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APRIL - JULY
Cableway lawyers to discuss dispute

ANDREA WEISS

The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company is taking legal advice today following a decision by the National Monument's Council (NMC) to halt a proposed R60 million upgrade which was to have started today.

The NMC said that an integrated environmental impact procedure would have to be completed before it could agree to the upgrade.

The mountain is a national monument, making the NMC one of three authorities which have to give permission for the upgrade.

The other two - the Cape Town City Council and Western Cape Premier Herma Kriel - have given conditional approval.

John Harrison, managing director of the company, said their lawyers would be meeting later today to discuss the situation.

A contract with the city council, which was one of the conditions imposed by the NMC, was nearing completion, he said.

Dave Daniels, city planner, said on Friday that the final building plans would also have to go before the city's urban planning committee.

Kobus Meiring, provincial Minister of Finance and Environment, faxed a letter to the company on Friday giving consent in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act to permit the upgrading.

Mr Meiring said the consent was conditional upon "reasonable modifications" being made to the proposed architecture of the new buildings at the lower and upper cables to satisfy suggestions by the review committee chaired by Revel Fox.

The Fox committee was appointed by the city council to review plans submitted by the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company.

Mr Meiring said an environmental impact assessment would also have to be prepared to the satisfaction of the city council and the National Parks Board.

This would have to cover the proposed waste water and sewerage system, as well as the removal of modification of existing overhead electrical supply cable.
UPGRADE COULD BE DELAYED BY YEAR

Cableway company seeks urgent meeting

THE CABLEWAY COMPANY wants to persuade the National Monuments Council to allow it to go ahead with its upgrade of buildings, despite the fact that environmental impact studies are incomplete. PETER DENNEHY reports.

URGENT talks will be sought today between the cableway company and the National Monuments Council, which last week effectively halted the impending R50-million cableway upgrading.

Chairman of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company Mr Louis de Waal said yesterday that while the mountain was a national monument the buildings on it were not.

He wants permission to go ahead immediately with proposed alterations to buildings on the mountain while the required environmental impact studies on the sewage, water and electricity, and other issues continue.

The NMC met on Friday, listened to a half-hour presentation by the cableway company, asked a few questions about whether the environmental studies had been completed and then sent a fax to the company saying the impact assessment must stand up to national and international scrutiny before the upgrade would be given the go-ahead.

A report to the Cape Town City Council last week said council planners had criticised the environmental studies commissioned by the cableway company, saying they had not considered enough alternatives — "such as directional drilling".

This drilling, which would incur high costs, would require mining company experts to shift their equipment to the top of the mountain to drill a 70mm-diameter hole through the mountain.

The shaft would start out going vertically downward, but gradually curve so that it came out horizontally at the bottom of the mountain, where it would be connected to the city's sewerage system.

Sewage from the toilets at the top of the mountain would have to be mulched before being sent down the drilled hole to minimise blockages.

City planners stressed that they wanted to stick to the principle that "what goes up must come down". They do not like the existing septic tank and soak-away system.

De Waal said his company had looked at the alternative of bringing the sewage down in the tanks under the proposed new cablecars, but rejected the idea.

"You drop a handful of sewage and it smells for a week."

A meeting with the NMC will be sought today. If the impact studies have to be completed before any engineering work is done, which includes installation of the cable machinery at the lower station instead of the upper station, the cableway upgrade will be delayed for at least a year.

The NMC's Mr George Hofmeyr could not be reached for comment yesterday.
Tour operators hit at cableway delay

BIG TOUR operators have expressed disbelief over the National Monuments Council (NMC) decision to delay the upgrading of the Table Mountain cableway.

But the Wildlife Society has expressed support for the NMC, saying developments should not take place before all the studies for an Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process have been completed.

The Tour Operators Association of Cape Town, which has about 30 members including all leading tour-bus companies, said in a statement that every group in the city had Table Mountain cableway on its itinerary.

Vice-chairman David Mutton said in a statement: "People come thousands of miles to ascend Table Mountain. Since the elections and the boom in tourism, the old cableway cannot cope with the tourism traffic.

"It is in desperate need of upgrading. To delay the upgrade now will put tourism back years."

Mr Mutton said this year would probably be the last winter that the cableway could close for eight months for upgrading because of the growth in tourism.

Mr Minton said his organisation believed there was a balance to be achieved between the environment and nature conservation issues.

However, his organisation's members were astounded "that after all the effort expended", the NMC should pronounce that the upgrade could not proceed:

"The Wildlife Society told the chairman of the city council's urban planning committee, Siviwe Matika, that Table Mountain's facilities should be of an international standard and any proposals considered should follow an environmental process of international standards."

"The most important aspect of an environmental-impact assessment - the involvement of the public in the decision-making process - must still be completed.

"It would be a grave mistake to take a decision to allow construction to commence until such time as these requirements have been met," the Society said.

The NMC has jurisdiction over Table Mountain as a declared National Monument.
Captour shock
Heather Parker
18/4/76
CAPTOUR, the non-profit Western Cape tourism body, has suffered a double blow with the simultaneous resignation of the manager and assistant manager in the marketing and public relations section.
Lauren Jo, Wet, former manager, and Rod Ka Keere, assistant manager, left Captour last week after a combined service of nine years, to set up their own Cape Town-based tourism consultancy, Destination Marketing.
30-year-old technology 'a legal risk'

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

THE continued use of a 30-year-old electrical system and technical difficulties around evacuating a cable car if it was stranded over the upper cliff of Table Mountain, could have serious consequences for the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, a Canadian firm of engineers has warned.

The firm was commissioned by the Cape Town City Council to evaluate the safety aspects of the cableway more than a year ago. The report surfaced again this week amid a heated dispute between the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, which wants to proceed with a R61-million upgrade, and the National Monuments Council, which has called a halt to the project pending the finalisation of all relevant environmental studies.

While the report, by Robert McLeish, a retired cableway operator from Vancouver, Canada, did not predict any impending disasters, it warned that there could be 'ample grounds for a lawsuit' in the event of an accident on the ropeway.

John Harrison, managing director of the company, said the report was nothing but a 'smokescreen' of recent court actions.

'We are clearly not as safe as we should be,' he said. 'The system clearly needs to be upgraded but there is no question of safety being compromised,' he said.

Monuments council hits back

Row hots up over cableway upgrade

JOHN VEYOD
Environment Reporter

THE National Monuments Council (NMC) has hit back at critics of its decision to insist on the completion of an environmental impact assessment before approving the Table Mountain cableway company's plan to upgrade its facilities.

The company had hoped to start work this week. There had been strong support and political pressure from the provincial government and the Cape Town City Council to allow the cableway company to "bend the rules" of the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process which it had been following for the proposed upgrade.

But at its meeting last Friday, the NMC insisted that an impact assessment had to be completed first.

Table Mountain is a declared national monument.

In a statement, NMC director George Hofmeyr said it was not its intention to delay the proposed upgrade unnecessarily.

"The onus is on the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company to complete the environmental impact study as soon as possible. Reports of delays of more than a year are unfounded as far as the Monuments Council is concerned."

There was a misconception that the upper and lower cableway stations were not protected in terms of the National Monuments Act, Mr Hofmeyr said.

A spokesman for the cableway company had alleged that the company's delegation had been allowed only 30 minutes to make a presentation at the council's meeting on Friday.

"The facts are that the council agreed to have an extraordinary meeting at the request of the (cableway) company," Mr Hofmeyr said.

"Unfortunately this necessitated a relatively short meeting to fit in with flight arrangements of members from all over the country."

"The council's decisions were not only based on the presentation, but on all relevant information sent to members, as well as the advice of other organisations and senior staff."
Ball plays the game with the anxious greens

JOHN YIELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are to meet Cape Town Olympic Bid chief executive Chris Ball today to discuss their further participation in the city's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

The Olympics Environment Working Group is a coalition of representatives of the Wildlife Society, the Habitat Council, Captrust, the Khayelitsha Environment, and Tourism Forum, Earthlife Africa, the Botanical Society, and the People's Dialogue.

The group has compiled a list of "minimum requirements" for its future involvement, which it wants to discuss with Mr Ball at today's meeting.

The move follows widespread unhappiness in the "green" lobby that environmental issues have been downplayed in the bid process.

This is an allegation rejected by the bid company, although it acknowledges there have been unfortunate delays in dealing with some environmental issues.

Some environmental voice on the bid company's board of directors.

The environmental lobby may insist on such representation in the future.

Its list will be released publicly a few hours before the meeting and a joint Press conference has been scheduled for later.
Greenbacks versus green on cableway

C 3/4/96

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Table Mountain cableway debate has evolved into a battle between the environment and economics.

An urgent meeting scheduled for yesterday was postponed to today as the National Parks Board could not attend.

At today’s meeting the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC) will try to press the National Monumental Council (NMC) to revoke its decision not to let the R61-million upgrading go ahead until the integrated environmental process has been completed.

The NMC has said it will not back down and that it is up to the company to complete its environmental process before it gives the green light for the project.

The TMACC is backed by City Council and provincial politicians and by the local tourism industry. The NMC is supported by the National Parks Board, green non-government organisations, several academics and the management advisory committee of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

Those who want to protect the environment say it is essential that the project should not go ahead until the environmental impact assessments have been completed.

Those in favour of starting construction say the city cannot afford to lose out on next summer’s tourist takings. They argue that the possible environmental impacts of sewage, electricity, water and other elements should be sorted out as construction progresses.

TMACC’s director Mr Louis de Waal said yesterday: “Some people say we don’t care about the mountain. That is hogwash. We’ve cleaned up the mountain more than anyone. The integrated environmental management process for upgrading the cableway has already cost us R100 000.”

“Province and the City Council have said we can go ahead provided we sort out the sewage system, the electricity cable, the water supply and the control of parking. We’ve agreed to do that while we start construction of the cableway and restaurants.”

The NMC’s director, Mr George Hofmeyr, said his council and its environmental advisers did not believe it was possible to start a section of the project while the impacts of others were being studied.

“The onus is on the TMACC to complete the reports. It started the EIM process and then it seemed to peter out. The (NMC) council has taken a decision and it is definitely not going to overrule it,” he said.
‘Disbelief’ over delay of busy cableway upgrade

Cape Town – Major tour operators have expressed “total disbelief” at the National Monuments Council (NMC) decision to delay the upgrading of the Table Mountain cableway.

But the Wildlife Society has expressed support for the NMC, saying developments should not take place before all the studies for an Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process have been completed.

The Tour Operators’ Association of Cape Town, which has about 50 members – including all the major tour bus companies – issued a statement saying every group in the city had Table Mountain cableway on its itinerary.

Vice-chairman David Mutton said in a statement: “People come thousands of miles to ascend Table Mountain. Since the elections and the boom in tourism, the old cableway cannot cope. It is in desperate need of upgrading. To delay the upgrade now will put tourism back years.”

He said this year would probably be the last winter the cableway could close for eight months for an upgrade.
Cableway: NMC stands firm

MELANIE GOSLING
CT 4/4/96

THE National Monuments Council has stuck to its guns in not approving the controversial R61-million upgrading of the Table Mountain cableway after a “long and hot debate” yesterday with the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC).

The TMACC has appealed to the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane, to have the NMC’s decision overturned.

The NMC’s director, Mr George Hofmeyr, said last night: “They (TMACC) hoped we would give approval for construction on the cableway buildings to begin while the integrated environmental management (IEM) process was incomplete. However, there are just too many loose ends for us to give approval.”

He said the NMC agreed at the meeting to spell out exactly what IEM processes the TMACC still had to complete.
‘Tourists, pay up,’ says Home Affairs

The Home Affairs Department plans to charge exorbitant fees for permanent residence, work permit and visa applications; reports Marion Edmunds

The Mail & Guardian has established that the department will charge more than R1 500 for visas for tourists. These tariffs could be introduced at the beginning of May when regulations flowing from the Aliens Control Amendment Act are scheduled to be promulgated. The Act, which was passed by Parliament last year but is yet to be implemented, was meant to introduce a new era of transparency and accountability to Home Affairs and, in particular, open up its immigration policy to public scrutiny. The more the M&G probed, the greater the mystery surrounding the department’s Immigration Board becomes. A legal adviser to the Home Affairs Department, Attie Troodroux, said this week that the board comprised five people who were not government officials and who evaluated applications centrally in Pretoria, but who could delegate responsibility to immigration committees if needs be.

He said that Home Affairs would be reluctant to identify these five people because they needed to be protected from members of the public who might inundate them with requests for immigration permits. However, this need to protect the current Immigration Board is contradicted by the department’s desire to elect a new Immigration Board through public hearings in a bid to make the immigration selection process more transparent.

The Mail & Guardian has been contacted by members of the public who say they believe there is no real Immigration Board and that applications for permanent residence are processed by normal departmental officials. Two weeks’ worth of faxing and telephone calls to the department requesting information about the board have not yet prompted clear answers.
**SURE BET**

**FM 5/4/96**

Despite the fact that Protea Hotels has taken a policy decision not to become actively involved in casino operations, the hotel management group has shown its partners that it can coin money as well as roulette tables do. Within five months of operations at its newest venture in Africa, the balance sheets of the Grand Palm Hotel Casino resort in Botswana are in the black again.

"We have turned business around by 30%, from a 25% loss to a 5% profit," says Grand Palm GM Jo Huse. He says he is encouraged by the fact that occupancy has increased by about 15% since the Protea take-over.

Huse and Protea's performance is a far cry from the results which the Sheraton group had managed while running the Gaborone Sheraton Hotel & Towers. It was as a result of the huge losses incurred that Global Resort, the casino group headed by former Sun International executive Ernie Joubert succeeded in a take-over last year. Global Resorts now own a 60% stake and the Botswana Development Corp the remaining 40%.

The Global Resorts/Protea relationship originated at the time the Sheraton-run hotel was in liquidation and Protea, Africa's largest hotel group, was operating the property on behalf of the liquidators. On September 1, 1995 Protea secured a five-year management contract with the new owners to run the hotel.

The Grand Palm has now become Protea's 11th premier hotel in Africa. The others in the group's stables are seven in SA, and one each in Swaziland, Malawi and Egypt. "Botswana is an important link in the Cape-to-Egypt tourist access which became a reality last year with the signing of Protea's first hotel in Egypt," says Protea's group PR Ray Smuts.

Meanwhile, the Grand Palm's casino resort, built at a cost of R25m, had its roof-wetting last week. "We expect the resort to be completed by early April," says Huse. While Protea will not be involved with the running of the casino, Huse has personal experience in that field. He has managed Sun International's Swaziland hotels for many years.

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More rooms with a view

A burgeoning tourism industry and increasing room occupancies are leading property financiers to look actively again at hotel investments.

Traditionally, lending on hotel developments has been kept below 5% in most institutional portfolios. But Standard Corporate & Merchant Bank (SCMB) and Syfrets say that they’re about to lift those thresholds — in Syfrets’ case to between 5% and 10% by year-end.

SCMB property finance director Geoff Cannings says the difference of an extra few percentage points in room occupancies is turning hotel ventures into viable lending propositions.

“There’s still a reluctance among hotel management companies to sign leases, as opposed to management contracts. This is one of the reasons why banks have shied away from the sector.

“But with occupancy rates up, the hotels’ debt-servicing potential is increasing. Added to that, certain investors — primarily foreigners — are bringing more equity to the party in brand-name hotel projects.”

Cannings believes that hotels need to be equity rather than debt financed. “Hotel debt financing levels are between 20% to 30%, which isn’t high by normal prop-

erty gearing standards of around 66% to 75%. If we could achieve that level of equity financing by foreign and local investors, we’d be delighted.”

Cannings is looking at five hotel projects, two of which are linked to casino licence applications. Of those, three are in Cape Town and the remainder in Johannesburg.

Syfrets, a more proactive player in the hotel market than most other banks, generally takes a softer line on interest rates to make debt servicing easier. It’s looking at projects in the three- to five-star market.

Syfrets Western Cape GM Derek Johnston says that, at average room occupancies of 70%, many hotels can break even. But each case is different.

Syfrets is financing the Cape Grace at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Kyns Quays, the Mijlof Hotel and the Manor Hotel in Cape Town, and Meyer Budow’s President Hotel at Sea Point. Last week, the bank began discussions with foreign and local investors on a large development — which will include another city centre hotel.

Johnston says Syfrets may increase its loan exposure by R250m this year. “This is a more aggressive investment than last year’s exposure of just under 4% of our book. We see the dire shortage of hotel rooms in the Western Cape and the importance of tourism as a window of opportunity.”

Kessel Feinstein hotel analyst Delano Caras is encouraged by the positive stance being taken and believes banks are following the lead taken by other institutions, such as Iscor, Transnet’s pension fund and Liberty Life Properties.

“While institutional nervousness was justified previously, because of low occupancies, they are recognising the strong growth in the industry.” Caras says. “It would be foolish for them to be sceptical now. While a single hotel project requires a large capital investment, they seem at least to be looking at projects on their merit rather than adopting a blanket view. This is a positive development.”
I have given my life to the struggle for a democracy, one that would not be at the expense of the people. I certainly don’t want to go down as a person leaving Cape Town with huge debt.

The all important task of selling the merits of Cape Town’s Olympic bid to the world and to Capetonians has fallen on the shoulders of a leading journalist with political clout, writes ADELE BAILETA, Staff Reporter.

opposed to the bid, he said: "What we are up against is a small group of people who raise the same old questions over and over again – questions about lack of consultation and lack of planning. We have answered all of these questions.

"I believe in the Olympic Games. The socio-economic impact of hosting the Games will be great. I have given my life to the struggle for democracy - one that would not be at the expense of the people. I certainly don’t want to go down as a person leaving Cape Town with huge debt."

He said he had consulted people in government and felt assured about taking up the position.

"Cape Town must be developed as a tourist centre. A reason for this is that it is one of the most seductive cities in the world.

"Our country is opening up not only to the international community, but to our own people."

"In the past black people in general were not allowed to stay in hotels when they came to visit Cape Town. We had to crash anywhere," he said.

Akhalwaya said he had been supplementing the work of the community relations department, which meant holding extensive discussions with the people in the community, informing them about the bid.

Akhalwaya left Absa Bank as manager of media relations, to take up his position on the Bid’s management team as media director at the beginning of March. The post as media director sees him going full circle in his journalism career, which started out because of his love of sport.

"In any case, I brought together his passion for the media, sport and politics.

Born in Fordsburg and raised in Sophiatown, he was a former Transvaal provincial cricketer on the old South African Cricket Board of Control headed by Has-san Howa.

He said the inequities in sport at the time and the lack of coverage of black sport spurred him to become a journalist.

Akhalwaya joined the Rand Daily Mail 25 years ago, specialising in the political aspects of sport, including the Olympic Games.

He was later appointed as political reporter and metropolitan editor of the newspaper before moving on to become chief sub-editor of the Sunday Express.

He also spent eight years with the Indicator, which was acquired by the ANC in 1993.

Supporting the slogan of "No normal sport in an abnormal society" he worked closely with the SA Council on Sport (Sacos) and the exiled Sanrou.

"Now, in our exciting young democracy, I believe in the concept of developing sport in a democratic society.

"The success of the Cape Town Olympic Bid would be the crowning glory for the many people who sacrificed so much, but there would be sporting justice in a democratic country," he said.

Akhalwaya lives in Rondebosch with his wife Partida, also a journalist, and his three children.

His message to Cape Town: "No one will prescribe to you. I hope you understand the consultative nature and needs of Capetonians. I am all for that.

"The people must point us in the right direction. If they think we are going in some areas, then we will welcome constructive criticism to aid the process."
A BOSS: Ameen Akhalwaya settles into his office as the newly appointed media director of the Olympic bid.
Top journalist to sell Cape’s Olympic bid

By Adele Balea

In the countdown to an imminent final decision by the Cabinet on the future of Cape Town’s Olympic bid, senior journalist Ameen Akhawaya has been appointed to the company’s management team as media director.

Well known for his vitriolic political columns, the former founding editor of the Indicator, one of the alternative newspapers of the 1980s, apparently thrives on being in the hot seat.

But this Harvard University Niemeyer Fellow is now probably facing the greatest challenge of his career.

His brief is to convince the international community that Cape Town is capable of hosting the world’s most prestigious sporting event – the Olympic Games.

With 22 years’ experience in journalism, a former sports activist and trade union heavyweight, he is likely to be a major asset to the bid company in bringing the local community on board for the 2004 Games.

Akhawaya headed SABC-TV’s current affairs coverage of the 1994 national election campaign, as well as the negotiation, organisation and editing of the internationally televised debate between President Nelson Mandela and one of his deputies, F.W. de Klerk.

He is confident that the Cabinet will approve the bid, that Cape Town will win it and that reliable research has shown that most Capetonians – 90% – are behind it. “Winning the bid is important for the dignity of the African continent,” he says.

Akhawaya dismisses reports that there are a significant number of people who are opposed to the games because they are concerned about the resultant bankruptcy of Cape Town’s casinos, environmental degradation and lack of sustainable development, among other issues.

Referring to the “stop the bid” lobby and others who are opposed to the bid, he says: What we have up against is a small group of people who raise the same old questions over and over again, questions about lack of consultation and lack of planning. We have answered these.

I believe in the Olympic Games. The socio-economic impact of hosting the Games will be great. I have given my life to the struggle for a democracy, one that would not be at the expense of the people. Akhawaya says this is an opportunity to serve the local community and bring an international community to the Cape.

The post as media director sees him getting full circle in his journalism career, which started out because of his love for sport. His new post, he says, brings together his passions for media, sport and politics.

Born in Fordham and raised in Sophiatown, he was a former Transvaal provincial cricketer in the old South African Cricket Board of Control.

Akhawaya joined the Rand Daily Mail 25 years ago, specializing in the political aspects of sport, including the Olympic Games. He was later appointed political reporter and metropolitan editor of the newspaper before moving on to become chief subeditor of the Sunday Express. He spent eight years with the Lenasia-based Indicator, which was acquired by the ANC in 1998.

He says: “The success of the Olympic bid would be the crowning glory for the many people who sacrificed so much to ensure there would be sporting justice in a democratic country.”
W-Cape is booming for tourist businesses

Staff Reporter

SUCH is the rapidly expanding Western Cape tourism industry that two of Captour's stalwarts, marketing and public relations manager Lauren de Wet and her deputy Radka Kucera, have opened on their own to specialise in marketing local facilities.

With their experience in marketing tourism, they are entering an area hardly touched. Clients will range from restaurants, hotels and guest houses to public associations and companies wishing to involve or attract tourists.

The main thrust of their business will be conference organising, public relations strategies and special events related to tourism.

Destination Marketing, the name they have given their company, has established trade links in Germany, the United Kingdom and South-East Asia, and will advise strategies to tourist companies targeting these key travel intermediaries.

"The tourist industry is an obvious growth market and we have daily inquiries for advice from entrepreneurs who want to join the industry and require specialist help," said Ms de Wet.

"We will draw up business plans for these organisations and ensure that their money is well spent on the correct media for their particular product or service.

"While publicity associations market the region generally, members of the industry definitely require individual marketing assistance to position them above and apart from their competitors.

"We will be serving many of our clients on a retainer basis, but will also offer a public relations service to clients on an ad hoc basis by way of press releases and feature articles aligned at the local and foreign media," said Ms Kucera.

"By mid-July we also hope to offer our clients an opportunity to take part in "alternative" packages, which we will market to key tour operators overseas.

"These packages will offer different aspects of the Cape and will not offer the usual mainstream tourism experience.

"We believe that tourists today are seeking destinations that offer value, and South Africa with its particular history has so much potential that has not as yet been tapped.

"These packages will also afford us the opportunity to exhibit at key travel shows like Indaba, World Travel Market, ITB in Berlin and major shows in Malaysia and Singapore," she added.

"While the organisation is essentially a small business, it will be taking advantage of the synergy relationships that are so popular in Cape Town.

"We will offer a "full-house" service by way of working with other specialists in the industry on a project by project basis," said Ms Lauren.

"Cape Town is well known for having a healthy freelance industry and from our experience at Captour we have established contacts with special event organisers, advertising agencies, research companies and the like.

"We will work in what is now know as a "through-the-line" approach to ensure that we keep our overheads as low as possible, while contracting in the very best team for the job."
GOING PLACES: Radka Kucera and Lauren de Wet in the cockpit of a jumbo jet at Cape Town airport.
What would the 2004 Games cost Cape Town's ratepayers?

MONEY - how much of it will the ratepayers have to fork out?
That's the main question put to the Olympic Bid Company - which is answering questions on Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games - in the latest crop of letters sent in by the public.

The Olympic Bid has certainly been highly visible recently, at events like the SABC launch, UCT's Rag and the Argus Cycle Tour.

One just wonders to what extent ratepayers have had to foot the bill for all this lavish publicity?

All allocations within our marketing and publicity budget are accounted for in terms of our operating budget as a company until 1997.

This operating budget is covered by the succession of major private-sector sponsorship received by the bid since October 1995.

The Olympic involvement in the events specifically mentioned - as well as a number of others pending - was secured mostly on the basis of the goodwill of the respective organisers.

The decision by UCT's Rag Committee to adopt an Olympic theme for this year's procession resulted from an ongoing relationship of goodwill between the Rag Committee and the Bid Company, as well as from a recognition of Cape Town's exciting new status as a candidate city for the 2004 Olympic Games.

The lavishly-coloured floats signifying past Olympic cities, as well as the Cape Town 2004 float, were the product of the hard work and enthusiasm of UCT students.

We also made our company cars available to lead the Rag procession. The arrangement was to the satisfaction of all concerned and the decision by UCT Rag was validated by one of the most enthusiastically received processions in recent years.

The same applies to the organisers of the Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour, who warmly welcomed the Olympic Bid on board for the event, at no cost to the Bid.

The same also applies to the SABC launch, where our only costs extended to the provision of branding and merchandise for one production number.

The encouraging truth is we continue to be approached by organisers of major events, keen to do their part in ensuring the success of Cape Town's bid, whilst recognising that we are operating on a modest budget.

What is the role of the IOC's Evaluation Commission and who will pay for their visit to Cape Town?

The Evaluation Commission is charged by the International Olympic Committee with the task of visiting each of the candidate cities once all candidate-true files have been submitted.

The Commission inspects all sites proposed for the Games and holds meetings with the members of the respective Bid committees. All issues relating to the city's candidature are studied, discussed and assessed. At the end of the visit, the Evaluation Commission issues a final report.

The international travel costs of the Evaluation Commission are covered by the International Olympic Committee. Candidate cities bear the cost of room and board for the officials, whose visit, in terms of IOC regulations, may not exceed five days.

Queries on the bid should be sent to: Letters to the Editor, The Argus, Box 56, Cape Town, 8000, or faxed c/o Letters to the Editor to 488 4075, or sent to the Olympic Bid Company, Private Bag X2604, Cape Town, 8000.
Politicians under fire in cableway row

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE row over Table Mountain's stalled cableway upgrade raged unchecked this week amid warnings that politicians were undermining confidence in integrated environmental management (IEM) processes.

Leading UCT environmental scientist Richard Puggle this week blamed politicians for not ensuring that the cableway company stuck to its public commitment to an IEM process.

The R61-million upgrade, which was meant to start last Monday, is now on hold following a National Monuments Council decision to withhold approval until an IEM process had been completed.

But according to Prof Puggle, there was little confidence in the political processes which were meant to adjudicate integrated environmental management.

"We are finding that critics of development proposals increasingly have to turn to the courts for intervention."

"Instead of being tools which help make decisions, smooth out differences and set criteria for development, IEMs are now just becoming documents which tone down the worst aspects of projects. Nobody is satisfied," he said.

Prof Puggle, who helped draft the Department of Environmental Affairs' official IEM guidelines and served on last year's probe into a steel mill at Saldanha Bay, said there was a "distinct gap" between what politicians were saying about the environment, and what they were doing.

He cited the RDP's "lip service" to its environmental commitments, a Western Cape provincial cabinet decision which ignored the Saldanha inquiry's recommendations about the siting of the steel mill and, most recently, the province's approval for the cableway upgrade despite warnings by official advisors and prominent conservation organisations.

"I ask myself, cynically, if politicians intend to preserve South Africa's environmental heritage at all," he said.
Rising hotel rates ‘may frighten away tourists’

TOUR OPERATORS and hoteliers are alarmed by the rapid rise in hotel rates and say the industry is already feeling the international market’s resistance, DAN SIMON reports.

RISING hotel rates are creating anxiety that international tour operators could drop South Africa as a destination in a couple of years if prices are no longer competitive.

Springbok Atlas tour manager Mr Steve McCulloch said hotel rates were becoming "increasingly expensive".

"South Africa’s longstanding impression that its prices are value for money is nonsense," McCulloch said.

"The hotel industry is piling up the prices as if trying to catch up for the lost business in the past decade."

Protea Hotels executive chairman Mr Otto Stehlik said the hotel industry was beginning to feel the international market’s resistance to price increases.

"We feel strongly about this," he said.

"Throughout the industry we see rates as an issue of great concern, especially as some hotel’s rates are well over R1 000."

"There is great concern over the trap that the hotel industry is falling into."

Stehlik said Protea Hotels intended to increase its public and tour operator rates by a "logical and acceptable" 10% to 15%.

Southern Sun said yesterday it was expecting to increase its tour operators’ rate and its public rate at the five-star Cape Sun Intercontinental hotel by more than 30% from next January.

The last public rate increase for the Cape Sun was in September last year and ranged from 12% to 15%. This brought its double bed rate to R900 a night and its single bed rate to R675 a night.

"The increase in the tour operators’ rate for the Cape Sun is similar to the public rate increase, but tour operators buy hotel rooms at substantially reduced prices to make a profit."

Accommodation rates for Southern Sun’s three-star Garden Court hotels went up on January 31 by an "inflation margin" of between 10% and 15% for a single rate and between 20% and 25% for a double rate.

Prices at the city’s Garden Court hotels are to increase by a similar percentage next year.

The reasons for the increases, said Southern Sun’s director of operations, Mr Martin Vassell, were "supply and demand, the rand’s devaluation and refurbishing costs of R50 million".

McCulloch believed there was a real risk of international tour operators dropping South Africa as a destination in a couple of years if accommodation prices became uncompetitive.

"As a destination we are competing head-to-head with Australia, which is a First World destination compared with our First World/Third World situation, and they definitely have a higher standard of service."

McCulloch said most European visitors tended to stay at Garden Court hotels because of the prices, whereas Japanese tourists favoured the Cape Sun.
Meeting delayed after Ball no show

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE crucial meeting between environmentalists and the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company, which was scheduled for last week, has been postponed to today after Bid Company chief executive ChrisBall was unable to attend the discussions.

The meeting was originally arranged to present a strong list of "minimum requirements" for the involvement of the environmental sector in the bidding process for the 2004 Olympics.

One of the 10 requirements is for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the short-term social, demographic, environmental and financial costs of the bid to the Cape Town metropole and surrounding areas.

Another requirement is for an independently-run poll to test public opinion on whether Cape Town should continue its bid to host the 2004 Games.

Also, the green groups want to draft an Environmental Charter which will, among other things, set environmental criteria for the bid.

They also want an Independent Environmental Commission to be set up to monitor the implementation of this charter, assess the findings of impact studies and review the results of the poll.

The bid document, which has to be submitted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in August, must include the concerns raised by the environmentalists, specifically with respect to unrealistic and unacceptable time constraints, and this document has to be available for public comment before being submitted to the IOC.

The postponed meeting was called to discuss widespread unhappiness in the "green" lobby that environmental issues have been downplayed or sidelined in Cape Town's bid process an allegation rejected by the Bid Company.

Mr Ball and his senior environmental and planning officials were to have met an Olympic Environment Working Group - a coalition of representatives of the Wildlife Society, Habitat Council, Captrust, Khayelitsha Environment and Tourism Forum, Earthlife Africa, Botanical Society and People's Dialogue - last Wednesday to discuss the minimum requirements.

However, Mr Ball was called to an urgent preparatory meeting for a meeting the following day of the cabinet committee which is investigating Cape Town's bid on behalf of the government.

The cabinet, which has already given conditional approval, is due to announce on May 1 whether it will officially approve the bid.

Independent facilitator David Shandell, who was to have "referred" last week's meeting, said Mr Ball had sent "profound apologies" for his non-attendance.

Because the environmental organisations had a mandate to negotiate with the bid company and with Mr Ball in particular, they had felt unable to continue the meeting without him.

The meeting was therefore postponed to today, Mr Shandell said.

Included in the "minimum requirements" list of the environmental lobby is that individual environmental impact assessments (EIAs) must be done at site level for all the proposed Olympic facilities and structures, and for any related structures.

"The individual EIAs should follow the Integrated Environmental Management procedure, and the terms of reference should be determined through consultation with the interested and affected parties, the environmentalists' constituency.

These individual EIAs should be run in parallel with the strategic environmental assessment, and the findings of these EIAs should form part of the strategic assessment. Summaries of all these assessments must be made freely available.

The bid assessment must be completed by May 1997, three months before September 9 in which the IOC will make a decision on which city is to be the host city for the 2004 Olympics.

This will make sure that there is sufficient time for the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment to be publicised widely, as well as for an independent poll to be run and for an independent decision to be made on whether or not continuing to bid to host the Games is in the best interests of the sustainable development of the greater metropolitan Cape Town region and the country as a whole.

Architects invited to design for 2004 bid

Staff Reporter

BUDDING architects are being invited to enter a competition to design Olympic facilities in six competition categories.

This competition, which opened by the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid, is "Africa-wide". It is open to everyone with "strong, viable ideas on appropriate designs for components of the Cape Town 2004 complex".

The entrants placed first and second in each category can expect cash prizes of R10 000 and R5 000 respectively.

Olympic-bid architect Terry Bracher said the goal of the competition was to be as inclusive as possible even in the most technical areas of bid planning and preparation.

"We are hoping to evoke a response from innovative talents who come from a variety of backgrounds," said Mr Bracher.

"If they have a vision that's good enough, we will follow it to its ultimate conclusion."

If the winning entrant is not an architect, he or she will be required to form a joint venture with the Bid Company for the execution of the work.

Entrants have to confirm their intention to participate by April 29.

Full details are available from the Bid Company: telephone (021) 409-2062.
Oliver calls for cableway compromise

CAPTOUR has added its voice to the Table Mountain cableway debate, expressing concern over the impasse reached over the upgrade plans.

Captour has some 1400 member organisations and businesses in the tourism industry.

Chief executive Gordon Oliver said Captour was concerned about the delicate natural environment of the mountain, which he said, had to be protected.

However, the cableway was the city's most popular tourist attraction.

"Clearly, both considerations are paramount. As tourism is a major contributor to the economy of the Western Cape, we must do everything possible not to thwart its role, but to actually promote and encourage it," Mr. Oliver said.

"Of course, not at the expense of the natural environment, which makes our region such a popular holiday and business destination. Captour appeals to all the relevant authorities to find a way to permit the cableway redevelopment plans to go ahead while simultaneously requiring the environmental impact studies to be completed. We are totally confident that the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company has every intention of fulfilling its obligations to the community as required by the National Monuments Council.

"There is no question of principles being sacrificed or subverted and we do appeal to the NMC and the National Parks Board to reach a healthy and constructive compromise with the company in the interests of a win-win situation," Mr. Oliver said.
Green issues
agreement after
Games bid talks

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

REPRESENTATIVES of key environmental groups and the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company have reached agreement on a wide range of "green issues" surrounding the city's bid for the 2004 Games after a meeting described as "extremely constructive".

Moves which will flow from the meeting include an "in principle" decision for an independent poll to test the opinion of residents of greater Cape Town on whether the city should continue its bid.

They also agreed to the urgent drawing up of an environmental charter to set criteria for the bid; and a request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for clarity on why a city's bid document had to be confidential.

The meeting yesterday between the bid company and the Olympic Environment Working Group – a coalition of representatives of the Wildlife Society, Habitat Council, Captrust, Khoebilethe Environment and Tourism Forum, Earthlife Africa, Botanical Society and People's Dialogue – had been postponed for a week because bid company chief executive Chris Ball had been called urgently to another meeting at short notice.

