The request form from the relevant Councillor/s must reach the Executive Director: Environmental and Waste Management (5) five working days prior to the intended burial ceremony;
- e) The application would be submitted to the Municipal Manager or nominee; and
- f) All documents should comply with the approved Cemeteries and Crematoria By- laws.

11.2 Information required when applying for burial in Heroes Acre

- a) The Ward Councillor/s would submit a detailed motivation of the deceased ‘s accomplishments as measured against approved criteria as indicated in the criteria for conferring Hero status to be permitted to be buried in the Heroes Acre; and
- b) The Muncipal Manager or nominee must finalize applications made in terms of this policy within 2 (two) working days.

12. REVIEW:

The policy shall be subjected to the review process after three years of its implementation. It shall remain in operation even in the review process.

13. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT:

The policy shall be called the Emalahleni Local Municipal Council Heroes Acre policy and shall be commence on the date as determined by resolution of Council.



EMALAHLENI

Local Municipality

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DIRECTORATE: ENVIRONMENTAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND CEMETERIES

APPLICATION FOR INTERMENT AT CEMETERIES: HEROES ACRE SECTION

REQUESTED PLACE OF INTENDED INTERMENT (which Cemetery, Area)

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DETAILS OF DECEASED

NAME	
SURNAME	
ID NUMBER	
HOME ADDRESS:	
TOWN	
CODE	
DATE OF BIRTH	
DATE OF DEATH	

NEXT OF KIN (contact person)

NAME	
SURNAME	
CONTACT DETAILS (W)	
CONTACT DETAILS (CELLPHONE)	
ID NUMBER	
HOME ADDRESS	
TOWN	
CODE	
FAX	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	

FORMS OF COMMEMORATION:**HERO:**

Each of the dead should be commemorated individually by name either an inscription on the headstone or by inscription on the commemorative memorial;

DEFINITIONS:**CRITERIA FOR CONFERRING HERO STATUS TO BE PERMITTED TO BE BURIED IN THE HEROES ACRE**

- a) A "Hero" is a person, who in life or death distinguishes oneself extraordinarily in any unselfish service or deeds, to the people or country of South Africa or the City of Emalahleni;
- b) A person who received conferment of the freedom to the City may be interred in the Heroes Acre;

- c) A “Hero” should display the following characteristics:
- (i) Loyalty to, and official membership of an institution recognized by the City of Emalahleni or recognition by such institution of the action or heroic deed;
 - (ii) Commitment to the Country;
 - (iii) Consistency of involvement;
 - (iv) Selflessness;
 - (v) Commitment to the ethos and credo of such Institution; and
 - (v) Consistency of involvement with such institution.

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