

World Cup spin-offs are already apparent

WHEN Fifa President, Sepp Blatter announced that South Africa had been selected to host the 2010 World Cup, the news was received in different fashions by different people.

There are those sceptics who thought South Africa would not be able to host such an august event. They cited many reasons for this, including reasons which were of concern to the government too.

There were some who saw the announcement as the start of a road to riches.

It is true that our government would like to see many South Africans benefiting from this event.

It is true there are those who are going to make a fortune out of this event and there are also those who will not benefit at all.

Yes, the country will benefit and those who do not benefit directly will still gain because the country will be able to provide other services which it otherwise would not have been able to provide.

Fifa officials recently visited Durban to inspect the progress made in building the stadiums, and



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

“I am pleased to see that there has been a significant drop in crime in our city.”

we were excited by the report we received.

Fifa was excited to learn that we were progressing well and that the Moses Mabhida stadium was expected to be completed at least two months ahead of schedule.

But preparing for the World Cup is not about stadiums alone.

Our information technology and transport system have to be up to world standard.

Law enforcement is another important aspect for a successful World

Cup. And I am pleased to see that there has been a significant drop in crime in our city. This is according to a recent Criminal Analysis conducted by the Metro Police and South African Police Services.

We are not yet where we want to be but we are getting there. The involvement of our people in fighting crime has contributed immensely to this drop in crime.

I challenge our communities to keep on reporting criminals.

In the end, our city and country will be the winner. We are already enjoying some of the spin-offs of the 2010 World Cup.

Let's keep building for 2010 and beyond

PREPARED to be a candidate city for the 2010 World Cup we developed what has become known as Durban's 2010 and beyond strategy.

The focus was on using eventing to reconfiguring the city and move it away from its apartheid base.

The five-year goal was to ensure we used the 2010 projects to create sustainable legacies.

We also had a much longer, 100 or so years aim, to imagine a city in which food security, housing, comfort, leisure, economic well-being and welfare were the norm rather than the exception.

We knew a successful World Cup was only possible if everything we did benefitted the city and was not done solely to satisfy the goals of football governing body Fifa and the World Cup.

The plan was to build a multi-functional stadium, flexible enough to serve Fifa's needs, as well as many of our major eventing needs, and which could also be used when we win a bid to host the Olympics.

We have focussed our energy on a transport strategy to allow for an integrated, multi-modal system, linking key areas of the city with inner-city distribution systems which are accessible, safe and secure.

Our information, communication and technology strategy is about building a fabric to serve the whole city, rich and poor.

Our tourism development strategy was to extend the city away



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

from just being a beach destination to focus on the diversity of landscapes and experiences, including food, fashion, music and art.

There is also our history, as the place where Mahatma Gandhi learnt his politics and Dr John Dube laid the foundation for the birth of the ANC.

Our infrastructural strategy is about hubs, spokes and corridors.

It is about regenerating former township areas which contain the people but don't serve them.

And so Umlazi, Clermont, Inanda, KwaMashu, Ntuzuma, and Mpumalanga are getting a special focus with major hubs of commercial development. Some are being driven through the building of new government facilities, others have a purely commercial focus.

We are slowly densifying the city so that public transport becomes more economical.

The scale of our infrastructural programmes has had at least one great consequence – we can now say that construction has become an industry; it is no longer one of those Cinderellas which only emerges from obscurity in the middle of the night.

Labour, management and shareholders are all benefiting from these windfalls and government and private sector construction will mean work for the next decade at least.

Let's keep building for 2010 and beyond!

TAKING A BREAK



ANDRE de Waal of Potchefstroom took this afternoon photograph while on holiday in Amanzimtoti early this month. 'It seems that it is not only the tourists that enjoyed the fine weather and the beach!' said De Waal. The picture was taken using an aperture of F8 and a shutter speed of 1/500. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001; or e-mail 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

Please shed some light on load shedding schedule

I LIVE in Nozungeza Crescent, in Umlazi's M section.

According to the load shedding schedule we were due to have power cuts on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 2pm to 4.30pm, and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 6am to 8.30am.

But this has not been the case. On Monday, 31 March, power was cut from 2pm to 4.08pm, on Tuesday 1 April, it was between 6am and 8.07am, on Wednesday, 2 April, it was between 2pm and

4.08pm, and another one struck a two hours later, between 6pm and 10.24pm. On Thursday, 3 March,, we had another cut from 6am to 8am, on Friday, 4 April, we were cut off from 2pm to 4.04pm and again at 6pm to 9.27pm, on Saturday, 5 April, we had a power cut from 6am to 8.09am, and again from 8.15am to 1.30pm.

On Monday, 7 April, we were cut off from 2pm to 4.16pm and again from 4.19pm until late at night.

Please help me or refer me to someone who has this

information or who is in charge of the load shedding programme.

SINDISIWE KHANYEZA
Umlazi

THE new schedule for load shedding can be found on Page 2 of this edition of eZasegagasini Metro. Hopefully it will address your concern.

For other, technical queries, call the Electricity Call Centre, which is open around the clock, at 080 13 13 111. – The Editor

Delivery woes Urban neglect worse in KZN

I HAVE been trying to secure a house through the Municipality for a while now, but always end up at a dead end.

I've stood in queues for hours, most recently at the Truro Hall in Westville, where I had about 10m to go when the application process was terminated. I usually hear about these through friends, mainly because I don't receive the eZasegagasini Metro in time.

SAFIAH
Mount Edgecombe

I, AND I am sure millions of South Africans fully agree with MD du Plooy of Morningside regarding the decaying state of our sidewalks and centre islands, (eZasegagasini Metro, Letters, 21 March).

It applies to just about every town in KwaZulu-Natal and has become a disgrace.

I recently visited Gauteng and was pleasantly surprised at how much more care is given to these areas up north.

I was always under the

impression that a part of our rates were used for this purpose but it is plain to see this it no longer the case.

My question to you is, why did you not respond to Mr Du Plooy's question, as you do to several other questions?

J RICHMOND
Duban

WE HAVE forwarded Mr Du Plooy's query to the relevant department and are still awaiting a response. – The Editor

Blaming apartheid does not solve our problems

I WAS gobsmacked to read Mayor Obed Mlaba's column (in eZasegagasini Metro, 4 April) in which he said the legacy of apartheid would be with us for a long time to come.

Mlaba was referring to the serious matter of non-payment of

rates. Is there no end to the blaming of apartheid for all the ills that beset the Municipality, including broken water pipes, potholed roads, etc? I suspect the real blame should be placed squarely at the door of the powers that be and their inept officials.

Ratepayers would love to see a breakdown of rates defaulters by area, as well as councillors whose rates are outstanding. This would make for a really interesting read.

G TAYLOR
Westville

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