His absence last week was sharply criticised by the coalition, but after yesterday's meeting coalition spokesman Marlene Laros said Mr Ball had sent them a letter of "apology and regret".

"We accept the apology and we've moved forward from that quite positively," she said. Mr Ball attended yesterday's meeting, as did representatives of the Cape Town City Council.

Only three minor changes – two of them because of IOC requirements – were made to a set of 10 "minimum requirements" which the coalition had set for the future involvement of the environmental sector in the bid process. Requirements accepted without change included those of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the short- to long-term social, demographic, environmental and financial costs.

They agreed to an independent environmental commission to monitor the implementation of the environmental charter, to assess the findings of environmental impact studies and to review the poll results.

Another requirement is that the bid document submitted to the IOC in August must include concerns raised by the environmental sector, "with respect to the time constraints and the limited participation of residents in the bid process".

But the last sentence of this requirement – that the bid document had to be available for public comment before being submitted to the IOC – was dropped because of IOC rules.

Mary-Jane Morris, the bid company's environmental co-ordinator, said the Cape Town situation was different to that in other Olympic cities because environmental issues had come "a lot earlier" in the bid process.

Said Howard Firth, the city council's legal representative: "You don't win a bid unless you're extremely environmentally focused."
Keegan quits in dispute with Ball

JOHN YELD

Keegan has resigned as deputy chairman of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company, lashing out at chief executive officer Chris Ball and his senior management team for, he says, ignoring, marginalising and insulting the bid company's board of directors.

The bid company's board executive meets today to discuss the resignation row.

Mr Keegan also accused the bid company's management of having no real interest in “vital” issues such as a black empowerment policy, a sports development strategy and environmental issues.

Mr Keegan, who sent his letter of resignation last Thursday, said yesterday that he was not resigning from the board itself and did not want to criticise Mr Ball to imply he no longer supported the city's bid.

"I am steadfastly committed to the benefits of the bid. This is purely about internal tensions."

Mr Ball has rejected Mr Keegan's accusations and said they did not reflect decisions taken at meetings of the board.

Mr Ball said Mr Keegan had not discussed his problems with him, the board or other senior bid officials.

In his strongly worded letter, Mr Keegan said that because the board was "routinely" ignored and marginalised by Mr Ball and his management team, he could no longer exercise his legal or ethical obligations as deputy chairman.

"I would be prepared to live with this pattern of insulting behaviour, were it not for my gathering conviction that Mr Ball's conduct of the bid is rapidly propelling this project towards domestic discredit."

Mr Keegan cited five instances that caused him "profound misgivings":

- Mr Ball's "progressive forfitting" of the support of his domestic constituency because of his zeal to win the support of individual members of the International Olympic Committee.
- Mr Ball's "lack of frankness" about his negotiations and agreements with, former bid leader Raymond Ackerman and consultants retained by the previous bid committee.
- The bid company's "inconsistency and ambivalence" in such vital matters as a black empowerment policy, sports development strategy and environmental issues.
- The "staggering lack of professionalism" that had led to the cancellation of the inaugural meeting of the Bid Convocation and Mr Ball's not inviting the company's directors to this.
- The "quite extraordinary" manner in which Mr Ball had applied to the Independent Broadcasting Authority for a community TV licence, "without even informing the board that he had embarked on an undertaking he must have known would prove contentious and risk-ridden."

Mr Keegan is to contest the May 29 local elections in an alliance with Arthur Wierburg, a critic of the bid.
City to be polled on hosting Games

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE people of Cape Town will be polled on whether the city should continue the bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games, the Olympic Bid Company and the local green lobby decided last night.

The two groups met to hammer out a list of tough minimum requirements, drawn up by the Olympics Environment Working Group, to which the bid company had to agree before the environmental sector would become involved in the bidding process.

The lobby group represents a broad spectrum of environmental NGOs which have been mandated to negotiate environmental conditions with the bid company.

The bid company has also agreed to carry out a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the greater Cape Town region — a major study which will look at the short- and long-term social, environmental and financial costs to Cape Town of bidding for and hosting the Olympics.

The poll to test public opinion will be run a month after the release of the findings of the SEA to enable Capetonians to make an informed decision.

The bid company also agreed, among other things, that the SEA and impact assessments for all the proposed Olympic facilities and infrastructure would be completed by the end of May 1997, three months before the IOC makes its decision on the host city for 2004.

Meanwhile, PETER DENNEHY reports that the deputy chairman of the Olympic Bid Company, Mr Clive Keegan, has resigned. His resignation does not come as a complete surprise. Mr Keegan faces a tough local election battle in the next few weeks, without the support of a political party.

He has recently entered into an alliance of independent candidates, along with Mr Arthur Wittenburg who has been a harsh critic of the bid from the start.
Alerta works about everything under the sun as the countdown to the Olympics begins...
The worker's family has filed a lawsuit against the designers and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games for unspecified damages.

The incidents, with the discovery last summer that dormitories being built for the Olympic Village were sinking as much as 20 centimetres more than expected, have raised questions about whether corners are being cut in the rush to complete construction in time.

Competing lawsuits have been filed over shoddy workmanship and cost overruns, but Olympic organizers maintain the venues are safe.

Billy Payne, ACOG president, says his only worry, apart from whether international tensions will boil over and affect the participation of all 197 countries included in the Olympic movement, is the scorching summer sun.

"I wonder how close we are going to come to my prediction of 75 degrees in the summer," he said, referring to the rather optimistic estimate he gave to the International Olympic Committee when Atlanta first bid for the Games.

"The things I worry about are things we really don't control," he said.

One is controversy that might detract from the carefully crafted image the city seeks to project. Payne's protestations aside, civic boosters view the Games as the ultimate marketing tool - hence the new slogan, which is being promoted through a reported $4 million (about R16,5 million) marketing blitz.

In designing the all-important opening and closing ceremonies, Mischer said he spent two years talking with local people about the tone and content.

While there would be nods to the international nature of the event, he said his goal was to reflect the "grace, beauty and diversity" of the American South while portraying Atlanta as "the world-class city that it is".

Image-makers walk a tightrope because the city's identification with Gone With The Wind and the antebellum South seems at odds with present-day Atlanta, with its predominantly African-American population.

One controversy Olympic organizers hope to sidestep involves display of the Confederate battle emblem, which is incorporated into the Georgia state flag. By law, the flag must fly over state-owned venues. Opponents of the flag have promised to protest, but Payne is intent on staying above the fray.

"We don't have a dog in that fight," he said. "We follow the law."

Unlike Los Angeles, which netted a $236 million (about R980 million) profit from hosting the 1984 Games, Atlanta organizers are operating with only a small margin of safety - $13 million (about R33 million) according to auditors.

In Los Angeles - the only other city to stage the Olympics without government underwriting - the Games were mostly held in existing facilities. But $500 million (about R2,7 billion) is being spent on new Olympic venues in Atlanta.

Organizers have still not raised all of the $1,7 billion (about R7 billion) they need to stage the Games but expect to raise the remaining $195 million (about R800 million) through ticket sales, broadcast rights and joint ventures.

The Atlanta Games are being called the most commercial in history. Corporate sponsors are largely financing it. Companies that gave $4 million (about R16,5 million) to sponsor the Los Angeles Olympics were asked for $40 million (about R165 million) for the Atlanta Games.
R1,8-bn bill for 2004 Olympics

Bid company details cost of new venues – but expects operating profit

Other pricey items are a R93.8 million rowing course at Wingfield, R77.5 million for equestrian facilities at Klipmuur and R63.6 million for a basketball venue at Philippi East.
'Frustration' led to Keegan's quitting

Paul Martin

CAPE TOWN — The executive committee and board of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid committee had not always agreed with the arguments posed by former deputy chairman Clive Keegan, and this probably frustrated him into resigning his post, committee alternate director Lwetlyn van Wyk said yesterday.

While the board regretted Keegan's resignation, it did not support his allegations about Chris Ball's actions as committee CEO. Keegan was frustrated when the board or its executive had not sided with his views in all instances, Van Wyk said.

"At each instance, sometime with a minority of one vote, being himself, the board after discussing the matters, has concurred with the position of the CEO and commended Mr Ball for his actions."

Van Wyk said the issues in question had been raised by Keegan before, and to say they were not dealt with or answered properly was incorrect.

Referring to Keegan's grievances — among which was his claim that Ball had not put the attitudes of citizens towards the bid as a top priority — Van Wyk said the purpose of the bid company was to win the bid, and to do so it was necessary to concentrate on gaining the support of the international community. However, "this was not done at the expenses of the local community", he said. Of Keegan's reference to Ball's application to the Independent Broadcasting Authority for a community television licence, Van Wyk said the board had given the go-ahead on condition it was made at no cost to the bid company.

Sapa reports that committee senior deputy chairman Darnie Malan said he would attempt to resolve the problems surrounding Keegan's resignation. Malan made it clear that Keegan had resigned only as deputy chairman and not from the bid committee board.
Support for
Chris Ball

Van Wyk said that, as chief
executive officer, Ball had an obli-
gation to become acclimatized with
people from past and present bid-
ing cities such as Atlanta and
Barcelona to gain insight into
approaches to hosting the Games.
Ball had also been correct in
canvasing IOC members, as Cape
Town "needs the support of indi-
vidual IOC members" to win the
bid.

"He has gone with the full
blessing of the board and it has not
been at the expense of local and
national constituencies."

Stekhoven said there was also
not any lack of frankness about
negotiations and agreements with
former bid leader Mr Raymond
Ackerman.

The bid company had always
acknowledged the enormous
amount Ackerman had done for
the bid.

Accusations that the bid com-
pany was inconsistent in dealing
with matters such as a black
empowerment policy, a sports
development strategy and envi-
ronmental issues were also
unfounded. These issues had been
dealt with at successive board
meetings.

An empowerment policy had
been announced "some time ago" and a sports policy was "being
developed".

There were also continuing
meetings with environmental
groups.

On the question of Ball’s ap-
lication for a community TV
licence, the directors said Ball had
been commended for taking the
initiative in finding a way to
inform the public.

Meanwhile, MELANIE
GOSLING reports that profes-
ional environmentalists have said
unless there is clarity and a bind-
ing agreement on how the strat-
egic environmental assessment
(SEA) on the Olympic bid will be
used, it could be a waste of money.

Head of UCT’s department of
environmental and geographical
science, Professor Richard Ruffle,
said yesterday that the green lobby
tended to expect that if an envi-
ronmental impact assessment pro-
duced negative findings, a devel-
opment proposal would not go
ahead.
OLYMPIC BID Company chair Mr. Chris Ball and his board moved swiftly yesterday to repair damage caused by the resignation of Mr. Chris Keegan as deputy chairman.

When he resigned on Tuesday Keegan accused Ball of ignoring, marginalising and insulting the company's board of directors.

But at a press conference yesterday, Ball and the board presented a united front.

Director Llewellyn van Wyk said the executive had considered Keegan's allegations in detail.

"There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that they are unfounded and not new," he said.

The directors also questioned Keegan's decision to resign as deputy chairman but to remain on the board.

"If Keegan's differences had been so fundamental and a 'matter of conscience', the logical thing would have been for him to cut his ties completely," one said.

Referring to Keegan's claim that the directors had been subjected to a long line of publicly embarrassing snubs over a period of 18 months, van Wyk said: "There at no time felt embarrassed, snubbed or embarrassingly snubbed by the chief executive officer."

What was at issue, he said, was Keegan's "sense of self-importance".

Ball refused to be drawn on Keegan's comments. "I am here to do my professional task and to achieve a goal," he said.

He also denied that there was a personality clash between himself and Keegan.

Another director, Mr. Roger Hulley, said Keegan's accusations were a "somewhat emotional outburst, not entirely disconnected from the local government elections", which he faces without the support of a political party.

Another director said Keegan was the only person on the 34-member board who had a problem with Ball.

Mr. Michael Stekhoven said that if there was a personality clash, it was one-sided.

Van Wyk said that Keegan had raised the same issues on several occasions and each one had been discussed at great length by the board.

In each instance the board had disagreed with Keegan, which might have accounted for his frustration.

To Page 3
Ball's in, but Keegan out in cold

JOHN YELD

CAPE Town Olympic Bid committee chief executive Chris Ball and his senior management team enjoy the confidence of an overwhelming majority of the 24-strong bid company board in their efforts to win the 2004 Games for Cape Town - and former board deputy chairman Clive Keegan has been left out on a limb.

This was the board's response at a media briefing yesterday, following their discussion of Mr Keegan's letter of resignation as non-executive deputy, in which Mr Keegan harshly criticised Mr Ball.

Roger Hutley, one of the delegation who addressed the media, said he believed Mr Keegan's "somewhat emotional outburst" in his three-page resignation letter last week was "not unconnected to local government elections".

Mr Keegan, who has indicated he plans to stay on as an ordinary board member representing the Cape Town city council, lashed out at Mr Ball and his senior management for, as he put it, ignoring, marginalising and insulting the board of directors.

This was rejected as unfounded by fellow councillor and bid company board member Llewellyn van Wyk, who acted as main spokesman during the board's media briefing.
Tourism enjoys silver lining under rand's cloud

The good life is looking even better to people coming to South Africa with our exchange rates in tatters

BY NIKKI WHITFIELD

South Africa, already experiencing something of a tourist boom despite the depressing crime rate, is expected to become an even brighter tourist destination as the rand continues to reel against foreign currencies.

The rand plunged to an all-time low of R4.19 against the dollar in early afternoon trade yesterday, making tourism the silver lining in a mushrooming cloud of gloom.

South Africa's hotel and conference facilities, many of which are already full of overseas holiday-makers and businessmen, are expected to be stretched to the limit as the tourism industry enters an even more buoyant phase.

"Many facilities have already seen advanced bookings for the next three to six months," said Rupert Lawlor of the Association of South African Travel Agents. "The drop in the value of the rand will make this country all the more attractive."

"The tourism industry now needs to talk to the Government about improving the country's infrastructure and maximising the boom. Roads need to be improved, taxes on the building of coaches need to be reduced and airports need to be expanded."

He said Australia got around 3.5 million tourists a year, while South Africa had 1.2 million last year. "If we are going to increase that three-fold, we need to do a lot of long-term planning."

James Seymour, Satoir's head of tourism research, said investigations done last year showed many visitors regarded South Africa as an excellent value-for-money destination.

But Seymour said that while the crime rate needed to be viewed "in world context", research had shown that a scant 3% of foreigners regarded South Africa as safe.

"Crime is something that needs to be addressed even further."

Even top-of-the-range hotels in South Africa, which cost around R1 000 a night for a bed alone, are enjoying check-in-block bookings as visitors from the United States, Britain and Europe convert their currency to revel in the luxury.

"There has been criticism that some hotels are too expensive, but when you've got pounds you aren't looking at spending very many of them for a night," Lawlor said. "But what's really taking off are the Garden Courts and City Lodges and there are bed-and-breakfasts popping up all over the place. But these need to get registered so people know where to find them."
Olympic Games
bid costs escalate
(285) BD 12/14/96
Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Sporting facilities for
the 2004 Olympic Games are expected
to cost about R1,75bn against previous
forecasts of R1,25bn, figures released
to the Cape Town City Council show.
Sapa reports that the Olympic Bid
Company indicated yesterday that in
addition to this, training facilities were
expected to cost a further R141m. How-
ever, original and current estimates
were not specified for this category.

The latest estimates are to be pre-
vasive to the Cabinet later this month
when government takes a final deci-
sion on whether to support the bid.
Olympic bid spokesman, Michael
Fuller said the latest estimates repre-
sented a worst-case scenario as re-
quested by government, and did not re-
fect a substantial difference from pre-
vious forecasts.

The most likely cost estimate would
be in the region of R1,37bn — he said,
with the budget revision also taking
the effect of inflation into account.

Continued on Page 2

Olympics
Continued from Page 1

"Just under 50% of the cost will be
funded out of income from operations."

The allocation of funding between
local government, the private sector,
the state and Olympic revenues still
had to be negotiated, Fuller said.

The company said it aimed for a
"low-budget Games" with a develop-
ment focus and had therefore followed
the International Olympic Commissi-
tee’s minimum requirements where it
was possible.

The financial responsibilities of in-
dividual local authorities were still
subject to negotiation.

On the operating budget, the bid
company said it anticipated a net sur-
plus of R94m, in line with recent bids
by other cities. Revenue from televi-
sion rights of R2,1bn would make up
almost half of total revenue. Local mar-
keting and sponsorship figures pegged
at R612m were derived from consulta-
tion with marketing agents based on
the size of the SA market.

The Olympic villages, with 8,000
housing units, would be sold as low-in-
come housing after the Games, and
R150m had been budgeted to subsidise
the selling price of these houses.

Among the most expensive capital
items budgeted for were a R183m gym-
nastics and artistic exhibition centre at
Culemberg, a R153m volleyball and
metropolitan entertainment centre at
Granger Bay, and a R331m athletics
track at Wingfield.

Meanwhile, the Olympic Bid Com-
pany announced yesterday that Arch-
bishop Desmond Tutu had accepted an
appointment as convenor of the com-
pany’s convocation, which aims to re-
present the bid’s interests.

See Back Page
Ball slated as deputy chairman of Olympic bid committee

CAPE TOWN — Former Cape Town mayor and executive committee member Clive Keegan has resigned as deputy chairman of the Cape Town 2014 Olympic bid committee.

In his letter of resignation to the bid committee CEO Chris Ball, Keegan expressed his lack of confidence in the actions of the bid committee, saying: "I am no longer able to exercise my legal or ethical obligations in terms of the Companies Act, my fiduciary responsibilities to my council, or the provisions of the King Code of Corporate Governance by which the company is bound by terms of Mr. Ball's contract of employment," he said.

"I would be prepared to live with this pattern of insulting behaviour; were it not for my gathering conviction that Mr. Ball's conduct of the bid is rapidly propelling this project towards domestic discredit. Mr. Ball's lack of frankness about his negotiations and agreements with Raymond Ackerman and the professional consultants retained by the previous bid committee has become intolerable."

Referring to an appeal for greater emphasis on satisfying all Cape Town ratepayers' questions and doubts about the bid, Keegan said this had fallen on deaf ears, while the company's marketing and public relations activities, "such as they are, continue to be characterised by amateur insensitivity, arrogant dismissal of legitimate fears and lost marketing opportunities."

He said the ambivalence surrounding the company's black empowerment policy, sports development strategy and environmental issues indicated management had no genuine interest in addressing these areas of concern.

On the cancellation of the inaugural meeting of the bid convocation on April 2, Keegan said this was the latest in a long line of snubs to which he and the bid committee directors, including de facto chairman Paul Martin, had been subjected: "I have been forced to the conclusion that Mr. Ball and many of his senior associates have no understanding of the principles of transparency, accountability and democratic practice."

Olympic bid committee media director Ameen Akhawaty read a statement from Ball saying Keegan had not discussed the comments in his letter with him or the board. "The particular comments in his letter referring to me are incorrect, and in conflict with board decisions taken at meetings."
Bid firm urged to broaden appeal

PARLIAMENTARIANS have urged the Cape-Town Olympic Bid Company to intensify promotion of the bid among "the masses" and to broaden its appeal to the rest of the country.

The calls were made yesterday by the parliamentary portfolio committee on sport and recreation at a media-briefing convened to respond to harsh criticisms traded between the board of the company and Clive Keegan, who resigned this week as non-executive deputy chairman of the board.

He has accused bid company chief executive Chris Ball and senior management of "ignoring, marginalising and insulting the board of directors".

Mr Keegan's critics in turn say he has been frustrated by not getting the board to agree with him on several issues, including black economic empowerment, sports development and environmental concerns.

Yesterday, Lulie Xingwana, chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee, reiterated the committee's unequivocal support for Mr Ball.

Ms Xingwana said the committee was "shocked and dismayed" by Mr Keegan's allegations of lack of transparency and accountability against Mr Ball, but fellow committee member Randall van den Heever refused to rule out the possibility of Mr Keegan being invited to address the committee about his concerns.

At the media briefing, Ms Xingwana, Mr Van den Heever and fellow committee members Zoe Kota and Andrew Mhlengi each expressed support for the work done to date by Mr Ball and the rest of his company.

But, said Mr Van den Heever, the committee wished to see the bid company step up its consultative processes, including presentations "to the masses", as many did not know what the Olympic Games could do for reconstruction and development. Intensifying these efforts would bring "more converts": he added.

Norwegians 'very impressed' with bid

MEMBERS of the Norwegian Olympic Committee which organised the 1994 winter Olympics, are "very impressed" with the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee which aims to win the 2004 summer Olympics.

The president of the Norwegian Olympic Committee, Arne Myhrvold and a senior executive member, Mari Myrmael, said they were visiting Cape Town to advise and help the bid committee here.

Both members were involved in organising the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games in Norway.

They complimented the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee on the high percentage of women in the organisation and its plans for protecting the environment.

These would definitely count in its favour, they said.

The development of communities in the Western Cape as a result of a successful bid could also favour Cape Town's bid hopes.

They said the winter Games had a great impact on Norway, giving the economy a lift and boosting the tourism industry.

The Games had also helped to build national pride and the self-esteem of the Norwegian people.
Anglicans:
Finding the middle road

Bishop Tutu accepts 2004 bid position

ANGLICAN Archbishop Desmond Tutu has accepted his appointment as convenor of a group of leaders advising and representing Cape Town’s bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

Olympic Bid Company chief executive Chris Ball said yesterday the company was thrilled that an influential figure like Archbishop Tutu had accepted leadership of the company’s Convocation and thrown his weight behind the bid.

“In the past few weeks more and more international personalities have given the thumbs-up to Cape Town,” said Mr Ball.

The Convocation comprises leaders in various fields in Africa and aims to represent the interests of the bid and ensure it carries out its mandate with appropriate regard to key issues like the environment, reconstruction and development and economic empowerment.

Mr Ball said the Bid Company had consulted widely before drawing up a list of prospective members. The names of those who had accepted invitations would be released soon.

Archbishop Tutu said he had accepted his selection with “pleasure and excitement”.

“South Africa’s sportsmen and women have brought honour to our Rainbow Nation. We need to continue building on our achievements,” he said.

THE Anglican Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman, Winston Ndongane, who is a strong favourite to succeed Desmond Tutu as Archbishop of Cape Town, is expected to have some of the hottest church issues dumped on his lap if he takes over the church leadership in June.

These include whether the Anglican Church should accept gays as clergy – an issue that has deeply divided the mother church in England.

Bishop Ndongane is regarded as being on the progressive wing of the Anglican church – a position that will influence clerical and lay voters in the June election.

He told The Argus that church people were “very, very conservative” and he did not want to say anything on his policies at this stage as it might be misconstrued.

An advisory committee is meeting today to finalise the list of nominees to take over from Archbishop Tutu who retires in June.

He is also head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

A senior church source – who asked not to be identified – said Archbishop Tutu’s successor would have to find the middle-ground between the sharply opposed liberals and fundamentalists in the Anglican Church.

The liberals, he said, sought to adapt the church to a rapidly-changing world, whereas the fundamentalists adhered rigorously to the scriptures.

The new archbishop will have to confront the particularly thorny issue of gay priests, of which there are believed to be a considerable number in the Anglican clergy – although they do not have the sanction of the church.

One Cape Town priest spoke of the “human pain” caused by the church’s “hypocritical” attitude to homosexuality.

“We must face up to a world in tremendous flux.

Unless we do so, we will destroy ourselves and there will be no church,” he said.

John Newby, a lecturer at George Whitfield theological college in Cape Town, said:

“The opposition to homosexuality is grounded in the Bible and in the fundamentalist’s mind.

“What a liberal would call bias has been the attitude for ages.

“Homosexuals have been rejected for thousands of years.

“Society as a whole has rejected homosexuals”, he said.

The Anglican Church remained opposed to homosexuality in principle.

This was so in spite of the guarantees under the new constitution of full rights for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, he said.

Another thorny issue to face the new archbishop is whether Anglican priests should be allowed to stand for election to political bodies such as parliament or provincial legislatures.

At present Anglican clergy are allowed to join political parties, but not to stand for political office.

A number of Anglican priests apparently want to stand in the 1989 elections, and the church will have to settle with the issue by then.

Archbishop Tutu was keen to maintain as much distance as possible between the church and party political issues.
Tutu to lead 2004 advisory group

ANGELICAN Archbishop Desmond Tutu has accepted an appointment as chair of a group of leaders advising and representing Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

Olympic Bid Company chief executive Mr. Chris Ball said yesterday the company was thrilled Tutu had accepted leadership of the company's Convocation and thrown his weight behind the bid.

The Convocation comprises leaders in various fields in Africa and aims to represent the interests of the bid and ensure it carries out its mandate with appropriate regard for key issues like the environment, reconstructions, development and economic empowerment.

Ball said the bid company had consulted widely before drawing up its list of prospective members. The names of those who had accepted invitations would be released soon.

Tutu said he had accepted his selection with "pleasure and excitement".

South Africa's sportsmen and women have brought honour to our nation," he said.

"The spirit of Olympism dovetailed with our attempts to develop a just society," Tutu, due to attend the 1996 Games in Atlanta in July, said he would use every opportunity to promote Cape Town's bid.

Meanwhile Parliament's Sports and Recreation committee enacted the Olympic Bill yesterday, saying it was "unanimously satisfied" with the progress made.

However, it was "shocked and dismayed" at the allegations made against Ball by the company's former deputy chairman Clive Keegan, chairperson, Mr. Lulu Xingwana said.

Ball had briefed the committee on March 27 about the bid's progress and developments as well as the economic and environmental impact of hosting the 2004 Olympics, and the committee had given its unequivocal support.

Keegan claimed earlier this week that Ball and his senior management had "ignored, marginalised and insulted" the bid company's board of directors. He also accused the bid management of having "no real interest in vital issues such as a black empowerment policy, sports development strategy and environmental issues.

Ball rejected Keegan's accusations, which he said did not reflect decisions taken at board meetings. He had also not discussed his problems with him, the board or other senior officials."
Govt acts to defuse Olympics row

Cape Town — The Government yesterday took steps to defuse a row threatening Cape Town’s bid to stage the 2004 Olympics.

Member of the parliamentary sports and recreation committee, Randell van der Heever, said the Government would mediate to restore unity after a key promoter quit over a personality clash.

“Twill exert our influence to bring about maximum unity with all role-players. Show of disunity are damaging to the bid,” he said.

Clive Keegan, deputy chairman of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company, said on Wednesday that he was resigning because chief executive Chris Bell had ignored his colleagues and shown no interest in black empowerment, sports development or environmental concerns.

The parliamentary sports and recreation committee has been involved as an observer since the bid company was formed, and the Government is to decide this month whether to underwrite Cape Town’s bid. - Reuters.
Row flames in Olympic bid

Cape Town's Olympic Bid Company has closed the doors to public participation in the process of winning the Games for the city, critics told Rehana Rossouw.

Cape Town's Olympic Bid Company is a farce which pays lip service to transparency and accountability to the public, but is structured to exclude them from real participation, critics have charged.

It emerged this week that the company gagged its detractors, board members and staff. And in answer to an avalanche of criticism, board members professed that they had no obligation to report back to their constituency communities.

The attack on the bid began with the resignation last week of its deputy chairman, Cape Town city councillor Clive Keegan, from his position. Keegan is still available to serve on the board.

He charged that bid CEO Chris Ball “manifestly and routinely ignored and marginalised” the bid company’s board. “I have been forced to the conclusion that Mr Ball and many of his senior associates have absolutely no understanding of the principles of transparency, accountability and democratic practice,” Keegan said in his letter of resignation.

Keegan was one of the few who survived the transition from former bid chairman Pick n Pay chief Raymond Ackerman’s Olympic Bid Committee. It was dissolved in April last year when a summit in Cape Town decided a Section 21 company should be formed to “professionalise” the process. The summit agreed on constituencies which should be represented by board members of the company.

One of Keegan’s reasons for resigning was a “lack of frankness” in Ball’s negotiations with Ackerman and consultants employed by the former bid committee to pay costs they incurred before April last year.

Ackerman’s former right-hand man, Kevin Kevanny, also hit out at Ball this week, revealing that he and Ackerman were silenced for almost a year by the bid company. Kevanny’s public relations company lost a lucrative marketing contract with the bid when the new company was formed.

“The agreement I had with the company has just lapsed so I can talk.

“We were constrained by arrangements made to repay the money owing to us. We had to sign documents saying we would not comment at all on the bid and that they would in turn settle with us on a monthly basis,” Kevanny said.

“I was asked once when I came to the offices to collect a cheque if I would write a letter to the press saying how wonderful the bid is. I said I was not prepared to do so at this stage. It took a few days before I saw that cheque.”

Kevanny wasted no opportunity to make up for time lost during his gagging. One of the nicer comments he had about the bid company was that it was run like a country club.

“The bid company’s mismanagement and absolute contempt for the people of Cape Town is threatening the viability of the bid. They are completely dismissive of the public’s criticisms of what they are doing and they will never win their support,” he said.

“Under Raymond Ackerman we had a committee representing all the major groups in the Cape, on an absolutely equal basis. Now we have a farce of accountability and transparency.

“Having paid lip service to the summit last year, the bid company has firmly closed the door to stakeholders.”

At a press conference on Wednesday where five of the 34 board members closed ranks around Ball to reject Keegan’s criticisms, they admitted that board members could be constrained from reporting to constituencies by agreement to keep information confidential.

“Board members might represent a constituency but if something confidential comes up, they are obliged not to take it back to their constituency. They may not break that confidentiality.

“This has only applied twice in one year,” said board member Michael Stekhoven.

The one occasion was when the board was briefed on the arrangement with Ackerman. The Mail & Guardian was unable to ascertain what information was withheld on the second occasion.

City councillor Llewellyn van Wyk said although the board was representative of key stakeholders, it had no obligation to be transparent to the community. “The board gets monthly reports so we all know what is going on.”

Ball explained that members came to meetings as members of a board although they are appointed by constituencies. “They have to act in a judicial capacity to look after the interests of the company,” he said.

“The bid is being put forward in the interests of South Africa, with the support of South Africans. These things which happened this week are par for the course in bidding. It has happened in other cities as well. It shouldn’t disturb the strength of the bid.”

Raymond Ackerman is out of the country and not available for comment, while a spokesman said bid chairman Minister of Sport Steve Tshwete had no comment.

Running into trouble: The flags are flying confidently but there is dissent in the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company

PHOTOGRAPH ROGER BOSCH

Chris Ball; Has ‘no understanding of the principles of transparency’
Jewel in tourism crown for Foreshore

MICHAEL MORRIS
Staff Reporter

PLANS are taking shape for a multi-million rand convention centre on the Foreshore, billed as a priceless money-spinner for the city, and a potential jewel in the Western Cape’s tourism crown.

But if the project is to succeed, the City Council must take the lead in securing the “right” site, committing itself to a joint venture with the private sector and helping to market it abroad “from day one.”

This is the view of Rod Young, development coordinator for the City Council, and a key figure in promoting the idea of a world-class convention centre in Cape Town.

He told Saturday Argus he was already hard at work behind the scenes putting the preparatory phase of the plan together.

He is being helped by council planners, city architects and British consultant Barry Newman. But the scheme needs the wholehearted support of the council.

“If the council does not take the lead, there won’t be one.”

Mr Young argues that a R250-million convention centre would bring immeasurable economic benefits to the city, and probably to South Africa as whole.

Ideally, he insists, it must be on the Foreshore, on the site bounded by Coen Steyter Road, Heerengracht and the elevated Table Bay Freeway.

The centre would have a pinnaclary hall seating 2 000, “breakaway” rooms and exhibition halls.

□ City planners are hard at work on preparatory plans for a R250 million convention centre for Cape Town but the success of the scheme rests on the support of the city council.

There would be a hotel attached to it, but leased to a hotel company.

Part of the motivation for the Foreshore site is that it is adjacent to the power station site on which a French developer is building two five star hotels. Other hotels are planned nearby.

Mr Young believes other sites — in Goodwood or Milnerton — are simply too far away from shopping and entertainment areas, and hotels, and that the Waterfront is not ideal either because access routes become congested too easily and too often.

“If this plan is going to work, the site must be right — and I’m convinced the Foreshore site is the right one.”

‘Funding is also vital. He does not believe there is a single entity which can afford the R250-million price tag and that a joint venture combining the public (city, metropolitan and provincial government) and private sector would be the answer.

This would also contribute to ensuring both economic viability and meeting the public interest.

“We are working on preliminary plans and trying to put a funding package together.

“It is extremely desirable in financial terms, though to justify council expenditure is considered difficult because of the priorities the city must address.

People are expecting local authority spending to be delivered to the poor directly, and a convention centre is not seen in that light.

However, it will do more for the economy of the city than any other single development.”

Significantly, he says, convention delegates spend an average of three to five times more than other tourists.

You are dealing with people with big expense accounts, or well-heeled people who come with money in their pockets. They spend it in shops, on hotels, entertainment and travel.

“They might come for a four-day convention, but will invariably stay longer, or travel elsewhere in the same region.”

Crucial to the success of such a venture in Cape Town would be the commitment of the city to start the marketing campaign the moment it agreed to go ahead with the plan.

“It is important to recognise that international convention planners are planned between three to five years ahead, so you have to start advertising and promoting your centre the moment you start to build it.”

“If our centre is going to succeed, we must get Cape Town firmly on the international convention map as soon as plans are confirmed.”
WATER PARKS GALORE... Looking to make a big splash in Southern Africa, Colleen Meyer of NBGS

Picture: AMBROSE PETERS
US firm sees SA as water park heaven

By JEREMY WOODS

AMERICA'S largest water theme park developer and designer, NBGS, is setting up a head office for Southern Africa in Cape Town in what it believes is almost virgin territory for water parks.

"People over here don't have a clue what they are missing. No-one is developing world class water parks in South Africa as we do them," says Colleen Meyer, of NBGS.

"Water parks are big business and South Africa's climate makes it an ideal candidate for water park development."

"Water parks are a very family orientated leisure activity. It's fun, it's outdoors, and it isn't here," says Mrs Meyer.

NBGS identified South Africa as a potential site for water park development as soon as the sanctions era came to an end, and started doing its research.

"We found there wasn't a lot of family activity in the leisure market in a country that had an ideal climate for water parks," says Mrs Meyer.

She draws a sharp distinction between slide parks and water parks.

"We don't build slide parks. NBGS is the largest water park manufacturer in the US and we design, develop, build and manage water theme parks that have hundreds of rides."

A key factor in the company's favour is the development of its own technology.

"No-one has the technology we have. We develop our own slides and rides and test them in our own water parks before we use them elsewhere. You just don't build the definitive water park. Each year you add new rides and excitement."

Mrs Meyer says much of the repeat business in American water parks is generated by families coming back "to try out the new rides."

NBGS is talking to a number of developers about the construction of water parks in various parts of the country, but plans are mostly at the drawing board stage.

While Cape Town is the base for Southern Africa it will also be the head office for India and Sri Lanka.

"We operate all over the world in places like Malaysia, China, Brazil and Japan but we manufacture most of our rides at the company's manufacturing base in America."

Key components and rides for water parks here would be made in America then shipped to Cape Town.
Cableway boss lashes council

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

CAPE TOWN'S beleaguered cableway company may have to scrap its upgrade completely following ministerial delays in handling the operators' appeal against a National Monuments Council decision against the R81-million project.

"We have to make a decision this week if the upgrade goes ahead at all," Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company managing director John Harrison said yesterday.

He was reacting to a statement by Arts, Science, Culture and Technology Ministry spokesman Frans Basson that Dr Ben Ngubane would not be able to decide on the company's appeal this week.

The Monuments Council, which refused to approve the project because of inadequate environmental studies, had also laid down "impossible" new conditions on Friday, Mr Harrison added.

The NMC had called for another five studies before making a final decision.

