

Traffic plan for World Cup

MACK MAKHATHINI

WITH just six days to the World Cup, the Municipality has encouraged the public to make themselves familiar with the roads that will be closed, especially if they plan to attend matches or the Fan Fest.

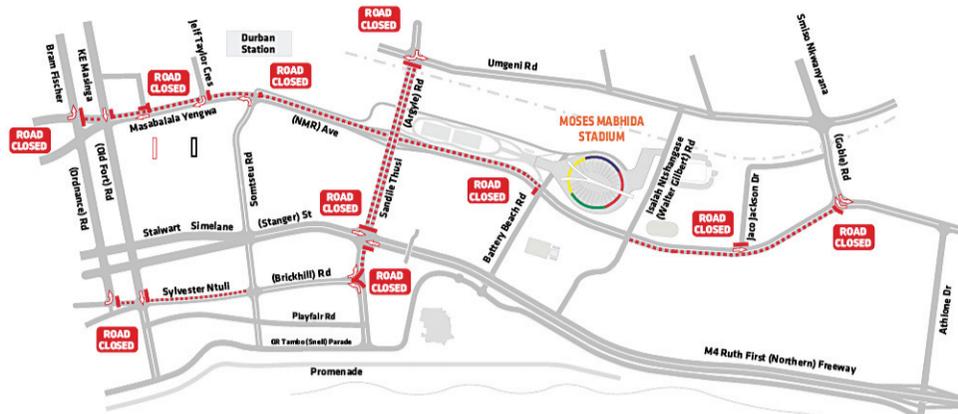
The Chairman of the Infrastructure and Procurement Committee, Councillor Visvin Reddy, said a trial run last week had tested the effectiveness and assessed the impact of the proposed closures on traffic.

This would help the eThekweni Traffic Authority (ETA) to clearly identify bottlenecks in the system.

"It also informed the public of alternative travel choices on match days and the need to alter travel times," he said.

ETA Deputy Head of Road Systems Management Carlos Esteves said people were being encouraged to consider car pooling or having someone drop them off and pick them up.

"Besides branded shuttles leaving from the Central Transport Hub (Centrum),



WAY TO GO: Durban road closure plan for World Cup match days. Additional roads may be closed too and the plan is subject to change

match goers can also walk to venues using the designated pedestrian routes, which will be clearly visible and colour-coded.

"Security will not be an issue since policing will be highly visible with entertainment planned along the way," said Esteves.

Those who were not attending matches should

leave early to avoid being late for meetings and should also consider car pooling.

Public transport

It is estimated that for every 1 000 people who car pool, there could be a decrease of 500 vehicles on the road.

People should also consider using public transport and if

possible plan their leave for that day.

For more information:
• Visit www.fifaworldcup.durban.gov.za.

• Call the Public Transport Call Centre at 086 100 0834 for regular transport updates.

• Become a fan on Facebook at Durban's WC2010 Transport.

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Roads to be closed on match days

- Masabalala Yengwa (NMR) Ave at Smiso Nkwananya (Goble) Rd
- Jaco Jackson Dr at Masabalala Yengwa Ave
- Masabalala Yengwa Ave at Battery Beach Rd
- Sandile Thusi (Argyle) Rd at Umgeni Rd
- Sandile Thusi Rd at Ruth First Highway (M4)
- Sandile Thusi Rd at Sylvester Ntuli (Brickhill) Rd
- Masabalala Yengwa Ave at Somtseu Rd (note that the southbound carriageway of Masabalala Yengwa Ave between Somtseu Rd and KE Masinga (Old Fort) Rd is open)
- Archie Gumede Pl at Masabalala Yengwa Ave
- Masabalala Yengwa Ave at KE Masinga Rd
- Masabalala Yengwa Ave at Archie Gumede Pl
- Samora Machel (Aliwal) St at Bram Fischer (Ordnance) Rd
- Sylvester Ntuli Rd at KE Masinga Rd
- Shepstone St at Bram Fischer Rd

'Ready for any disaster'

KHAYA SENGANI

THE Municipality is ready to meet any catastrophe during and beyond the World Cup. That was the message from officials following the opening this week of the Municipality's newly upgraded Disaster Management Centre.

The revamp cost about R40-million and included extensive renovations and the installation of the latest computer and communications technology.

The facility, at Jelf Taylor Road, is the nerve-centre from which disasters and major incidents can be efficiently managed. Units housed in the centre include Disaster Management and Emergency Control.

Emergency calls will be answered and the Municipality's closed circuit television camera network will be monitored here, and appropriate agencies and resources will be dispatched.

The centre is linked directly to the national and provincial disaster management centres and other services and agencies, including the South African Police Force.

It also incorporates a media briefing room from which a senior city official or agency representative can brief the media on major incidents or disasters as they unfold.

The centre provides washing, rest and recuperation areas for staff working shifts, allowing work at the centre to go on, even during lengthy incidents.

The centre has a modern communication network making it possible for staff to communicate via the internet, or to an official at an incident by radio or cellphone.

A video display panel can display several feeds at the same time, providing centre staff with a wealth of information for managing major incidents and disasters.

Mark TeWater, the Deputy Head of the Municipality's Fire and Emergencies Department and Acting Head of the Disaster Management Department, said the centre was on par with the best in the world.

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Millions spent so all can watch

THEMBA KHUMALO

THE KwaZulu-Natal Government has spent some R80-million on setting up public viewing areas (PVAs) for the World Cup across the province's rural communities.

Unveiling the programme, Ina Cronje, who was acting as MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, said, "We want to ensure that all our people, even those who live outside the host cities are able



INA CRONJE

to bask in the magic of the World Cup."

