

Let's make our city a hit with tourists

WE ARE now in the second month of the year which means we are fast approaching the end of the year.



Obed Mlaba
eThekweni Mayor

follow the right channels.

Another group is doing similar work in Umlazi.

I have also seen a group of young people making crafts, some of which could

be sold as souvenirs. But all those ventures will have to be well-coordinated.

We are still experiencing a power shortage problem, so we should play our part and use electricity wisely and conserve energy.

There are busy times ahead, including the Confederations Cup of Nations. It would be an embarrassment to the country if any of the matches were to be stopped because of power failures. This is a challenge to us all to make a difference. People can get tips on how to conserve energy from any Electricity Department outlet.

Let us all work together to make our city attractive to tourists.

I know we can if we pool our efforts.

Lastly, come election time, let us all make sure we go out in our numbers and make our voices heard through our vote.

This statement may seem strange to some, but those who do not have idle hands will know that every second counts.

Our city continues to be the preferred conference venue, internationally and domestically. What does this mean for the ordinary citizen?

We need to make sure Durban is kept clean and attractive. It also means we should all continue to fight crime in our quest for a crime-free city.

As we prepare for the World Cup next year, it should be made clear that not every citizen will benefit from the event. However, if people start now to position themselves sensibly they can still benefit.

For instance, I know for a fact that in KwaMashu there are people who have started working with young children doing traditional dance.

Those people can provide entertainment to visitors if they



SENIOR songbird Nomvula Mkhwanazi joins Muhawu High School choristers in song at a function where Mayor Obed Mlaba dished books and toys in eNgomanyemi last week. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001; or e-mail naidothrusha@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

Picture: SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

Let's all celebrate our iconic stadium

THIS weekend we celebrate the recent completion of the incredible arch which spans our Moses Mabhida stadium.



Michael Sutcliffe
eThekweni Manager

attention to detail, value engineering and keeping within budgets has kept this project on track and on time.

Tim te Haar has led a great team of professionals through the Ibhola Lethu consortium.

The majority are South Africans, although we have also drawn on international experts when needed.

The Group Five, WBHO and Pandev consortium have again shown us that South African construction companies are world-class. This incredible workforce of more than 2 000 has made us proud.

I must also thank KwaZulu-Natal

Premier Sbu Ndebele, Mayor Obed Mlaba, and Finance MEC Zweli Mkhize for supporting us in our work and making it possible.

A few years ago, very different ideas for the 2010 Fifa World Cup in Durban did the rounds. But today we stand tall in the eyes of the world. The value of the arch as a tourist attraction to the city will soon be realised.

On completion, visitors will be able to experience panoramic views of the ocean and the city from a viewing platform 106m above the pitch. Visitor access to this platform will either be via a cable car or 550 steps on the southern side of the arch.

The completion of the arch is not only an engineering and architectural marvel. It symbolises the hopes and dreams of Durbanites as they prepare for the historic 2010 Fifa World Cup.

Many don't know this, but we were the only stadium in the country to hold a competition to come up with our stadium designs.

The winning consortium, Ibhola Lethu, were inspired by our history as captured in our flag.

For them, and us all, the grand arch was something that "represents the unity of a sport-loving nation, and the two legs on the southern side of the stadium come together to form a single footing on the northern side, symbolising the unity of a once divided nation".

The completion of the stadium arch celebrates a truly South African architectural, engineering and construction milestone.

This accomplishment has massively increased awareness of our new landmark facility and starts positioning the stadium complex as not only the icon of Durban, but shows the world once again that we are Africa's sporting and events capital.

We have a 2010 and beyond strategy which recognises that we must build on our strengths and ensure every event focuses on growing the economy, providing jobs and uniting our people.

We must all celebrate this incredible milestone.

Julie-May Ellingson and her team at Strategic Projects have led this initiative and their continual



PROUD MOMENT: The final piece of the arch is lifted into place

LETTERS

Cemeteries and verges need to be maintained

I AM appalled by the state of KwaMashu's F-section and Redhill cemeteries. There never used to be overgrown bushes at these before, particularly Redhill; it was once one of the city's dignified cemeteries.

It costs a lot to lay our loved ones to rest but it doesn't seem like our Parks and Cemeteries Department does much to keep these cemeteries neat. The grass is overgrown and footpaths have become obscured, putting visitors at risk of criminals or even serpents.

The City removed taps along the road. How does it suppose we clean tombstones? Some have hard layers of bird waste on them?

Go to Stellawood and see how much respect is given to the dead there. Where is the equal treatment? We are all ratepayers of eThekweni. Treat us as such.

NONHLANHLA LANGA
KwaMashu

I HAVE lived in Nelway Place in Manors, Pinetown, for 10 years.

During that time the verge near the Sandown Retirement Village was cut by contractors working for the City's Parks Department.

However, the contractors never raked up or removed the cuttings (which are substantial), leaving them strewn across the road to be washed into the drains when it rains.

More unsettling is the fact that the grass at the road edge has never been trimmed, letting it grow over the curb and into the road, inconveniencing motorists.

Could someone arrange for the curb and gutters to be cleared and request the grass cutting contractor maintain it at an acceptable level.

ROSS COPLEY
Pinetown

EVERY effort is made by the Parks and Cemeteries Department to

provide an acceptable service and regular grass cutting at all cemeteries.

However, in the January/February period a backlog in grass-cutting has developed as a result of public holidays and inclement weather.

The department is deploying additional resources to these cemeteries to alleviate this backlog and it is anticipated the grass-cutting will be under control within the next two to three weeks.

Taps at the Redhill Cemetery have been removed as a result of continuous vandalism and misuse.

However, we have replaced them with underground connections that can be made available to visitors on request.

Inquiries can be made at the cemetery office.

MIKE OXLAND
eThekweni Municipality: Parks and Cemeteries

City working to ease Berea congestion

IN THE 30 January edition of eZasegagasini Metro, letter writer Joan Anthony, of Vause Road, suggesting possible solutions to the traffic problems being experienced on Hunt and Steven Dlamini (Essenwood) roads.

The response from the eThekweni Transport Authority is as follows:

WE ARE working on options to improve the capacity of Hunt Road, including converting it to a one-way between Che Guevara (Moore) and King Dinizulu (Berea) Road on the south.

The possibility of retaining the Steven Dlamini (Essenwood) Road bridge over the western freeway as a two-way was evaluated at the

time of the introduction of the one-way system to the north.

The retention of the two-way necessitated right turn lanes and there is insufficient space to accommodate the requirements for a bi-directional configuration.

CARLOS ESTEVES
Road Systems Manager: ETA

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