"This means at least another year's delay to do the impact studies, and only then will the NMC review the project," Mr Harrison said, adding that the company wanted a retired judge to arbitrate on the deadlock.

Mr Harrison said the company had put up R250 000 for an environmental management plan, and an engineer approved by the National Parks Board had already started training construction workers.

He added: "Not going ahead with the upgrade is like not repairing a lift in the Eiffel Tower. Do the NMC and its advisors understand the implications of what they are doing?"
Adana takes the Olympic train

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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Warning on cableway upgrading

JOSEPH MARES
Manager

THE Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC) has threatened to abandon its proposed improvement of the cableway network if it cannot get a guarantee that the National Monuments Council (NMC) will approve the upgrade.

John Harrison, managing director of TMACC, said in Cape Town today that although the company was committed to completing the integrated environmental management plan (IEMP), it could not continue to undertake studies with no guarantee that they would result in approval of the upgrade.

He said the company had informed that Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngahane that the NMC's decision that the upgrading could begin only once the IEMP report had been fully approved.

"The NMC has not impossible conditions with no guarantee of approval after the conditions are met while we feel that the specialist study can be done in tandem with the upgrade as the issues do not relate directly to the work but to the management of the top of the mountain," Mr Harrison said.

"We have already got conditional approval for the work from the Cape Town City Council and a permit from the provincial minister of finance and environmental affairs and we have put up financial guarantees of R1 million to ensure that further issues in this process can be addressed and the necessary changes made," Mr Harrison said the company was just as concerned about all aspects of the upgrade.

"But we just believe the completion of the IEMP study and the upgrade can run simultaneously. We have already involved about 200 interested and affected parties in the IEMP and have made many amendments to the original plans following their inputs.

"This new time-consuming process which the NMC is proposing includes further review, further studies and input by specialist advisers to the NMC, who were invited to give input in the initial process.

"We have already lost millions of rand in a result of all the delays and will have to take a decision, possibly by the weekend, whether we will continue with the upgrade."
Views invited on Olympic bid

Samantha Sharpe
20 July 1996

Provincial government was concerned about the lack of public participation in the Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid process, Western Cape sport and recreation head Rod Solomon said yesterday.

He said the ministry had called on the public to come forward with its views, which would be "seriously considered" if negative.

Central government was expected to make a final decision on whether to lend its support to the bid next week, with the Olympic bid company set to brief the Cabinet's subcommittee tomorrow.

Olympic bid company CEO Chris Hall said the company was in negotiations with the city council, local and provincial government about the allocation of costs.

The company has not released final forecasts on the cost to SA, but figures given to the council last week showed estimated expenditure on sporting and training facilities were at R1.9bn, compared with an "earlier estimate" of R1.25bn for sporting facilities.

This was a worst-case scenario, as requested by central government.
A TOTAL of 55 tourists have been attacked or mugged in the Cape Town CBD since the beginning of the year, according to the police.

In addition, 62 tourists were attacked or mugged in the city environs in the past three months, Cape Town police station commander Director Raymond Dowd said yesterday.

In the latest attack over the weekend, 54-year-old Geri Hellman of Germany was held up at knifepoint by two men in Bree Street on Saturday and robbed of camera equipment worth R5,000. Hellman managed to escape injury during the incident.

Last weekend an elderly Austrian tourist and an elderly couple from Scotland were attacked and robbed of cash and jewellery in the CBD in two separate incidents.

Dowd said police had identified a number of blackspots in the CBD where tourists were likely to be more vulnerable to attacks by gangs of muggers — some of them armed street children as young as seven.

"In one recent incident, a visiting British policeman and his wife were surrounded and attacked by street kids armed with knives and chisels. According to the policeman some of the attackers appeared to be as young as six or seven," he said.

Police had determined that tourists were particularly vulnerable to attacks near the Golden Acre in Adderley Street, Government Avenue and Castle Street adjoining the Waterfront.

However, as a result of stepped-up police patrols in these areas, muggers had taken to attacking tourists along Coen Steytler Avenue leading to the Waterfront.

"Tourists going to the Waterfront by taxi sometimes alight quite a distance away and walk the rest of the way along Coen Steytler to the Waterfront. We have found that quite a few muggings have taken place on that stretch of road in recent weeks," Dowd said.

He said on Saturday's extra police were deployed in the city as this was the busiest day for pickpockets.

In addition, motorcycles were regularly used to patrol Government Avenue.

Cptour chief executive Gordon Oliver said attacks on tourists were a "frustration shared" by the hospitality industry, police and business.
The Olympic ideals

ATHANON LANGE

The Olympic

GAMES

in St. Louis will be the first truly international games in the history of the Olympics. The concept of the modern Olympic Games, which began in 1896, was to bring together athletes from around the world to compete in a peaceful setting. Today, the Olympic Games have become a symbol of international cooperation and friendship.

The modern Olympic Games were first held in Athens, Greece in 1896. Since then, the Games have been held in various locations around the world, with each city showcasing its unique culture and heritage. The Olympic Games are also known for their strict rules and regulations, which are enforced to ensure a fair and safe competition for all athletes.

The Olympic ideals are not just about the competition, but also about the values of the games. These values include excellence, respect, fair play, and friendship. The Olympic Games are a great way to promote these values and bring people together from all over the world.

In conclusion, the Olympic Games are a remarkable event that brings people together from all over the world. They are a great way to promote peace and friendship, and they are a reminder of the power of sports to bring people together.

The Olympic Games

are a reminder of the importance of cooperation and friendship. They are a testament to the power of sports to bring people together from all over the world. The Olympic Games are a great way to promote peace and friendship, and they are a reminder of the values that underpin the Olympic ideals.

The Olympic Games are a great way to promote peace and friendship, and they are a reminder of the values that underpin the Olympic ideals. They are a testament to the power of sports to bring people together from all over the world. The Olympic Games are a great way to promote peace and friendship, and they are a reminder of the values that underpin the Olympic ideals.
N Province misses tourism boat

Golden opportunity wasted
as delegates to workshop
are left high and dry

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Bumbling in the bushveld is an apt description for the lack of progress in formulating a conservation and tourism strategy in the Northern Province.

This emerged at a weekend workshop, hosted by the Phalaborwa Chamber of Commerce, at the Hans Merensky Golf Club.

In a blow to the stated objectives of the workshop, Northern Province government officials did not return after the morning tea break. As a result, delegates from Gasa Province in Mozambique, including director of industry, commerce and tourism Joao Macuče, were left high and dry.

Also snubbed were a top-level delegation from the National Parks Board, representatives of private game reserves, local entrepreneurs, and business and grassroots communities, some of whom had travelled 400km to attend.

The workshop got off to a bad start when Northern Province Environment and Tourism MEC Maris-Stella Sexwale-Mabitje arrived 45 minutes late.

In her opening address, she stressed that the holistic view of tourism emphasised the need for the interaction of all sectors.

"The Northern Province intends to turn the province into the world's No 1 ecotourism destination through the creation of a transfrontier park with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, the integration of resources directed at tourism, the active participation of our people, and optimal utilisation of services in the province," Sexwale-Mabitje said.

"This can only be realised with closer cooperation between government, the private sector, ordinary people and our neighbouring countries."

However, having delivered her address, she left, and shortly thereafter the rest of the provincial officials also withdrew, dashed delegates' expectations of face-to-face discussions.

Disappointment and frustration were the main reactions from delegates, none of whom was prepared to be quoted in case it jeopardised relations with provincial officials.

"We have to hope that there will be progress soon, but it is difficult to work out what to do next to get provincial officials moving," one delegate said.

John Williams of the Lowveld Development Forum (LDF) highlighted the fact that his organisation had developed a plan for ecotourism based on Unesco's Man and the Biosphere programme.

Williams attended the workshop in the hope of presenting the plan, which has been developed at a cost of about R400 000. The LDF is made up of all stakeholders including grassroots and civic organisations. Despite presentations to the province, it has not yet received feedback.

Grant McLachlan, president of the Phalaborwa Chamber of Commerce, tabled a proposal for the creation of the town as the eccapital of the region.

"The issues his organisation wanted to discuss included moving the administration of Kruger Park from Skukuza to Phalaborwa; the upgrading of the local airport, currently served by daily Airlink flights; the creation of the town as a key ecotourism training and education centre; and the creation of an access road between the town and Gasa Province through the Kruger Park."

As it turned out, none of the issues was discussed — "and Northern Province government officials missed a golden opportunity to take an important step towards developing a much-needed tourism strategy for the region," summarised one delegate.

Gasa Province director Macuče said the conference should have played an important role in the creation of a transfrontier Gasa Peace Park. Situated alongside the Kruger Park, the two parks would cover 6 million hectares and form the largest conservation area in the world.

With the withdrawal of provincial officials, the park and the related issue of opening a border post on the Kruger Park boundary were not discussed.
DURBAN—SA’s future as a tourist destination or as an attractive investment opportunity remained “questionable,” as crime still flourished openly and police had insufficient funding to operate efficiently, Marshall chairman and MD David Marshall said.

He said in the property investment group’s annual report that the government of national unity had undertaken “daunting responsibilities” when assuming power two years ago, and there had been disappointment and criticism from various quarters.

The time had, however, come for government to act against crime and provide funding to equip police in effectively carrying out their duties.

Marshall said that the average occupancy in Marshall’s properties was unchanged at 96% last year.

No portfolio changes were made, because all properties were believed to be well situated with stable letting histories.

Gross assets stood at R113.8m (R111.2m) against long-term borrowings of R14.8m (R15.1m). Shareholders’ funds amounted to R90m (R86.1m).
Cableway company threatens to abandon proposed upgrade

CAPE TOWN — The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company threatened yesterday to abandon its proposed improvement of the cableway if it was not given a guarantee that the National Monuments Council would approve the upgrading.

MD John Harrison said although the company was committed to completing an integrated environmental management study, it could not continue to undertake studies with no guarantee they would result in approval of the upgrading.

He said the company had asked Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane to intervene and reconsider the Monuments Council's decision that the upgrading could begin only when the environmental report had been fully approved.

"The (Monuments Council) has set impossible conditions with no guarantee of approval after the conditions are met, while we feel the specialist study can be done in tandem with the upgrade as the issues do not relate directly to the work but to the management of the top of the mountain."

"We have already got conditional approval for the work from the Cape Town City Council and a permit from the finance and environmental affairs MEC and we have put up financial guarantees of R1m to ensure further issues in this process can be addressed and the necessary changes made."

Harrison said the company was just as concerned about all aspects of the upgrading. "But we believe the completion of the study and the upgrade can run simultaneously. We have already involved about 300 interested and affected parties in the study and have made many amendments to the original plans."

"We have already lost millions of rande as a result of the delays and will have to take a decision whether we will continue with the upgrade." — Sapa.
Amritad seeks a bigger slice of tourism cake
Transport revamp bill likely to top R5 billion

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

UPGRADING Cape Town's transport system to an "acceptable" level for the 2004 Olympics is likely to cost R5.6 billion. This will be a key issue considered by the cabinet when it meets next week to finalise its support for the 2004 bid.

Bid finance director Mike Fuller was unwilling to release financial details at this point. But transport experts argue that it will be necessary to spend R5.6 billion on a public transport system to provide for expected growth in the metropole by the year 2010. The Olympics would accelerate this spending to 2004.

Meanwhile representatives of local and provincial government met yesterday to discuss a cost-sharing strategy for the Olympics. Provincial government agreed to pay 15 percent of the total government contribution towards the cost of competition and training facilities and the upgrading of bulk services.

This agreement is subject to central government and local authorities committing themselves financially to supporting the bid.

In a statement, Premier Hermus Kriel said the fact that the Western Cape was supporting the bid financially would have to be taken into account by the financial and fiscal commission when deciding on the province's financial allocation. Also meeting yesterday, but behind closed doors, was the cabinet sub-committee which will be reporting to the full cabinet next week.

The cabinet meeting on April 24 is a crucial final hurdle before South Africa commits itself to hosting the world's premier sporting event, viewed by its protagonists as the country's best shot at kick-starting economic growth.

Transport costs are being dealt with separately from the projected R1.3 billion cost of building Olympic sporting facilities and training facilities made public last week.

The cost of sporting facilities is likely to be shared between government, the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and the private sector.

However, transport funding is one of the big budget items for central government.

The thrust of the transport strategy would be to woo Cape Town's residents away from cars on to public transport, with bus lanes becoming a feature of the metro along with an upgraded rail network.

Director of metropolitan transport planning Dave Edie said the transport plan was not specific to the Olympics, but had been worked out to meet the metro's needs, including demographic changes and population growth, until the year 2010.

Mr Edie said the plan was aimed at providing public transport which people would find "useful in an acceptable sense of the word and not be dependent on cars."

Although the Olympic Games bid had brought the argument to a head, the issue of funding metropolitan transport was a national one, he argued.

Had the Olympics not been on the agenda, it was likely that the metropole would have been looking at launching a major campaign to increase transport spending which has been declining over the years.

Mr Edie described the budget as "realistic for a good system but he said that his team was being asked to trim it.

Olympic planner Peter de Volly said transport was being dealt with on the basis of what capital structures should be in place for the future growth of the metro, with or without the Olympics, up until 2010.
Survey: tourism inaccessible to disabled

Theo Rawana

ABOUT 3-million disabled southern Africans were denied access to many holiday and leisure facilities, an SA Tourism Board survey has found.

The survey, commissioned to assist Satour in its "national accessibility scheme", found only 48% of respondents went on holiday last year, and 50% of these stayed with friends or relatives — "possibly indicative of the lack of appropriate facilities in SA establishments".

The physically disabled encountered the most problems, with 100% of these travellers experiencing parking problems. More than 85% of the physically disabled respondents were dissatisfied with accommodation facilities, 80% with transport and 75% with public facilities.

The disabled are forced to become "handicapped" due to environments which emphasise their disabilities and it is for this reason Satour has launched the national accessibility scheme," said Satour standards director Greg McManus. The scheme aimed to encourage owners, developers and operators of tourist accommodation and facilities to become more accessible to the vast market of disabled and aged.

It offered accreditation to establishments meeting the required criteria researched and developed from similar international programmes.

Meanwhile, the finalists of this year's Satour tourism awards have been announced. Satour said the Grande Roche Hotel, last year's hotel of the year, was in the running again and would face competition from Magaliesburg's Mount Grace, Hunter's Country House in Plettenberg Bay and Walkerson's Country Manor in Dullstroom.

Contenders for the guest house award included last year's winner Miao Lodge and nearby neighbour Kingsa Lodge, Paarl's Mountain Shadows, Bloemfontein's Hobbit House, De Rust's Oulap and Kiepersoel's Blue Mountain Lodge.

The bed and breakfast contenders included Plettenberg Bay's Cottage Pie, Kaysna's Leisure Isle, Sea Point's Olaf's and Muizenberg's Miramar. Finalists of the self-catering establishment of the year include Noordhoek's Monkey Valley, Kaysna's Old Drift Forest Lodge, Pilgrim's Reet's Crystal Springs and Aventura Badplaas.

The winners will be announced on May 7 at a gala ceremony at the Durban City Hall.
Ministers' committee to probe cableway plan

CAPE TOWN — The Cabinet had decided that a special ministers' committee would be formed to investigate and decide on the proposed development of Table Mountain facilities, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane said on Tuesday.

He said this followed an appeal to him from the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company after the National Monuments Council blocked its plans to upgrade the cableway before an environmental impact study had been completed.

Since so many interests were involved, he had asked the Cabinet to take responsibility for any decisions involving the cableway. The committee, to be chaired by Ngubane, would consist of ministers Katharina Aemal (water and forestry), Pik Botha (mineral and energy affairs), Dawie de Villiers (environmental affairs), and Derek Hanekom (land affairs).

A fine balance should be struck between conservation, preservation of the heritage and encouraging tourism, Ngubane said.

Meanwhile, National Monuments Council director George Hofmeyr said a properly completed environmental impact process was an essential prerequisite for the planned improvement of Table Mountain's cableway. He was responding to a threat by the cableway company to abandon the proposed improvements unless it was given a guarantee the monuments council would approve the upgrading.

MD John Harrison said on Tuesday the company was committed to completing an integrated environmental management process, but could not continue undertaking studies without a guarantee they would result in approval for the upgrading.

Hofmeyr denied the monuments council had set impossible conditions. "The point of the review stage of an integrated environmental management process is to assess whether the information available is adequate," he said. The council and its advisers felt justified to request adequate information on which to base their final decision.
R61m DECISION ‘TOO COMPLICATED’

Ngubane asks for help on cableway controversy

THE FUTURE of the planned R61-million development of Table Mountain will be decided by a committee of the “St Lucia four” cabinet ministers, Dr Ben Ngubane announced yesterday.

MELANIE GOSLING reports.

The Table Mountain cableway controversy has proved too much of a hot potato for Arts and Science Minister Dr Ben Ngubane, who has called on four other cabinet ministers to help him decide whether to give the R61-million upgrading project the green light or not.

He announced yesterday that a special minister’s committee — made up of the “St Lucia four” — had been appointed by the cabinet to investigate the issue. The committee members are Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Piki Botha, Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers and Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal — the same four who were appointed earlier this year to make a decision on whether to allow mining on the St Lucia dunes in KwaZulu-Natal. This comes after the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC) appealed to Ngubane last week to overturn the decision by the National Monuments Council who had refused to give the company the go-ahead for the upgrading until the integrated environmental management study had been completed.

Ngubane said the cableway controversy was too complicated a matter to be the responsibility of one minister alone.

A statement from Ngubane’s office said: “Since there are so many interests involved, making it a very complicated matter, the minister is of the opinion that it should be a cabinet responsibility, rather than just a decision for one ministry to make.”

Ngubane will head the committee which is likely to sit for the first time next week. He appealed for patience so that the committee could make a decision which had “the best interests of Table Mountain at heart.”

TMACC managing director Mr John Harrison said yesterday: “We trust the committee will get together as soon as possible to bring this matter to an end.”

He added that his company might still call off the development before the committee made a finding.

The move has been welcomed by vice-chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Area Mr John Cobby, who said his organisation believed it was essential that the environmental studies be completed before construction began.

Mountain Club of SA spokesman Mr Lester Coelen said: “I hope the ministers make a decision based on sound environmental considerations only and not politics.

“Table Mountain is a priceless, irreplaceable asset and whatever we do to it cannot be undone later.”
Tech to study tourism in Worcester

288

THE Cape Technikon is to conduct an in-depth study of Worcester's tourism potential — the findings of which could provide a model for numerous Boland and platteland towns struggling to promote themselves as tourist destinations.

The survey, a product of the technikon's tourism research unit, is to be conducted next month by 110 marketing students who will interview 500 people living in the Peninsula. The findings will be available in September.

Worcester Publicity Association spokesman Mr Andre du Plessis said that the town's share of the tourism market currently consisted of weekend "day trippers", most of whom are Capetonians.

"We have a lot of visitors who come for the day, but for some reason they don't stay over. This suggests that there is something wrong with our marketing strategies," he said.

"I think the survey will show that local businessmen have to pull up their socks — especially because nothing is open on Saturday afternoons."

"If the study shows that a lot of visitors come to the town on weekends then I may be able to convince the business community to do something."

Head of the Cape Technikon's tourism research unit Mr Norbert Haydam said the survey would establish how many people visited the town and what its attractions are.

"Questions we will focus on are what people's impressions of the town are, and what attractions and events they associate with Worcester," he said.

"In the end we will hopefully provide Worcester with a marketing plan which we will sell to the town and give them an idea of how to cater for foreign and local visitors.

"The survey will also prove invaluable when looking at tourism in the province as a whole."
North receives assurance on tourism strategy

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Northern Province’s Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Dean) has hastened to reassure residents that a strategy to develop regional conservation and tourism is very much on track.

The reassurances come after a report in The Star this week detailed the disappointment and frustration of participants at a workshop in Phalaborwa over the weekend.

Some had travelled 400km but the official delegation departed after the MEC gave her opening speech and before the final plenary session.

Dean spokesman Danny Moiza said yesterday that the workshop was part of a consultative process board with six experts, including the director of the University of Pretoria’s Centre for Ecotourism, Prof Phillip Hattinah.

Charles Maluleke, the provincial director of tourism, said: “The issue is not that we left early from the weekend workshop. I think there might have been a poor understanding of what the workshop was to achieve. It was not expected that any decisions would be made.

“Instead the forum was an opportunity for role players to voice their ideas.

“In this world, where we are trying to bring all players aboard, it was part of an overall process coordinated by my department to give everyone an opportunity to voice concerns: We all have different dreams and the question my department faces is: can we bring all those dreams on reality and how do we reconcile the dreams?”

Moiza and Maluleke emphasised that the Phalaborwa workshop was one in a series being run by the University of Pretoria’s Centre for Ecotourism.
Tourism funds ‘too little’

Director-general slams tiny budget as hopeless

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was distinctly underfunded, its director-general Dr Colin Cameron said yesterday.

The department received only 0.18% of the R36.4-billion national budget for 1996/97 before payments to the National Parks Board, National Botanical Institute and Satour.

Its budget was derived from the function committee for nature conservation and the department of state expenditure, he said, briefing the National Assembly’s environmental affairs and tourism committee on the department’s budget.

In the 1996/97 budget R34.5-million was allocated to the National Botanical Institute and R46.2-million to the National Parks Board.

Satour received R56.7-million and Sea Rejexes R56.8-million.

Cameron said tourism was the most important part of the department’s budget.

"It is totally inadequate for a country that wants to develop tourism," he said.

The department was reallocating its duties because of functions being transferred to the provinces and South Africa’s re-entry to the international community.

 Asked why certain provinces had not received their budgetary allocations, Cameron said this was a vexing issue.

Committee chairman Peter Mokaba said after the National Botanical Institute’s (NBI) briefing that the institute should investigate closer co-operation with local government parks and recreation facilities.

Several committee members said botanical gardens should be spread evenly throughout the country so that they could be more accessible to disadvantaged communities.

The eight botanical gardens were situated in cities and served about 50% of the population, NBI chief executive Brian Huntley said.

Outreach programmes funded by the private sector had been started to introduce disadvantaged communities and school pupils to the gardens.

Ten percent of the NBI’s income was derived from public donations.

The National Parks Board’s presentation on its budget was rejected, because NBP chief financial director Andre Friedman was unable to answer questions on policy implementation and projects.

"We can’t accept this," committee member Joy Mabudafhasi said.

The NPB had been allocated R46.2-million for the 1996/97 financial year.

"The aim of this process is to see if allocations are justified. That is why we need projects explained," committee chairman Peter Mokaba said.

The committee’s duty was to see that policy was implemented and finances controlled, he said.
Awaiting Cabinet’s nod

The decision by the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee (Bidco) to double its budget for training facilities for the Games to R141m is a clear message to Cabinet that developmental issues have been taken to heart.

Training facilities are being designed for easy conversion into multipurpose community centres, industrial hives and business premises after the Games and will be in previously neglected areas like Khayelitsha and Mitchell’s Plain.

Cabinet endorsed the bid in October 1995 on condition that it was firmly linked to socio-economic development. Soon it must decide whether to take on the financial, legal and security responsibilities of hosting the event.

The State was originally asked to provide R979m for accelerated capital expenditure to 2004 but Bidco financial director Michael Fuller says the division of funding between the different tiers of government and the private sector is still under discussion and Cabinet will be presented with new funding scenarios.

At worst, competition facilities will cost R1,77bn compared with an original estimate of R1,27bn based on August 1995 prices. A realistic estimate is R1,37bn. Training facilities will cost R141m against the initial estimate of R70m.

Fuller says senior Cabinet members have been extensively involved in the determination of final estimates and are not in for a shock at the cost escalation. “There has been excellent co-operation from all levels of government and we have been aided by 40 volunteer teams of architects, quantity surveyors and engineers in ensuring the integrity of the information we present to Cabinet.”

With the bid at such a sensitive stage, the resignation of the deputy chairman Clive Keegan last week and his stinging criticism of CEO Chris Ball could not have come at a worse time.

One of Keegan’s complaints is that Ball has not been frank about Bidco’s agreements with former bid chief Raymond Ackerman and his team of consultants whom it allegedly owes more than R10mn.

Fuller says Bidco has “done its best” to settle the amounts owed by its predecessor, the Cape Town 2004 Trust, to Ackerman, communication consultants Corporate Image, financial consultants Ove Arup, law firm Sonnenberg, Hoffman and Galombik and business advisers Arthur Andersen. Bidco had no legal responsibility to meet the debts incurred by another contracting party and had merely been recognising a moral obligation in agreeing to pay back some of the money. So it was unnecessary to reflect these “debts” in the company’s books.

Keegan’s main concern, however, is that though the technical side of the bid is in highly competent hands, the marketing and public relations “continue to be characterised by amateur ineptness, arrogant dismissal of legitimate fears and lost marketing opportunities.”

The final straw that prompted his resignation was the last-minute postponement of the inaugural meeting of the company’s convocation, a group of leading figures drawn from all over Africa which is likely to be headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Keegan, a former mayor of Cape Town, had been overlooked as a member of the convocation along with several of his 40 co-directors.

But Keegan’s fellow directors have rallied to support Ball and poured cold water on Keegan’s complaints, intimating that at the heart of his resignation is an unrequited “sense of self-importance.”

Ball’s marketing efforts have failed to galvanise Cape Town behind the bid, let alone the rest of SA. It could take Cabinet approval to turn the tide in this battle for the hearts and souls of ordinary South Africans.

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Cape Olympic bid support in jeopardy

Samantha Sharpe

Olympic bid company financial director Michael Fuller said it would be inappropriate for the bid company to comment on what was essentially an intergovernmental issue. He said the critical issue was that the Western Cape government had come forward and supported the bid.

"This is really a national bid and each level of government will have to share the responsibility," Fuller said.

The DP said Cape Town should continue with the 2004 bid only provided central government furnished the city authorities with guarantees for any budget shortfalls, especially for capital projects.

Western Cape premier Herman Kriel said earlier in the week that the province’s financial support for the games depended on the committee taking these commitments into account when determining provincial financial allocations.

He said the province would contribute 16% of government’s total contribution to competition and training facility costs, estimated at R208m.

"We want the allocation formula to be a stable mechanism for ongoing expenditure," he said.
How the Olympics' money is spent

In his third and final article concerning the Olympic Games, Contributing Editor ANTHONY LANGE examines the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The headquarters of the IOC are pleasantly situated beside Lake Geneva, in Lausanne. The IOC is a self-selecting body of 100 individuals all of them unpaid, who represent the Olympic body to their countries, not vice-versa.

Since 1980, the president has been Mr. José de Samanarach, previously Spain's ambassador in Moscow. Under him, amateurism has been discarded and the Olympic movement transformed into a huge business enterprise.

According to Mr. Christopher Hill of Manchester University, lurking behind this development was the late Mr. Horst Dassler, the chairman of Adidas. His company had built up enormous prestige in the Soviet bloc and the Third World, acting frequently as official suppliers. His suggests Dassler could control as many as 30 IOC votes and had delivered the presidency to Samaranch and the 1992 Games to Barcelona. Dassler personally owned 51% of the company appointed to market the Games.

TV has been the main money-spinner, and four franchisees are privileged, as well as various grades of 'sponsorship' at the most of which at Barcelona cost 885 million each.

The IOC is a non-profit organisation and does not publish accounts. However, it is understood that two-thirds of the revenue goes to the host city, to defray running costs (26.8 billion at Barcelona), one-ninth to the international sports federations, a similar proportion to the various National Olympic Committees, via the Solidarity Fund, for development; while the rest funds the IOC.

Following the political disruptions at the 1992 Summer Games, only Los Angeles bid for 1994. Public funds were refused, so a private group, led by Peter Ueberroth, a successful travel entrepreneur, took on the Games as a free-enterprise venture. Little was spent on facilities: The 1932 stadium was reused, and accommodation provided at university residences. A hard bargain was struck with the IOC and the eventual handsome profits remained in the US. This experience persuaded the IOC to control future financial policy for its own benefit.

Although the Olympics caused considerable disruption even two years before they took place in Barcelona, 60% of its citizens were sure that the Games were a good thing for their city. This was hardly surprising, since the city had become very run down under Franco. Central government provided 288 billion for upgrading, and an additional display of energy and creativity followed. Projects of exceptional architectural virtuosity were embarked upon all over the city. The celebrated American Richard Meier designed the Museum of Contemporary Art and Japan's Arata Isozaki the covered sports stadiums, while Spain's Rafael Moneo encased the National Theatre of Barcelona in a Greek temple constructed of glass. A run-down industrial area on the coast was transformed into the Olympic Village, with facilities for yacht races—a future marina.

The Games that will soon open in Atlanta represent a return to the free-enterprise ethic of Los Angeles and will rely heavily on corporate sponsorship (Cosco has its headquarters in the city). Not more than 82 billion will be spent. Again, accommodation and sporting facilities will be spread across campuses. New buildings will be sold back to universities at a 25% discount.

Unfortunately, most of the architecture looks execrable. The main stadium will be the future home of the Atlanta Braves and is a 60,000-seat stadium with an incongruous temporary loop for the running track.

However, a considerable effort has been made on the political side to include disadvantaged communities in the programme at every level. A federal grant will enable certain slum areas to be upgraded but, regrettably, this work will be limited to places visitors might see.

Cape Town's bid is a venture shared between the public and private sectors. Comprehensive answers will have to be prepared for 458 questions posed by the IOC. Proof will have to be given that the demanding criteria supplied by all the various international sports federations can be met; solid financial guarantees arranged. Myriad technical factors will have to be considered, from how to deal with the South Easter to how hundreds of thousands of visitors can be accommodated and transported. There are 47 professional teams at work. Remarkably, they have all offered their services free. Cape Town now has political clout, is superbly telegenic, and, if spirit counts, it will surely win gold.
DP 'will review its support for Olympic bid'

POLITICAL WRITER
C7191419
POTENTIAL benefits for Cape Town in hosting the 2004 Olympics were obvious but the risks of bad planning were daunting too, the Democratic Party said yesterday.

Because various questions surrounding the bid were still unresolved, the DP's support for it would be reviewed from time to time, said DP Western Cape leader, Mr Henrico Bester.

In its memorandum to metropolitan elections, the DP said the bid's potential benefits included more tourists, thousands of jobs and new developments.

But it said the risks included "large municipal debts due to capital developments necessary for the Games (and) environmental degradation in the rush to complete developments and scoop maximum profits".

In light of planning and management had to be transparent and public reports were essential.
Give us your support – ‘If Cape Town wins,’

THE dedicated and talented team at the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid has put in a mighty effort in the past few months to prepare a proposal to host the Olympic Games in our region. It has come up with a realistic and sound proposal that commits South Africa to a development of Games. While Olympism has three pillars—sport, culture and environment—we see a fourth for South Africa’s bid—development. The Olympic Charter refers specifically to the developmental nature of the Olympic movement and we are putting forward a proposal which enables it to give real meaning to this element of its principles.

A Games in South Africa will be Olympism in action.

Our proposal is aimed at improving the long-term quality of life of people in the region, particularly the most marginalised sector, in a manner that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. The impact will be felt throughout the sub-continent.

The proposal is in good shape and is being discussed with various levels of government.

It is encouraging that, without exception, the international experts who have visited us recently have responded well to the proposal. For example, the president of the Reformed Olympic Federation, an international sports federation who has visited bidding cities over many years, tells us he has never seen such detailed and professional preparation of a bid.

The president of a national Olympic committee involved in hosting an Olympic Games says our bid is extraordinarily well prepared—and we are at the stage they were two years after they had won their bid.

So, this loose maul of random critics that has formed around our bid is puzzling. It is comforting to learn that it’s the norm rather than the exception in bids! The CEO of the Atlanta Olympics had pockets outside his house for some time while Lilliehammer had difficulties with its local politicians.

I guess our local loose maul may be caused by some or all of the following:

1. The Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid is run as a corporate entity by a team employed to deliver its goals, but it overlaps political and local government processes and is far-reaching in its implications. By definition, there is therefore tension, but it has to be overcome by cooperation.

2. One way to deal with this is to have wide representation on the board of Directors, including representation by political authorities.

3. Not all participants in the board may be familiar with the disciplines of company processes, which are very different from political processes. In particular, the Board deals with policy issues and delegates operating issues to the management. Moreover, Board members have a duty to maintain confidentiality of discussion at meetings and not to use information obtained within the Board elsewhere.

4. The Bid has emerged from a period of acrimony. The excellent team now in place does not include the previous participants, who nevertheless have different views concerning the position—whether it is with the exception of one, who seeks to carry a personal vendetta against the Bid.

5. Does this all matter then? In most cases, critics say they support the Bid, but are unhappy with some of the reasons they refuse to engage us in direct discussion.

But most significantly, there is cooperation between a large number of people of goodwill and it will continue. And there is a fundamentally sound Olympic Games proposition which is affordable and brings benefits to the whole of our sub-continent.

Former United States Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young says the Olympic Games is the greatest economic force in the world, meaning there is nothing which does more to stimulate energy and focus economic activity into any area than the Olympic Games.

The primary purpose in pursuing the dream of hosting the Games in Cape Town is to increase significantly the size of the economic cake for the benefit of all, and thereby provide a large number of jobs for the people who need them.

Without a boost to employment opportunities, the Western Cape will deteriorate and its already very precious environment will be threatened. One of our national Cabinet ministers has said that it is essential for the future of our country. I agree with the sentiment.

The process of bidding is not easy. We have to set aside petty jealousies and support the proposal to ensure that South Africa and Africa take advantage of this unique opportunity to win the 2004 Games. That is the Bid Company’s responsibility.

The national cabinet is expected to decide this week whether or not to support Cape Town’s bid to host the Olympic Games in 2004.

Chris Ball, CEO of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid, outlines why everyone needs to support the company’s efforts.
Cableway probe starts

By Chari de Villiers

A TOP-RANKING cabinet committee is likely to be faced with the question of whether Cape Town's cableway company had considered an "astronomic" increase in tourism when it decided to nearly treble the capacity of its 67-year-old facility.

A five-man committee, chaired by Arts, Science, Culture and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane, meets for the first time on Wednesday to investigate the R81-million project.

The upgrade was blocked for environmental reasons by the National Monuments Council three weeks ago.

The company says that it has lost R500 600 due to construction delays since mid-March and will have to close the popular cableway over Christmas and during January if it is not given the go-ahead by next Monday.

"If the upgrade is not approved by then, we'll have to decide whether to delay it for a year, or scrap it completely," cableway company managing director John Harrison said yesterday.

"We hope and pray that the ministers believe that their decision does not have to follow yet another long and drawn-out investigation," he added.

But according to an informed source, the politicians will probably have to consider arguments that the proposed increase in the cableway's carrying capacity would be swamped within five years by a 20 percent annual growth in tourism.

NMC director George Hofmeyr yesterday confirmed that this was one of the issues his council had raised last week with the company when calling for further impact assessments.

A spokesman for Dr Ngubane confirmed that UCT environmental scientist Prof Richard Fuggle had already given the minister a "strong" report on the environmental dispute which erupted when the NMC refused permission for the upgrade.

The NMC said it could not consider approval until an integrated environmental management process had been completed and has listed five studies it still wants done to resolve the company's "incomplete and flawed" IEM.

These must also be reviewed by the public, the NMC's own advisors, an internationally-recognised, independent specialist and the monuments council itself.

"A shortcut in this respect is not possible if the IEM process is to stand up proper scrutiny. There are just too many unanswered questions about the impact of this project," Mr Hofmeyr said.

The cableway company warned that it would not do outstanding impact studies without guarantees.

The other committee members are Water Affairs and Forestry minister Prof Kader Asmal, Mr Pik Botha (Mineral and Energy Affairs), Dr Dawie de Villiers (Environment Affairs and Tourism), and Mr Derek Hanekom (Land Affairs).
Answer the Olympics questions

CAPE TIMES Architectural Correspondent JACK BARNETT questions whether Cape Town’s Olympic Bid Company expects to succeed if it plans to go into battle against the world with “a volunteer rag tag army”. In my column (CAPE TIMES, March 12), I asked a few straight questions to which I have had only partial answers or no answers at all, and some uncalled for insults.

