

■ METRO

District Six event approved

Heritage Day celebration to showcase culture to the rest of the world

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IT'S all systems go for the District Six Working Committee Heritage Day event in September while claimants wait with bated breath for the outcome of the committee's class action case against the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

"I had a meeting with the mayor and they have approved a budget for our Heritage Day event which will take place in September. It will be an historic day for residents of District Six because we will showcase our culture to the rest of the world," said Shahied Ajam chairperson of the committee. Ajam was speaking at a mass meeting in Salt River on Saturday morning.

The committee is fighting tooth and nail to get as many signatures as

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Shahied Ajam
DISTRICT SIX WORKING COMMITTEE

possible to support the renaming of Keizersgracht Street to Hanover Street.

"I don't think many people understand that we have to heal and this is the first step in healing. We have suffered for a long time. I have always said that the renaming of Keizersgracht to Hanover Street is symbolic," he said.

Ajam also used the opportunity to brief the claimants about a recent meeting with the department's new minister, Thoko Didiza.

"The minister told me that if all the groups unite and speak with one voice then the process of District Six will go quickly," he said. Ajam also urged members to keep politics out of the organisation.

"Your adversary will say this is a DA idea. This organisation is apolitical. Don't bring your politics to the working committee," he said.

The District Six claimants are currently locked in a class action lawsuit against the government over its failure to deliver restitution to community members who were removed from the area under apartheid.

When Didiza was appointed in May they welcomed her appointment

but said they had high expectations.

Former minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, was ordered by a court in May to submit a detailed plan for the development of District Six. Instead she submitted papers saying she would not be able to do so before August.

Didiza, together with deputy ministers, Mcebisi Skwatsha and Sdumo Dlamini, is expected to table the department's implementation plans for the 2019/20 financial year during her Budget Vote speech tomorrow.

"The judges will have a difficult task when it comes to making a decision in this matter because what we are asking is a lot. We are not entirely sure when a decision will be made. It could be next week or next month," Ajam said.

■ ENVIRONMENT

Strand kids set out to rescue the future

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IF A 10-year-old kid is concerned enough about the environment to start a beach clean-up campaign then the future of our planet is in safe hands.

Future Kids Club founder Rocco da Silva, 10, is an inspiration to his generation and his campaign is taking plastic-free July to the beaches. The club consists of 100 young children and about 40 of them do a clean-up every month at Strand beach.

"I feel my job is to remove plastic off the beach and ask others to join me, but most importantly it's all of our responsibility to stop encouraging the use and manufacturing of single-use plastic, especially that which can't be recycled," said Da Silva.

"We need to use our power and stop buying plastic products from large companies and industries.

"We're just fuelling them when we buy their products. So many species are becoming extinct and it's our fault as we're treating the planet like it can be thrown away and replaced," said Da Silva.

An ocean pledge was made by Da Silva in March for 1000kg of waste to be collected and he expected to have achieved that goal yesterday.

Da Silva became the #Plastic-FreeMzansi campaign ambassador for this month, which is about encouraging followers on social media to avoid using plastic items and use alternatives instead.



THE Future Kids Club members during a clean-up. | SUPPLIED

The public is being challenged not to use three items – plastic earbuds, chip packets and bottles.

#PlasticFreeMzansi is an initiative created by non-profit organisations including Beach Co-op, WWF South Africa, WWS SASSI and TWYG.

"I'm enthusiastic about being an ambassador because I want to encourage people and show them that it's not hard to remove a few items from their daily lives which will make a large dif-

ference in the environment," he said.

Da Silva said that he had noticed positive changes in the young members' behaviour since they took part in the clean-ups.

His school friends refused to use polystyrene and families had started avoiding the use of plastic straws and shopping bags.

"We are the next generation and it's our responsibility to make the right choices," said Da Silva.



■ CHARITY



BERYL Williams, left, serves food to the needy. | SUPPLIED

Feeding needy on Mandela Day

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A LOTUS River community worker will be cooking up a storm and inviting needy children in the area to have lunch at her home on Mandela Day.

Beryl Williams has been donating food and clothes to Phumlani Village near Lotus River and Egoli in Philippi since 1999.

"I started feeding the needy and homeless on a small scale, because growing up in Lotus River, I saw the poverty in the community and that there was a need for the work I was doing," said Williams.

"I also donate blankets and clothes for fire victims," she said.

While the money comes out of her own pocket, Williams does sometimes receive donations and assistance from community members, local schools, churches and Pick n Pay, which donates Easter eggs and buns over Easter.

"I asked Pick n Pay in Constantia

for their rolls and bread from the previous day, which is a very big help. I can always fill the tummies of the needy with bread or a roll," she said.

