

# Tourism Indaba is a feather in our cap

EVERY developing country dreams of positioning itself in a way that creates opportunities for economic growth. The same dream is shared by provinces and cities, and Durban is no exception.

We recently hosted one of our biggest Tourism Indabas ever. We did not expect such a turnout given the recent global economic meltdown, so we were pleasantly surprised.

This augurs well for our City. The annual event, widely regarded as one of the world's premier tourism trade shows, brought about R250-million to our city's economy. This is a huge boost, especially in the light of the global recession.

There was, reportedly, a slight drop in the number of people who attended this year, but the quality of indaba itself was amazing. And this year's event was unique in the sense that it acted as a forerunner of the two major football events, the Confederations Cup in June and next year's World Cup, the biggest sporting event on the world's soccer



**Obed Mlaba**  
eThekweni Mayor

calendar.

The presence of the 2010 mascot, Zakumi, underlined our country's real commitment to host successful, world-class soccer events.

Another major benefit of this year's indaba to the Southern African people was the opportunity it provided to showcase tourism products to large-scale buyers of such products and services.

It is these products that will attract them to frequent our country and boost our tourism industry.

Events of this nature really do put OUR country on the world map and we are looking forward to an increase in foreign spending.

Durban has hosted the Tourism Indaba for 20 years. This says something about our organisational skills.

But that does not mean we should rest on our laurels. There are other cities interested in hosting the indaba. And should we lose it, it would be impossible for us to get it back.

We as a City will do all we can to ensure that does not happen.

# Working together we can beat criminals

Building a safer eThekweni Municipality requires all of us to get involved to ensure the city is safe and feels safe.

As a local government we are well placed to create an environment less conducive to crime through designing and implementing programmes targeted at specific crime problems and groups at risk.

This is "Our City, Our Safety, Our Responsibility". There are many things we must do.

First and foremost, we must focus on effective policing and community safety.

We need to coordinate our efforts far more than we do at present.

Do all of our communities participate in the community safety forums?

Do the many private and public



**Michael Sutcliffe**  
eThekweni Manager

forces communicate effectively with each other, share information and drive targeted programmes to reduce crime.

We must address vagrancy and other social problems too.

Are we doing enough to raise awareness on substance abuse, are we managing street children and car guards, are we creating safer school environments, what about developing opportunities for youth, raising awareness of family values, morals and human rights, and so on.

These issues require plans and strategies.

We must continually better design and manage our public spaces. Crime prevention is also about effective environmental design policies.

The more we map crime and work out why it happens in particular locations at particular times the better we will be able to devise strategies and action plans.

We must get our communities more actively involved in creating safer cities.

From educational programmes through attending ward meetings and doing everything possible to share information, we must get people involved.

The more we walk our neighbourhoods at night, taking back our environments from criminals, the safer our cities will become.

Fighting crime is everyone's business and if we get it right it will ensure we can become a thriving, world-class industrial and commercial centre with employment opportunities for all citizens, a premier tourist destination, and a municipality with a clean, safe environment and a high quality of life.

**LAW & ORDER: First and foremost, we must focus on effective policing, but beating crime goes beyond this. Everyone must participate in community safety forums**



# TWO SIDES TO THE STORY



**NOSIPHO Dlamini, of Models International, is cleverly made up so that one side of her face looks as if it's in a state of decay and the other is pristine and beautiful. Dlamini was taking part in the Naked Creative Collective Media show at the Durban Art Gallery last week. The show represented a provocative bid to stimulate debate on HIV/Aids. The make-up and the model's dress is the work of Linea Academy design student, Bradley Marshall**

Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

## LETTERS

# Separation of home waste a load of rubbish

THE separation of black domestic refuse bags from blue garden refuse bags makes sense. Garden refuse is biodegradable and eco-friendly while domestic refuse isn't.

Perhaps, then, somebody within the Municipality, or DSW, could explain why domestic refuse and garden refuse are collected and compacted in the same truck and disposed off in the same landfill site?

Why as householders do we bother separating the two, and why, when the whole world is busy trying to be eco-friendly, is this opportunity lost by our city?

**PAUL WALSH**  
Durban

*THERE are two main reasons for the separation of the two types of refuse.*

*The blue garden bag service is specially offered to residents wishing to dispose off their garden refuse on the same day as the domestic collection service.*

*This service is charged for separately either by means of a contract with DSW or by purchasing the blue bags at retail outlets.*

*The cost of the bag covers both the collection and disposal of garden refuse. This service is not included in your annual property rates, which is the case with the domestic service.*

*That, basically, is the reason for it to be kept separately.*

*With regard to why it is*

*compacted and collected in the same truck – it is simply a case of economics.*

*In the long term we are looking at composting options for the garden refuse which would necessitate separating at the landfill or a separate collection system.*

*All garden refuse from our garden sites that are of much higher volumes are transported separately and go through a composting process at both Bisasar Road and Mariannhill Landfill Sites.*

*If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our DSW Helpline at 031 311 8804.*

**NEERI GOVENDER**  
Public Relations: Cleansing and Solid Waste (DSW)

# Prosecute M41 road hogs please

I TRAVEL to the Durban CBD from my home in Phoenix every weekday morning using the R102, through the M41 and onto the M4 (Ruth First). There is always a bottle neck at the Umhlanga, city-bound on-ramp to the M41 caused by taxis and cars alike using the emergency lane to jump the queue onto the M41.

Vehicles already on the M41, including myself, close the gap to deny these violators easy access. Unfortunately, other innocent motorists coming from Umhlanga suffer too.

At times drivers cut in so hastily that they pose a danger to other motorists. I've witnessed several

near accidents. I suggest that the Metro Police act to alleviate traffic congestion at this point before there is a serious accident. They should prosecute offending motorists for crossing the barrier line and reckless driving.

**VISPALINGUM NAIDOO**  
Phoenix

*THE letter reveals a traffic safety phenomenon known as aggressive driving that threatens to be a major public safety concern for the public and law enforcement alike.*

*It shows that the public does not adhere to the rules, unless there is a real threat of prosecution.*

*But sometimes even such threats may not be the solution because of insufficient police officers available to police the roads.*

*The complaint has been forwarded to the regional commander of the North to monitor the situation and take appropriate action against the violators. I hope that the attitude of the drivers changes, as enforcement alone is not the solution. Thank you for your concern about road safety. We wish more motorists would report bad driving.*

**TITUS MALAZA**  
Deputy Head Operations  
Metro Police

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