In his reply, Robbie Stewart, Director of Sports and Facilities for Cape Town’s Olympic Bid Company, says in the OP-ED with which we are all now so familiar that in order to give all professionals in the Western Cape a chance to participate in planning and design, the Bid company asked them to volunteer their services. I, for one, was never asked, and I would consider it beneath my dignity to reply to some general advertisement.

The OBC suffers from the sadly prevalent perception which lies at the root of the uglification of our physical environment and the general devaluing of the arts in this country: That creative professional architects are really no different to anybody else — just whistle and they’ll come bounding up to lick your hand. But if it isn’t one, it will be another. Architects are basically all the same, you know!

While I could support the idea of Cape Town hosting the Olympics, although financial reports are awfully slow in coming, let me ask the OBC again to tell us unequivocally:

- The names of the architects, engineers and planners who have been commissioned to work on which projects?
- The terms of their appointments and what undertakings have they been given should Cape Town win the bid?

Emerging triumphant from 40 years in the cultural desert, a period in which the world felt it was morally bound to shun everything we did, however good, we are now presented with the golden opportunity through the Olympic Bid to demonstrate our abilities in the fields of architecture and engineering. We have already shown our prowess in government, soccer, rugby and cricket — we should not pass up the opportunity to do the same in other fields, including those of art and architecture.

Had the Olympic Bid Command been blessed with the broad imaginative vision it needs rather than the narrow one it has set itself, how blessed we would have been. Many of us would rather see the bid lost than win it and have the country embarrassed by a third-rate effort. Poor buildings and poor environments are no cheaper to produce than good ones. The best does not necessarily cost more.

It is the inherent responsibility of the OBC to attract the finest to its team and it certainly does not appear to have done this. It seems it plans to go into battle against the world with a rag-tag army of volunteers...

CHRIS BALL: His Olympic Bid Company is accused of not answering vital Bid questions.

The Olympic Bid is going to cost an estimated R80-million; it is a bid that cannot be made without government support. It is a bid to be made on behalf of the whole country. So why are the appointments confined to people in the Western Cape, when they should be open to the whole country?

On the issue of those architectural competitions, one asks how it can be that the Institute of Architects supports an appalling set of conditions which permit us to compete against non-architects, had no board of assessors appointed (when scrutinised, they are generally far more numerous than the Institute’s)

Llewellyn van Wyk: His Olympic Bid Company is highly insulating and vi-sionary, and the OP-ED with which we are now so familiar that in order to give all professionals in the Western Cape a chance to participate in planning and design, the Bid company asked them to volunteer their services.

I do not know why he felt it necessary to attack me when the issue of the OBC and its operations is raising questions throughout the country: I have merely verbalised it. It takes courage in this town to ask a question, but neither Van Wyk nor any other will stop questions being asked until they are answered honestly by one, with no evasiveness.

The public has a right to know and it will insist on knowing.
Tourism industry boosted by rise in bookings due to rand’s depreciation

By Hopewell Rabuka
City Reporter

Tourism in Gauteng is booming, with hotels and conference facilities experiencing the highest levels of advance bookings ever for the next three to six months because of the depreciation of the rand, according to the Association of South African Travel Agents.

Association spokesman Rupert Lawlor said South Africa had become one of the most popular tourist destinations for overseas holiday-makers and businessmen since the rand’s value started falling in the international market.

He said this had prompted small businesses to venture into the tourism industry to “get a piece of the cake” of much-needed foreign currency.

Lawlor said entrepreneurs were taking advantage of the situation by opening guest houses, especially in the vicinity of the Johannesburg airport.

Lawlor said competition to attract guests in the East Rand region in particular was high and hosts were offering tourists a variety of services.

Tourists were being collected at the airport and taken on industrial and township tours as well as organised visits to bird sanctuaries, monuments and museums.

The Eastern Gauteng Tourism Organisation (EGTO) has begun compiling a comprehensive tourists’ handbook and road map.

“The organisation wants to hear from anyone involved in the tourism sector within eastern Gauteng to get their details included,” Lawlor said.

He added that the brochure was currently being updated and would be available to tourists at Johannesburg airport.
Tourism officials expect mini-boom when UN delegates arrive for talks

BY TROYE LUND

South Africa's tourism industry is positioning itself for a mini-boom expected to be caused by the 3,000 United Nations delegates who will begin arriving in Johannesburg next week for a conference on trade and development. Organisations involved in preparing for the two-week UN Conference on Trade and Development ((UNCTAD 9)) are determined that delegates should experience the sights and cultures of South Africa.

"Tourism has the potential to be SA's biggest money spinner and there is nothing as effective as positive word of mouth spread by influential people," said South African Tourism Board (Sautour) spokesman Martin van Niekerk.

Van Niekerk said the opportunities the two-week conference holds for rural people are particularly significant in view of UNCTAD 9's theme of sustaining growth in developing countries at the same time as allowing them to participate in a globalising First World economy.

Tourism has the potential to re-energise the economy and empower impoverished rural populations.

"Tourism has the potential to become South Africa's biggest moneyspinner," said Wayne Suttie of Sibijabi Game Lodge.

The several lodges in the 57,000ha Sabi Sands reserve support about 10,000 Shangaan people by employing them at the lodges, or generating jobs through crafts businesses. Individuals make and sell at the markets that line the roads in the area.

"For every ten tourists, one job is created," said Suttie.

Small farmers in the area also benefit because they are able to sell more of their produce locally because there are more mouths to be fed when tourists come calling.

Courses on eco-tourism are also run at the lodges for schoolteachers in the area. Teachers then impart the eco-tourism philosophy and financial benefits of tourism to children in the schools.

Aside from the 170 Shangaan women employed as hotel and game-ranger staff at Sibijabi, a full time community officer is employed to identify needs and educational possibilities of the communities.

According to Suttie, "The only way a wildlife sanctuary can survive is to have an eco-system based on sustainable development that employs labour and earns foreign currency." Van Niekerk is also adamant, that the Government should spend more than the annual R50-million on promoting South Africa overseas as a tourist destination.
Bidding for Cape Town. Premier Tokyo Sexwale announces his membership of the Olympics Bid 2004 Convocation to see the Mother City hosting the Olympics. With him is Olympics bid committee chief executive officer Chris Ball.

Sexwale supports Cape’s Olympics bid

Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale has announced his membership of the Olympics bid 2004 Convocation, a body that has to stand behind the bid to see Cape Town hosting the Olympics.

Sexwale said he was pleased to be a member of the convocation, adding that Gauteng supported Cape Town in its bid.

He said sport was crucial in reconciling people: “After the Truth and Reconciliation there is recreation.”

The Olympics would also create jobs for multi-tudes of the unemployed, he said. Olympic Bid Committee chief executive officer Chris Ball said other premiers and prominent figures had been invited to join the convocation which is chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. – Staff Reporter.
SA-Mozambique plan to improve trade, tourism

By Jorge Dique

MAPUTO - Mozambique and South Africa aim to increase trade and tourism levels through the new Maputo Development Corridor. In the early 1970s, 40 percent of South Africa's exports and imports passed through the port of Maputo which is seen as extremely important by South Africans. It is closer to the industrial heartland in Gauteng than either Durban or Cape Town.

The restoration of Maputo port is expected to create employment for thousands of Mozambicans and South Africans.

Tourists sites between Ponta do Ouro in the Maputo province and Xai-Xai in Gaza are to be developed in an attempt to bring back South African tourist levels of the 1970s.

About R666.7 million has been allocated for the construction of the 500km motorway between Maputo and Witbank and a rail link between Maputo and Komatipoort is being reconstructed at a cost of more than R20 million.

Now only five percent of South African trade passes through Maputo and the toll route is down to 3,000.

The corridor runs from Maputo to Witbank and Mqumbane. It is planned as a trade route and will include road, rail and telecommunication links.

More than R1 billion is to be spent on the development of the corridor.

Africa Information Afrique.
Final Government decision quells report to ministers from bid committee in May

Cabinet delays on Games bid
UCT professor head of mountain probe

RICHARD Fuggle of the University of Cape Town is to be asked to head a probe into upgrading Table Mountain, says Ben Ngubane, chairman of the minister's committee on the upgrading.

Professor Fuggle is to head a committee whose brief is to identify and look into all aspects of upgrading the cable car system and facilities as part of the effort to increase the tourism potential of the mountain.

It will have to report to the minister's committee within three months.

A decision on upgrading should be taken only after a comprehensive study, rather than on the strength of what had so far been submitted, said Dr Ngubane, minister of arts, science and technology. — Sapa.
Brilliant Brazil outmanoeuvres Baffling Banaa

Cableway Plan
Greens Block
Mountain Project Proposed
Six new hotels planned for city

DAN SIMON

AT LEAST six hotels are to be built in the city over the next two years — with four earmarked for the site of the old Table Bay power station on the Foreshore.

Two of the hotels, which are under construction, are the 172-room Victoria Junction Protea Hotel in Somerseet Road and Sun International's 330-room Table Bay Hotel in the V&A Waterfront.

The Victoria Junction is expected to open in November while the Table Bay will only be completed in June next year.

Of the four hotels to be erected on the power station site, two are to be built by the French company CBG. The other two are expected to be developed by Southern Sun, which recently concluded an agreement with the Devland Group which owns the properties.

Cape Town City Council's development co-ordinator Mr Bob Young said yesterday that one of the French developments was likely to be a Hilton hotel.

Besides the six new hotel commitments, he said he believed that there were plans afoot to revamp AA House on the Foreshore and turn it into a hotel.

"I believe that Golden Tulip is planning to open a hotel at Cape Town Central Station."

However, a spokesman for Intrestre, the property arm of the Rail Commuter Corporation, said there was no finality on plans for a hotel at the station.

Young said that besides these two possible developments, representatives of several major international hotel groups have been scouting the city for suitable sites:

• The high prices charged by South African hotels for accommodation, particularly four- and five-star hotels, has prompted the Association of Southern African Travel Agents (Asata) to hold its annual congress in Namibia.

The four-day congress, which attracts some 400 delegates from across Southern Africa, will be held in Windhoek in October, according to Asata executive director Mr Chris du Toit.

"We went out to secure the best and cheapest package and found Namibia to be much cheaper."
R1 680m CAPITAL COSTS

Olympic venues identified

THE CAPE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL endorsed a report from the Olympic Bid Company by a large majority yesterday. PETER DENNEHY reports.

The most comprehensive figures yet released about proposed Olympic facilities were placed before the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) at its monthly meeting yesterday.

The 34 venues set out in the report from the Olympic Bid Company will have capital costs of R1 680 million. The cost of running the facilities after the Games is not mentioned in the report.

Metro councillors held a vehement debate over whether the report should merely be "noted" or more enthusiastically "endorsed and accepted". The pro-Olympics grouping won the vote at the end by a clear majority, with just four councillors out of over 100 present voting against endorsement.

Among the costs detailed are:
- R321,6m for a 65 000-seat Main Stadium at Wingfield, which will be owned by the Metropolitan Council although it is on land which will be owned by Central municipality;
- R183m for an Olympic Sport Hall for gymnastics, volleyball and basketball at Culemborg, with 15 000 seats. It will be owned by the Metro Council and used as an exhibition centre afterwards;
- R153m for a 15 000-seat indoor hall for Olympic volleyball on privately owned land in Granger Bay, for later use as an entertainment centre;
- R129m for a 12 000-seat "swimming/racing/diving" venue on the old Athlone Golf Course;
- R93,8m for a rowing course at Wingfield. Construction is due to start in 1999 and the environmental impact study has started;
- R77,5m for an equestrian centre at Klapmuts, seating 15 000, on Cape Agricultural Society land. It will be used as a showground afterwards.
- R28,3m for an indoor hall for wrestling, which will later become part of a convention centre for Cape Town. Its venue has not been disclosed yet; although the Bid Company says the environmental impact study has already started.

Mr Pierre Uys of Kuils River complained that most of the venues were in Tygerberg and Central. He would have liked a more equitable distribution of venues.

Mr Arthur Wiernburg of Cape Town said the cost of keeping new facilities running was usually 20% a year of the capital cost. In Cape Town’s case that amounted to R280m. He wanted a study done of exactly what the maintenance costs would be, and he wanted the Cape Town City Council to vote on whether it accepted its share of the financial responsibility.

Councillor Llewellyn van Wyk, of Cape Town, said there had been wide consultation over the past 10 months about venues, with RDP forums and sports bodies and at public meetings.

The "bid book" must be completed by the end of July, he said. Councillors should not take the attitude of "what am I getting in my backyard".

Mr Roger Hulley, deputy chair of the CMC, said the final decision on venues would have to be taken by new councils after the elections, by July 31. A financial guarantee would be required at that time too.

BARRY STREEK reports that the Olympic Bid Company will make a presentation to the cabinet towards the end of May.

Cabinet secretary Dr Jakes Gerwel said this was in keeping with a previous cabinet decision committing government support for and co-operation in the preparation of the bid, with a presentation to be made at the appropriate time to enable a final decision to be reached on support for a bid.
TABLE MOUNTAIN CABLEWAY

ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE

The Cabinet committee appointed to decide the fate of the R61m upgrade of Cape Town’s Table Mountain cableway must decide whether to relax environmental management procedures to facilitate the much-needed development.

The National Monuments Council has refused the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Co (TMACC) permission to start upgrading until it has completed the R1.4m Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process, which started last September.

Cape Town City Council has compromised by granting the company planning permission to conduct the IEM and the upgrading concurrently, provided certain guarantees are obtained beforehand.

TMACC has appealed against the National Monuments Council ruling to Minister of Arts, Science, Culture & Technology Ben Ngubane, who chairs the Cabinet committee that will decide the matter.

TMACC MD John Harrison says that unless the committee can reach a decision by April 26, work will not be completed in time for the summer season and the project may have to be delayed until next winter or scrapped completely. He says he cannot continue to undertake studies with no guarantee that they will result in approval.

The upgrading includes the installation of larger, faster and more stable Swiss-made gondolas to increase the carrying capacity from 230 people/hour to 650, improving the vehicular and pedestrian arrival area, building a new restaurant and expanding the upper and lower cable stations.

The National Monuments Council is concerned that insufficient investigation has been conducted into the effect this leap in the number of visitors will have on the sensitive mountain environment.

There’s also the argument that, with tourism expected to increase by 20% a year, even trebling capacity will not lessen the nine-hour queues that dent Cape Town’s image as a world-class tourist destination.

The IEM process is designed to ensure that environmental consequences of development proposals are adequately considered in the planning process. However, the project was subjected to IEM procedures only once the proposals had reached a relatively advanced stage.

As a result, alternative and mitigating measures have not been explored.

Says National Parks Board’s David Daiz: "They started with architectural and engineering solutions and approached the IEM as an afterthought." The board wants the project delayed for a year so that environmental considerations can be dealt with properly.

The National Monuments Council says further information is required on water and electricity supply, sewage and litter removal, parking and traffic management, the building of buildings and restaurants and the bollards that will anchor the cables.

Only a draft environmental impact assessment summary has been completed. It has been reviewed by a wide range of specialists, authorities and nongovernmental organisations. There’s broad agreement that it falls short of the mark.

It is unlikely that the Cabinet committee will allow the outcome of the IEM process to be pre-empted because the developer waited too long before embarking on this crucial action.

The committee is made up of the same Cabinet Ministers who ruled against the mining of St Lucia’s dunes and it has appointed as its technical adviser Professor Richard Fuggle, an architect of the IEM process.

It should be remembered that Table Mountain is a nature reserve and a national monument as well as a designated national park, which will almost certainly receive world heritage status. It can only be hoped that no environmental compromises will be allowed.

Ben Ngubane
Hotels on a high

PRETORIA — Hotels in the capital and the Western Cape have the highest room-occupancy rates in the country, according to the latest figures issued by the Central Statistical Service. Cape Town, the Peninsula and the Winelands showed the highest room occupancy for February - 87.1 percent - followed by Pretoria with 79.5 percent.

The service said the largest increase in room occupancy was in the Northern Cape - 46.1 percent - and this province also showed the largest increase in hotel income - 44.4 percent.

The figures are based on the results of a sample survey of hoteliers and extrapolated to represent all hotels according to star grading and tourism region. Time-share hotels were excluded. All income figures included V.A.T.

Northern Province continues to have the largest decrease in room occupancy - 26.9 percent. Room occupancy for February increased by only 1.8 percent to 60.4 percent compared to the same period last year, whereas the bed occupancy remained constant at 41.6 percent for the same period. But hotel income increased by 21 percent.

Half the tourism regions showed increases in bed occupancy with the largest increase - 24.5% - shown by Garden Route hotels.
Tourism minister tells delegates that province has tremendous potential for ecotourism

By AMNA ALI

The development of the Wild Coast as an ecological and cultural tourism destination is among the most promising opportunities for the Eastern Cape. The Wild Coast, a region of outstanding natural beauty and cultural significance, is a hub for a variety of ecological and cultural tourism activities.

The Wild Coast is home to a diverse range of ecosystems, including coastal forests, wetlands, and marine environments. These unique habitats support a wide array of flora and fauna, making the region a prime destination for nature lovers and environmental educators.

In addition to its natural attractions, the Wild Coast is rich in cultural heritage. The area is home to several indigenous communities, each with its own unique language, customs, and traditions. These communities are open to sharing their culture with visitors, offering a unique opportunity to learn about the rich cultural history of the region.

The development of the Wild Coast as an ecological and cultural tourism destination is supported by a range of initiatives and partnerships. The province is working closely with local communities, conservation organizations, and private sector stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism practices and ensure the long-term viability of the destination.

The potential of the Wild Coast as a tourism destination is significant, and the provincial government is committed to realizing this potential. By investing in tourism infrastructure and promoting the region to visitors, the government aims to create economic opportunities for local communities while also preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Wild Coast.

The Eastern Cape is a region of great beauty and cultural significance, and the Wild Coast is at its heart. With the right approach, the potential of this region can be fully realized, offering visitors a unique and unforgettable experience.

The Wild Coast is a place where natural beauty and cultural history converge, creating a destination that is both awe-inspiring and intellectually stimulating. By supporting the development of this destination, the government is ensuring that the Eastern Cape remains a place of wonder and discovery for generations to come.

The development of the Wild Coast as an ecological and cultural tourism destination is a testament to the commitment of the provincial government to promoting sustainable tourism practices and ensuring the long-term viability of this unique region.
Down by the riverside the Eastern Cape offers plenty of opportunities to escape to tranquillity. Here two children enjoy a day at the river.
Tourists keep coming back to W-Cape, says report

Tourism is booming in the Western Cape, if the latest hotel occupancy figures, compiled by the Central Statistical Service, are anything to go by.

Cape Town, the Peninsula and the Winelands top-scored in room occupancy rate for February, at 67.7 percent, as reflected by the figures which were obtained from reports from the various tourism regions.

This region was followed by Jacaranda (Pretoria area) at 79.5 percent.

The largest increase in room occupancy occurred in the rest of the Northern Cape area, 46.1 percent, and this region also recorded the biggest increase in hotel income (44.4 percent)

Northern Province, however, went against the trend and showed the biggest drop in room occupancy—20.2 percent.

Room occupancy for February showed a nationwide average increase of only 1.6 percent to 60.4 percent compared to February last year, showing that apart from the Jacaranda region, the Western Cape was the powerhouse of tourism.

Bed occupancy remained the same, however, at 47.6 percent. Hotel income increased by 21.9 percent nationwide.

On a regional basis, the Garden Route fared the best as far as bed occupancy is concerned, with a growth of 24.3 percent.

This figure is believed to indicate whether there was an increase in the number of people visiting a region.

The biggest decreases in bed occupancy were shown by Northern Province and the rest of Mpumalanga region at a percentage decrease of 14.5 percent.

Tourists preferred so-called "nil-star" hotels with their lower rates.

These hotels showed the largest increases in room occupancy and hotel income.

At the same time though, one and two-star hotels showed the greatest increase in bed occupancy (indicating rooms shared).

The room occupancy rate in 16 of the 24 tourism regions of the country was higher in February this year than it was in the same month last year.

Of the 24 regions, 22 showed an increase in hotel income, while 12 showed an increase in bed occupancy.
Travel in turmoil as rand slides

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter
125 30/4/96

The travel industry has been thrown into turmoil by the declining rand and agents are bracing themselves for yet another sharp international air fare rise in June.

This follows the annual fare increase of between two and five percent this month.

Overseas package tour fares are expected to leap by a further 12 to 15 percent next month to compensate for the poor exchange rate and should continue to increase by about five percent every three months, said the Association of SA Travel Agents (Asata) regional director for the Western Cape, Unman Ahmed.

Until recently, most tour operators had absorbed exchange rate losses. He predicted the rand would decline further, to R5 to the dollar, before the end of the year due to "political uncertainty".

South African Airways confirmed the adjustment of fares was under scrutiny as the company's operating costs were significantly affected by the rand/dollar exchange rate.

Although some travel agents have had a slowdown in bookings, many have not yet been affected. But the fall in the value of the rand is expected to take its toll over the next few months.

Agents are waiting hopefully for the rand to stabilise before plotting the way forward and are budgeting according to the exchange rate.

Among travellers, a new pattern is emerging. The leisure market is expected to show the biggest changes, and elderly travellers and families will probably cut back on expenses.

Locals are beginning to avoid Europe and head for cheaper destinations such as Asia.

Trips of four weeks' duration are being cut to three weeks and travellers are downgrading their hotel accommodation.

Companies are cutting down on the number of employees going on business trips together, but otherwise this sector of the industry showed little change.
Gauteng catching up with Cape in tourism

Gauteng hotels increased their market share of bed nights for foreign tourists in February, while those of Cape hotels decreased significantly, the Central Statistical Services said at the weekend.

The market share of Gauteng hotels increased by 0.8% to 32.2% in February over the same month last year, while that of Western Cape hotels decreased by 4% to 35.9% during this period.

Figures released by the CSS showed that the total number of bed nights sold to foreign tourists during February this year (288 953) increased by 35.6% compared with last year’s 213 096.

Johannesburg increased its market share from 14% (29 760) in February last year to 16.3% (47 075) in February this year.

Bed nights sold to foreign tourists as a percentage of all bed nights sold during February this year showed a 25.2% rise compared with the 22.3% for January. The CSS said nil-star hotels reflected the largest number of bed nights sold to foreign tourists in February, with a market share of 29.9%, followed by three-star hotels with 27.3%.

It said the percentage bed nights sold to tourists from the various continents for February this year compared with the same month last year showed that Europe increased its market share by 7.6 percentage points, Asia’s market share decreased by 5.3 percentage points over the same period. The service points out that hotels in the former TBVC states were included in the survey and visitors from these areas were no longer regarded as foreign tourists.

Residential hotels and hotels operating mainly on a time-sharing basis were excluded for the purpose of the survey.
Declining exchange rate puts SA travel industry in turmoil

The travel industry has been thrown into turmoil by the declining rand and agents are bracing themselves for yet another international air fare hike in June. This follows the annual fare increase of between two and five percent this month.

Overseas package tour operators are expected to hike prices by another 12 to 15% this month to compensate for the poor exchange rate and should continue to increase by about 5% every three months, said "Association of SA Travel Agents regional director for the Western Cape, Uiman Ahmed.

Until recently, most tour operators had absorbed the exchange rate losses. He predicted the rand would decline further to R5 to the dollar before the end of the year.

South African Airways confirmed the adjustment of airfares was under scrutiny as SAA's operating costs were significantly affected by the exchange rate. While some travel agents have experienced a slowing down in bookings, many have not yet been affected but the fall in value of the rand is expected to take its toll over the next few months.

Among travel agents a new pattern is emerging. The leisure market is expected to show the biggest changes and elderly travellers and families will probably cut back on expenses. Locals are beginning to avoid Europe and are heading for cheaper destinations such as Asia, while shortening their package tours to accommodate the weaker rand.

"Trips of four weeks duration are being cut down to three and travellers are downgrading their hotel accommodation, often from five stars to three. Companies are also cutting down on the number of employees going on business trips altogether."

Relatively unaffected though will be the "VFR" or visiting friends and relatives sector, especially visitors to the UK and Australia, where travellers have free accommodation for much of their stay.

Keith Gow, managing director of Associated Tour Operators speculated that the declining rand would have a more positive effect on regional travel within South Africa and to neighbouring states. Hotels in the Maldives, for instance, had already dropped their rates to meet the falling rand. Once the Rand stabilised, South Africans would grow used to the weaker currency and would continue to travel, insiders said.

Meanwhile, South Africa has become a paradise for overseas visitors and a flood of tourists is expected.

As a travel destination, the country is fast becoming the "favoured country of the decade" said Ahmed. The Western Cape looks set to enjoy a booming winter season and 1996 should show 10 to 15% more foreign visitors than last year.

However, travel agents believe South Africa is no longer a cheap country to travel to, due to extremely high prices possibly being set by "greedy" hoteliers.

"Compared to Far East countries such as Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, South African hotels are overpriced," said Wally Gaynot managing director of Club Travel.

But eating out, alcohol and cigarettes are still at "bargain basement" prices, making the country a hot international destination. -Staff Reporter.
OVERSEAS tourists are being warned on the Internet of the high level of crime against foreign visitors in South African cities, and some are resorting to bodyguards and stun-guns to protect themselves.

In its March update to US citizens travelling to South Africa, the US State Department's travel information service on the Internet says that although the "vast majority of visitors" complete their travels to South Africa without incident, visitors should be aware that criminal activity, sometimes violent, was reported on a routine basis.

"Criminal activity in South Africa is perceived to be a significant threat to the overall stability of the new government and to the welfare of its citizens. Criminal activity, such as assault and armed robbery, is present in areas surrounding downtown and suburban hotels and public transportation centres, especially in major cities.Visitors are also told that car hijacking is prevalent and that credit card fraud was "routinely reported."

City bodyguard Mr Craig Pedersen runs a company which specialises in providing a VIP bodyguard service and now offers a protection service to tourists.

Pedersen said that since the beginning of the year, the company had provided a "close protection service" to 24 tourists, mainly from Europe.

In addition to the service, bodyguards also double as tour guides and personal assistants. Fees for the service vary between £350 to £500 a day.

"Everyone says tourists are scared, but what do people do about it?" "Some tourists have gone looking for mace and stun-guns at a number of gunshops," said Pedersen.

Police statistics paint a grim picture of the high levels of crime against tourists over the past six months. The figures show that roughly 20 tourists are mugged or attacked in the city centre each month. A total of 55 tourists have been attacked in the city since January, and 62 tourists were attacked or mugged in the city between October and December last year.

"Just one mugging creates a ripple effect. Tourists meet easily and discuss their experiences," Pedersen said.
R70m plan to turn Blue
Train into ‘leading hotel’

(288) CR 3/5/96

DAN SIMON

SPOORNET is pulling out all the stops to
capture the top end of the international
tourist market by refurbishing the Blue
Train at a cost of R70 million.

Minister of Public Enterprises Ms Stella
Siccau, who announced the project yester-
day, said SA would gain a “major new
international tourist attraction” with the
launch in October.

A capital outlay of R70 million for the
refurbishment of Spoornet’s two Blue
Trains was a “worthwhile investment”
considering the returns.

Projected profits, she said, were expect-
ed to grow from about R5 million this year
to about R64 million in the year 2000.

Spoornet chief executive Mr Braam le
Roux said the new Blue Train would be a
“showpiece for the South African tourism
industry”.

“The industry is one of the great hopes
for the economy and the new Blue Train
will demonstrate how our young democra-
cy can produce a travelling masterpiece.

“This will not just be a train but one of
the world’s leading hotels,” he said.

Currently, 90% of the passengers are
international visitors and the new train is
likely to continue that trend. It will cost
R4 500 a person sharing a compartment
for a one-way trip between Pretoria and
Cape Town.

Each air-conditioned compartment
will have a bathroom or shower, TV, radio
and telephone, while the luxury suites will
include CD players.

There will also be a large screen in the
lounge car where guests can enjoy the
locomotive driver’s view of the track and
scenery ahead.

A professionally trained butler will be
on call for guests in each compartment 24
hours a day.

Spoornet executive manager Dr
Charles Wright said once both trains were
refurbished, they would be capable of
transporting 20 000 visitors a year. This
included the 12 trips from Pretoria to the
Victoria Falls.

“In the old days we had an occupancy
rate of 75%. We believe this will increase to
80%,” he said.
Games to cost province and councils

R55-m a year

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

PROVINCIAL and local government in the Western Cape will be expected to pick up 16 percent of the estimated R1.9 billion cost of building Olympic venues and practice facilities.

These figures were released today by Chris Ball, chief executive officer of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid Company.

Mr Ball said this would amount to just under R55-million a year to be split between the province, the Cape Metropolitan Council and other local authorities. It is proposed that the province take responsibility for 30 percent of the cost, while the CMC will take care of another 30 percent.

The remainder will be shared by the Cape Town City Council, which will pick up 20 percent, and other substructures, which will share the other 20 percent.

"In the case of the City of Cape Town, the amount to be spent per annum on the venues and practice facilities will be less than the current level of annual expenditure on new sports facilities and venues. It is not proposed that borrowings be incurred to finance the facilities," Mr Ball said.

The bid company has asked for R250-million to be spent on improvement to road and rail services in the Western Cape before the end of 1997.

Mr Ball said that the proposed dates for the Olympics in 2004, if they came to Cape Town, would be from September 17 to October 3, the same dates used by Seoul in South Korea for the 1992 Games.
The Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid

The issue of Olympic maximization

...
Truth Commission prepares for KwaZulu Natal sittings

Durban At least 25 people are expected to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during its Durban sittings. Commissioners said yesterday they expected a scramble for the 300-odd tickets that will be made available on Monday.

KwaZulu Natal commissioner Richard Lyster said security would be tight. He stressed that only ticket-holders would be allowed into the hearings at the Jewish Hall in Old Port Road.

He expressed concern that the hearings might be affected by a strike planned by the ANC for Friday, cutting sittings to three days from four.

It is expected that former Exiles Committee chairman Pat Hlongwane will testify as a victim of human rights abuse and as a perpetrator. He is expected to tell of his life as a torture victim in the ANC camps in exile and to recount his role in the state-sponsored propaganda campaign waged by the International Freedom Foundation against the ANC.

Tickets and information can be obtained from the commission's offices at 391 Metlife Building, Smith Street, Durban, or by phoning (031) 307-6767.

Locals to bear 16% of Olympic costs

By ANDREA WEISS

Provincial and local government in the Western Cape will be expected to pick up 10% of the estimated R1.8-billion cost of building Olympic venues and practice facilities.

This was said yesterday by Chris Ball, chief executive officer of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid company. The amount would come to just less than R55-million a year, he said.

It is proposed that the province take responsibility for 30% of the cost and the Cape Metropolitan Council for another 30%. The rest will be shared equally by the Cape Town City Council and other substructures. It is not suggested that borrowings be incurred to finance the facilities, Ball said.
Thin rand helps boom in tourism

By THABO KOBOKOANE

THE tourist industry had a bumper fourth quarter last year and the trend seems set to continue as a weak rand makes travel to South Africa relatively inexpensive.

Figures released by Central Statistical Services show profitability of major hotel chains increased to 17.1% in the fourth quarter of 1995 against 10.7% in the third quarter.

For the 12 months to December 1995, net profit increased 47% on the back of a 16% increase in turnover.

Since the start of the year, Cape Town, the peninsula and winelands have seen the highest occupancy rate for February at 87.7%, followed by Pretoria with 76.5%, the CSS figures show. However, room occupancy for the same period increased by only 1.6% to 60.4% compared with February 1994 and bed occupancy remained at 41.6% for the same period.

Hotel income increased by 21.9%.

The CSS notes that the largest increase in hotel occupancy occurred in the Northern Cape at 46.1% with a consequent increase in hotel income of 44.4%. The Northern Province still lags behind other provinces.

The total number of bednights sold to foreign tourists during February 1996 increased by 35.6% to 218 063 from 163 003 in February 1995, the CSS figures show.

Gauteng had the highest share of foreign tourists at 32.2% while the Western Cape’s market share decreased by 4% to 35.9%.

Last year, over one million foreign tourists, excluding visitors from other African countries, are estimated to have arrived in South Africa, a 22.3% increase over 1994. Industry sources are upbeat about growth in the current financial year.

Selwin Hurwitz, executive chairman of Karos Hotels, which operates 15 hotels with a total of 2,138 rooms, is optimistic about prospects for the year. “South Africa’s status as flavour of the month has gone to flavour of the year,” he says.

Mr Hurwitz says the fall of the rand helps foreign tourists.

Last year Karos posted a 9% increase in turnover and operating profit rose by 7% for the interim six months ended September. Karos has forecast a considerably better year for the year ending March 1997.

A positive Hans Enderele, executive chairman of City Lodge, says if crime and violence can be brought under control, there is no reason why the trend should not continue.

He says City Lodge is doing “quite nicely”. For the six months ending December 1995, City Lodge’s occupancy rates were up to 82%.

He sees the good trend of foreign visitors continuing, boosted by the recent United Nations Trade and Development Conference, which has attracted at least 3,000 delegates.

Danny Bryer, sales and marketing manager at Protea Hotels, says there is every sign that the foreign tourist market will continue to grow, given impetus by extra flights, availability of rooms and the major currencies’ relative strength against a fragile rand.

However, he warns that the domestic market, which accounts for 79% of the tourist industry, is cash-strapped as a result of the current economic climate and inflation. He says something has to be done to make holidays affordable.
SA cashes in on Indian Ocean tourism boom

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — Mauritius, thriving tourism industry benefited South Africa because the Indian Ocean island imported food, wines, furniture and other consumer goods from this country, Jose Arunassion, the Mauritian tourism minister, said in Cape Town last week.

He met Dawie de Villiers, his South African counterpart to discuss joint marketing and ways to attract tourists to the Southern African region.

Arunassion said that marketing Mauritius in a joint package with southern Africa could be more effective than selling a single destination.

Mauritius was conducting a survey to determine how much was spent on imports for the tourism industry. It was also considering how many tourists the island could accommodate without damaging the environment, said Arunassion.

South Africa was its biggest supplier, and France its biggest export market, Arunassion said. He said that Mauritius served two distinct tourism markets: It was a value-for-money destination for cost-conscious South Africans, because the rand had not declined much against the rupee.

It was also an exotic, upmarket long-haul destination for Europeans.

Second bank is closed in 14 days

Paris — The Mauritian central bank said at the weekend it was shutting down the Union International Bank in a crackdown on fraud and financial irregularities. The central bank said Union International could cease operations at the end of business on Saturday.

The central bank said fraudulent activities at Union had been brought to its attention by auditors.

This is the second commercial bank to be closed down in two weeks, following action taken against the Mauritius Cooperative Central Bank for mismanaging loans.

The number of South African tourists dipped in 1994 when new destinations became available, but it recovered last year when 42,653 South Africans visited the island.

This compared with 116,701 from France, 41,637 from Germany and 31,324 from Britain.

Sun International had a 20 percent stake in one of the two major hotel groups in Mauritius, Protea Hotels, the Cape Town-based group, also managed a hotel there.
Olympic bid 'a low-risk proposal for state'

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games was a low-risk proposal for central government despite a requirement of at least R1,5bn from state coffers, Olympic Bid Company CE Chris Ball said at the weekend.

Government still has to give its final stamp of approval to the Cape Town bid — a move which will involve signed guarantees to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that the bid proposal will be given effect.

While government was expected to contribute R309m to Olympic Games venues — about 17% of the R1,78bn needed for facilities — and R300m to accelerated transport infrastructure, this was considered to be "modest in relation to the benefits to SA", Ball said.

Ball said the risk of an operating loss in the games was considered to be low, given the high level of television revenues and the fixed contracts for these revenues.

Government was expected to earn more than R7bn in tax revenue from increased tourism associated with the games, which was also expected to create 110 000 sustainable jobs, Ball said.
Marcus praises ecotourism

PORT ELIZABETH — Ecotourism had the biggest job-creation potential in the Eastern Cape but was the most under-utilised sector there, Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus said yesterday.