"This Mandela Day I'll be going all out. I invited some kids to my house for lunch and I'll be distributing food, clothes and shoes to informal settlements."

Williams also has a good relationship with the SAPS.

"I work closely with Grassy Park's Captain Wynita Kleinsmit.

"I always invite her to give pep talks to the young ones," she said.

"When people come from the Lotus River Day Hospital, this is their first stop for anything to eat.

"I will always give pensioners a sandwich and then drive them home. The kids from Perivale Primary School also pop by."

Williams sometimes drives around Phumlani or Egoli to check on the small kids.

"To me it's always a great pleasure to assist the needy because these are my roots," she said.

■ METRO

Local change-makers honoured

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SEVENTY-SEVEN individuals from around Cape Town who had effected change in their communities will see their portraits adorning the walls of Cape Town Station, as part of an initiative to honour their work.

From restaurant owners to primary school learners, these 77 change-makers have been chosen based on their involvement in an initiative that has created a social impact in under-resourced communities in Cape Town.

The Generation Next founder, Ludovic Baussan, said: "When I arrived in Cape Town from France for the first time six months ago, I was struck by the number of small organisations that are involved in social initiatives supporting under-resourced communities."

Baussan said usually only the social projects undertaken by the government and large organisations got publicised, rarely the ones from

individuals and smaller organisations

"I thought it was important to share the inspiring stories of these change-makers with all Capetonians," he said.

Baussan said initiatives like these were important because "almost three decades after the end of apartheid, and despite progress accomplished, South African society is still deeply divided".

"We believe it's important to speak about the matters that unite Capetonians rather than the ones that divide them," he said.

Baussan said this project aimed to highlight that it was not necessary to have a lot of money to make an impact on society, promote values and ideals, and contribute to positive change.

"We hope that this art installation can shift some established perceptions, spark some interesting conversations among the public and inspire a new generation of positive change-makers," he said. The installation will be up until August 30.



PORTRAITS of change-makers line the walls of the Cape Town Station as part of an initiative to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18. | SUPPLIED



Lesiba 'Ike' Maphoto

Struggle veteran 'Bra Ike' hailed

THE ANC has mourned the death of Struggle veteran Lesiba "Ike" Maphoto at the age of 88 on Saturday.

"Bra Ike, as he was popularly known, belonged to that generation of selfless freedom fighters who were prepared to pay the ultimate price in pursuit of the liberation of their country," the ANC said in a statement.

"He joined the ANC at a time when it was not fashionable to do so. Being a member of the ANC at the time was an invitation for state harassment, police brutality, torture, and even death," it said.

History would record that Maphoto was one of the first recruits of Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK). He received training in the former Soviet Union as part of the "Luthuli Detachment". | African News Agency (ANA)

Couple injured after falling off bridge

A MAN and a woman were seriously injured when they fell from a bridge down an embankment on Escom Road in Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal, just after midnight on Saturday.

Rescue Care paramedics arrived on the scene "to hear screams coming from below", spokesperson Garrith Jamieson said.

"The paramedics used torches and saw two people lying at the bottom. The paramedics called for rescue personnel before making their way down to the injured, and creating a pathway."

They stabilised the injured pair before taking them to hospital, Jamieson said. Police are investigating. | African News Agency (ANA)

Some Life Esidimeni claims still not paid

RELATIVES of Life Esidimeni patients who survived the botched transfer to NGOs are dissatisfied that not all compensation claims have been paid and those who have been paid have only received 50% of the stipulated amount of R1 180 000, the DA said yesterday.

"In terms of the Master of the Court process it's been determined that 50% (R590 000) should be paid to the relatives and the other 50% into a trust to be administered for the benefit of the patient," DA spokesperson Jack Bloom said.

About 300 families represented by the Life Esidimeni Tragedy Committee accused the Gauteng premier's office of breaking an agreement with them not to put the money into a trust.

"They say they should have a role in administering the money," Bloom said. | African News Agency (ANA)

SABC denies it plans to retrench staff

THE SABC dismissed media claims that it plans to cut staff, saying it does not have any new plans to retrench staff.

"The SABC has noted the Sunday Times' article published today (yesterday) 'SABC's plan cuts up to a third of staff', and refutes the claims made in the story", SABC spokeswoman Vuyo Mthembu said.

"The SABC would like to put on record that it does not have any new plans to retrench staff, and the (Sunday Times) journalist only enquired about the 11 preconditions in relation to the SABC's application for funding to National Treasury," she said.

The SABC requested that the process of the funding application be allowed to be finalised in order not to create panic among employees. | African News Agency (ANA)