

# Spare a thought for Sharpeville martyrs

**H**UMAN Rights Day is on 21 March. It's a day chosen to coincide with the terrible events that engulfed the township of Sharpeville, near Vereeniging, on the same day in 1960.



**Obed Mlaba**  
eThekweni Mayor

and equality, not because they got those ideals from European colonists, but because they saw their colonial masters consistently violating them.

Ubuntu is part of African culture. For many of us, it is a practice that we need to revive in our lives.

We need to implement this culture of humanity and caring. We need to look at ourselves and our lives and see how we rate on the respect front.

Human Rights Day is a public holiday, so you have the choice of attending a cultural event, spending the day with your family, catching up with household chores or just relaxing. But whatever you do, take a small piece of time out of your day and think about those who sacrificed so that we can now enjoy living in a country that is protect by a noble constitution.

We now have solid protection of our human rights, but many died and suffered so that this could come to pass.

Light a candle, send up a prayer, spare a thought and make a commitment to strengthen ubuntu in your life.

On that day, one of the darkest in our nation's history, police killed about 69 unarmed protesters and at least 180 people were injured. Women and children were among the dead.

On the eve of the protest, part of a wider Pan Africanist Congress campaign against the country's racist pass laws, the PAC's Robert Sobukwe proclaimed it would be a peaceful demonstration.

The events of that day remind us that no government should deny any of its citizens basic human rights in the country of their birth.

And although we are horrified by the massacre, we are grateful to those brothers and sisters who were prepared to lay their lives on the line for our freedom.

In the early days of the African National Congress, our leadership often called attention to liberal ideals of citizenship, democracy,



**ZIONISTS worship on a traffic circle in Greyville. There are thousands of different Zionist congregations throughout Southern Africa. According to Wikipedia, research in 1996 suggested that 40% of all black South Africans belonged to a Zionist church. PETER MACHEN took the picture. Send your Durban photographs to eZasegagasini Metro, PO Box 5588, Durban, 4001; or e-mail [spincity@durban.gov.za](mailto:spincity@durban.gov.za) or [naidoothrusha@durban.gov.za](mailto: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**

# Push to improve public transport

**W**E ARE actively involved in expanding the city's public transport network.



**Michael Sutcliffe**  
eThekweni Manager

mover system will be one means of building a new demand using inner-city commuters such as myself and tourists as the immediate demand base.

Traffic is a key area of focus. People drive poorly, block intersections and our enforcement at times leaves much to be desired.

Closed circuit television and intelligent transport systems are being introduced. And I am really not interested in people who whinge when we enforce. Obey the law or stay at home!

We will be introducing a public transport lane coupled with stricter enforcement for those who break the law.

Focussing on non-motorised forms of transport is critical too. Our training circuit for cyclists is now working and we will be introducing more innovations. Unfortunately, these will compete with a reality that private car ownership is likely to increase significantly over the next decade or so.

We must move more freight to rail and we are making some progress in our work with Transnet dealing with this.

Land-use planning is important in creating a more sustainable system and road safety remains a priority.

The campaigns to get us to use non-motorised transport more often, to improve our public transport system and to get pedestrians to be more responsible when walking near roads must show results.

This could be the biggest legacy we can leave for our children, and one which will be attributed to the investments being made in 2010 infrastructure.

This includes improving the rail and road public transport systems and ensuring they are better integrated. Our focus here is on the north-south rail line in conjunction with the rail authorities so that this corridor acts as the backbone of the public transport system.

The rail authorities have committed resources to upgrading coaches, signaling and security.

As enhancements to the line become more visible, feeder services to the corridor will be encouraged.

As for road transport, various interventions such as the taxi recapitalisation programme will add value to the image and services.

We are also looking at making our transport system more accessible to people with physical disabilities.

We are working towards a fully integrated service with a ticketing facility to facilitate seamless travel through the system.

We are focussing on all services having proper time tables that are adhered to and we will have a public transport call centre in Durban by 2010. It will provide information to travellers on services available, timetables etc.

The CBD's public transport system needs major interventions given the way some road users behave and the fact that at times we have gridlock.

Our strategies will discourage private vehicle use. But people won't make the move from private transport until the public transport system works properly. Our people

## LETTERS

# Your views: council's street renaming project

ONE of the reasons I would not change street names, at this point in time, is that they will be associated with the times. Mbeki Avenue will be associated with crime, violence, and filth. I am sure President Thabo Mbeki wouldn't want that. So, before any more street names are changed, I suggest South Africa is cleaned up of dirt, poverty and crime. Then, if South Africa is in a perfect state, Walter Sisulu Lane, President Mbeki Avenue, etc, will be associated with a beautiful era, instead of an ugly one.

**LOLITA F FIELDING**  
Durban

WHILE I understand the new South Africa wishes to acknowledge those who have made it a reality, may I suggest they name the new buildings, arenas, towns and roads after those people that they wish to honour? Leave the existing infrastructure alone as all that will happen is the incurring of massive costs that could be better spent on education, hospitals, crime prevention and for the benefit of the masses. This would make more sense than confusing those same said masses with name changes.

**IAN DEW**  
eThekweni

Street renaming update – full story on page 1



**UNVEILED: eThekweni Mayor Obed Mlaba recently unveiled new signage at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli freeway, previously known as the M4**  
Picture: BONGA MSIMANG

I AM PLEASED we are changing the names of streets and buildings to truly reflect our history.

This city should visually depict what it stands for, not just in theory or policies.

Any visitor or anyone passing through this city should see the city honouring people who have contributed to bringing us to this point in our history.

Why should we continue to honour those who reinforced, contributed to or shaped apartheid and colonialism.

Those who helped usher in democracy and who have passed

on are the ones we should be honouring. Our children and children's children should be asking about Gandhi and Mncadi, Mabhida, Dadoo and Sisulu when they see their names up.

Let's celebrate this present reality of ours and those who fashioned it. If we have politically reshaped the landscape, and mentally come to terms with our post-apartheid reality (if in fact we all have), then we also need to change the physical landscape.

**V NAIDOO**  
Durban