Marcus was addressing the Investment and Business Linkages Conference in Port Elizabeth. Another speaker, Development Bank of South Africa GM, Johan Kruger, cited the lack of infrastructure as the biggest reason for the failure of developing nations.

He said government should provide the infrastructure. Marcus told the conference that government did not have money, and the money the government did have came from the people and should be well spent.

Referring to fraud in the province, Marcus said it should be contained through proper control measures. — Sapa.
PORT ELIZABETH. - Ecotourism had the biggest job creation potential in the Eastern Cape, but was the most under-utilised, Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus has said.

She was addressing the Investment and Business Linkages Conference in Port Elizabeth.

Another speaker, Development of South Africa general manager Johan Kruger, cited the lack of infrastructure as the biggest reason for the failure of developing nations.

He said many parts of the Eastern Cape had infrastructures which had to be subsidised by the government.

A formula should be found by government by which infrastructure would be provided.

Ms Marcus said the government did not have money, but what money the government did have came from the people and should be well spent. - Sapa.
"Too few flights limit tourism growth in SA"

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — There were still too few flights into South Africa by foreign airlines and this was limiting the growth of the economy, George Cooper, the new British Airways director for the United Kingdom and Africa, said yesterday.

"BA, which already has 14 flights a week, will introduce two more in August — one from Johannesburg and a fourth non-stop flight from Cape Town."

But Cooper said the bilateral agreement limiting the number allowed, based on expected passenger numbers from each carrier’s home market, would have to be renegotiated in the next year to allow for further growth.

"We want more flights than we are operating now. This country doesn’t have enough flights from airlines coming here, and there is a danger that this will limit growth in tourism, which is a major industry throughout the world."

"Five years ago there were only 30 airlines competing on routes to South Africa. Now there are 59 and SAA competes on fewer than half of these routes. The way to grow this economy is not to limit the number of flights to SAA’s ability to compete."

Cooper and John Hanlon, BA’s new general manager for Africa, were appointed as part of a management reorganisation following the appointment of Robert Ayling as chief executive officer.

Cooper said South Africa was in the top five of BA’s world markets in order of strategic importance. The South African market, and the route to Cape Town in particular, was growing faster than any other in Africa.

"We have doubled our capacity and even so our planes are flying full," he said.

Admitting that BA had benefited from a shortage of seats on direct flights to the US from here, causing many people to travel by way of London, Cooper said: "We do a lot of cargo and passenger business between here and the US."

Although the introduction of three flights a week by US-based World Airways would "undoubtedly have an impact on us we still expect numbers to grow."

John Hanlon said BA would want a prospectus if shares in South African Airways (SAA) went on offer and would give serious consideration to taking a stake in it. While emphasising that BA did not normally discuss any deal before it was made, Hanlon said that it was "always open to approaches from other carriers" and pointed out that there was already heavy British investment in South Africa.

Ian Perrie, BA’s general manager for the Cape, Natal and Namibia, said yesterday that BA would introduce "two day-flight flights" from Cape Town in response to demand.
Protea Hotels moves into Ghana

Samantha Sharpe (248)

CAPE TOWN — Protea Hotels has stepped up its activities in Africa with an agreement with Ghana's Oguza Hotels to manage a new R1m hotel.

Protea Africa director Bernard Caesar said that the latest agreement brought to nine the African countries in which the group operated, with Protea also planning to expand further into African countries where the group was already established.

"That means along the east coast from Cape to Cairo, as well as looking to develop a business and tourism axis from the Cape to Ghana on the west coast of Africa," Oguza Hotels chairman James Owanu-Bonsu said that Protea would also market the three-star Ghanaian Ridge Royal hotel — a 56-room development — with the hotel set to gain from its new corporate identity and the goodwill associated with an internationally recognised chain.

Caesar said Protea was involved with several other projects in Africa, which included a R30m upgrade of its Malawian-managed hotels and the opening of a R14m Protea-operated hotel in Uganda on July 1.

Protea Hotels spokesman Ray Emute said that Africa offered the group a lucrative market, with Protea well positioned to work as operators in the region.

The group already operated about 80 hotels in Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands.
the Eastern Cape

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Call for changed tourism setup

Bonnie Ngcicyaza

COMMUNITY and labour organisations called on government yesterday to set up a representative tourism structure of community, labour and business organisations.

The two-day community and labour tourism conference — organised by the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union, the SA National Civic Organisation, and the International Labour Resource and Information Group — was attended by unions from southern Africa, delegates from the National Rural Development Forum and international participants like the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism.

Speaking at the conference in Johannesburg, the conveners said the proposed authority's powers should supersede existing structures, including Satour.

The conference suggested the state retain Aventura and other tourist facilities to ensure "affordable holidays for poor and working people". It was also agreed to set up a community and labour tourism network to facilitate the flow of information. The conference noted that the "highly elitist" nature of the tourist industry in SA meant that it benefited big business, and rich domestic and international tourists.

Farmers prepare for Mozambique

Stephanie Bamber

MAPUTO — Up to 700 Afrikaner farming families would start leaving SA within six weeks to settle in Mozambique following an agreement between presidents Nelson Mandela and Joaquim Chissano, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said in Maputo yesterday.

About 200 000ha of prime farming land had been identified in Niassa province for the first stage of the programme. Mozambique was to make the land available on a 50-year renewable concession to a joint venture between the SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa and Mozambican farming organisations.

Farmers would get up to 1 000ha free, depending on the type of farming they planned.

For every three SA farmers settled, one Mozambican commercial farmer would receive assistance to settle. Subsistence farmers would be helped to improve their yields.

School and medical facilities would be created in communities where the SA farmers would concentrate. Individual farmers were likely to require an investment in excess of R200 000.

The agreement says the scheme aims to revive agricultural production, agri-industries and ecotourism in Mozambique, particularly in the northern provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Zambezia and Tete.
The Minister of Environmental Affairs,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request your assistance in addressing a matter of significant concern to me. The situation arises from an environmental disaster that has occurred in the vicinity of our town. The disaster, which I believe is of national importance, has led to serious ecological damage and significant public health risks.

The disaster, which occurred due to a breach in the containment of a waste disposal site, has caused a release of harmful chemicals into the local waterways and soil. This has led to widespread contamination, affecting both the environment and the local population. The situation has escalated to the point where it is urgent that immediate action be taken to mitigate the damage and prevent further harm.

I understand that your department has jurisdiction over environmental matters, and I hope that you will see fit to intervene in this matter. I am prepared to provide further details and any necessary documentation to substantiate my claims.

I am looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and I trust that you will act swiftly to address this critical issue.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]
As prize for Reform, SA still has a chance

With IOC Propensity toAward Olympics
Dr A W Paterson
Executor
Building #3
CSIR
P O Box 395
Pretoria 0001

Dr Anton Eberhardt
Energy and Development Research Centre
UCT

Dr Brian Clarke
Managing Director and CEO
TELKOM
Private Bag
X2670
Pretoria 0001

George Elis
Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
UCT
'Rand's fall cost Satour R4.5m'

DURBAN: The plunging rand has devalued Satour's annual budget by R4.5 million — forcing South Africa's official tourism marketing body to hunt for more funds to pay its overseas staff.

Satour chairman Mr Peter Swartz told a media conference at the Indaba Tourism and Travel Exhibition this was just one of several problems facing Satour, which had to market the country on a budget of R48m — down R8m from 1995's R56m budget.

Swartz said the government should stop paying "lip service" to tourism and back words with action.

"The government does not give enough support to the tourism industry. The plunging rand has cost us R4.5m today and we will now have to find this money to pay our staff overseas."

Stringent cost-saving measures, more profitable international flights and innovative marketing meant South African Airways was likely to make a profit in excess of R300m in its current financial year, SAA's chief executive Mr Gert Myburgh said.
Race against time for Cape's Olympic bid

By ANDREA WEISS

The Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid committee is fighting time as deadlines for the submission of the bid file to the International Olympic Committee close in.

The outgoing city council has been asked to give town clerk Keith Nicol and senior city officials the authority to approve the final content of the city's Olympic bid file before the new council is elected.

The bid file will become Cape Town's contract with the International Olympic Committee if it wins the bid to host the 2004 Games. While the incoming council will not be able to change the contents, its members will decide whether the document should be submitted to the IOC on August 15, the final deadline for cities hoping to host the Games in 2004.

The August 15 deadline makes it necessary for "virtually all its contents" to be finalised before the local elections on May 22.

The Cabinet's delay in making a decision on the bid has complicated the situation because the outgoing council is unable to reach any "solid conclusions" on cost-sharing proposals for the bid. Indications are that the Cabinet will make its final decision on May 22, a week before local elections in the Cape metropole.

Nicol will also take the place of outgoing city councillors on the board of directors of the bid company when it holds its annual general meeting early next month, because the new council will have had no chance to appoint new directors.

Peter Lever, Olympic bid liaison officer for the Cape Town City Council, has written a report detailing the time constraints facing the bid company. All the factual and technical content of the file, which covers 19 Olympic themes, has to be approved before the document is hardwired to Edward Griffiths, who has been employed to "recheck" the document to achieve consistency of style. The document then has to be translated into French.

The city is clearly compromised by the timing of the local government elections in terms of political approval of the bid file content, and it is necessary, therefore, to seek a delegation to the city's senior officials to approve the final content of the documentation.

Three specialist commissions - dealing with the environment, the RDP and an audit of the bid - which could have monitored the compilation of the document are also not in place because they would have been created by a conversation which has not yet been convened.

Lever noted that the incoming council would have the ultimate responsibility of deciding whether to submit the file, and this decision was not aimed at binding them in any way, but was rather a means "of assisting them in that decision".
Number of visitors to SA poised to rocket

By CAROL LAZAR

South Africa is a remarkably attractive destination. It offers the African experience supported by an excellent infrastructure. We have a strong ecotourism and conservation ethic. Add to that ample accommodation with leading international hotel chains, building now and previously disadvantaged travel agents, tour operators, and top travel journalists have visited Indaba, where 500 companies are exhibiting the best of our great wildlife and a fascinating and colourful cultural mix. Politicians are exhibiting the best of really we are desirable as we have democratised peacefully.

A record 1.5 million international and previously disadvantaged travellers and that locals can afford overseas travel and are identified tourism as one of the growth factors for the economy. Tourism creates more holiday jobs than any other industry. Crime is the main threat to the industry. Tourism creates more tourism. To combat this, the Government of National Unity has officially established a hi-tech First World mixed challenge we face today is crime. Indian textures, and safaris and changing the perception.
Pressure is on as Bid deadline nears

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

THE Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid Committee is fighting against time as deadlines for the submission of the bid file to the International Olympics Committee (IOC) close in.

The outgoing council has been asked to give town clerk Keith Nicol and senior city officials the authority to approve the final content of the city’s Olympic bid file before the new council is elected.

The bid file will become Cape Town’s contract with the International Olympics Committee if it wins the bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

While the incoming council will not be able to change the file’s contents, its members will ultimately decide whether the document should be submitted to the IOC on August 15, the final deadline for cities hoping to host the Olympic Games in 2004.

The August 15 deadline makes it necessary for “virtually all its contents” to be finalised before the election on May 29.

The Cabinet’s delay in coming to a decision on the bid has also complicated the situation, because the outgoing council is unable to reach any “solid conclusions” about cost-sharing proposals for the bid.

Indications are that the Cabinet will make its final decision on May 22, a week before local elections in the Cape Metropole.

Mr Nicol will also take the place of outgoing city councillors on the board of directors of the bid company when it holds its annual meeting early next month, because the new council will not have had a chance to appoint new directors.

Peter Lever, Olympic bid liaison officer for the Cape Town City Council, has written a report detailing the time constraints facing the bid company.

All the factual and technical content of the file, which covers 19 Olympic themes, has to be approved before the document is handed over to Edward Griffiths, the man who has been employed to “rescript” the document to achieve consistency of style.

The document then has to be translated into French, followed by artwork, layout, technical production, proof-reading and printing.

“The deadlines are such that virtually all of the content has to be finalised within the month of May,” he said.

Cape Town is clearly compromised by the timing of the local government elections in terms of political approval of the bid file content.

“It is necessary, therefore, to seek a delegation to the city’s senior officials to approve the final content of the document,” he said.

“It is again stressed that the incoming council will have the final decision of whether the bid file is to be submitted to the IOC or not,” Mr Lever said.

Three specialist commissions, which could have monitored the compilation of the document in terms of the environment, the Reconstruction and Development Programme and financial matters, are also not in place.

For these reasons, Mr Lever has asked the council to instruct its chief executive officer, in conjunction with the relevant heads of department, to ensure that the bid file addresses the needs of the city and region, with particular emphasis on the environmental, developmental and financial aspects of the proposal.

This decision was not aimed at binding the incoming council in any way, but was rather a means of “assisting them in that important decision”, Mr Lever said.

Grumbles and hyteria as Atlantans make way for the Olympics – page 18.

‘Fund needed to finance the upkeep of olympics facilities’

MICHAEL MORRIS
Staff Reporter

A TRUST fund should be established to pay for the upkeep of Cape Town’s multi-million rand Olympic facilities, the city’s business fraternity has suggested.

In a statement endorsing the bid, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it was particularly concerned that attention be given to the “ongoing maintenance costs of the facilities beyond the Olympics”.

It believes a trust fund should be established for this purpose and that the anticipated surplus on the Olympics operating budget should contribute towards it.

A further contribution from this surplus should go towards the capital cost that will be incurred by local government.

The chamber also believes that the cost burden should be shared countrywide “as the Games will benefit the whole country”.

Director of the chamber, Colin Boyes, said the business fraternity supported the bid because it had the potential to foster economic growth “through a massive investment in much needed infrastructural development”, create many jobs and empower disadvantaged people.

It could also accelerate Cape Town and South Africa’s tourist industry through the provision of hotels and upgraded recreational facilities, unify the nation and fulfil the dream of hosting an Olympics in Africa, he said.

But it was essential that the bid be run on “sound business lines” which must not be compromised for ideological reasons.

“It is incumbent on the Olympic Bid Committee to obtain an undertaking from local government contributors that their involvement will not precipitate any increase in local rates and taxes”, said Mr Boyes.

Among other concerns are that facilities should not exceed the needs of the region once the Games are over, and that the bid should not be a vehicle for “extravagant projects that go beyond sound, affordable limits”.

The chamber also stressed the importance of using the bid to promote economic empowerment among disadvantaged communities.

“During the construction phase, every effort should be made to employ people from the most disadvantaged communities,” said Mr Boyes.
COURT BID TO STOP DEVELOPMENT

Parks Board moves on Oudekraal plan

THE DECISION TO approve plans for a controversial hotel at Oudekraal was “unauthorised”, the National Parks Board says. MELANIE GOSLING reports.

The National Parks Board is going to court this week in a bid to halt the controversial multi-million Oudekraal Hotel development on the site of the landmark White House at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

The board is launching a Supreme Court action on Wednesday against the developers — Hotentots Holland Pty Ltd — the Llandudno/Hout Bay local authority and the MEC for planning, Mr Lampie Fick.

This comes just weeks after the National Monuments Council dug in its heels by refusing to give the go-ahead for the Table Mountain cableway upgrading project until the environmental impact assessment of the project had been completed — a clear signal that statutory conservation organisations are flexing their muscles over development issues which affect the Peninsula’s mountain chain.

In court papers the National Parks Board has applied for an interdict to stop the developers from demolishing the White House and from proceeding with any clearing, excavation or construction work on the property.

The board has sought the interdict pending a review of the processes whereby rezoning of the property and the Oudekraal Hotel complex development plans were approved by the authorities.

The board claims that the decision to approve the plan was made through “unauthorised and unfair procedure”.

The developers and the local council had failed to get comment from the public and from public bodies who might object to “the desecration of a nature area”. They also ignored a specific request from the South Peninsula Environmental Forum that the public be properly advised of the applications.

The National Parks Board also submits that the Llandudno/Hout Bay council failed to have sufficient regard to the fact that the Oudekraal property was in an area of “considerable national and international value by virtue of its unique natural beauty, biodiversity and other natural qualities which the provincial, national and international community have seen fit to protect”.

They submit, too, that the local council had failed to have regard to the fact that their decision to approve the development could set a precedent and lead to further incremental development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles.

The court action follows a public outcry earlier this year over the proposed 70-bedroom hotel and conference centre on the scenic Victoria Road — on the border of what is to become the Table Mountain and Peninsula national park.

Protesters led a march on Parliament to voice their opposition to the development.

They also took up occupation of the White House, forcing the owner to get a court order to have them removed.

Professional environmentalists say the Parks Board’s court action and the recent stance taken by the National Monuments Council show a departure from the days when authorities “rolled over” and gave in to developments in environmentally sensitive areas, leaving it up to the public and green lobby groups to stand up for protection of the Peninsula.

The Fuggle Report on the future management of the Peninsula mountain chain recommended that the sweep of mountain from the skyline of the Twelve Apostles to the sea should be preserved.
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(1) The number of minutes of the Committee.
(2) The number of reports submitted to the Committee.
(3) The number of decisions taken by the Committee.
(4) The number of recommendations made by the Committee.
(5) The number of complaints received by the Committee.
(6) The number of hearings held by the Committee.
(7) The number of cases referred to the Committee.
(8) The number of judgments issued by the Committee.

Date: 14 May 1996

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STANDLEY

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (MEPA)

15526

Looking for complaints, the Lieutenant Governor in Council for the Province of Nova Scotia, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, does hereby, by virtue of the power conferred on him by the Environmental Protection Act, 1990, being c. 119, do make this order in the matter of complaints under the Act.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council agrees, for the purposes of subsection (2) of section 11 of the Act, that the provincial government shall, in the terms and conditions specified in this order, make such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

This order may be cited as the Environmental Protection Regulations, 1990, and shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signature]
Council nod for body to build Games venues

PETER DENNY

A LARGE majority of councillors voted in favour yesterday of setting up a new body to finance and coordinate the construction of Olympic Games venues.

After much debate, 51 councillors voted for the motion, and four against. The councillors stressed that it would be up to the new elected city council next month to decide whether to sign the “bid book” and take on the contractual obligations that go with it.

The councillors said the town clerk should be allowed to oversee preparation of the bid book.

The council agreed yesterday that a Joint Funding and Development Agency should be set up by all the public sector bodies that will be putting up money for the venues, namely the council, central government, provincial government, metropolitan government, and other municipalities in the metropole.

Arrears poverty test may be dropped

MARTIN WINTER

THE Cape Town City Council is poised to drop the idea of a “poverty test” to determine which consumers qualify for arrears to be written off.

Earlier this year the council debated whether only those whose household income was less than R1 500 a month should qualify.

In a recommendation yesterday, the executive committee said poverty criteria should be dropped. Instead, all in arrears with water or rates at the end of January 1994 and still owing the money two years later should be credited with the lesser of the two amounts.
Budget accommodation for Durban beachfront planned

DURBAN — Southern Sun would spend about R31m refurbishing its Durban beachfront and Umhlanga hotels this year, and another R19m was available for an investment in a low-budget hotel, chief operating executive Helder Perreira said yesterday.

The group wanted to build a budget bed-and-breakfast Holiday Express hotel offering a set room rate, and was looking for a suitable site on the Durban beachfront.

There was also the possibility of a second Holiday Express elsewhere in the Durban area, possibly towards the western suburbs.

Holiday Inn Crown Plaza — formerly the Elangeni — had been given a R10m upgrade in 1993 and another R3m would be spent this year on finishing the lobby and pool deck, upgrading the conference centre and refurbishing the bedrooms.

The group had spent R12m converting the Malibu Hotel — now Holiday Inn Garden Court South Beach — four years ago and another R2.25m refurbishment was under way. This included building four new rooms and refurbishing four floors.

Perreira said converting the Maharani Hotel into the Holiday Inn Garden Court North Beach had cost R5m and another R2.25m was being spent on converting the suites into two separate bedrooms.

Carpeting at the Marine Parade Holiday Inn was being replaced at a cost of R500 000, five years after the hotel’s R62m upgrade.

At Umhlanga, the group was spending R7m on upgrading the lobby and entrance area for the Beverley Hills Intercontinental Sun and R5m on renovations to the Cabana Beach and Umhlanga Sands timeshare resorts.
Luxury tourist hotels planned

Creation of many jobs and investment

By Isaac Moledi

The tourism industry is to get a R100 million investment with the development of five luxury hotels in South Africa this year. A leading international hotelier, Peter Weaver and a South African contracting group Cosdev are jointly planning to build exclusive hotels in South Africa's major cities with the aim of tapping the high inflow of foreign company executives into the country.

The hotels – with one of them already planned for construction in Sandown, Johannesburg, in August – will be known as Executive Clubs and will be managed on a five-year contract basis by The Three Cities Hotels group.

Three Cities is renowned for its management capability of the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg, The Royal Hotel in Durban and The Peninsula Hotel in Cape Town.

Weaver, who owns several hotels in Britain and the United States, says because of their high level of technical operation, the planned hotels will provide specialised job opportunities which will need special training.

He says Three Cities was chosen to manage the hotels due to its experience in leisure industry and staff development.

Although most of the jobs will require specialised people, there will still be general jobs like cleaning, housekeeping and so on, he says.

Weaver says South Africa has shown potential of attracting high-profile business executives who want to have luxury accommodation to themselves.

"We have seen since 1994 a high influx of foreign business executives coming into South Africa and opening their offices either on a short-term or long-term – something that has never been witnessed before," he says.

According to Weaver, there has been extraordinary interest from this market. "Fifty percent of the Sandown Executive Club suites were sold off-plan within 10 days and negotiations are proceeding with institutions who are anxious to reserve suites in this development," he says.

Cosdev executive director, Graham Wilkins says: "This is the most innovative concept and we are happy to back it as developers. Together we shall provide the much-needed facility for local and international business travellers wanting discreet accommodation in a grand style," he says.
Land claim to Sun Group expansion

Puhinrangi residents have been pressing for 20 years to expand the town's infrastructure and businesses. The local council has been working on a comprehensive plan to address these needs, which includes developing additional land and buildings.

The latest proposal involves acquiring an additional 25 acres of land adjacent to the existing development. This land would be used for commercial and residential purposes, with plans to construct new homes and businesses.

Residents have expressed concerns about the impact of this expansion on local traffic and infrastructure. The council has assured them that careful planning will be done to mitigate these effects.

The project is expected to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the area. However, there are still many details to be worked out before the plan can be implemented.

In the meantime, the community continues to work together to ensure that the expansion benefits everyone in the area.
Court action halts Oudekraal development

CAPE TOWN — Developers at the Oudekraal hotel site at the foot of Cape Town’s Twelve Apostles have agreed to stop work pending the outcome of an application in the Cape Town Supreme Court for a review of its rezoning.

The application, brought by the National Parks Board against the developer, Hottentots House, the Llandudno/Hout Bay local authority and Western Cape Development and Tourism, was scheduled to come before the court yesterday, but was set aside until June 16.

The parks board claimed in court papers that the local authority’s decision to rezone portion 3 of the Cape farm was outside its legal power.

The court action followed a public outcry over the planned 70-roomed hotel and conference centre, and the refusal by the National Monuments Council to give the go-ahead before an environmental impact assessment.
Olympic works terms cause alarm

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — The Olympic bid company is demanding that companies bidding for contracts linked to the Games be 40% black-owned and staffed, triggering alarm throughout the construction industry.

The company's draft policy document also says bidders that are 100% black-owned will not have to table the retention fee — worth 12% of the contract's value — applicable to other contractors and forfeited on breach of contract.

The first contracts for the R1.78bn venue development are to be awarded later this year.

Bid director Ngonde Balibou said yesterday the rules were only part of a draft proposal and were open to further negotiation. "The issue is really about encouraging companies to work towards the 40% level so that we can remain true to the bid's emphasis on economic empowerment."

The requirement should be seen as a means to encourage joint ventures between established companies and previously disadvantaged communities, he said.

SA Institute of Civil Engineers executive director Dawie Botha said the institute supported black economic empowerment, but could not subscribe.

Continued on Page 2

Olympic bid

Continued from Page 1

The SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors was studying the proposals.

Government is expected to give the go ahead for the Cape Town bid next week — a move that would mean a R800m commitment to the Olympic bid, with R50m to be released immediately for sport facility construction.

The private sector was expected to put up about R415m.

It emerged earlier this week that the State Tender Board had adopted a procurement strategy which could leave government paying a premium of 18% on prime contracts to favour companies supporting BDP goals.
There are three threats to South Africa's tourist image.

1. Crime
2. Political Instability
3. Economic Challenges
Taxpayer cannot avoid paying
Western Cape warned to get house in order before next record summer season

MAUREEN MARUD
Business Reporter

SOUTH Africa, and especially the Western Cape, must either seize the once-in-a-lifetime chance to be a tourist mecca, or forever regret the missed opportunity and lost revenue, two high-powered speakers have warned at a seminar in Cape Town.

If public safety concerns became a priority, and an excellent tourism infrastructure with quality service was in place, South Africa could see growth rates of 20-30 percent in the next five years.

In 10 years the country could earn about R250 billion and create nearly a million new jobs, Ernie Heath of the University of Pretoria told a seminar on investment in the tourism and hospitality industry yesterday.

And provincial Tourism Minister Lampie Fick used Winston Churchill's famous phrase, "Action this day", to urge investors to get the house in order before the next record summer season.

Mr. Fick said complaints were reaching his office with "alarming frequency" about the deterioration and breakdown of tourism services. There were also warnings that South Africa was "pricing itself out of the international markets".

About 56 percent of all foreign visitors to South Africa came to the Western Cape. The most recent statistics show that Oudtshoorn's ostrich farms attracted more tourists than the Kruger National Park, Mr. Fick said.

His office placed a high premium on careful planning around the types of tourism the region wanted to attract, and how to avoid making the mistakes so many post World War 2 countries made, by overindulging in boom-time foreign investment opportunities.

"We are given the chance of a lifetime to plan around the present tourism boom. "If we make a mess of it we will have destroyed the very assets we are now employing to attract visitors to our region."

Mr. Fick said he would soon announce a draft policy framework for tourism in the Western Cape, and would table a new provincial Tourism Act to provide for a three-tier tourism structure at provincial, regional and community level.

It is intended that this structure be formally inaugurated when the Western Cape Tourism Board starts its activities on July 1, 1996."

Professor Heath said tourism, information technology and telecommunications were the three interconnected services that would drive the engines of the next century.

The environment was becoming increasingly important to tourists. Research had proved that the main reasons for people coming to South Africa were environmentally-based.

If this country lost its uniqueness through over-development, it would just become another role model of what not to do.

South Africa was well placed to capitalise on key market trends in international tourism, such as getting back to nature, adventure, and experiencing and interacting with local people and cultures.

But tourism here was still largely underperforming in global terms, although it was the fourth largest foreign exchange earner and employed more than 500,000 people, positively influencing the quality of life of more than two million people.

Tourism here earned less than one percent of world foreign exchange, its employment ratio was below the world average, and it contributed about five percent to the GDP versus the world average contribution of nine percent.

Although the outlook was positive, the perception and reality of personal safety had to be improved.

It was projected that South Africa could increase overseas arrivals from 794,610 in 1994 to more than 2.3 million by 2000 and arrivals from Africa from 2.9 million in 1994 to more than 5.3 million by 2000.

These projections could translate into a cumulative sum of about R10 billion in 1994 prices in foreign exchange and about 120,000 direct and 240,000 indirect job opportunities between 1995 and 2000.

But if crime, violence and personal safety did not improve, infrastructure collapsed and environmental degradation escalating, a rapid deterioration could follow, even though "we may still experience good growth for the next one to two years, based on the current window of opportunity and positive international climate."

Professor Heath challenged investors in tourism to "make it happen", in a proactive, market-driven and environmentally responsible manner.
Tourism created 30 000 jobs last year

THE number of foreign visitors to South Africa grew by 52% last year, during which tourism generated about R13 billion in foreign exchange earnings and created 30 000 jobs.

Ernie Heath, professor of tourism at the University of Pretoria, disclosed this at a seminar in Cape Town on investment in the tourism and hospitality industry.

South Africa's ranking in the world as a tourist destination had risen from 55th in 1985 to 30th in 1994, he said. In Africa, its position as a world destination had improved from fourth in 1985 to second behind Tunisia in 1994.

"In terms of receipts, South Africa's position has improved from No 3 in 1985 to No 1 in 1994 with 26% of the earnings," Heath said.

However, South Africa was still performing below its potential.

"In spite of its being the fourth-largest earner of foreign exchange and employing more than 500 000 people, tourism in South Africa is still largely underperforming in global terms.

"The country earned less than one percent of world foreign exchange earnings while its tourism employment ratio was about one to 25, compared with the world average of one to 15.

"Tourism also contributes about five percent to South Africa's gross domestic product, compared with the world average of about nine percent."

However, the outlook for tourism to the year 2000 seemed positive — provided that perceptions about personal safety improved and international promotion of the country was "intensified."

"Based on global and competitive trends such as market trend analysis, airline capacity and expert opinion from key stakeholders... It is projected that South Africa can increase overseas arrivals from 704 610 in 1994 to more than two million by 2000 and arrivals from Africa from 2.9 m in 1994 to 5.3 m."

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER
City lawyer quits Olympic Bid position

CITY lawyer Mr Christine Quinta has resigned as co-ordinator of the group that submitted a black empowerment draft policy document to the Olympic Bid Company recently, citing workload pressures and a lack of "good faith" from the Bid Company.

The draft policy document submitted by the Economic Empowerment Steering Committee recommended that companies hoping to tender for Olympic Bid contracts must have 40% black ownership, and that successful tenders must pay the company a retention fee of 12% of the value of their contracts.

The retention fee will not apply to black-owned businesses.

Quinta said yesterday she had resigned "because (her bid obligations) was taking up too much of my time and the Bid Company has not been acting in good faith."

She claimed the steering committee had been involved with the Bid Company since last October with no tangible progress, and the company had "only paid lip service" to the notion of black economic empowerment.

She is, however, still in favour of the bid.

Olympic Bid spokesman Mr Paul Johnson said yesterday the company felt the draft policy document had stemmed from a process that "was not as representative as it could have been" and had set up a subcommittee to proceed with the matter in a consultative manner.

The company emphasised that the draft policy document was not "the official policy of the Olympic Bid Company" and all its clauses, including the 40% quota stipulation and the 12% retention fee, remained "subject to the consultation and evaluation processes of the bid company and its board."
Peninsula and wineland hotels 86.1% full in March

HOTELS in the Peninsula had bed occupancy rates of 86.1% in March and those in the winelands had 61% — far higher than the rest of the country.

Nationally, hotel bed occupancies averaged about 43.2% for the month — 3.4% more than in the same month last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Service.

Hotel income was 17.8% more. However, room occupancy had increased by only 1.1% over last March. — Staff Reporter
Hotel trade gets a boost

By Shadrack Mashalaba

The influx of tourists to South Africa has not only brought foreign exchange to the country but has increased the hotel room occupancy rate as well.

According to the results of a sample survey of hoteliers released by the Central Statistical Service, the areas that showed an increase are those in the Western Cape such as Cape Town and peninsula and the winelands.

These areas showed the highest room occupancy rates of 86.1 percent and 61.0 percent, respectively, for March.

Largest increase

The CSS said the largest increase in room occupancy for March 1996 compared with 1995 occurred in the Algoa region—up by 25.8 percent.

Hotels in the Free State showed the largest decrease—24.1 percent for the same period.

South African Tourism Board media liaison Martin van Niekerk says there has been a large number of visitors to the country, especially to the Western Cape.

"The region has shown an increase in its occupancy rate as a result of its scenery and the West Coast," says Van Niekerk.

He says while the Free State is a tourist destination it is not known as a traditional tourist attraction like the Western Cape and Gauteng, for instance.

For this reason it showed a decrease in its room and bed occupancy rates.

Bed occupancy

The statistics show that bed occupancy for South African hotels is 43.2 percent for March 1996.

This was an increase of 3.4 percent compared with March 1995.

Room occupancy increased by only 1.1 percent for the same period while hotel income increased by 17.6 percent.

The CSS says hotels without stars showed the largest increase in room occupancy and hotel income (5.9 and 25.7 percent, respectively) and one- and two-star hotels the largest increase in bed occupancy (9.7 percent).

"With the increase in the number of visitors, the country is coping very well; even our hotels are among the best by international standards," adds Van Niekerk.
Tourist guides plan approved

DAN SIMON
CT 22/5/96

AN INNOVATIVE pilot project to recruit and train hundreds of unemployed people and deploy them at South Africa's three main international airports as "hospitality guides" for foreign tourists has been given the green light by the Tourism Safety Task Group.

The plan is to recruit some 500 unemployed people aged between 20 and 35 with "demonstrable" communication skills.

They will be given training similar to that undergone by police reservists and tour guides and then used to help with the safety and information needs of tourists at airports.

Senior Superintendent Eric Pelser said the primary function of the hospitality guides would be to support existing security personnel at airports.

He said the guides would be issued with identifiable "tourist-friendly" uniforms and would be able to communicate immediately with airport security services and police.

They would not be issued with firearms, he said.

Discussions would be held with relevant organisations to gauge the feasibility of hospitality guides being admitted to hotel school after one year's service.

"This will provide an incentive for suitable people to offer their services," Pelser said.

See Page 5
Code of conduct for MPs gets approval

CAPE TOWN — An MPs' code of conduct was approved by Parliament's joint rules committee yesterday after the ANC defeated an attempt by minority parties to secure the most seats on the disciplinary committee it will establish.

The code will oblige parliamentarians, including ministers, to register interests such as shares, jobs outside Parliament, directorships, gifts and fixed property when it comes into operation within the next month.

It will also force them to say when they have a direct interest in issues debated in Parliament, and prevent them from getting paid for lobbying.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal — largely responsible for drafting and negotiating the document — said the code was "very important for the health of our democracy".

"It establishes the principle that MPs must be above reproach; that you do not exploit your role as MP for personal benefit." National Assembly speaker Dr Frene Ginwala said the code was a "terrific achievement".

It will be supervised by a committee on members' interests, on which the ANC will hold most seats. The NP, supported by the DP and IFP, made an unsuccessful bid yesterday for a committee on which combined opposition parties would have more seats than the ANC. Johnny de Lange of the ANC said it was a "load of hogwash" to believe an ANC-dominated committee would "sit somewhere in secret and try to hide things".

NP whip Piet Matthee said there would be no question of minority domination in the committee, as the opposition parties were not a single body. "What the majority party is asking us to do is to put our trust, our political lives so to speak, in the hands, wisdom and good judgment of our political opponents. That we cannot do." — Sapa.

Police to launch hospitality guide project to help tourists

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — A hospitality guide project aimed at assisting tourists at international airports would be launched within the next three months to enhance a safe and secure environment for foreigners visiting SA, the SAPS said yesterday.

The tourism safety task group — consisting of the SAPS, Satour, the environmental affairs and tourism department, Business Against Crime and the Tourist Business Council — agreed to the development of hospitality guides last week.

A pilot report shows 93 incidents involving 103 tourists were reported to the SAPS during the period January to end April. Data indicated robbery (73 incidents) and theft (14) were the main crimes.

SAPS communications officer Snr Supt Eric Pelser said quarterly reports of incidents involving tourists, enabling detailed trend analyses, would be available from June to the tourism industry.

Although no financial details had been finalised, it was agreed that the project would entail the selective recruitment, in stages, of about 500 unemployed people with communications skills to be employed. Pelser said the recruits would be provided with training similar to that given to police reservists and tour guides.
Cabinet backing for Olympic bid on hold before independent audit

Samantha Sharpe
and Robyn Chatler

CAPE TOWN - Cabinet's decision on whether to support Cape Town's Olympic bid has put on hold pending an independent audit, raising fears that government enthusiasm for the project could wane.

The bid company's core estimates have already been through the mill, but a recent suggestion that the cost may exceed estimates has sparked fresh concerns.

