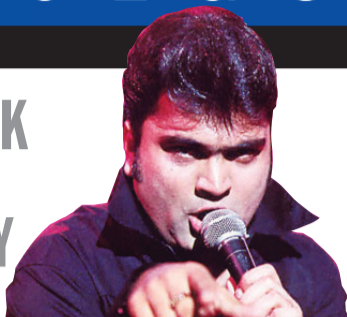


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Durban 2100: chance to shape future

PETER MACHEN

AN AMBITIOUS project launched today will ask citizens of eThekweni to design the kind of city they want to leave for future generations.

The project, Imagine Durban, is aimed at ensuring the Durban of the future is one that has not been destroyed by this generation.

Global and local studies paint a bleak picture of the future. It is a future defined by issues such as global warming, climate change, poverty, crime, unemployment and HIV/Aids.

Imagine Durban is an attempt to make that future a better place, rather than simply accepting these bleak prognoses as our collective final destination.

It does this by asking tens of thousands of Durbanites what they think the city will be like in 2100.

Today's launch of Imagine Durban seeks, in part, to answer that question by committing citizens and the local government to designing the kind of city they want their great grand-children to inherit; to commit to changing certain behaviours right now to mitigate against predicted climate change; and to commit to certain goals and targets.

Imagine Durban officially begins in two weeks time, on 22 March, with a survey of the hopes, fears, concerns and aspirations of all those who live in eThekweni.

It will consist of a number of questions printed on a postcard and deposited in collection boxes around the city. These postcards will be available in places including libraries, shopping centres, restaurants, and beaches, as well as at the Sizakala Service Centres, the Florence Mkhize Building (formerly Martin West) and other municipal buildings.

Dreams

Consultants, will also be combing the metro area, asking Durbanites about their city, and their hopes and dreams for the future.

In this way, those who are uncomfortable with a pen and paper, will still have their voices heard. The survey will also be available at www.imaginedurban.com from 22 March.

Durban is not the first city to involve itself in such a project.

Imagine Chicago was launched in the early 1990s and the Imagine Calgary process began a few years ago with much success.

Dakar and Dar es Salaam are also about to embark on

similar projects.

Imagine Durban is a city-initiated project that is being implemented in conjunction with Sustainable Cities, an NGO from Vancouver, Canada, together with the Plus Network, a network of 35 cities in 14 countries established to share experiences in sustainable planning.

This survey is only the first step in a process that will incorporate the city's existing annual, five-year and 20-year planning cycle into a collective vision for the rest of the 21st century.

Once the questions have been answered, the colossal task of collating all the responses has to be undertaken. Only then, can we start planning and building for that future with an informed vision.

At the heart of Imagine Durban is the fact that ideas without action amount to nothing, and the eThekweni Municipality is committed to making sure our collective dreams for a better city and a better world come to pass.

The youth of eThekweni are a vital part of the Imagine Durban process.

They will be instrumental in helping to plan and build a legacy for future generations, and in conscientising their parents about issues of sustainability.

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A TOUCH OF GLASS



THE facade of the International Convention Centre's new R460-million Arena. It has been designed to stage indoor entertainment and sports events. More than 1 300 Durban school children will be the first to experience what the multimillion rand Arena has to offer

Picture: VAL ADAMSON

New street names set to go up in a fortnight

SIYABONGA MAPHUMULO

IN TWO weeks time, the municipality will remove the signs from eight streets and the boards from one building in Durban.

It will mark the end of an era as the old names give way to those of struggle stalwarts.

The public event will mark the completion of the first phase of renamings. This is

expected to be followed by a second phase which includes citywide changes to other street names and buildings.

The process has been met with objection from some political parties in council and from sectors of the public.

The renaming follows a consultation process where members of the public were asked to make submissions.

The council last week announced that at least 200 more street names would be changed by September.

A notice asking the public to submit proposals for the second phase of the renaming process has already been placed in local media and the public will be able to submit comment at the council's regional centres.

Opposition parties, par-

ticularly the IFP, ACDP and the DA said the "incorrect procedure" had been followed during the first phase of the renamings.

The parties have argued that there had been insufficient consultation on the matter.

But the ANC maintained that the process had been held back for far too long.

Mayor Obed Mlaba said the

renaming was in part about transforming the city's image so that it gave a true reflection of those who lived in it.

He said the process had moved slowly and had been delayed by the 2006 local government elections.

"But now we are moving on and closing a chapter which we started a few years back."

Mlaba said other municipalities were already far-

ahead with the renamings.

"Why is it an issue here when in areas such as Kwa-Dukuza, Pietermaritzburg and even Ulundi it has already been completed," he said.

ANC Cllr Zandile Gumede said that the renaming process began in 2003 under the then Council Speaker Nomusa Dube.

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