

Renaming critics sympathetic to apartheid – ANC

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“HEROES like Albert Luthuli are our heroes too, projects that happen are ours too, therefore there needs to be consultation,” said Stokes.

In its defence, the ANC said those who were “sympathetic to apartheid” had slackened the speed of transformation.

ANC Cllr S’bu Sibiya said his party was not seeking to score political points but was ensuring transformation occurred. “The mayor and city manager have been mandated to start with the consultation process,” he said.

Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo said it was high time the city started with the renaming process.

“Who was Smith or West?” he asked.

Naidoo said most people, including himself, could not identify with the current street names in the city. “But I can identify with (Mahatma) Gandhi, (Margaret) Mncadi and Mabhida,” he said referring to some of the proposed names.

According to the street renaming list submitted to the council, the following changes will occur:

Victoria Embankment/Margaret Mncadi; Stanger Street/Stalwart Simelane; NMR Avenue/Masabalala Yengwa; Point Road/Mahatma Gandhi; Alice Street/Johannes Nkosi; Broad and Grey Street/Yusuf Dadoo; Commercial Street/Bram Fisher; and Northern Freeway M4/Ruth First.

The council’s Masakhane, Grants-in-Aid, Nonracism and Nonsexism Committee is in charge of the renaming process. It must consider the change of names of places and facilities of historical importance in the city centre, including the renaming of roads and council buildings.

So who exactly was ...

Moses Mabhida

He was instrumental in setting up the ANC’s

Intelligence and Security department.

In 1985, while in Havana, Mabhida suffered a stroke, and after a year of illness, died of a heart attack in Maputo. He was buried there in March 1986.

Chief Albert Luthuli

Elected President-General of the ANC in 1952.

As Chief of the Emakholweni in Groutville, he came up with policies aimed at economic reform for the community.

He participated in many mass protests, such as the Defiance Campaign of 1952. He was arrested in 1956 and charged with treason, together with 155 other leaders.

Margaret Mncadi

She was the first president of the ANC’s Women’s League in KwaZulu-Natal. In 1959 she led a protest march of about 500 women from rural districts to town where they demanded to see the Native Commissioner for a reply to their grievances.

Stalwart Simelane

He was an ANC leader in the 1950s. As a teacher in the 1930s he helped establish high schools for Africans.

In 1952, while serving as assistant secretary of the Natal ANC, he led the first batch of Durban volunteers in the Defiance Campaign.

He was elected to the national executive committee of the ANC in 1952.

Masabalala Yengwa

At an early age he became Durban Secretary of the African Congregational Church, later becoming a deacon of that church.

He represented the ANC at the World Council of Churches’ meeting in Geneva to draw up a programme to combat racism.

Mahatma Gandhi

The pioneer of Satyagraha, or non-violent resistance.

A British-educated lawyer, Gandhi first employed his ideas of peaceful, civil

disobedience in the Indian community’s struggle for civil rights in South Africa. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for the alleviation of poverty, for the liberation of women and for brotherhood among religions and ethnicities.

Johannes Nkosi

Nkosi was one of the first African leaders of the Communist Party of South Africa and the party’s most renowned political martyr.

While still in his teens he participated in the ANC’s antipass campaign of 1919. He was killed by government forces in his mid-20s at an anti-pass demonstration.

Yusuf Mohamed Dadoo

Dr Dadoo was a Communist Party activist and defendant at the Treason Trial in 1956.

In the 1940s and 1950s, he took part in campaigns for the rights of blacks and people of mixed race. He was repeatedly imprisoned.

In 1945, Dadoo was elected vice chairman of the ANC.

Bram Fisher

He defended the accused during the Rivonia Trial in 1964. In the same year he was arrested and charged with being a member of the Communist Party.

In 1966 he was found guilty of violating the Suppression of Communism Act leading to his conviction and life imprisonment.

Ruth First

Journalist, academic and political activist.

As a journalist she specialised in expose reporting and her incisive articles about slave-like conditions on Bethal potato farms, the women’s anti-pass campaign, migrant labour, bus boycotts and slum conditions remain among the finest pieces of social and labour journalism of the 1950s.