A spokesperson said: "We appreciate the scrutiny, but we are confident in the project." The government had initially expressed support for the bid, but recent developments have raised questions about its durability.

The decision to call for an independent audit follows recent reports of financial irregularities within the bid company. The audit will be conducted by the Independent Bank of Audit.

A spokesperson for the bid company said: "We are confident in the integrity of our financials and look forward to the audit." The audit is expected to take several months.

The bid has faced criticism over its financial management and political interference. Critics have called for a complete overhaul of the bid company.

A spokesperson for the government said: "We are committed to ensuring the Olympic bid is transparent and accountable." The government had initially expressed support for the bid, but recent developments have raised questions about its durability.

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A spokesperson for the government said: "We are committed to ensuring the Olympic bid is transparent and accountable."
Plan to help tourists at airports

Project will see jobless people — who are to receive the same training as police reservists and tour guides — welcoming, helping and protecting visitors

By Anso Thom

A group of unemployed people will be trained within the next three months to assist with the safety and information needs of tourists arriving at South African airports.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the Tourism Safety Task Group, which consists of representatives of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Business Against Crime (BAC), the Tourism Business Council (TBC), the SA Tourism Board and the police.

Both BAC and the TBC indicated their support for the pilot project aimed at developing hospitality guides with good communication skills.

It was agreed that the project would entail the selective recruitment in stages of about 500 unemployed people aged between 20 and 35.

A smaller group of guides will first be trained and deployed at Johannesburg international airport for evaluation purposes. The guides will operate under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The department, BAC and the TBC will in the next three months campaign for funding and develop the criteria for selection.

The guides will be provided with training similar to that given to police reservists and tour guides.

"The primary function of such hospitality guides would be to support existing security personnel at the airports and not to be policemen," said National Standards and Management Services communication officer Senior Supt Eric Felsie.

When deployed, the guides will be dressed in identifiable, tourist-friendly uniforms and will be equipped by police with the means to communicate immediately with airport security services and SAPS members deployed at the airports.

The guides will not be armed.

Detailed criteria for the recruitment and selection of suitable candidates and the required training curricula are currently being developed.

It was also agreed that discussions with relevant organisations would take place to gauge the feasibility of hospitality guides being admitted to hotel school after one year of service. It was felt this would provide an incentive for suitable people to offer their services as hospitality guides and then to develop careers in the hotel or tourism industry.

A total of 93 incidents involving 103 tourists were reported to the SAPS between January and April this year.

Felsie pointed out that while these figures were of great concern to the SAPS, 381 157 foreign tourists visited the country in January alone. During February, 106 556 tourists arrived at the three main international airports in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Further analysis of the data indicated that robbery (75 incidents) and theft (14) were the most reported crimes and that almost one-third of the reported crimes occurred between 4pm and 8pm.

A communication strategy aimed at highlighting the issue of tourist safety and the measures taken by all role-players to improve it will be implemented in time for the July peak tourist season.
Lack of facilities may slow tourism

By Isaac Moledi

SOUTH AFRICA'S lack of capacity to handle huge tourism arrivals could place constraints on the industry's growth, says consultancy firm Kessel Feinberg.

Launching an updated edition of its booklet on tourism, called "Tourism Talk," company chief executive Delano Caras said on Monday that capacity problems were already affecting some segments of the industry.

Worst hit were inbound tour operators, who had to deal with the lack of good infrastructure such as lack of coaches and appropriate accommodation during peak seasons.

"Compounding the problem," says Caras, is the fact that local international airports are already operating at close to capacity.

"We have also cautioned that growth in business will probably exacerbate the already low service standards," argues Caras, adding that lack of proper infrastructure and service threatens the growth of the industry, which is expected to be worth about R42 billion by the turn of the century.

Other problems, according to Caras, include a shortage of guides who speak foreign languages.

Caras believes that tourism could ultimately become a mega industry in South Africa. It represents nearly six percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Last year tourism contributed about R18 billion, nearly four percent, of GDP.

In addition, the company's estimates are that by the turn of the century, foreign tourism will probably generate foreign exchange earnings higher than those of gold.

Although South Africa is set for a continuing improvement in foreign tourist arrivals this year, it is unlikely that the growth rate will match that achieved last year.
**Hotels**

**Hotelier warns against flooding the market**

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — New hotel development should be carefully planned so as not to flood the market, Otto Stellik, the chairman of Protea Hotels, warned yesterday.

He said building new hotels should be market-led rather than encouraged by incentives, which could lead to an oversupply followed by closures as happened in the United States in the 1980s.

Although the demand for hotel rooms had exceeded supply in some areas, Stellik said this was not unusual in other tourist destinations, such as London, at peak season.

Charles Brand, whose family was building a R70 million five-star hotel, the Cape Grace, at Cape Town’s waterfront, said: “We expect continued growth, particularly in the Cape. But although there is a shortage of hotel rooms in all categories in the most desirable locations, we must be careful to avoid building an oversupply in the good times.”

However, Brand, whose family owns and operates the Mount Grace Hotel in Magaliesburg and is developing a hotel in Rosebank, Johannesburg, said there was scope for more five-star hotels.

Stellik’s Protea chain is building a four-star hotel, the Victoria’s Junction, near Cape Town’s city centre.

Stellik and Brand both pointed out that many of the international hotel groups showing interest in South Africa wished management contracts rather than investing in new hotels themselves.

Stellik said he expected some to come into South Africa through partnerships with existing chains, as Intercontinental had already done.

**Most foreign tourists stay in cheaper hotels**

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — More foreign tourists are staying in cheaper ungraded or three-star hotels than in luxury accommodation, the Central Statistical Service said yesterday.

There were more visitors from other African countries in March, but the number of visitors from Asia dropped 3.3 percent.

Roger Mackie, the president of the Association of Southern African Travel Agents, said that this did not surprise him. “South Africa is getting a reputation overseas as an expensive, dangerous place. We must do something here to curb crime and our hotels must be seen to offer value for money.”

The statistical service’s latest report showed that foreign tourists staying in South African hotels rose 30.2 percent in March compared with the same month last year.

But foreign visitors made up only 22.6 percent of the total number of hotel guests in March, down from 25.2 percent in February.

Most foreigners stayed in cheaper accommodation.

The service said that mil-star hotels showed the largest number of bednights sold to foreign tourists with a market share of 29 percent for March. They were followed by three-star hotels with 26.4 percent.

Only 15 percent of bednights in five-star hotels were sold to foreign visitors in March. This was compared with 14.1 percent in February and 19.9 percent in March last year.

More bednights sold 22.4 percent of bednights to foreign visitors in March and 22.1 percent in February. This was compared with 24.6 percent last March.

In March 275,966 bednights were sold to foreign visitors compared with 211,906 in March last year. The Western Cape sold the most bednights with 36.6 percent, followed by Gauteng with 31.5 percent.
STANDING OVATION FOR GAMES TROUPE

2004 roadshow set to win hearts and minds

A COMMUNITY theatre group has made its stage debut — on behalf of the Olympic Bid Company — to enthusiastic applause. DALE GRANGER reports.

ONLY the smile on Mr Chris Ball’s face was as enthusiastic as the standing ovation of a singing and clapping audience in Athlone yesterday as the Olympic Bid Company launched their roadshow to win the hearts and minds of Capetonians for the 2004 Games.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Cape Town Mayor Mr William Bantom and boxer Nika Khumalo were all at the Joseph Stone Auditorium to watch the Buwa Theatre Company — a community-based group — make their debut on stage, using lights with mixed music for the first time.

They had just three frantic weeks to rehearse for the opening show and wowed the crowd with energetic and acrobatic dance routines and catchy songs in Xhosa, Afrikaans and English praising the merits of a Cape Town Olympics.

The group will tour the Western Cape by bus to perform in a series of shows at shopping malls, schools and community halls. Their main purpose is to reach out to people who do not have access to the electronic media and, either through illiteracy or lack of finance, do not read newspapers.

“I was very impressed,” said Mr Ngconda Balfour, the Olympic Bid Company’s director of international relations and sports development. “They are able to reach out in a way that doesn’t bombard people with figures. They symbolise the energy of the bid and their non-stop activity is exactly what we need to get things going.”

Before the show, Ball, the company’s chief executive officer, announced that Cape Town’s bid had enlisted a new supporter in Nawal El Namoutsawi-Hennis of Morocco, the first African to win an Olympic gold medal. She would be coming to Cape Town soon.

Addressing the audience, Bantom spoke of the miracle of the 1994 elections and the success of SA’s sports teams and said the extension of this was the “unique opportunity” to bring the Olympics to Africa, SA and Cape Town.

He was aware of people’s fears and these would be taken into account “so that in the end no one will lose out. I believe in the end we will all be winners”, he said.

“Let the Olympic flame be a sign of our unity and let us do it for the sake of all the peoples of our land and most of all, our city”, he said.

Community leader Mr Faried Esack said there was no way the bid could go ahead without the support of the community and it was an opportunity to show the world “what this country has arrived at, in spite of and because of our history”.

He said many people did not have the foresight to see how the massive expenditure on an Olympic Games would benefit them in the long run, but SA was a “country of miracles” which had transformed “like no other country in Africa”.

“The bid company should not allow any fringe elements to derail the miracle we are once again going to pull off in this country, both in the way we run the bid and how we pull it off in the end, to ensure the people of SA are the winners,” he said.
'Green group' holds key to quick approval of cableway

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

THE upgrade of Table Mountain's cableway could be approved within two months if a special committee solved environmental problems.

But even if the project is backed, work on the cableway would not start before February to prevent disruption of the peak holiday season.

UCT Professor Richard Fugal will lead the committee, which was set up by Arts and Science Minister Ben Ngubane.

The formation of the committee follows the National Monuments Council's refusal to approve the controversial project until an integrated environmental impact study had been completed.

Louis de Waal, chairman of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, welcomed the appointment and said the company was keen to help Professor Fugal's investigation.

"We believe Professor Fugal's report will be handed to Mr Ngubane for his decision by the end of July. We are still hopeful that we will get the go-ahead for the redevelopment."

Captour chief executive Gordon Oliver has appealed to all the relevant authorities to ensure the redevelopment goes ahead.

Mr Oliver said Captour was confident that the cableway company intended to fulfil its obligations to the community as required by the National Monuments Council.

"There is no question of principles being sacrificed or subverted and we do appeal to the National Monuments Council and the Parks Board to reach a healthy and constructive compromise with the (cableway) company in the interest of a win-win situation."

The R61 million upgrading programme includes two new circular cars which could carry 65 passengers each, improved parking facilities, a new restaurant - behind the existing one - at the top which will be sunk into the rock to lessen the visual impact and the replacement of unsightly water reservoirs on the summit by sunken reservoirs.

The existing path in the centre of the mountain will be replaced by a new circular path with the aim of stopping people walking through the fynbos as they seek a better view from the edge of the mountain.
SA tourism rockets but crime blots the picture

By DON ROBERTSON

SOUTH AFRICA has experienced unique growth in foreign tourism during the past nine years and the upswing is expected to continue, says Delano Caras, chief executive of Kessel Feinstein Consulting. However, crime could put a stop to the boom.

The influx of foreign tourists, excluding those from Africa, has increased by 13% a year since 1988. Although off a low base, such growth in tourism is probably unique in the world, outperforming countries such as Australia, Egypt, Israel, Kenya and Mauritius.

In its fourth survey of the tourism industry, Kessel Feinstein Consulting says that after a 46% improvement in tourism last year, spurred by the Rugby World Cup, growth in 1996 should be about 15%, made up of 1.1-million people from overseas and 1.2-million from Africa. A further 2.5-million can be expected from neighbouring countries such as Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Namibia.

Tourism growth is likely to increase by between 10-12% a year. By 2000 it should generate foreign earnings of R45-billion — more than gold exports — and represent 6% of the GDP. Foreign visitors will outnumber domestic holidaymakers.

But the rise in tourist volumes has created a shortage of accommodation and infrastructure such as coaches and guides, resulting in a decline in service standards during peak periods. A positive aspect, however, is the increased competition from international hotel groups which could prompt the industry to double its staff training and quality control.

The continuing high incidence of violent crime is a severe problem for the industry.

All the advantages that could accrue from sustained tourism growth could be lost unless the environment for tourism can be made safe.
Legislation for metro police under review

Mduudzi ka Harvey

SAFETY and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Gauteng MEC Jesse Duarte have established a joint ministerial task team to look at legislative steps towards the speedy establishment of a metropolitan police unit in the province.

Gauteng safety and security policy planning and audit deputy director Sylvester Rakgoadi said the task team would look into the legislative framework required to set up metropolitan police units and find ways of bringing this legislation in line with the new constitution.

He said the team had been in contact with the transport ministry and the different tiers of government who had started with different feasibility studies aimed at establishing such a police unit.

In addition, the team was defining the role and function of the unit and how it would best enforce law, prevent crime and control traffic as well as how local government could fund it.

Another outstanding issue the task team was investigating was the role it could play in facilitating an environment where the unit would work with the SAPS.

In a departmental concept document entitled Metropolitan and Municipal Policing, it is suggested that the Police Act should be amended to include guidelines contained in the constitution, and calls for debates around the appropriateness of any new services at a local government level considering community crime prevention initiatives. It outlines the guidelines, saying they should be accountable to communities, reflect a civilian and not a paramilitary ethos, operate as service oriented organisations and subscribe to efficient and effective management techniques.

The province also believed that for metropolitan policing to be successful it should prioritise high crime areas such as taxi ranks, the CBD and tourist areas.

In order to avoid duplication and fragmentation of law enforcement authorities, metropolitan and municipal police services should hold traffic control and enforcement of traffic regulations as key functions.

The document also suggests that the powers of the officers should only apply within their local authority, except in special circumstances. Their uniform training should be prescribed at national level and their lines of accountability should be drawn at a structure and metropolitan level.

The day to day running of the unit should also be the responsibility of the council, while a provincial inspectorate would be established to ensure acceptable standards and levels of service were maintained across the province.

The funding of the metropolitan police unit and determination of remuneration of unit members would be the responsibility of local authorities and at a provincial level the ministry would consider a number of funding options.

Travel industry funds training

Nompayenda Mathiane

IN SPITE OF government’s insistence on education and training for the tourism industry, it had failed to “put its money where its mouth is”, Association of SA Travel Agencies (Asata) director Roger Mackie said yesterday.

Instead, Asata members have raised funds to create the Travel Agency Education and Training Authority of SA, which has developed training courses for students interested in careers in travel and tourism. These will be offered at colleges and technikons. The first two courses, each running for six months, begin this year.

RHOEX

RHOEX Limit
(Registration number 87/012
("Rhoex")

Unaudited group
For the six months ended 31 March 2013

Consolidated income statement

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<tr>
<td>Net operating profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abnormal item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus on disposal of investments</td>
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Lesions from Atlanta

(2/8) NO 27/5/96

The presentation of pictures and photographs on the cover of the New York Times, including the Olympic Games, is an indication of the importance of the event. The focus on the athletes and their performances is evident, and the coverage highlights the excitement and spirit of the competition. The articles and interviews provide insights into the behind-the-scenes aspects of the event, such as training, nutrition, and the psychological challenges faced by the athletes. The coverage also emphasizes the impact of the Games on the host city, showcasing the positive changes and lasting legacies that are created through such global events. Overall, the presentation of the Olympics in the media serves to engage and inspire audiences around the world, fostering a sense of unity and celebration.
Tourism industry on the rise

Nomavenda Mathiane

By 2000, the tourism industry would net about R43bn and foreign tourism would be more than twice the size of domestic tourism, said Kessel Feinstein Consultants in a book, Tourism Talk, launched on Friday.

Kessel Feinstein director Delano Cares was optimistic that the SA tourism industry was on the rise.

Indications from the research conducted by Kessel Feinstein on the industry were that the 1994 tourism figures surpassed those of last year.

The 71-page book, a businessman’s guide to SA tourism, deals with all aspects of the industry, from foreign to local tourism, hotels in SA and neighbouring countries and trading conditions in the industry.

It says that in the past eight years, foreign tourism to SA grew at 13% per annum. Although off a low base, this growth, spread over nearly a decade, is unusual — and perhaps even unique — in world terms.

It outperforms the long-term growth in countries which are roughly comparable to SA, such as Australia, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

The book argues that little is known about domestic tourism in SA. South Africans generally seem to be in favour of a growing tourist industry and that about 8-million locals take at least one holiday (of one or more nights away from home) a year.

The most popular provincial destinations for South Africans are KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Western Cape.

Figures show that an estimated 3% of the population makes at least one business trip a year and 63% of business trips are undertaken by car and 28% by plane.

Very few South Africans — only 16% — have heard of the term ecotourism.

Many believe that southern Africa has unique and in many ways superior attractions for the “eco” tourist and that, if properly handled, huge and sustainable benefits could accrue to the region. The book also deals with tourism in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The book projects that foreign tourism will grow at about 15% this year and over the longer-term at an annual rate of 11% to 12%. It says that provided the domestic economy continues to grow, expansion in domestic tourism will take place.
for debate on tourism

Regional cooperation will benefit economies of all countries involved

Sowetan Business Correspondent

M PUMALANGA premier Mr Mathews Phosa says there is a need for debate between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique on how to enhance the tourism and casino industry in the two countries.

The focus of such a debate should be how to establish an environment that will eliminate unnecessary competition among the three countries.

Addressing the Swaziland Chamber of Business and Industry, Swazi parliamentarians, trade unions and government officials in Swaziland on Tuesday, Phosa said the three countries had a great tourism potential.

World of opportunities

"Negotiations are currently taking place for the development of a national park which will border the Kruger National Park and will include areas of Mpumalanga, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

"This initiative could open up a world of opportunities in the tourism industry of all of the neighbouring countries. It will result in sustainable jobs for many people in all of these countries," Phosa said.

He said the manufacturing sector was one of the major creators of jobs, skills and wealth. It was important for Swaziland and Mpumalanga to put emphasis on this industrial activity.

"This can only be done in an environment of regional cooperation, peace and stability. We need to find creative solutions to the criticisms aimed at us that we do not offer attractive enough incentives for international investors," he said.

He said the Maputo Corridor was seen by the international community as a milestone towards regional economic cooperation.

Phosa, who just returned from a two-week visit to Britain, said the British Government through its department of trade and industry was fully behind the Maputo Corridor project. The Confederation of British Industries was also excited about the initiative, he said.

As a result the British Overseas Development Administration would, together with the Mpumalanga government, investigate the involvement of Britain in the Maputo Corridor initiative.

"A formal announcement, concerning the British government's involvement in the initiative will be made once the investigation into support mechanisms is finalised," he said.

In addition to strengthening trade ties between Mpumalanga and Swaziland, Phosa's visit to the tiny kingdom has been interpreted by some analysts as an attempt to calm fears that Swaziland was being left out of the Maputo Corridor project.

Voiced concern

The Swazi government was quoted last week as voicing its concern that the country was not considered when the corridor project was accepted.

Phosa said it was time for all stakeholders in the corridor to translate the initiative into projects that would create sustainable jobs over political boundaries.

"A vision is not enough to sell to investors. We need to add more tangible projects especially foreign companies that are interested in what we are doing as a region," he said.

"Phosa said the Maguya Dam project in Northern Hhohho, Swaziland, should create an environment for entrepreneurs from both Swaziland and South Africa.

He said other projects such as the building of roads, construction infrastructure development and electricity distribution could also be developed at a regional level.
80% support for Olympic bid — survey

ALTOGETHER 80% of voters in the Western Cape support the city's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games, a pre-election survey has shown.

Welcoming the findings of the Independent Newspapers poll, bid company chief executive Mr Chris Ball said they were encouraging.

"The findings of this independent poll are all the more striking in that they correlate significantly with our own benchmark public opinion survey conducted late last year," Ball said.

"That survey also set the level of support by Capetonians for the Olympic bid at 80%.

He said they would now try to convince the sceptic 20% that the impact of a well-managed, modestly-executed Olympic Games in 2004 will be to the benefit of all.

With 10 cities competing for the chance to host the 2004 Olympic Games, it was crucial to the city's bid that its people showed solid support, he said. — Sapa
SA 'should target rich tourists' (288)

By Audrey d'Argolo

Cape Town — South Africa's tourism industry should target countries whose tourists are known to be big spenders rather than pushing up numbers, Berendien Lubbe, a lecturer in the department of communication at Unisa, said yesterday.

"We are having a tourism boom and have almost reached capacity in the numbers we can handle with our present infrastructure," she told delegates to the annual conference of the Public Relations Institute of South Africa.

"So perhaps we should be looking at countries which send tourists who spend lots of money. Australia already has a problem in that large numbers of tourists who go there are backpackers who spend very little in the country."

She said that promotional information about South Africa as a tourist destination should be targeted, more precisely, to meet differing needs and attract certain sectors.

Lubbe also said that there was a need to give tourists advice that would keep them safe while they were visiting the country. This included putting the crime problem in perspective by pointing out the small proportion of tourists who were attacked, she said.

CT(OR) 29/5/96
Tourism to boost job figures in S Africa

While tourism is ranked number one in many countries, in SA it is number four

By Gerry Reilly

EMPLOYMENT in South Africa’s tourism industry is likely to double to nearly a million by the close of the century provided the current inflow of foreign visitors is maintained.

The number of tourists to this country increased by 53 percent in the past year.

Currently the tourism industry employs 550,000. This is equivalent to the total number of people employed in the country’s mining industry.

But according to a professor of tourism management at Pretoria University and deputy head of Satour, Ernie Heath, billions of rand will have to be invested in tourism infrastructure if the industry hopes to compete with other popular tourist destinations.

However, he argues, growth in the tourism industry would depend heavily on the extent to which crime is curbed and service standards are upgraded to international norms.

Heath’s concern is that hotel prices are soaring but standards have remained static.

Latest statistics, he says, show that tourism has great potential in this country.

The statistics show that international and domestic tourism contributes 10 percent of the gross domestic product worldwide. The figure for South Africa is 15 percent, he says.

However, in many countries tourism is ranked number one as a major earner of foreign exchange. In South Africa it is number four, adds Heath.

Figures from the South Africa Tourism Board show that tourist arrivals internationally totalled 567 million last year and only 4.5 million of these came to South Africa.

Foreign exchange earned from tourism worldwide in 1995 amounted to R1.14-trillion with South Africa earnings from the industry standing at R1.12-trillion.

According to Central Statistical Service the profitability of major hotels in South Africa shot up by 17.1 percent in the fifth quarter as a result of a surge in the number of tourists.
Gloom takes hold of inner city

BY TROYE LINDS

The drastic downsizing of Johannesburg's prestigious Carlton Hotel may have sounded the death knell for many surrounding shops and could put inner-city rejuvenation out of reach, Carlton Centre businesses believe.

The hotel blamed the severe cuts to its five-star services and its 185 retrenchments on delays in the issuing of gaming licences and negative perceptions of the inner city.

"Business is over for us if we lose the sales from the hotel's tourists," local people buy nothing, and tourists spend huge amounts of hard cash," said the manager of Third Base boutique, Enoch Nyadzi. He said tourists staying at the hotel spent between R5 000 and R4 000 every time they visited the boutique.

An employee at Loving Boutique, who asked not to be named, said: "There is more to it than sales. Tourists are a massive source of foreign currency, many shopowners deal in dollars or pounds. They rely completely on the foreign trade. When a landmark like the Carlton goes, you know there is a problem."

Manageress of Trouwirths in the centre, Precious Naidoo, said she would lose "vast sums" without the tourist market. She had noticed a "considerable drop" in the number of tourists visiting the centre from August last year.

"There are always people running into the shop saying they have been mugged or had their wallet stolen. If the centre and the CBD is to survive, a plan must be made to attract business back," said Naidoo.

SAA spokesman Etienne Olivier said their decision to move out of the centre was not motivated by reduced business, but because the airline had opened new offices at Johannesburg airport.

But he was adamant: "Tourists are not used to so much filth that it causes the escalators to jam. If one compares this situation with the one offered in Sandton, it is clear there is no choice."

Carlton Centre's general manager, Christopher Timblo, stressed that the influx of street traders, "uncontrolled" taxis and muggings had scared people away. He confirmed that the hotel would close completely if the latest cuts were unable to increase profits.

"If we were granted a gaming licence and offered a nightlife and entertainment centre that is found nowhere else in Johannesburg, people would have a reason to come into town. This would have a snowball effect. We and other companies would jazz up the streets."

"More businesses would come in and more people would be employed. The whole thing would contribute enormously to the rejuvenation of the CBD. It is a case of simple economics."

"At the moment, we are caught in a negative vicious circle - people are losing jobs; business is moving to Sandton; and the city centre is dying," said Timblo.

The Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP) - the business arm of the Inner City Renewal Forum - said the hotel's cutbacks were a major setback for the city.

CJP spokesman Neill Fraser said business's frustration that nothing had been done since the renewal plan was announced two years ago, but added that he was optimistic about the rejuvenation drive.

"It took 100 years to screw the city up. Rejuvenation will not overnight, but the Carlton is just one of the setbacks we will experience on the way. Working with the authorities and after a trip overseas to learn how other cities were revived, I am very optimistic," said Fraser.

The Transitional Metropolitan Councillor on the renewal forum Lindsay Bremner, was not available for comment at the time of going to press.

The swift decline of Johannesburg's grand 5-star hotels

BY TROYE LINDS

Drastic reductions to five-star services offered by the Carlton Hotel may mark the fall of the last in a string of the Golden City's finest hotels and be a sign of a steady flight of international jetsetters from Johannesburg's CBD.

The first 100 years in the city's life was dominated by a race for bigger and better establishments. But, as the city grew, so did crime and pollution. The good fortunes of the inner city started changing as businesses moved to more spacious suburbs and five-star hotel guests opted for more tranquil, safer accommodation.

Once it began, the fall of Johannesburg's luxury hotels was swift. When the five-star, R25-million Johannesburg Sun opened its doors in the city 11 years ago, there were five other luxury hotels to compete with - The Carlton, Landmark, President, the four-star Rand International and Victoria.

The first to go was the President which closed its doors in October 1985. The Landmark followed a month later when it was converted to the Downtown Johannesburg Holiday Inn and is now a police barracks.

The ladies of the 100 Club, a coterie of Johannesburg's high society who met at the Landmark's Annabel's as it offered special security arrangements for their furs and jewellery, moved their meeting place to the Oppenheimer's home in the northern suburbs.

The Victoria Hotel, which dated back to 1899, closed next and the Rand International was downgraded shortly after this. By 1993, the Carlton, although it had already closed six floors, was all that remained of the city's former splendid accommodation. However, hand-in-hand with 185 retrenchments, the hotel announced a dramatic downgrading this week.

It blamed its demise on the delays in gambling licences and the "diabolical" perceptions of the crime and filth of Johannesburg's inner city.

Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa's executive director, Deon Viljoen said the "shocking filth and uncontrolled street trading" were not conducive to luxury hotels or business. He urged the government to pass the gaming law and "stop paying lip-service" to the notion of revitalising the inner city "before it's too late".

Gerhard's MBC for Finance Jabu Moleketi was not available for comment yesterday nor was the chairman of the province's economic affairs committee, Anz became Feinb.
Subregion's tourism industry to develop

By Emanuele Koro

HARARE - As Southern Africa moves towards closer regional economic co-operation, many exciting developments aimed at either complementing or boosting the tourism industry are taking shape.

Since the beginning of the decade of the '90s, when democracy and relative stability dawned throughout Southern Africa, some people began talking about marketing the region as a unit to international tourists.

Apart from the usual mainstream tourist attraction centres like wildlife and landmark scenes found in this region, Southern African tourism is beginning to talk about what they term "cultural tourism".

This notion, one of the unusual subjects to emerge from the region's tourism industry, has never been a topic of interest in the minds of tourism executives who have, only focused on usual tourist attractions such as wildlife, Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls and South Africa's Kruger National Park.

Until recently, cultural tourism had been ignored and under-rated by virtually all who were supposed to champion it.

Now the notion is being discussed by individuals in the industry as a way of broadening the region's attraction base, thus showing the world that there is still more to come from Southern Africa, both in wildlife and artistic cultural heritage.

At an international conference held at Potchefstroom University early this year, cultural tourism featured as one of its major topics.

The director of the university's Institute for Tourism and Leisure Studies, Matlali Sanyamane, said there was a lot of enthusiasm shown by participants on the issue of cultural tourism.

Also, out of South Africa there has emerged attempts to open up the tourism industry.
Crime and cost ravage tourism boom

Although foreigners are still visiting SA, figures show the upswing has slowed dramatically

By Shirley Woodgate

Increasing costs and rampant crime have put the brakes on the tourism boom, with the record 58% increase in visitors in the first quarter of 1995 slumping to only a 3.4% improvement from January to March this year.

The total upswing for 1995 was an all-time high of 51.1%, which saw the 729 480 tourists in 1994 increased to 1 101 899.

The latest Central Statistical Services report indicates that 323 789 foreign visitors entered SA through the three international airports in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban in the first three months of the year compared with 313 153 during the same time last year.

The drop prompted a warning from Association of SA Travel Agents (Asata) president Roger Mackie: “The euphoria is over and SA is no longer the flavour of the tourist month. Now we will have to deliver.”

Although the recent boom started from a very low base, it was clear the numbers were leveling off, which was almost entirely due to the “two Cs” - crime and cost, he said.

Satour’s general manager for Europe, Dale Pretorius, disagreed. He stressed the German, Swiss and Austrian markets, which accounted for by far the largest numbers of tourists to South Africa, had notched up big increases in March. Germany was up from 12 220 to 19 421; Switzerland from 19 200 to 22 001; and Austria from 961 to 1 851.

According to Mackie, it is openly said that SA has the biggest crime problem in the world outside of war zones.

Despite the favourable exchange rate for foreigners, the cost factor was reflected in the drop in bookings at four- and five-star hotels in favour of three-star (Garden Court and City Lodge) and bed and breakfast establishments.

“Prices are high at the top hotels, where service levels are pathetic and charges are between R800 and R1 100 a night for room only. These places are being used mainly by politicians and overseas government representatives and the picture does not reflect the tourist source we should be focusing on,” Mackie said.

Another cost factor was that SA was a long-haul destination.

The CASS said almost 70% of the foreigners who headed for SA in the last three hot months were holidaymakers (223 620), followed by business people (61 886).

The European and North American market improved slightly, but fewer tourists arrived from all other regions. Visitors from Europe increased from 173 350 to 188 800 and North America was up from 29 332 to 30 880.

Central and South America was down from 10 510 to 8 003; Australia and New Zealand dropped from 10 662 to 10 482.

the Middle East from 5 447 to 5 857; Asia from 31 009 to 28 631; Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles from 3 100 to 3 014; and visitors from Africa decreased from 48 870 to 47 379.

Turning to the Government’s role in tourism, Mackie said: “They talk a lot about tourism, but the Government is strangely quiet when it comes to putting its money where its mouth is.

“The budget for Satour, which has enormous experience, has declined over the last three years to R48-million (down from last year’s R55-million), which is nothing in world terms.

“On the other hand, there is no tax incentive for private operators who exhibit on stands anywhere from Berlin to Italy.

“Instead of helping private companies with expertise, the provincial bodies are promoted by being allowed to send up to 12 people per province to overseas shows, clogging up stands and staying at top hotels.

“Nothing about tourism has improved since the days of the previous government, when a new tourism minister was appointed every 16 months.

“What is needed is consistency, with a long-term minister drawn from the well-informed private sector. It is time the Government acted positively on expectations that tourism is set to overtake mining as the country’s top revenue source,” Mackie said.

Satour spokesman Martin van Heerden did not share Mackie’s pessimism. He said crime was not as big a factor as suggested, but admitted SA was becoming expensive. Previously, cheap international travel was compensated for expensive airplane tickets to SA. But inland commuting was beginning to cost more.

Van Heerden said the infrastructure could not handle the continued soaring influx of the last few years and he predicted the target 20% increase in tourism would be achieved this year.
MYOPIA AND CHICANERY POSE THREAT TO GLITTERING FUTURE

High prices and falling standards

Tourism has become a thriving industry that can earn SA billions of rand in foreign exchange and kick-start the RDP. But there's a danger that greed in some quarters of the private sector — and a government inclination to view the industry as a cow that can be milked but not fed — may impede its future growth.

The number of overseas tourists visiting SA reached its nadir in 1986, when just 297 060 trickled through our border posts. But numbers started improving gradually after that. In 1994, 704 630 tourists arrived. Last year, the number of visitors easily exceeded 1m. SA earned R10bn in foreign currency from tourists in 1995, outgoing Minister of Environmental Affairs & Tourism Dawie de Villiers told parliament last week.

Tourism is the world's largest industry.

Figures compiled by Ernie Heath, professor of tourism management at the University of Pretoria's Graduate School of Business, show that, worldwide, tourism generates US$3.4 trillion — or more than 10% of world GDP. SA's share is a minute 0.7% of the world's tourist arrivals and receipts.

Heath estimates that SA could attract 2.3m overseas tourists in the year 2000 and that between now and then they should spend an average R16bn a year here (at 1994 values) and create an additional 113 000 direct and 226 500 indirect jobs.

To many, SA's 1996 figures mean that the good times will never end. However, prudent specialists realise the industry needs to be nurtured.

Those who are far-sighted want to tempt visitors to come back, by taking reasonable profits, giving genuine value for money and providing a better service. Those who are myopic — perhaps especially those operating at the top end of the market — seek to maximise immediate profits without much thought for the future.

Micor Travel deputy group MD Mike Beevers claims that SA hotels increased their prices by roughly 25% — from low bases — during sanctions.

Some five-star hotels, however, increased their tariffs more than once during the past year. Some observers believe SA may now be paying the price, in the form of a decrease in tourists flowing through SA's three international airports — Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban — in February.

But market forces will apply, says Tourism Business Council of SA chairman David Wigley. Hoteliers are risking "They're pouring in anyway; so let's cut what we give to the SA Tourism Board (Satour) to sell SA abroad."

New Satour chairman Peter Swartz vigorously criticised this when he addressed an international news conference at a recent Durban Indaba. "I can never understand people telling us we're a marketing authority, then taking away our means of marketing SA. Tourism is a business. Unless you invest in a business, you can't expect returns."

He's right. The biggest State cash injection Satour ever got was the R97m in financial 1994 — the last year of the apartheid government.

The new government lost no time in reducing its contribution, in real terms, to Satour because, under the Interim Constitution, tourism management and creating a tourist infrastructure is largely a provincial matter.

Allowing for inflation at 8% and discounting the fall of the rand, Satour's 1997 budget of R52.2m to promote tourism internationally is worth just R46.4m of the R50.6m allocated in its 1996 financial year. That's miserly. According to the latest figures (and excluding private-sector contributions), Greece spent almost R61.5m in 1993 to entice foreigners, Mexico R59.8m and Spain more than R53.3m. SA's "marketing spend" for each visitor in 1993 was R18.33, Australia's R64.77 and Bermuda's R125.23.

In the forthcoming tourism White Paper, the contribution the industry can make to the RDP is understood. "The tourism industry has the lowest ratio of investment to job creation," the White Paper states.

Heath spells it out in his paper Making Tourism a Winning Industry for all South Africans: the challenges between 1995 and 2000, which he co-authored with Mike Fabricius: "In the current positive marketing climate, it is projected that for every R10m invested in international marketing an additional 25 000 tourists can be expected — at least. This converts into"

Continued on page 34
an additional earning in foreign exchange of more than R110m (with a multiplier of 1.5 to R161m), 2,500 direct and indirect job opportunities and increased government revenue of more than R60m."

Against a background like that, Swartz’s angry response at a media conference is not surprising. "Politicians have been parading tourism on every platform for years and lauding its benefits and its positive aspects but never had the guts to put their money where their mouths are."

Government is adamant that Satour’s name must change. The White Paper argues: "Satour has come to be associated with the old SA and the old privileged tourism and it is still undergoing restructuring to accommodate a new reality — greater representation of the previously disadvantaged groups, greater authority and autonomy of the provinces and the general restructuring of the industry. The most appropriate name could be Tourism SA."

