

# Thousands join salt march

THEMBA KHUMALO

THOUSANDS of people of all colours and creeds braved the heat to relive the historic salt march from the Gandhi settlement in Phoenix to the beachfront on Sunday.

The march, which has been held every year for the past five years, was organised by the Gandhi Developmental Trust.

More than 3 000 marchers made their way along the 22km route from the settlement to the finish at the army base at Battery Beach.

They were reliving the original Salt March which ended in India on 6 April 1930, known as the Dandi March. Mahatma Gandhi organised it to protest a tax on salt imposed by the British colonial government.

Thousands from across India joined the march which lasted 24 days and covered a distance of 388km, from the Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, in Ahmedabad, to the village of Dandi, at the coast. There, Gandhi collected salt in defiance of the authorities.

He was arrested along with thousands of followers – a defining moment in India's struggle from freedom. Gandhi's legacy of "Satyagraha" which encompasses non-violence, truth, and peace found a strong echo in the non-violent struggle of the Nobel Peace Prize winner, ANC president, and advocate of ubuntu, Chief Albert Lutuli.

At the march on Sunday, Gandhi's granddaughter Ela Gandhi said: "The coming together of different people from all walks of life was what



**SPIRITUAL STEP:** Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo joins Gandhi lookalikes George Pillay, Thakor Ramjee and Krishna Parumal Govender to re-enact Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March

Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

my grandfather was always advocating for. He said we are linked together, and are part of each other.

"Seeing the different races and people from various countries participate in the march made me happy," she said.

Ela said: "We saw many people from Phoenix and its surroundings; while others came from as far as Pietermaritzburg.

"My wish is now to see people from across South Africa taking part in this march, because this is not

just a march but a call to rediscover the human spirit," she said.

Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo said: "This march reminds us of our history and the sacrifices that this great man and others made.

"His protest against the

unjust rule of law during the apartheid era inspired many other liberation movements who were able to free themselves from the shackles of colonialism through his teachings," said Naidoo.

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**See page 7**

## IN BRIEF

### Night sky adventures

TO CELEBRATE the International Year of Astronomy, the Botanic Gardens and the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa will be holding sky viewing evenings at the gardens.

Amateur astronomers will be on hand with their telescopes set up for a guided tour of the night sky.

There will also be an astronomy-related talk on each of the evenings.

It starts tonight (24 April) with a talk, "The Space Junk Generation", at the gardens Discovery Room, from 7pm.

Logan Govender, the Public Relations Officer for the association, will reveal more about the presence and threat of space junk.

The public are invited to bring picnic baskets.

Tickets are R20.

Evenings will also be held on 19 June, 21 July, 11 September and 24 November. E-mail *clementm@durban.gov.za* or call 031 309 1170.

### Call for clean nominations

THE Association of Clean Communities Trust is holding its annual general meeting and an awards ceremony in June.

The awards highlight the contributions made by community groups, businesses, schools, and the media to a cleaner environment in eThekweni.

The closing date for nominations is 22 May. Call 031 311 5845.

### Community policing forum

THE Durban North and Umhlanga Community Policing Forum is having a public meeting at Chelsea Preparatory School, Chelsea Drive, on 29 April at 6pm.

For details, call 082 908 8788 or 082 416 1240.

### Junk wanted

THE St Giles Association for the Handicapped is appealing to the public for donations of bric-a-brac and unwanted goods for sale in its charity shop. Call 031 337 4404.

### IDP festival

THE City's Integrated Development Plan Festival, formerly known as Big Mama, will take place at ICC halls A and B on 16 May from 8.30am to 12.30pm.

### Volunteer call

TAPE Aids for the Blind is looking for Afrikaans-speaking volunteers. Call 031 309 4800 or e-mail *afrikaans@tapeaids.org.za*.

## WILD TIMES



**CHIEF Executive of eTV, Marcel Golding, with Valli Moosa, the former environment minister, at the start of the Wild Talk Africa Film Festival and Conference, at the ICC**

Picture: ROMITA HANUMAN

## Ablution facility opened

ZIBUSE NDLOVU

**BUILDING** public amenities was not an electioneering ploy, but a genuine response to the needs of the people, Ward 83 Councillor Nomvuzo Shabalala said at the official handover of ablution blocks in Umlazi recently.

Shabalala said the project would improve the lives of hundreds of people living in the densely populated informal settlement at Lx3 and Jx2 sections.

"For many years, people have used pit toilets and bucket systems which are a

health risk," she said.

Over the past 10 years the City's Health, Safety and Social Services Committee has provided 63 ablution facilities to more than 50 informal settlements across eThekweni.

### Safe

The container-type facilities comprise a shower, two toilets, two urinals and two hand basins. Shabalala said these had proved to be easy to maintain and were a complete and safe sanitation facility.

Shabalala said the City

would continue to build ablution blocks until the sanitation backlog had been addressed – "in line with national policy".

Musa Nciki, Ablution Facility Manager said, "City Health has been providing toilet paper, cleaning material and educating communities on health and sanitation."

The project is funded through Municipality infrastructure grants: "The handover will continue to the northern areas, Boxwood, Pholani and Harries Farm," Nciki said.

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## Pipe project takes a turn to the south

KEN MCHUNU

**WORK** on the City's R800-million asbestos cement water mains replacement project has now reached the Kingsburgh area.

Proving slots are being dug near Lewis Drive, Athlone Park and Doonside, to establish all existing pipe and other cable connections, so as to minimise interruptions. Project Spokesman, Jochen Dedekind said: "The slots are

about 1.2m deep and more than 0.5m wide and are dug on verges and pavements."

He asked pedestrians and motorists to take care.

"Once proving and design work is complete, towards the end of May, we anticipate working in the area for four months, during which time trenches will be dug and the new modified polyvinyl chloride pipes will be laid," he said. The City undertook this

mammoth task of replacing 2 800km of the old asbestos cement pipeline, from Tongaat in the north, to Umkomaas in the south and Cato Ridge in the west to prevent a "full blown water crisis that would have happened in the not-so-distant future", said Project Executive at the City's Water and Sanitation Department, Alan Kee.

He said new pipes had an estimated 50-year lifespan. Dedekind said residents

could expect some inconvenience while pipes are being re-laid. "Roads and verges will be excavated and sometimes water supplies will be disrupted. However, the project is being carefully managed and every effort will be made to ensure minimal disruption to the community," said Dedekind.

He said water cuts would be advertised with posters and flyers. Roads and verges would be

restored to their original condition once pipe laying was completed. All pipe replacement work is set for completion by July next year.

Kee said the new pipes would cut water loss substantially, saving about R248-million a year.

He said the City expected to recoup the investment within nine years.

Complaints can be reported at 080 131 3013, toll free.

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