Cronje said KwaZulu-Natal will have 10 public viewing areas in ten municipalities.

She stressed that, although entrance was free, it would be on a first-come-first-served basis and they would be a strong presence of police and traffic control.

She said 940 safety volunteers had been trained and 6 600 local artists were scheduled to perform.

"The artists will be paid by the Department of Arts and Culture. They will consist of 160 established artists, 80 comedians and 160 poets, plus 80 community radio DJs and 320 visual artists."

She said about 120 small businesses and co-operatives will be given the chance to trade at the PVA venues.

Cronje said the PVAs were not as restrictive as the Fifa fan parks when it came to goods sold. Durban has a fan park on the beachfront, which was recently unveiled by KZN Provincial and Municipality dignitaries.

The Province has formed a partnership with Boxer Super Store for the Umgungundlovu,

Sisonke, and Zululand-based PVAs. It will provide 80% of the services and will supply small businesses with infrastructure, communications, give-aways and branding in the other seven District PVAs.

Boxer Super Store Marketing Director Andrew Mills said, "When it was announced that South Africa would host the World Cup, we thought of how we could contribute to the spectacle.

"We are proud to say we are giving back to our loyal customers by bringing the soccer to those who might not be able to afford tickets or travel to other PVAs in major cities," he said.

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Volunteers ready

MACK MAKHATHINI

MORE than 950 World Cup volunteers recruited by the Municipality are completing their training and will be ready to assist visitors from next week.

The 2010 Host City Volunteer Programme volunteers include municipal staff, members of the public and students.

Magash Naidoo of the Procurement and Infrastructure Unit said the volunteers would be deployed at the airport, public viewing areas, fan parks, shopping malls, train, bus and taxi stations, as well as park-and-

rides and other key locations.

"Shift rosters will be in place as volunteer teams will be needed to man posts around the city, 18 hours a day on a shift roster of six hours a volunteer," Naidoo said.

Sithembile Ngilande, also of the unit, said the volunteers were expected to be courteous and well groomed. "They will be energetic and well versed in the information visitors need," she said.

Their graduation ceremony takes place on Tuesday at the City Hall. They will receive their uniforms, deployment plans and a final training session will take place.

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Readiness of staff in focus

THE Parks, Recreation and Culture Unit recently hosted a World Cup readiness event for staff at the Tongaat Town Hall.

It covered topics like how many teams are coming, how many are from Africa and the colours of the various national flags.

Unit Head Thembinkosi Ngcobo said, "The aim was to celebrate our culture. We need to be proud of our country. It has been 116 years since Eric Sontonga composed the National Anthem, but some still find it difficult to sing it correctly." - *Andile Mnyandu*

Come learn about tourism

SOHANA SINGH

THE Municipality's Durban Tourism Unit plans to take full advantage of the World Cup to show off its products and attractions to the world.

The strategy will also showcase marginal areas in a bid to spread tourism benefits to previously disadvantaged areas.

To ensure support from all Durban residents, the Unit is launching a campaign aimed at explaining the benefits of tourism to communities across eThekweni.

The first campaign event is on 6 June at the JL Dube stadium in Inanda from 9am to 4pm and the second is on 10 June at uMlazi Mega City from 11am to 3pm.

Popular DJ's, Big Nuz and Tira, will be entertaining crowds and encouraging them to learn the Diski Dance. Competitions and free T-shirts will be another draw card.

Durban Tourism Acting Head Philip Sithole said the events, "are aimed at enhancing communities' understanding of tourism and building their recognition of

tourism as an important contributor to the local economy."

He said they would include information on the potential benefits of the World Cup, the Moses Mabhida Stadium, Fifa Fan Fest and Public Viewing Areas and new tourism products and brands such as Woza eNanda.

Educational programmes would highlight the importance of protecting visitors and tourism assets.

For more information tune into Inanda FM (88.4FM) and Vibe FM (94.7FM).

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THEMBA KHUMALO

AN INTERNATIONAL cricket match will be played at the Moses Mabhida to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indian people in South Africa.

The board of Cricket South Africa (CSA) has accepted an offer from the Municipality to host a match between India and South Africa to mark the

Mabhida to host cricket

occasion. The one-off Twenty-20 match will be played on 9 January next year.

Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo said, "This is history in the making. Moses Mabhida has a capacity of 70 000, so it will be the biggest live cricket crowd in the country ever. We are

delighted that Cricket South Africa has accepted our offer."

The teams will contest for the Krish Mackerdhuj Trophy. Mackerdhuj was the first non-white president of South Africa's cricket board after the dismantling of apartheid.

A staunch opponent of the

old order, he lobbied the International Cricket Council to ensure South Africa was prevented from playing Test cricket until apartheid was abolished. But when things changed, in 1991 he pioneered South Africa's first cricket tour of India in 1991.

Mackerdhuj died in 2004 after a heart attack at the age of 64.

CSA Chief Executive Gerald Majola said, "This match will be the CSA's way of acknowledging the contribution to the progress of South Africa made by the Indian community and India for its support of cricket here since unity."

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M4 red lanes set to open

GUGU MDLALOSE

THE new "red tar" public transport lanes on the Nkosi Albert Luthuli Freeway (M4) will officially open on Sunday.

The north- and south-bound lanes, from the Congella pedestrian bridge to the Quality Street bridge are expected to reduce delays experienced by commuters, especially those using buses and taxis.

Work began on the R175-million project in November 2008 and it is set to open for traffic on schedule, just days ahead of the World Cup kick-off.

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