The representatives of the nine provinces on its board "will ensure the organisation is driven by the provinces in a co-ordinated national strategy." Once the representatives of labour, communities, national parks and government take their seats on the board of 20, there won’t be much room for private-sector members, whose capital, risk-taking and expertise fuel tourism. Delegating so much power to the provinces has already led to duplication. They’re all go-

no quare! If Satour regarded visitors from Kenya, Egypt and Zaire — which don’t share a common border with SA — as overseas tourists. But there’s no way it can justify describing the 1.65m people who came from Lesotho last year, the 128,232 from Mozambique or the 647,466 from Swaziland as tourists.

As the World Tourism Organisation knows only too well, they came either as contract workers or crossed SA’s borders to shop — more value to the retail trade than the travel industry. But by adding those who came from all of Africa to those from its traditional overseas markets, Satour was able to claim that SA attracted 5.5m foreign visitors last year.

Since January, Satour has been adding those visiting SA from the whole of Africa to those hailing from its traditional overseas markets. By including the 272,760 (1995: 258,824) who arrived from Africa with the 94,499 (1995: 84,447) who came from its traditional overseas markets, Satour could claim that 367,269 foreigners visited SA in January 1995 — almost 8% more than the total for January 1994.

This is misleading. The 2,203 who came from Angola and the 908 from Kenya must be regarded as genuine tourists, but not the 97,155 from Lesotho, 52,978 from Swaziland and 33,255 from Botswana.

One wonders whether Satour is reverting to the apartheid era system which excluded foreigners who visited the now-defunct TBVC states from SA statistics while counting visitors from the TBVC states as foreign tourists.

The crucial question is whether the predicted growth in tourism can be achieved?

Warning signs started flashing in January, when the growth of overseas tourists slowed to 8%. The red lights flashed more ominously in February, when there was a 5% drop in overseas tourists through SA’s three main airport entry points — down from 124,609 in February last year to 96,131.

Satour dismisses the downturn as predictable but temporary glitch after many months of continuous growth. But it may signal that SA is pricing itself out of the market. John Deverell, MD of leading British tour operator Bluebird, seems to think so. "Tourism isn’t expanding into the right demand areas," he says. "It caters extremely well for the business traveller, whose budget permits him to sleep at an hotel that charges R700 a night and more. That does nothing to persuade many in Britain that SA is a good destination."

"It’s bonanza time for SA hoteliers, many of whom have instituted exorbitant tariff increases — which is fine if you’re Japanese but not if you’re an average Brit or European. And that, unfortunately, excludes an enormous number of tourists who want good accommodation at affordable prices when they go on holiday."

"Some upmarket European destinations as well as Florida in the US, Goa in India and Thailand offer accommodation that’s as good, if not better, for less.

Deverell complains that there’s no noticeable improvement in the service offered by SA hotels. Wigley disagrees. He believes SA hotels still offer excellent value for money. Hospitality Industry Training Board executive director Tony Ansara accepts that SA is 12 years behind Australia. But he’s confident this country will catch up in the next seven or 10 years. "We’re brighter and we’re spending millions on training," he says.

If Wigley and Ansara are wrong, SA could kill the milk cow — irrespective of whether government feeds it or not.  ■
Eco-tourism a top earner for SA

NEW CAPE RESERVE 'PRESERVES UNIQUE HERITAGE'
130bn boost for economy
Cabinet backs Olympic bid

IN THE STARTING BLOCKS: Minister of Sport Shane Trewin and head of the Olympic bid company. The Bill requires that the decision of the council.

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Cabinet backs Olympic bid

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increase the burden on the Western Cape or any other part of the country.

We do not believe the Western Cape will suffer. Indeed, as we have indicated, 90% of the income and, 50% of the employment will be in the Western Cape.

The proposed R7.5bn capital expenditure included about R2.3bn which would be spent on building stadiums and Olympic villages, R1.2bn on moving naval personnel from Youthsfield army base, R650m on bulk services and R1.5bn on transport infrastructure. Goldin said.

Thirteen said the cabinet decision had been unanimous despite reports that the cabinet had been divided on the Olympic bid.

"We wanted to be sure that whatever decision we came up with, we would be able to justify and defend it."

Hanskom said some cabinet ministers did initially have reservations about the bid and wanted to be absolutely certain about the likely costs.

The decision was met with widespread approval — and a note of caution.

NP sports spokesman Mr Nick Roodt described it as "fantastic."

"We trust that Cape Town will succeed with the final bid."

He warned, however, that sound financial discipline would have to be maintained.

Mr Keith Nicol, acting chief executive officer of the central substructure, said that in the period up to September, 1997 international attention on Cape Town would increase as one of the leading contenders in the 2004 bid.

He warned, however, that lots of hard work remains to be done between now and September, 1997, when the host city will be announced.

The chief executive of Wesgro, Dr David Bridgman, welcomed the decision and said the Games "represents a major opportunity to leverage the development needs of this city and region".
Satour hopeful about new funding

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

THE South African Tourism Board (Satour) is confident its budget will be increased, following the release last week of the new tourism white paper, which identifies inadequate resources and funding as a major constraint of the tourism industry.

Satour executive director Mmabatho Msimang said yesterday he was optimistic more funds for the development and promotion of tourism in South Africa would be forthcoming, saying the government had shown its commitment to tourism through the release of the white paper

"The white paper identifies inadequate resources and funding as a major constraint for the tourism industry and recommends an urgent review of the government's financial contribution to tourism," Msimang said.

Satour chairman Mr Peter Swart, criticized government at the annual Indaba Travel and Tourism Exhibition in May when Satour's R48-million budget was eroded by R4.5 million as a result of the plunging rand.

At the time he said he would have to find the shortfall just to meet basic overheads, before promoting South Africa as a tourism destination.

Msimang said that due to "reduced funding and the devaluation of the rand," Satour had been forced to review its business plans.

"However, we have been in the fortunate position to state our case to the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan and to the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

"We have also had the opportunity to present a revised business plan to the Department of Finance.

"Satour's board is committed to obtaining additional funding for the organisation. We are hopeful that it will be forthcoming soon," Msimang added.
Rise in hotel rates would 'put off German tourists'

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — Any further increases in South African hotel rates would price them out of the growing German tourist market, the industry was warned yesterday.

Roland Oettinger, the managing director of the Deutscher Reisebeuro Verband (German Travel Agents and Tour Operators' Association), said he was also concerned about the safety of some local tour buses and the hours the drivers worked.

Oettinger said he had seen tour buses in use which would never be licensed to carry passengers in Germany.

The tourism boom meant that some drivers were having to work excessive hours, which could cause accidents. "South Africa should recruit experienced tour bus drivers overseas until they have sufficient properly trained ones here."

There was a need for better staff training in some hotels and restaurants, and many needed to employ more people to cope with the increase in customers.

Germany sent more tourists to South Africa than any other overseas country except Britain last year, and its travel agents' association is holding its annual conference here this week.

Oettinger said he expected tourism from Germany to grow.

But he cautioned: "It already costs three times as much for a German to have a holiday in South Africa than in Florida.

"The ticket to South Africa alone costs as much as a one-week package holiday in a five-star hotel in Florida."

And South Africa is competing with other exotic and fascinating destinations such as Bali.

"But I heard at the Indaba travel show in Durban that there was a possibility of hotel rates rising another 30 or 40 percent — and that would certainly have an impact on the number of Germans coming here."

Oettinger said he expected an "on the job" training scheme in Germany for South African hotel and restaurant staff to start in six months' time.

"Goodwill alone is not enough. Tourists paying a lot of money to come here are not inclined to make allowances for lack of sophistication or lower standards of service."
Potential boost to economy securer cabinet backing for

Olympics
Next two years ‘will decide the Carlton Hotel’s future’

(288) 80 b 1b 1b q 6

David McKay

THE Carlton Hotel — once the jewel in the crown of Anglo American Properties (Amaprop) — has an estimated two-year period in which to break even or face possible closure forever.

So claims GM Christopher Trimble, who despite the seemingly tough goal he has set the company is confident the task can be achieved.

He bases his judgment on the worsening perception of inner city life with which the Carlton has, by association, been saddled.

While he believes the Carlton will have to reduce its costs, it is also up to government to turn the Johannesburg CBD into a safe haven for visitors and entertainment seekers.

His confidence — a mixture of “must-win” fervour and sheer hope — hinges on retaining the Carlton Hotel’s position as the premier hotel in SA.

“This is despite closing down several floors, retrenching about 185 staff members and shuttering seemingly unimpeachable features of the hotel such as the Koffiehuissing restaurant.

“The short-term future for the Carlton is to downsize its operations without downgrading its standards,” he says.

In the end, the decision to downsize the hotel was influenced by economics. It had been losing about R1m a month, creating a net loss of about R14m.

Ironically, it is through good economic sense that Trimble envisages the hotel’s eventual recovery. “When you add features that satisfy and attract more people to a well-known landmark like the Carlton Centre, it creates jobs and stimulates economic growth.”

“The basic plan is to create a R500m to R600m entertainment centre — an innovation that will involve adding up to six floors on the existing Sky Rink buildings. This will involve removing the Sky Rink,” he says.

The plan is to install a world-class centre with a variety of features including a large casino and some sporting activities. A convention centre catering for about 2 000 people and an indoor sports arena with seating for 3 300 are other essential elements in the entertainment centre. The go-ahead depends on receiving a casino licence from the Gauteng Gambling Board to proceed with the casino — arguably the central aspect of the development.

“The permit seems to have been delayed, but when it arrives we hope to put our plan into action. It did not arrive in time to save the partial closure of the Carlton,” Trimble says.

The projected knock-on effect of the entertainment centre is considerable. Funds generated by the development are aimed to initiate a R60m rehabilitation of the Carlton Shopping Centre.

The centre would also attract new clientele for the hotel.

The plan is an ambitious one, but is being frustrated by a lengthy process of law service and meaningless rhetoric. Illegal casinos are being allowed to operate while the Carlton is forced to retrench, Trimble says.

He claims local and provincial government must implement plans to improve the CBD before it is too late.

There is also the shabbiness of some parts of inner city Johannesburg which when compounded with the growing crime rate, is running business opportunities for the CBD and is not the environment for a five-star hotel.

In the meantime, Trimble is committed to increasing the renowned quality of the Carlton — an aim he hopes to achieve through staff who are “more committed and more quality-oriented than ever”, he says.

Trimble was able to retain staff members who were multi-skilled. But by and large, a last in, first out policy was followed during retrenchments.

Trimble aims to re-employ the staff he retrenched if the Carlton is able to recover to its former glory. He believes it is through the commitment of the existing Carlton staff that the retrenchments can be reversed.
Olympic Games has Govt blessing

By Rafiq Rohan Political Correspondent

SOUTH Africa's bid for the Olympic Games is on in earnest - and this could mean that a job between is on the cards.

Yesterday, immediately after the weekly Cabinet meeting, the Government gave its official blessing to the Olympic Bid Committee to go ahead with elaborate plans for South Africa to host the Games in 2004. Flanked by the head of the committee, Mr Chris Ball, Minister of Sport, Steve Tshwete, said the Cabinet was delighted to announce its support.

"Holding the Olympics in South Africa will contribute to the overall growth and development, and the bid will continue to be carefully aligned with the basic approach to the RDP," Tshwete said.

Also present were Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Deputy Minister of Finance Mr Gill Marcus.

Unmanageable debt

The basic guidelines in formulating the bid were that it should be developmental, should not result in an unmanageable debt burden for any level of government, and it should be a transnational bid that benefits the whole of South Africa," Tshwete said.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa had estimated that the overall boost to the national economy provided by the Games was likely to be more than $50 billion in the period 1997 to 2006, Tshwete said.

"Over 90,000 permanent jobs are likely to be generated, with approximately 60 percent of the income gains and 50 percent of the employment gains benefitting regions other than the Western Cape."

Additional State revenue from hosting the Games would be more than the required investments.

"The total capital cost of staging the Games is estimated to be approximately $7.5 billion, of which about half will be accounted for by private sector investment. The remainder will be shared by different tiers of national, provincial and local government," Tshwete said.
The team members are elated and proud as they celebrate their victory. The coach expresses his satisfaction with the performance of the team. The athletes are happy and excited to have achieved their goal. The event is a huge success for the school and the local community.
Olympic bid
steam ahead
for city
It's full
State proposes issuing Olympic bond to fund its share of the Games

By Christie Vosloo

Cape Town — The state would fund its share of the capital cost of the Olympic Games by issuing an Olympic bond, which would be repaid out of income generated by the event, Gill Marcus, the deputy minister of finance, said yesterday.

Analysis said they expected the Olympic bond to be issued only if South Africa was awarded the 2004 Games.

"Government will not increase taxes to fund the capital expenditure for the infrastructure which has to be put in place before 2004," said Marcus.

The estimated capital cost of staging the Games is R7.5 billion, of which half would be carried by the private sector. The other half would be shared by the national, provincial and local governments.

Part of the state's share would be funded by the bond.

"South Africa's bid for the Games will be submitted to the International Olympic Committee before August 15 and the committee will announce the successful bidder in September next year.

All debt incurred by the different levels of government would be repaid out of income generated by the Games, said Marcus.

Steve Twete, the minister of sport, said: "Our calculations show that there will be a surplus after all the costs have been taken into account. The surplus will be used to fund RDP projects all over South Africa."

Recently, government officials said they had reservations about the budget presented to the government by Chris Ball's Olympic committee, but Twete and Marcus said the cabinet decision to support the bid was unanimous.

Marcus said any reservations were swept away when a 12-man team of experts at the Development Bank of South Africa calculated that the potential benefits of staging the Games were greater than Ball's committee had estimated.

The team estimated that an additional R30 billion would be added to the GDP between 1997 and 2006. Over 30,000 permanent jobs would be created, Marcus said.

Earlier, sources said Ball's committee had omitted several important items from the budget he presented.

The committee had also assumed that the government would donate land to private sector developers for low-cost accommodation which would be sold by the developers after the Games.

Marcus said the team from the bank had calculated that there would be a profit after the items which Ball had omitted were included in the cost.
Gambling investment 'could harm tourism'

Samantha Sharpe

FIERCE competition between provinces for gambling investment could harm SA's fragile tourism industry, putting existing multibillion-rand tourism infrastructure investments at risk, Sun International MD Peter Bacon said yesterday.

Speaking at the Cape Chambers of Commerce and Industry congress, Bacon warned that SA's fledgling gaming industry had the potential to wreak havoc in the tourism industry at a time when its first real growth signs were emerging.

Provincial governments could be understood for wanting to attract new investment in tourism through new gaming licences, but without careful casino location the process could be disastrous.

"In the northern part of the country, where five provinces are almost totally dependent on a single market in Gauteng, it is clear that a mega urban casino in that province ... will render financially unviable destination and resort casinos in neighbouring provinces," Bacon said.

In the Western Cape, an urban casino was justifiable provided it did not undermine existing tourism assets in the metropolitan area.
Court told parks board has no say in hotel dispute

Negotiations not making progress

JOHN YELOD
Environment Reporter

THE head of Western Cape Environmental Affairs Department has told the Supreme Court that the National Parks Board has no legal standing to contest the proposed Oudekraal Hotel development on the former White House site between Bakoven and Llandudno.

Johann Neethling also told the court in an affidavit that negotiations between the parks board and the Western Cape government over the proposed national park in the Cape Peninsula had made "no progress at all".

Last month the National Parks Board went to the court to apply for an urgent interdict preventing further development of the proposed Oudekraal Hotel pending a legal review of the validity of the Western Cape provisional structure plan. Also sought was a review of the rezoning of the White House property.

In terms of an agreement with the developer, Hottentots Huisie (Pty) Ltd - made an order of the court - no further clearing of demolition, earthmoving, excavation or work would be done at the site pending the outcome of a trial to begin on June 18.

One of the respondents in the National Parks Board's application was Western Cape Development and Tourism Minister Limpie Piek.

In its application to the Supreme Court, the National Parks Board said that in December last year Western Cape Environmental Affairs minister Kobus Meiring had publicly announced that the board had been appointed the authority to control and manage the Cape Peninsula nature area as a contractual national park, to be established subject to conditions.

On the same day, Mr Meiring had issued a press release confirming that the board would "henceforth be the official management authority of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment" (CPPNE).

But this was contested in a nine-page replying affidavit filed in the Supreme Court this week by Dr Neethling, head of the Western Cape's Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs (formerly Cape Nature Conservation).

He said that in terms of the Constitution, nature conservation - excluding national parks - and the environment were provincial responsibilities.

Dr Neethling conceded that the so-called Huntley committee had been appointed in June last year to advise on an appropriate legal framework for a single statutory authority for the CPPNE.

"It should be pointed out that the Huntley Committee exceeded its mandate by recommending that land outside the CPPNE should be included in the protected area," he said.

Mr Meiring had announced that the Western Cape cabinet had agreed subject to specific conditions - that the CPPNE should be declared a national park and that the National Parks Board should be appointed its management authority, Dr Neethling said.

"Respectfully point out that the decision of the cabinet did not constitute the appointment of the National Parks Board as the management body for the CPPNE, but merely accepted the principle that the National Parks Board be appointed if certain conditions could be met.

"I deny the allegation that the MEC (Mr Meiring) announced that the National Parks Board had been appointed as the authority to control and manage the CPPNE."

Dr Neethling "specifically" denied that the national parks board's submission that it anticipated a national park would be formally proclaimed in part of the Cape Peninsula's natural area this year.
The Olympics, The Argus, and You

The Editorial

The Editors are not the only ones to be impressed with the presence of the Olympic Games. The Argus, a local newspaper, has also expressed its admiration for the event. In an article entitled "The Olympics, The Argus, and You," the editors write:

"The Olympics, as an international celebration of athletic achievement, are a symbol of unity and cooperation among nations. They provide an opportunity for people from around the world to come together and celebrate their shared values.

In this issue, we feature an article on the history of the Olympic Games, written by our resident historian, Dr. John Smith. Dr. Smith traces the origins of the Olympic Games back to ancient Greece, where they were held as a religious festival to honor the god Zeus. He explains how the Games were revived in modern times and have since become one of the most important international events.

But the Olympics are not just a showcase for athletic prowess. They are also an opportunity for people to come together and share experiences. In our magazine, you will find articles on the cultural aspects of the Olympics, including the traditional costumes and music of different countries.

The Editors hope that you will enjoy reading about the Olympics, and that you will be inspired to get involved in your own way. Whether you are a dedicated athlete or simply a sports fan, the Olympics offer something for everyone."

(288)
All Smiles: Vanessa Fish, Rodney Governor and Kamilla Swart at the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee's Foremost Offices, for themselves and in colour.
Cape prices scare off prospective visitors

GERMAN travel agents this week held their annual destination conference in Cape Town — but just over a third pitched, apparently due to the high travel prices and exorbitant hotel tariffs in the city.

Mr Gerd Hesselmann, president of the Deutsche Reisebüro Verband (German Travel Agents' Association), warned yesterday South Africa could price itself out of the international tourism market as a long-haul destination.

He said the DRV "made history" in SA when only 140 of the expected 350 German travel agents attended the conference.

The reason? Perceptions of personal safety and the high cost of the five-day package compared to other long-haul destinations where similar conferences were held.

"It is the first time we have had this reaction. The local tourism industry and many German travel representatives missed an excellent opportunity," he said.

Hesselmann said the five-day package deal at the Cape Sun Intercontinental cost each delegate over Dmk1,500 (about R4,280). This included accommodation, meals, conference fees and nights out.

However, the same package for the DRV conference in Rio de Janeiro last year cost each delegate Dmk1,000 (about R2,850). Similar deals were negotiated for DRV conferences in Tel Aviv, Israel and Orlando in Florida.

Hesselmann said Cape Town was chosen because the DRV — which has 4,500 members — preferred destinations which faced political or socio-economic challenges — ones they can market as long-haul destinations. Such conferences helped members to better understand a foreign destination.

"Most delegates are positive about the local tourism industry. Their visitors for the potential of local tourism were fully met by the superb presentations."

He warned costs should not increase without an increase in productivity, and service. Greece and its tourism industry had suffered because of that.

Meanwhile, an international tourism consultant told delegates although tourism to SA had grown by about 50% last year, this growth could not be sustained as SA did not have the infrastructure to absorb it.

Dr Eric Holm-Petersen, of the Danish firm Hoff & Overgaard, said fast-growing tourism in a developing country was "not good."

"A forecast of 15% to 20% this year is more in line with SA's limited tourism infrastructure. The growth for SA should be about 15% so that it can cope, otherwise the tourism industry will kill itself."
Olympic bid on the menu, project launch

Cape Town

2004

Good growth sector shows

Commercial
Olympic planners pump millions into township

By COLIN BRYDEN

THE building of five Olympic stadiums will start almost immediately as Cape Town sets out to prove it is serious about winning the 2004 Olympic Games.

A cabinet decision to back the Cape Town bid will mean the release in the short term of more than R300-million in government funds.

Bid chief executive Chris Ball said five multipurpose facilities would be built in the underdeveloped southeastern areas of Cape Town, in and around Khayelitsha.

“We want to build five Olympic venues immediately to show we are serious,” said Mr Ball. “We would like the facilities to be completed and in use by local communities long before the members of the International Olympic Committee cast their votes in September 1997.”

The budget for what Mr Ball labels “the five priority projects” is R85-million, which will come from government funds. The stadiums will accommodate sports such as boxing, basketball and gymnastics.

Mr Ball also expects the first R50-million of government money for upgrading transport infrastructure around Cape Town to be spent in the next year.

The bid company has asked that almost R50-million be spent on transport infrastructure between this year and 2004.

Mr Ball said the delay in government approval had hurt the bid. “It would have been better if they had made their decision a few months earlier. But in the overall context the delay is not significant.”

The key deadlines are August 15, when the official bid documents have to be submitted to the International Olympic Committee; early December, when an evaluation commission will visit Cape Town to decide whether the city has the technical ability to stage the Olympics; and March or April, when the international committee will use the technical evaluations to short-list four or five final candidate cities.

If Cape Town makes the short list, the bid company will have between April and September next year to make an all-out effort to win the vote in Lausanne on September 5.

Mr Ball believes Cape Town is among the favourites. Eleven cities are in contention. “From what I hear, in the international community, Rome and Cape Town are regarded as the strongest bids.”

A budget of R26-million, separate from the R85-million earmarked for the construction of the stadiums, has been allocated for the bid process.

This will be privately funded, with R72-million already raised in sponsorship. Mr Ball is confident the balance will be raised from sponsors and the Champions of the Bid programme, which enables individuals and companies not formally connected to the bid to contribute.

The bid budget will cover the cost of ferrying International Olympic Committee members to Cape Town and marketing and administration costs.

Strict guidelines cover visits by the 106 members. The bidding city is entitled to host each member once only. The guidelines also put a limit on the value of gifts to members. Mr Ball said about 75 members were likely to visit the city.

He said he did not agree with criticism that Cape Town would not be able to manage an event as large as the Olympics. “I think the evaluation committee will be pleasantly surprised. We are well ahead in our planning on the technical side, particularly in telecommunications.”

In giving its support to the bid, the cabinet said government at national, provincial and local level would take responsibility for half of the estimated R5.5-billion needed to fund the games. The government estimates the Olympics will provide a boost of R5-billion to the economy.
British charters to boost summer tourism

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — Regular charter flights between Britain and South Africa should give tourism a boost this summer.

Britannia Airlines, which is based in Britain, has been granted a permit to bring tourists to this country twice a week, and Caledonian Airways will apply for a new permit for two flights a week when the present one expires at the end of next month.

Britannia's permit is to bring incoming tourists on package holidays including accommodation.

Johann Biermann, the deputy director of air transport regulation, said last week that they would be happy to extend the flights which call once a week in Johannesburg and once a week in Cape Town.

Caledonian Airways has a permit to fly the route for British tour operator Bluebird Holidays, transporting passengers in both directions.

It is entitled to sell seats without accommodation.

Caledonian suspended flights this month and last, because the planes were not sufficiently filled during the low season. Passengers were transferred to scheduled flights at no extra cost.

George Blundell-Pound, the commercial director of Caledonian Airways, said flights would resume on July 2.

Caledonian will apply for a new licence allowing it to fly once a week to Johannesburg and Cape Town, going on to Durban, when their licence expires at the end of next month.

John Deverell, Bluebird's director, said it hoped to offer flights between South Africa and Manchester and Glasgow next year. Manchester is Britain's third largest airport.

Deverell and Blundell-Pound said that they did not plan to compete head-on with the scheduled airlines. They served a different market and were bringing tourists who would not normally come to South Africa.

The rand's weakness meant that most of their business this summer would be bringing visitors to South Africa rather than taking South Africans abroad.

Blundell-Pound said 80 percent of air travellers in Europe now travelled on charter services.

He said the number of British people going on long-haul flights was increasing at a rate of about 12 percent a year.

SAA opposed Caledonian's original licence application on the grounds that it was a scheduled service and not a charter service, as flights were regular.
R250-m tourist complex for the Bluff

Durban - A R250-million plan to transform the Bluff into a major tourist attraction could begin in January.

Developers say the project, unveiled at the weekend, would go hand-in-hand with another, the Point Waterfront.

The brainchild of the Bluff Development Company, a 10ha site has been earmarked for the development at the foot of the Bluff on the south side, directly opposite the Point Waterfront.

Included is a proposal to build a 250-bedroom five-star hotel, which would be linked to a large deck extended over the water where a complex of restaurants, pubs, craft, and gift shops, maritime and locomotive museums and another smaller hotel would be constructed.

The complex would be accessed via ferries from the Point and the Victoria Embankment, said Simon Stockley of the Bluff Development Company.

Stockley said the project, which rests on finding an "international" partner, would fall off by January 1. He said the project had many advantages. One was that there was only one landowner, Transnet, while the Point Waterfront Development had to deal with two, Transnet and the City.

(285) Star 11/6/96
Tourism slows as hotel costs rise

Growing safety fears knock SA as holiday destination

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter

ESCALATING hotel costs and the perception overseas that it is becoming increasingly unsafe to travel in South Africa have contributed to a marked slowing down of tourism here.

South Africa has lost its “flavour of the month” status and it is time to address the issues that affect our tourism industry, says Satour executive director Mavuso Msimang.

The number of foreign tourists arriving by air increased narrowly by three percent in the first four months of this year, compared to the same time last year, and in April there was a rise of only 1.2 percent in tourists - 1 021 people - who arrived by other means of transport.

European arrivals increased by eight percent between January and April and Americans by six percent. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 23 percent decrease in the number of tourists from central and South America, a one percent decrease from Australia, a nine percent decrease from Asia and the Middle East and a three percent decrease from Africa.

And, Roland Oetinger, manager of German tourism association Deutscher Reisebeiru Verband has warned that any further surge in hotel rates would drastically affect the number of German tourists visiting the country.

He slated an intended escalation of between 30 to 40 percent in accommodation prices and said tour-bus drivers and hotel and restaurant staff needed better training to offer the standard of service paid for by tourists.

While he expected a further increase in tourists from Germany, he cautioned that Africa’s hottest destination already cost three times as much as a holiday in Florida.

But, not all is bad news.

According to the World Tourism Organisation, South Africa replaced Tunisia as the most popular African tourist destination in 1995. Tunisia now ranks second, followed by Morocco.

South Africa is seeing a boost in infrastructural developments in tourism and more and more international airlines are introducing flights or increasing their frequency of flights to the country, said Mr Msimang.
Crisis call to revive city centre

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) is to push for a master plan to rejuvenate the city's decaying heart — but may find itself having to balance this with the need to create jobs.

It has called for an urgent meeting with the Central substructure's executive committee — to which council spokesman Mr Ted Doman has responded that Exco would have no objection.

"I think their concerns are our concerns," Doman said yesterday.

Chief among the CCI's concerns — listed in its advertisements, headlined "Declining city standards", in the press yesterday — are "street crime, vagrancy, informal trade, prostitution, littering, street children and related pavement activities".

The negative effects of these elements on business and tourism form the main thrust of the CCI's arguments for action.

Lending weight to the CCI call was Satour's report yesterday that tourism to the country was slowing down because of crime and high costs.

Blaming the trend on a perception that South Africa was becoming increasingly unsafe, Satour's executive director, Mr Mavuso Msimang, said the number of visitors had increased by only 2.9% in the first four months of the year. Last year, figures were 7.7% higher than the year before.

In Cape Town, in finding ways to counter this trend and reverse the CBD's deterioration, the CCI will find itself balancing the interests of trade, tourism and citizens with the needs for job-creation and to boost an understaffed police force.

Says Cape Town central police station commander Director Raymond Dowl: "The police can't solve socio-economic circumstances."

His area was understaffed and needed at least 150 more policemen and four more patrol vans, he said yesterday.

Mugging and theft from cars had been reduced "quite substantially" in the past three months. However, the police were too stretched to deal with by-law infrarctions, which "should be the priority of the city's law-enforcement agencies".

These problems Doman attributed to the scrapping about four years ago, to allow job-creation, of by-laws controlling informal trading.

The burgeon of informal trade had led to the increase in associated problems, such as littering and crime, but there was little the council could do until the province promulgated new by-laws for informal trading, Doman said.

A few years ago, anyone could walk down Adderley Street's pavements safe from petty criminals and unhindered by pavement vendors.

Now muggings of tourists in the CBD are widely reported — reflecting a negative image of the city.

Citizens call for more police, more controls and more action, politicians make promises and officials struggle to make do with dwindling resources, but little seems to be effective.

In its advertisements, the CCI signalled its intent to act and called for "an integrated master plan" to deal with these problems.

The advertisements were echoed by the lead story in yesterday's CCI Business Bulletin. It expressed "concern that the city is falling into decay", complained of ineffectual and haphazard measures and said:

"Instead of the city centre being the magnet that attracts tourists to wander around its streets and squares while enjoying a controlled range of activities ... we find it is becoming positively unsafe, decidedly dirty and an unpleasant experience."
Hotel units to sell fast

Games bid backing may boost region

Lukanyo Mnyanda

The developers of the new four-star self-catering hotel at the entrance to the R350m Harbour Quay waterfront development in Gordons Bay expect the 96 units to be sold out quickly.

Reynolds' spokesman, Thomas Altman, whose company is handling the unit sales, said: "Harbour Quay's Edge Hotel offers an excellent blue chip investment, because, of a unique formula that provides long term capital appreciation and strong monthly returns."

The luxurious suites were being made available as full sectional title property, and buyers effectively became owners and shared in profits, based on their percentage participation shares.

Altman said that the projected rates of return indicated that the investment would eventually pay for itself.

Developer Cas Scharliefen said that the sectional title aspect of the development would give a huge boost.

He expected that it would make Harbour’s Edge a popular investment for companies and private investors.

Lukanyo Mnyanda

THE cabinet's decision to back Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games could have a positive effect on the region's economy but it was still too early to judge the extent, as the host city would not be named until next September, sources said yesterday.

Sanlam Properties Cape Town regional manager Kokkie Rall said: "The effect on Cape Town could be positive, but it's too early to be specific."

He called on the Olympic Bid Company to move quickly on improving facilities, such as the Cape Town airport, which was not yet up to international standards. Access roads to and from the airport would also have to be improved to accommodate the flood of visitors if Cape Town hosted the Games.

"I am still not convinced of how widespread support is for the bid. The bid company needs to sell it to the wider community and make it everyone's event," Rall said.

He said Cape Town people also needed to be convinced that the bid would not translate into an extra tax burden. "They (the bid company) can't do their figures in isolation."

Rall said a successful bid would represent a major injection for the region's economy and would instil confidence in its property market.

Old Mutual Properties operations manager Stuart Findlay agreed that it was too early to make assessments on the issue. "Real decisions will only be made once the city has been finally selected," he said.

However, the bid represented an expression of confidence in Cape Town and could have a major effect on the tourist industry. The hotel industry was already expanding and further development would be influenced by the bid's outcome.

RH Morris MD Frank Wright said the construction industry was "elated" that Cape Town was definitely going to bid. "This is a major boost for the industry, especially leisure and hotel development, and will inspire confidence in the Western Cape economy."

The industry now needed specific information from the bid company on what was planned before the International Olympic Committee made its decision next year.

"If we succeed, the Western Cape will take off. The games will generate large amounts of money, and individual property prices will also go up."

BMI Business Research Strategy consulting unit director Llewellyn Lewis said the impact of winning the games would be "massive". The construction of the Olympic villages would be a good investment as they could later be used later to help in meeting the region's housing needs.

"The development of infrastructure will have a positive impact on Cape Town, and the whole country will benefit," he said.
Mugged tourists say they were not warned of dangers

ALAN ROBINSON
London

British travel agents and holiday companies may soon have to issue formal warnings to tourists about the dangers and risks of visiting South Africa. Already, one British couple, who visited Durban earlier this year and were mugged taking a stroll from their four-star hotel, are reported to be claiming compensation from their travel agent.

The couple, who have not been named, are basing their claim on the fact that they were not warned of the dangers of visiting South Africa.

The case has alarmed the holiday industry in the UK, which is feeling the effects of an increasing number of illnesses by visitors to and from South Africa.

The most minor inconvenience, including slipping on wet tiles and falling out of a safari vehicle, has been phenomenal and will add considerably to the cost of package holidays.

The surge in claims follows a European Union directive that makes travel companies liable for every part of a holiday, from excursions to fitness, and not just the travel and accommodation arrangements.

Tim Oliver, a partner in London solicitors Berryman and Co., which acts for holiday giant Thomson, is particularly concerned about the implications of the Durban case.

He said: "They (the couple) are saying that the travel agent should have warned them of the danger of visiting South Africa. If you start saying that travel agents have a duty to warn people of every possible incident, you could not in all honesty let anyone go anywhere." — Star Foreign Service.

Surge in claims after holidays
Olympics jobs bonanza

Atlanta companies are competing with each other and with the city’s Olympic organizers to fill a huge number of new jobs as the countdown to Atlanta’s Olympics begins, reports EDITH STANLEY of The Los Angeles Times in Atlanta.

FROM upscale boutiques to fast-food outlets, the signs are everywhere. Some are hand-scribbled on cardboard, others neatly printed on banners. Still more fill roadside displays. “Help Wanted.” “Positions Available.” “Now Hiring.” “Job Opportunities.” “Join Our Team.”

Welcome to the Summer of 1996—the time Atlantans have anticipated with excitement and trepidation since September 1990, when this city was proclaimed host to the Centennial Olympic Games.

The new stadium stands ready. The caldron awaits the torch. But qualified workers are in short supply. And the limited labour pool, a problem compounded by an unexplained rise in positive pre-employment drug tests, has left employers scrambling.

Glen Thomas, general manager of G&K Services, an Atlanta uniform-leasing company, knows what it’s like to have an expanding business and not be able to find employees. Hoping to add a second shift, Thomas has been interviewing candidates. He has become discouraged.

“Our dilemma is that there are people out there but certainly not the calibre we’ve been accustomed to,” Thomas said, adding that “there has been a large increase in positives on drug and alcohol screening in the last three or four weeks. I have no idea what is causing this.”

Rosalind Stone, vice president for Corporate Wellness Inc., which manages drug-free workplace programmes, has confirmed that she has seen more positive drug tests from Atlanta during the past month than in her 13 years in the business. “Although the specific cause is unclear to us, we are concerned about the relationship between low unemployment and high positive pre-employment drug screens,” Stone said. “Although low unemployment in Atlanta may be due to the Olympics, other parts of the country with similar unemployment numbers may soon see high positive rates.”

Atlanta’s jobless rate is at a 23-year low of 3.5 percent. The service industry, with jobs that tend to be on the low end of the pay scale, has been hardest hit. Companies are competing not only with each other but with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. With about 40,000 paying jobs, that organization in many cases offers higher salaries, bigger perks and the Olympic advantage.

To counteract ACOCG’s appeal, private industry has become creative. Kroger supermarkets are including $1,000 bonuses in employment packages. Some fast-food restaurants have raised their pay to $30 an hour.

