

Arena will open new revenue streams

THIS week we officially opened the International Convention Centre Arena – 10 years after the ICC was opened by Nelson Mandela.



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

At the time, the former president said:

“In constructing this magnificent new International Convention Centre, the people of Durban have shown foresight, determination and initiative. They combined enterprise with a boldness unique to this province, to create something that all South Africans can be proud of.”

The ICC Durban was originally developed as a catalyst for economic development at a cost of R280-million and has generated more than R5.5-billion in income for the region. But it is the story behind the ICC that tells of the faith the people of our city had in the future of this country.

This project was already started in 1991. If you remember, 1991 was a time of uncertainty and also a time of excitement for the people of South Africa, and here in our city a group of people had the vision and

courage to keep working, to make this project possible.

From the day it opened its doors, the ICC showed everyone that South Africa can hold its own with the best in the world when it comes to

international conferences and events. The awards and accolades rolled in.

We are confident the new Arena – now a wonderful part of what has been named the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex – will open even more revenue streams and bring more people to Durban.

Business tourism is a big growth area for our province, which is already number two on the international destinations list in South Africa.

The multi-use ICC Arena will strengthen the value of the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre Complex as a catalyst for economic growth in the region.

This will help us push back the frontiers of poverty even further as we fulfil our mandate of creating a better life for all our people.

Projects helping to define who we are

WE ARE a city on the move, and we are moving in wonderfully exciting directions.



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

On Monday, 19 March, a few of us made a presentation to football governing body Fifa, the local organising committee for 2010, and national government for the right to host the International Broadcast Centre for the World Cup.

This facility will be the nerve centre for the World Cup. It will be the place from where media content will be organised, packaged and sent out to more than three billion people around the world.

I visited the broadcast centre in Munich and it was an amazing experience.

The latest technologies were being used and I was told that Fifa assembles the best sports directors to work on creating the best football shows for that six-week period.

More than 1 000 journalists and technical people work in the facility and all the Fifa information for the World Cup is sent out from it to subscribers worldwide.

Journalists who will be collecting stories from across our country about the World Cup will direct these stories to the broadcast centre to be fed to the world.

It is an amazing set-up, and I am sure South Africa will be using cellphones on a much wider basis to watch the games as they unfold.

We believe if Durban wins the right to host the broadcast centre, a legacy building should be built.

We have discussed with the national Department of Communications the possibility of a multimedia centre which could be part of an information technology park.

So let's hold thumbs that we get the nod.

On Tuesday, 20 March, we launched one of our flagship projects, the new Durban Arena.

It will form part of the complex we have named after Inkosi Albert Luthuli and there is no doubt it will act as a catalyst for the development of the entertainment industry in our city.

It is an amazing facility and as I drive by each night it stands as a beacon celebrating the wonderful place we call eThekweni and people we call Durbanites.

Launched with George Benson and Al Jarreau on stage, we also showcased some of our local talent. I am waiting, though, for Ladysmith Black Mambazo, maskandi, indlamu and other incredibly vibrant performing arts traditions to fill the halls with music and hope.

Today we will rename eight of our major streets, our Moses Mabhida Stadium and the new Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex (which includes the ICC, Durban Exhibition Centre and Arena). Each will play a role in defining who we are, where we come from and where we need to go.

I know our team's already full schedule of work will become even fuller as we continue to make this the best of times.

STAR TURN



LONGTIME friends and multiple Grammy winners, George Benson (left) and Al Jarreau share the stage at the official opening of the International Convention Centre's new Arena on Tuesday. BONGA MSIMANG set his Canon EOS 20D camera on 1/100sec and f5.6 to capture the jazz-fusion maestros in action. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasi Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001; or e-mail spincity@durban.gov.za or naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za and we will publish the best high-resolution photos. Please provide your details and the names of the people in your picture

LETTERS

Meter parking a hassle, expensive

AS AN EMPLOYEE of a business in central Durban I have to use the public parking bays as our company does not have allocated parking bays. The newly-installed an meters are very expensive and inconvenient.

They cost about R32 for an eight-hour working day.

One can only buy parking for a maximum of two hours, and that means five trips to the meters during company time.

These meters are not user friendly, they don't accept notes or issue change, and the traffic police issue fines daily.

Please advise me on finding a cheaper solution, or consider

supplying us with parking permits.

S GOVENDER
Durban

THE on-street parking provided in the city is meant to serve those who have a relatively short stay requirement for parking.

Long-term parking is available at one of the various parking garages throughout the city.

Providing equipment that accepts notes and provides change is impractical.

CARLO ESTEVES
Head: eThekweni Road System Management

Appalled by filth outside hospital

I WAS recently a patient at the King Edward Hospital.

On arriving at the Francois Road entrance, I was appalled at the sight of mounds of domestic refuse littering the pavements outside the hospital.

After I was discharged, I telephoned an inspector at the Cleansing and Solid Waste department. He was totally unaware of the health hazard.

An inspection would verify my findings. One would think that the department concerned would take better care of the perimeter of a large hospital, where optimum health conditions should prevail.

M JAARVELD
Durban

Chats anti-crime plan

ON 14 MARCH the Chatsworth Community Policing Forum held its annual general meeting.

An unprecedented record crowd of more than 400 attended. The community support was overwhelming.

Chatworth's new station commissioner, Raj Ramsaroop's hard-hitting message to the public was:

❑ Do not buy stolen goods; it creates job opportunities for robbers and hijackers;

❑ Do not bribe police officials, it breeds and promotes police corruption;

❑ Parents must discipline their children so that they become responsible adults and citizens;

❑ Be alert to and proactive against crime; and

❑ Work with policing forums not against them.

All of this is to be supported by an initiative, backed by KwaZulu-Natal's Department of Sport, under the banner "Sport Against Crime". Youngsters will be encouraged to take part in sport, instead of taking alcohol and drugs and getting involved in other anti-social and criminal activities. This should prevent Chatsworth from becoming a a paradise for criminals.

Citizens should attend regular police forum meetings in large numbers and stand up, speak up and act swiftly and visibly against criminals.

MD DASARATH
Chatsworth

THANK you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Following your letter of complaint, the Cleansing and Solid Waste unit of Durban Solid Waste did an inspection.

The area around the hospital is swept four times a week – that is on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

To accommodate the large volume of waste generated in the area, additional litter bins have been placed on Francois and Sydney roads. To ensure that the area is hygienically maintained, inspections will be carried out regularly.

NEERI GOVENDER
eThekweni Cleansing and Solid Waste