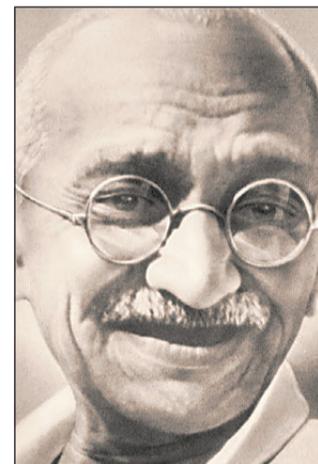
She later married Joe Slovo, a lawyer and labour organiser and, like her, a communist.



GOING PLACES: Victoria Embankment’s proposed new name is Margaret Mncadi



ICONIC: ANC councillors are pushing for Point Road (above left) to be renamed after Mahatma Gandhi (above right)



Pictures: BONGA MSIMANG

Chatsworth claim rejected

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

CITY Manager Michael Sutcliffe has rejected reports claiming that Chatsworth would be renamed after Nelson Mandela.

He said no “such specific proposal” had been brought before last week’s council meeting or to the city’s executive committee.

His comments came after weekend newspaper reports suggested the township of Chatsworth, as well as other landmarks and roads in the area, would be renamed after the former president and other struggle icons.

He said that before renamings could take place a set procedure had to be followed.

This did not happen. “There is a process of review by officials to see if the proposal meets technical criteria, a review by ward committees to get comments and endorsement, and a review by the Masakhane Committee,” he said.

Zandile Gumede, Chairwoman of the Masakhane, Grants-in-Aid, Nonracism and Nonsexism Committee, denied receiving such a proposal.

“All submissions go through the committee before they are sent to Exco. We have never received such a proposal,” she said.

Newspapers also reported that Chatsworth Stadium would be renamed Naidoo-Makhaye stadium; that the local municipal offices were to be named after Vish Sewpersadh; that the grants office would be renamed after struggle veteran Ismail Meer; and that Pelican Drive was to be called Lenny Naidoo.

However, the Masakhane Committee said no such proposals had been received.

All the road closure details for the A1 Grand Prix

KIROSHA NAICKER

WITH the start of the A1 Grand Prix fast approaching, the municipality has put into gear traffic management plans to ensure the event runs smoothly.

Road closures and alternate routes for the 23-25 February event will be introduced to accommodate the large number of spectators expected to attend.

The closures will make way for the creation and dismantling of the racetrack, pedestrian bridges and grandstands. It will also ensure traffic flows easily during the event.



ON TRACK: The intersection of NMR Avenue and Argyle Road. Expect road closures before and after the A1 Grand Prix

Picture: BONGA MSIMANG

Closures already in place:

□ Brickhill Road between Somtseu Road and the Drive Inn site has been closed. There will be restricted access

to the Drive Inn, George Campbell School and the gym. Alternative routes to the north are Stanger Street and Ordnance Road.

Duration of closure: Until 10 March.

□ Argyle Road (northern carriageway) between the M4 and Snell Parade has been

closed. The southern carriageway will be converted to accommodate two-way traffic until midnight, 20 February. This southern carriageway section of roadway will then be closed and reopened by 28 February. The alternative routes are Stanger Street and Somtseu Road.

Duration of closure: Until 9 March.

□ The southern carriageway of Argyle Road between the M4 and NMR Avenue will be closed. The alternative routes for M4 southbound traffic wanting to travel west would be Walter Gilbert Road and Umgeni Road, or Somtseu Road, NMR Avenue, Argyle

Road or Ordnance Road. Duration of closure: Until 9 March.

Effective from 15 February: □ Suncoast Boulevard and Snell Parade between the Casino VIP parking and the Snake Park circle will be closed. The alternative route is Battery Beach Road, NMR Avenue, Argyle Road, Playfair Road and Sol Harris Crescent.

Buses and taxis will be permitted to run north along this portion of road from the Snake Park to the Casino taxi rank until midnight, 20 February – exit through Battery Beach Road.

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