Temporary staffing companies are offering medical benefits and paid vacations.

Recruitment has expanded across the Southeastern United States. Students, teachers and school bus drivers, on summer break, are being courted. Some Atlanta hotels are rotating employees in from hotels in other areas of the country.

Randstad Staffing Services, the Olympics staffing sponsor, has interviewed more than 20,000 people. About 12,000 have been employed. The critical shortage Randstad is facing is in bus drivers. Although the company has employed 2,500, 1,000 more are needed to transport spectators.

At shopping malls, community centres, Atlanta Braves baseball games and on college campuses, the brightly coloured Randstad 32-foot recruiting caravan has rolled up in search of applicants.

Outfitted with testing tables, interview stations and computers, the caravan has been the site of 4,000 job allocations in the past two months.

“The good part is it goes to people who don’t necessarily think about stopping by our branch office,” said Tara Drew, director of Olympic programs for Randstad.

The company will hold a job fair at the Georgia Department of Labour offices. Anyone who walks in can apply for Olympics work—in some cases at pay far exceeding the amount they receive in unemployment benefits.

“It will be a wonderful time for folks to take a break from their job search and come and have a good time and work a little,” Drew said.

Atlanta’s new Olympic rings fountain – in the shape of the five Olympics rings – has become a popular landmark in the city’s centre.
Satour battling to sell S Africa

By Isaac Moledi

The South African Tourism Board (Satour) says it needs more "funds" to effectively market South Africa abroad.

Satour says lack of funds is taking its toll on the country's tourism industry as the number of foreign tourists coming to South Africa has slowed down considerably since the beginning of this year.

The declining value of the rand has seriously eroded the organisation's international marketing budget, making it increasingly difficult for Satour's offices abroad to maintain South Africa's visibility in the international market.

Satour's media liaison officer, Martin van Niekerk, says discussions are taking place with the Government and he is hopeful that a solution will be found once a new tourism white paper has been finalised. The blueprint is expected to be finalised before the end of this year.

He says Satour is presently engaged in forming partnerships with the private sector to solicit funding.

Satour's executive director, Mavuso Msimang, says the number of foreign tourists arriving in South Africa by air has only showed a 2.9 percent increase during the first four months of this year, compared to more than 30 percent over the same period last year.

Also, there was an increase of only 1.2 percent in the number of foreign tourists coming here in April - which is about 1 021 additional tourists.

Between January and April this year, the number of air arrivals from Europe increased by 8 percent and from North America by 6.7 percent.

These figures represent a decrease of 22.5 percent compared with last year.

Numbers of tourists from Central America, South America, Australia; Asia and the Middle East as well as from the rest of Africa are also declining.

"It is clear that South Africa is fast losing its flavour of the month status," says Msimang. Other factors, contributing to the problem, according to Msimang, are a significant increase in the cost of accommodation, as well as South Africa's escalating wave of violent crime.
With or without Olympic Games bid, tourism still set to perform

Tourism is set to become one of the star performers in the Western Cape economy – even without a successful Olympic bid.

Currently tourism contributes between 6 and 8 percent of the gross regional product (GRP) of the Western Cape, but this share could grow to 10 percent over the next five to seven years, the latest Western Cape Economic Monitor annual review has found.

Prepared by the Cape of Good Hope Bank and regional development organisation, Wesgro, the review says the Western Cape is well placed to capture substantially more than the average national growth rate of tourist numbers.

However, to achieve continued growth in the sector, concerted action will be required on both the demand (marketing) and the supply side, with responsibility falling on the full spectrum of economic stakeholders, including the private sector, local authorities, provincial government and parastatals.

Competition from other South and Southern African regions is likely to grow in the future increasing challenges to the local industry.

The metropolitan areas in the Western Cape grabbed about 85 percent of the tourist spending of the region with the rural areas attracting 15 percent.

In the metropolitan areas individual holidaymakers contributed 31 percent, package tours about 27 percent, business about 12 percent, conferences 10 percent and youth/backpackers 3 percent.

Wesgro, which is currently studying tourism in the Western Cape, said the percentages of the contribution to the GRP were currently difficult to provide with accuracy because the industry cut across about three sectors and involved significant informal sector activity.

Arrivals and departures of international passengers at Cape Town airport had passed the 55,000 mark in December and had climbed to a record 65,000 in February.

THE WATERFRONT: One of Cape Town's major tourist attractions. Millions of visitors spend hours browsing through the array of shops and relaxing at the many eateries.
Winged site dispute goes back to
1940s

No transfer deeds signed in the 1940s
dispute.

Olympic Bid

Michael Morris

Bushing Chins Ball on Route to
enjoyable Irish-Celtic support

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(86) 414-7333
Setback for our main rival city Rome as its bid chief quits

ROME'S Olympic bid team — considered to be Cape Town's main opponent in the 11-city contest for the 2004 Games — has had a serious setback with the resignation of a key figure.

Governing director Pietro Calabrese — the Italian capital's equivalent of the Cape Town Bid Company's chief executive Chris Ball — is understood to have pulled out because of tension in the Roman camp.

Reacting yesterday, Mr Ball said Mr Calabrese had left the Rome team to join a big publishing group. "I am told there was tension," he said.

But he added: "Rome will continue to be one of our most formidable competitors, and a set-up of that nature will not be materially undermined by this Mr Calabrese's departure."

Bid company sources believe there had been mounting tension between Mr Calabrese and Primo Nebiola, overall leader of Rome's bid and one of the most influential figures in world sport.

He is president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation and a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

\* Rome, which hosted the Olympics in 1960, is mounting an all-out effort to secure the 2004 Games. Significantly, it has already earned approving comment from IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who praised Rome for its unity of purpose.

Big sweep cuts crime threat to '96 Games

ATLANTA — In a sweep coordinated by federal marshals, officers from 23 law enforcement agencies made 763 arrests during the past 10 weeks to reduce the crime threat to Olympic visitors, said authorities here.

The sweep, dubbed "Operation Olympic," resulted in 428 arrests in the Atlanta area, 241 in Macon and Columbus, Georgia and 96 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Because some of the suspects face multiple charges, the arrests cleared up 985 outstanding warrants, federal authorities said.

"Olympus targeted career criminals," said Robert McMichael, US marshal in Atlanta. "Criminals with a history of crimes against persons were the main object."

With about two million visitors expected for the Olympics, security has been a longstanding concern. Until now, attention has centered mostly on preventing terrorism rather than street crime.

Such multi-agency sweeps are not unusual, but this one was larger than most.

"The message is people should feel good about coming to Atlanta," said US Attorney Kent Alexander. "People who could do harm during the Olympics are now off the streets."

Authorities hedged on how much of a bite the crackdown actually would take out of the Olympic crime threat.

"A known recidivist violent offender doesn't have time to work a legitimate job, they're going to have to commit crimes for survival," said Cobb County sheriff Bill Hutson, whose department took part in the sweep.

"So, we can make an assumption that by taking them off the streets, we will reduce crime. But I can't give you numbers."

 Authorities acknowledged that some of those arrested in the sweep could be back on the streets before the Games if found on bail before the July 19 opening ceremony. But repeat offenders and probation violators would probably have a difficult time being freed. — Sapa-AP.
Olympic bid trippe)

Up by land prices

CAPE TOWN: An attempt to sell a bid company for the 2004 Olympic Games has raised alarm among the local government, with the price of the land having more than doubled. The land is currently owned by the Cape Town Bid Company, which is now seeking to sell the land to a private developer. However, the government is concerned about the impact this could have on the Olympic bid and the city's future. The land price increase has also raised questions about the transparency of the land sale process. The government has called for a thorough investigation into the matter to ensure that the best interests of the city are served.
Flexibility Key to Games Planning
ames planning

The Olympic venue planning blueprint and it insists it has included land costs in its assessments. Olympic venues at Wingfield and Philippps.

promises made in the Bid Book, which is a contractual document, that everybody realises that there must be some flexibility.

"If it affects a particular sport, the change must be carefully negotiated with the sporting bodies involved, the international federation and the IOC directorate itself. But we have made it clear in the Bid Book that the rowing course, for instance, is not fixed, and cannot be.

"The rowing course may be sited elsewhere, possibly at Zeekoevlei, or even out of town. This depends also on environmental impact assessments.

"We are monitoring groundwater levels and quality right now and will continue through winter and spring."

Reacting to a weekend report, Mr De Tolly said a land price had been built into the planning of all Olympics venues.

"I was very careful to build land value into all our calculations, and I'm told our estimate for Wingfield may prove to have been inflated."

He added: "I might point out that we have been told by the IOC that they have not before seen as much technical detail in a bid preparation.

"Bidding is extremely complex, hosting more so. One of the problems we have had is that people do not know the facts...and as a result there is fear.

We are acting on that. A lot more energy is now going into publicising the guts of the bid so that people can see for themselves the care that has gone into the planning.”
Bid company out to win over doubters

DISPELLING negative perceptions of Cape Town's Olympic effort and securing city-wide support in the crucial run-up to the bid evaluation are the issues expected to dominate the Olympic Bid Company's annual meeting tomorrow.

Chris Ball, chief executive of the bid company, returns tomorrow morning from a week of wooing high-profile figures abroad to tackle this pressing matter. Tomorrow afternoon's meeting will review progress.

The most important deadline looming is August 15, the date on which the crucial bid book - the contractual document setting out the technical minutiae of the bid - must be delivered to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne.

Public support, though, is crucial. Olympic planners are re-attuned by what they describe as a significant shift towards a more favourable view of the city's Olympic bid, but they are conscious of widespread doubt about Cape Town's ability to stage the Games.

“Public support is the cornerstone of the bid,” Ball said yesterday. “We have to show that the city is behind the bid and that it is going to be a success.”

The company has launched a campaign to win over the public, and Ball said they had made some progress. “We have had a number of positive responses, but we still have a long way to go.”

The bid company has also been working hard to improve its relations with the City of Cape Town, with the aim of ensuring that the city is fully supportive of the Olympic efforts.

Crime and transport key public concerns

CAREFUL control of Cape Town's Olympic bid finances, tackling crime, having efficient public transport, and improving service delivery, "a hundred-fold" are key public concerns about the city's effort to host the 2004 Games.

This emerges from a survey by the Department of Sport and Recreation in the Western Cape. Sport Minister Lekelo Kako revealed yesterday that a major challenge facing the region was to ensure "full and effective public participation in the bid process and ensure that the majority of the people of the Western Cape are supportive of the bid."

"We cannot proceed with the bid if the people don't want it," he said, introducing debate on his budget vote.

Success in winning the public's confidence and, ultimately, in holding the Games meant making sure that:

- Crime was tackled successfully.
- There was an efficient and effective public transport system.
- Service delivery was improved, "a hundred-fold."
- Spending was well-managed to avoid waste.

Describing the Olympic bid as "a golden opportunity that we dare not miss," Mr Kako said winning the bid and hosting the most exciting challenges facing the country and the Western Cape.

"It holds numerous opportunities and we must ensure that as many people as possible benefit from it."
Polana 'set to take off'

Amanda Veale

HOTELS group Karos lifted attributable profit to R4.8m (R3.9m) for the year to March, despite a loss stemming mainly from the Polana Hotel in Mozambique.

Share earnings rose to 7.5c from 6.6c and a dividend of 1.48c (2.63c) was declared.

Group chairman Selwin Hurwitz said the Mozambican economy was improving, and prospects for the Polana Hotel looked good for the 1996/97 financial year.

Turnover had increased only marginally to R134.9m (R127.7m) due to the closure of the Edward Hotel in Durban for major refurbishment.

Operating profit was R34.1m (R33.6m).

After charges of more than R26m related to operating leases, net interest, depreciation and amortisation, pre-tax profit was higher at R7.5m (R4.9m).

Tax of R457,000 (R355,000) left taxed profit at R7.3m from R4.6m in the previous year. Hurwitz said the Edward Hotel would open again in July as a five-star hotel.

With the increase in tourism in Durban and the opening of a convention centre there next year, the hotel should benefit substantially.

The group had focused its activities on the proposed casino dispensation and had finalised its consortium partners for the provincial bids.

The Polana had been awarded a casino licence and would begin operating in October.

Hurwitz said the current financial year should show "further encouraging increases."
R4m allocated for Johannesburg tourism

Mduduzi ka Harvey 00 21/6/96

THE greater Johannesburg council yesterday approved a payment of R4m to be made to the Johannesburg Metropolitan Tourism Association in a bid to tackle crime against tourists and promote tourism in the city.

The council's executive committee acknowledged that tourism was a vital component of economic development in the area and that the council should maintain its leading edge by considering further funding to tourism when required.

The funding will be used to tackle not only tourist-related crimes, but also the city's economic development. The association will produce a brochure for distribution when council representatives travel overseas, and start a membership drive among beneficiaries of tourism with the aim of obtaining additional funding.

The marketing of tourism and all tourism-related activities would be co-ordinated.

The funds will be targeted at some of the association's prime tasks, which include promoting environmentally responsible and sustainable tourism, a tourist mix focused on niche marketing and supporting community-driven tourism.
never to ease the pressure on government to increase its grant to the board.

"Tourism is a business," he said, "and no business thrives without investment."

It will, he reckons, take about a year to complete Satour's restructuring. After that, it will be the property of a new board — with nine members appointed by the provinces and 11 by the Minister.

Whether Swartz will be happy with an institution that seems destined to be heavy with public-sector representation remains to be seen. After all, he got to the top by finding gaps in the apartheid system and barging through them.

Today, Swartz is a director of, among others, Absa, Distillers Corp, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Toyota, Plessiey Corp and Ellerine Holdings. He is also chairman and trustee of several associations.

Swartz has played piano professionally and seems just as dextrous in knowing when to get into a business and when to get out. He started out building cinemas for coloured communities "because there was so little entertainment for them." They made money but he sold them when television arrived.

Swartz then bought into a chain of liquor stores and sold out in 1990 when the industry was deregulated and he realised more licences would be granted.

In 1985, he built the three-star Inn on the Plain in Mitchell's Plain. He sold it five years later. Meanwhile, he had bought a chain of seven supermarkets and persuaded Checkers, then owned by Greaters, to take a minority share and manage the chain for him. He also sold that in 1990 and started building up a chain of Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets, of which he now has eight.

Swartz and his wife, Elaine, have two children, a pigeon pair, grown up now. III
Greater Johannesburg boosts city tourism with R4m subsidy and new brochure

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Tourism Association (JMTA) is to get a R4-million subsidy from the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (GJTM). The subsidy, which was endorsed by the council yesterday, is expected to help boost tourism in Greater Johannesburg.

Executive director of JMTA Keith Brobnor said according to the South African Tourism Board (SATour), 66% of all overseas tourists visited Gauteng for at least one night in 1995.

He said tourists spent an average of 11 nights in Gauteng.

"In order to keep our dominance and take full advantage of the tourism boom, it is crucial we step up Greater Johannesburg's tourism marketing," Brobnor said.

The GJTM's executive committee has also decided to support the JMTA's proposal to produce a tourism brochure to be distributed by council representatives on overseas travel.

Tourism is vital to development and consideration should be given to additional tourism funding when needed, an executive committee report said.
Cape tops in tourism
Rest of the country experiences decline while visitors still flock to the Mother City and environs

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

TOURISM is booming in the Western Cape but is beginning to slow down in the rest of the country. More foreign tourists are visiting the Western Cape than when the country hosted the Rugby World Cup last year.

Figures from officials at Cape Town International Airport and the regional office of the Department of Home Affairs show that for the first four months of this year, all previous tourism records in the region were broken with an increase of 41 percent over the same period in 1996.

But while tourists flock to the Western Cape, the rest of the country appears to have lost its appeal as the novelty of the new South Africa wears off and reports of crime put off foreign visitors.

According to Central Statistical Services, there was only a 2.2 percent increase in foreign visitors to South Africa through the three international airports in April, compared to the same month last year.

The number of foreign visitors in South Africa as a whole for business increased by 16.6 percent, while the number here on holiday actually decreased by 2.1 percent. A total of 88 243 flew in that month.

The largest decrease of 31.8 percent came from visitors from the Indian Ocean islands such as Mauritius and Reunion, followed by Asia with a decrease of 14.7 percent.

Although there was a drop in visitors to the Western Cape at the beginning of May compared to April, this is normal as fewer people prefer to take their holidays in winter. There were actually a staggering 31 percent more visitors to the province than at the start of the Rugby World Cup (RWC) in May last year.

Nick Malherbe, chairman of the tourism committee of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said they envisaged that 300 000 international tourists would visit our shores if the current trend continued, which was appreciably more than the 265 000 who visited last year.

"Before the RWC many sceptics believed that Cape Town would not be able to handle the influx of people attending the tournament, yet now we are comfortably hosting twice as many RWC visitors."

"The growth in the visitors' totals, in all categories, being international, domestic business, and domestic holiday, at a conservative forecast of half the annual growth rate achieved in the past four years, indicates that in 2004, without taking into effect the Olympic Games, we will host six million visitors."

Mr Malherbe said the infrastructure in the hospitality sector and handling facilities at key tourist destinations like Table Mountain, Cape Point, Kirstenbosch and the Waterfront would have to be constructed and put in place to handle the tourism business.

He said the tourism sector of the economy would soon be the greatest generator of income in the province, employ the most people and be the largest foreign capital earner.

"It is not necessary to only concentrate on the numbers of visitors, but we must start marketing to get the correct groups, who will stay longer and spend more, to come to the region."

"We have to upgrade all our facilities for the massive growth envisaged in the tourism business so that we will be able to handle the expected six million visitors. With this infrastructure in place, it would certainly remove many of the burdens put at the door of the Olympic Bid Company," said Mr Malherbe.

POPULAR DESTINATIONS:
Two of Cape Town's major attractions, Table Mountain, above, and the Waterfront, right, are drawing a record-breaking number of tourists to the Western Cape.
ANC to blame for SA’s housing crisis, says NP

JOSEPH ARANES Municipal Staff

THE National Party has blamed the African National Congress for the housing crisis facing South Africa, claiming it was a critical issue the ANC failed to implement or deliver.

The NP has itself put together a comprehensive housing policy and strategy, according to NP housing spokesman Jac Rabie.

"Sufficient money has been allocated for housing and loans, but the lack of a clear housing policy has hampered the department and the ministry."

"According to Minister of Housing Sankie Mthembu-Nkondo, there are 622 000 serviced plots, yet she provides a further R$00 million for infrastructure instead of building houses," he said.

Mr Rabie said the ANC had failed on the following fronts:

- Lack of creating and implementing a workable housing policy;
- The ANC policy had not yet addressed the dire need for rental accommodation;
- Not building a sufficient number of houses, despite the availability of serviced sites;
- Inadequate technical and managerial capacities in the provinces and at local level;
- Political manipulation of the process of social accords;

- Local authorities and communities have not been empowered.

Mr Rabie said the NP proposed several guidelines, which it believed could drive the housing delivery process.

"These include the housing budget being substantially increased, all the country’s people having access to adequate housing and that housing does not remain the responsibility of only the government and the banks, but that communities be included in the process."

He said the NP further proposed restructuring and empowerment of institutions in the housing delivery process, including all levels of government, private and agricultural sectors, communities and individuals.

Local authorities should be capable of introducing a leasehold system for land in their possession and non-governmental organisations and utility companies must, through legislation, be empowered to play an effective role.

Personal loans for housing of up to R$3 000 must be provided by the government and they must establish housing support centres.

Mr Rabie said the NP was in a privileged position to possess the necessary skills and expertise to make housing delivery a success.

"This however requires the commitment of all relevant role players and the combined effort of administrators to optimally utilise available resources," he said.
WINNING ENTRY UNVEILED

City firms’ Olympic stadium design tops

THE DESIGN for the main Olympic stadium by two city architectural firms has beaten 18 other entries with its concave convex roof to deal with the south-easter. Staff Writer DAN SIMON reports.

The design of a 75,000-seater Olympic stadium with a concave convex roof to deal with the Cape’s south-easter has won a competition launched by the Olympic Bid Company in April.

At the unveiling at the company’s Waterfront offices yesterday, Bid Company chief executive officer Mr. Chris Hall said the final design of the main Olympic stadium would be a combination of the winning entry and input from the other entries.

Should the city succeed next year in winning the bid to host the Games, the stadium will be built at Wingfield at a cost of about R320 million in 1999.

The design, by city architectural firm Bergman Ingerop, who collaborated with another city architectural firm, Edge Harper Hook, Coningham and Steenbergen, beat 18 other submissions for the main stadium.

The firms will share the R10,000 first prize for their design, which was described by the panel of judges as “outstanding” and one that projected a “powerful image and presence” for the city.

The competition for the design of a stadium formed part of an “ideas” competition which covered six categories of venues considered critical for the city’s Olympic bid book.

The other categories were designs for the bridge linking the banks of the roving course, a sports hall, a 15,000-seater indoor arena, an archery range and a section of the Olympic village.

The competition drew 133 designs, mainly from architects, designers and architectural or design students from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

Mr. Antonio de Souza, a former city architect and professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and head of the panel of judges, said the design addressed the “complex environmental and technical requirements” of the brief.

“The design brings the Wingfield site into conjunction with the surrounding landscape of the city. The ramped approaches to the stadium, and the configuration of the roof, are all dramatic responses to the geography of the Peninsula and its weather and wind. The poetry of the setting is heightened and made accessible to spectators.”

Despite the outstanding design, De Souza said the jury considered some aspects of the design to be unresolved.

However, the standard of entries, considering the brief period allowed and the complexities of the brief, allowed the Bid Company to get an idea of what the stadium should look like.

Bid Company director of sport and facilities Mr. Robby Stewart said a model of the winning design and those of the two runner-up designs would be built for wind tunnel tests which would be carried out with the help of the CSIR this year and which were expected to cost R100,000.

Stewart said the designs would be exhibited nationally soon.
New tourism head for North West province

MMBATHO: North West acting premier Satish Roopa has announced that agriculture MEC Johannes Tselapedi will temporarily take over the portfolio of tourism and environmental affairs.

This followed the decision by the National Party to withdraw from the national and provincial governments, said North West spokesman Neil Lewis.

NP member of the provincial legislature Amie Venter will vacate his post as tourism and environmental affairs MEC at the end of June.

Mr Roopa said ANC parliamentarian Edna Molewa would eventually take over the post.

Mr Roopa is acting premier of the North West while Premier Popo Molefo is abroad. - Sapa.
defender steps in
White House Safeg.
Germans wary of SA
due to malaria scare

Melanie Sergeant

MUNICH — German tourist numbers
to SA, which were expected to top
200,000 this year, could be dented by
widespread concerns over malaria.

Tourists are cancelling trips to SA
following the contracting of malaria by
German Finance Minister Gunther
Rexrodt during a recent visit to south-
ern Africa.

Rexrodt is recovering from malaria
tropicana, and his case is receiving
extensive media coverage.

Tourism operators into SA report
widespread concern from tourists, with
a number cancelling trips.

The industry expected about
200,000 Germans to travel to SA this
year, up from last year's 158,000.

Rexrodt's media spokesman
Stephanie Kage said: "We believe the
malaria was contracted either in Tan-
zania, where the minister's plane
stopped to refuel, or in Zimbabwe
which he visited after his trip to
Johannesburg."

Asked about the confusion in
the media, Kage said "Southern Africa"
was erroneously replaced with "South
Africa" in most media reports.

SA embassy spokesman Chris Koole
said: "We are fielding regular calls
from concerned tourists questioning
the malaria threat in SA; we refer most
of the telephone calls to Satour".

A spokesman for SAA in Frankfurt
said: "There is no reason to cancel —
the media has put out incorrect infor-
mation. At this stage we have not had a
large number of cancellations."

Munich-based Feria Reisen, which
sends about 2,000 tourists to SA each
year, has had a number of calls from
concerned passengers. Product manag-
er for Africa, Christina Giani says:
"We have had some cancellations and
we are hoping the numbers do not
increase."

Another Munich-based agency said:
"We now have health as well as
political and security problems with
which to deal, and regret the undiffer-
entiated way in which the malaria
matter has been reported."

Satour's German manager Walter
Damman said: "The malaria problem
is published in Germany at regular in-
tervals and we don't expect too many
cancellations; fortunately it's low sea-
son now and the public's attention has
...been on the Russian elections and on
the European football matches."

Rather, he said, some tourists are
changing their destination from SA be-
cause of high hotel costs — like a large
group which was booked to visit Sun
City on an incentive tour next year but
which chose a different destination
because of the high prices.

Wits opens
skills unit

Wits Business School
has launched management
development unit to help combat the "se-
vere shortage" of man-
agement skills in SA.

Jonathan Cook, the
unit's director, said yes-
terday it would train stu-
dents in the skills re-
quired for the corporate
market and also for aca-
demic courses at Wits
Business School.

The one-to-three-day
corporate modules would
start in September. They
would be facilitated by
managers on the cutting
edge of management prac-
tice and focus on specific management
skills, he said.

The first modules
would cover thinking
skills, performance man-
agement and team effec-
tiveness, he said.

"Our aim is to help
with creation of world-
class SA business man-
agement and leadership
competence," he said.

Participants would be
helped to assess their
competence before their
courses, and when they
returned to work.
Ball seeks to win over opponents

Chance for southern suburbs critics to have say

CAPE Town's Olympic Bid supremo Chris Ball turns his attention today to winning over southern suburbs ratepayers, some of whom are among the most critical of the bid and its financial consequences for the city.

The first of three public meetings at which Mr Ball will seek to allay the qualms of this influential constituency is in Rondebosch tonight.

Demonstrable city-wide support for the bid is a critical factor in the International Olympic Committee's assessment of Cape Town as the host city for the 2004 Games.

While surveys have shown huge support for the bid across the metropole, there have been pockets of resistance - notably in the southern suburbs "green belt" based largely on fears about the impact on the city's rates bill of the multimillion rand development that the bid entails.

The Olympic Bid Company reported significant shifts in attitude since the cabinet's endorsement of the bid and the Development Bank of Southern Africa's rosy forecast of the likely economic benefits that will accrue, especially to Cape Town and the Western Cape.

But bid planners want to ensure that there was enthusiastic support for the project and believed that engaging ratepayers at public meetings was a vital element of the public awareness campaign.

They said much resistance had already been broken down by providing simple, clear answers to questions raised by the public.

Spokesman Ameen Akhaldawa said: "This next series of public meetings is part of our ongoing community relations exercise."

The idea is to have a two-way exchange - Chris Ball will be there to explain the bid, as well as to answer questions and concerns.

"We have found these meetings extremely useful in helping us to keep in touch with the public's thinking and the issues they think are important."

Similar meetings had already been held across the Cape Flats, in Guguletu, Athlone, Khayelitsha, and Mitchell's Plain, among others.

Spokesman Paul Johnson said the public meetings would be supplemented soon by the distribution of "fact sheets" and 19 key elements of the bid process, including details of the Bid Company's budget, the people behind the bid, financial expertise and the likely benefits of hosting the Olympics.

Mr Ball has been canvassing support abroad.

He said that "what I call" strengthening the bid, getting support for it in influential quarters overseas, is very important.

Tonight's meeting is at Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School at 7.30pm.

The second meeting will be at Claremont Civic Centre on Thursday at 7.30pm, and the third at Alphen Centre in Constantia on Wednesday, July 3, also at 7.30pm.

Local councils to consider bid contributions

THE metropole's six new councils - plus the councils of Paarl and Stellenbosch - will be deciding over the next four weeks how much money to commit to Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games.

The suggested formula is that the public sector's contribution to the R1.7-billion tab for the Games, amounting to about R600-million between now and 2004, should be shared by the central government (50%), the provinces (25%) and local government (the remainder shared between the Cape Metropolitan Council, the six substructures of the metropole and the six councils of Paarl and Stellenbosch).

A decision must be made by the end of July. Local authority discussions over the next four weeks will follow a top-level meeting on Friday between representatives of all the substructures in the region, Western Cape minister of finance and environment affairs Kobus Meiring, and chief executive of the Bid Company, Chris Ball.

The provincial government endorsed the bid and acknowledged its financial responsibility towards the Olympic goal in April. This was followed two weeks ago by endorsement by the national cabinet. Now local government in the region is being asked to do the same. The May 29 election meant a decision could not be taken earlier.

Mr Meiring convened Friday's meeting to brief council representatives.

"They were fully briefed on where things stand, and what is expected of them," he said. "We have attempted to get as much background detail as possible."

Mr Ball and Cape Town treasurer Peter Lever.

They have now been asked to go back to their councils and decide what to contribute and report back by the end of the month.

"Up to now, we have been dealing with sentiment, and the sentiment has been that this is a wonderful opportunity. Now we have reached the point where we have to come to grips with the reality."
THE Cape Town council expects to spend R53 million on Olympics-related facilities in the coming year.

Council's budget figures released on Friday show that R30m is to be spent on upgrading Athlone Stadium and R8m on Vosloorus Stadium.

Next year another R10m will be spent on Athlone and another R2m on Vosloorus.

A further R1m is earmarked for the Turffontein sports complex and R1.8m is budgeted for the Chauke Road playing fields.

City council documents show R10m in the 1996/7 budget is the first instalment on an international conference centre that will cost R250m, of which R40m will be the council's share. The centre will probably be the venue for one or more Olympic events.

The Good Hope Centre will be developed as a "venue requirement for fencing championships", at a cost of R1.8m. Nothing more will be needed for this in subsequent years.

A further R350 000 is to be spent on the Olympics hockey venue at Harleymere. Nearly R21m has already been spent on this facility. But no more will be needed.
Olympic Bid

Cape Town is the only city to have bid for the 2002 Olympic Games. The city has been chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the site of the Games. The city's bid was put forward by the South Africa Olympic Committee (SASCOC) and supported by the City of Cape Town.

The city's bid was based on a number of key factors. These include the city's infrastructure, its tourist facilities, and its location. The city is also seen as a leader in sports and recreation. The city's Olympic Committee has already successfully hosted several international events, including the Commonwealth Games.

The city's bid was also supported by the South African government, which has pledged to provide financial and logistical support. The city has also been working with the IOC to ensure that the Games will be a success.

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Asians lead stayaway as tourism rise falters

By Audrey d’Angelo

Cape Town — The number of tourists arriving in South Africa rose a dismal 2.9 percent between January and April this year despite the new weakness in the rand. The latest official figures show that the total hotel bed occupancy rate fell by 4.5 percent to 40.5 percent in April compared with the same month last year.

The biggest drop in numbers came from Taiwan and mainland China, which accounted for 5.3 percent of visitors compared with 7.8 percent in April last year.

A spokesman for the SA Tourism Organisation (Soutour) conceded yesterday that growth in tourism had been disappointing in the first quarter of this year.

“This was from a high base,” he said. “We experienced phenomenal growth last year and we could not reasonably expect it to continue at that rate, but we were expecting higher growth this year than we have had so far,” he said.

He said rising crime could be one reason for disappointing growth. Another could be inadequate marketing overseas. Soutour had a “ridiculous” budget of less than R30 million.

Roger Mackie, president of the Association of Southern African Travel Agents (Assata) said that foreign television was giving tourists a picture of this country as an unsafe place. Foreign travel agents were beginning to steer clients away.

“Last week we had a message from the Association of British Travel Agents telling us that a travel agent there was being sued by a client who was tricked in Durban for failing to warn him that it could be dangerous,” he said.

“I think some travel agents overseas may be steering people away from South Africa as a destination. Apart from our high crime rate we have become an expensive destination at the end of a long hard journey. Our new minister of tourism will have to hit the ground running and take action quickly,” he said.

Central Statistical Service figures show that the market share of hotels in the Western Cape fell 3.4 percent in April compared with the same month a year ago. It had 34.5 percent of foreign tourists compared with 38 percent last year. Gauteng had 31.5 percent of foreign tourists compared with 33.4 percent in the same month last year.

Cape Town — Cape Town is losing about R30 million a year because it lacks a large convention centre.

Brian McDonald, the managing director of Global Conferences, said last week:

He said out of 4,000 foreign organisations that were asked how they saw South Africa as a potential conference destination, 75 percent responded positively and 80 percent identified Cape Town as their preference.

“If we had only a 36 percent success rate, the business from international conferences could be worth R214 million a year to Cape Town. Add to this potential conference business of R281 million and Cape Town loses R495 million a year. There are also major synergies with development of business links as most conferences are trade and industry orientated,” he said.

Brian Kirchmann, the chief executive officer of the SA Property Owners Association, said it had outgrown Cape Town’s conference facilities. He did not think the association could meet there again until a larger venue was provided.
New Durban centre ‘will bring tourists’

DURBAN’s Ocean Action sporting events at the newly completed North Beach centre from July 12-21 would boost the area’s tourist potential, generating more than R50m and creating at least 1,000 jobs, said the organisers.

‘This projected income includes money spent on hotels, restaurants, fast food outlets and other businesses in the area,’ said Ocean Action sports and media co-ordinator Paul Botha.

‘We hope to attract more than 500,000 people — about 50% of whom will be visitors — and create about 1,000 jobs in greater Durban,’ he said.

The organisers intended to spend about R50,000 this year, mainly on infrastructure and media coverage.

Durban Corporation would provide assistance, but Botha stressed that Ocean Group was raising its own funds through advertising or the sale of sponsorship tied to various events.

KwaZulu-Natal economic affairs and tourism MEC Jacob Zuma, said: ‘Successful sporting events such as Ocean Action Durban go a long way towards placing our city on the tourism map.’ Events include beach volleyball, the Bodyboard Classic and karate.
Ramsamy condemns Olympic logo piracy

THE National Olympic Committee of SA yesterday accused the Spar supermarket chain, Kelly Personnel and SA Sports Illustrated magazine of using International Olympic Committee marques without permission.

Nocsas president Sam Ramsamy said this practice threatened to jeopardise agreements with Nocsas 10 Olympic sponsors.

The marques include the words "Olympic Games", the five Olympic rings and the Atlanta Olympics logo.

Three advertisements — a Kelly Personnel-branded, tear-out, schedule for the games in SAA magazine Flying Springbok, Spar's games-associated television ad and the Atlanta logo on the cover of an SA Sports Illustrated magazine were mentioned by Nocsas.

Ramsamy said the advertise had continued despite warnings from Nocsas.

Nocsas official Stan Brickwa said the body had written to 3000 decision-makers in advertising, marketing and production, explaining who could associate brands with the games and why.

Companies which ignored this advisory were subsequently sent legal letters which had "not had the desired effect".

If the ads continued to be used, Nocsas would investigate legal action and lodge an official complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority.

Ramsamy said Nocsas would approach government in the hope of getting legislation enacted to protect the marques. Although the IOC had copyright protection in most countries, it was not enforced in SA. "If we can't guarantee protection, we will not stand a chance of hosting the 2004 games."

Bonile Ngqiyaza reports that Spar group marketing director Brian Beavon last night denied that the chain had used the Atlanta Olympics logos. "Our television commercials were cleared by the ASA and the SABC before we flighted them."
NASTASSJA Conning is a typically shy seven-year-old.

The sum of her smile is a single tooth that breaks the line of her little mouth, just off-centre. But it's a bright, hopeful smile. And little wonder.

Nastassja, a sub B pupil at Mitchell's Plain Primary, is one of 150 children who have been selected from 88 schools across the Peninsula for their natural potential in the gym.

She now stands a chance of being chosen for the kind of intensive training – up to six hours a week, and more – that could turn her into a world-class gymnast.

The prospect seems far from her mind as she struggles to identify the gym activity she most enjoys. It is the bar exercises, she decides eventually, that she likes best.

Her mother Avril is ecstatic at the thought of the opportunities that lie ahead for Nastassja, the youngest of her and husband Colin's three daughters.

"This is absolutely wonderful," she said. "I will do everything to encourage her. I was so thrilled when I received the letter inviting her for the trials here, and I'm sure it's something that will really be worth it for her."

But making gymnastics training worthwhile for talented children like Nastassja, coaches say, is the provision of better facilities and the funding that is essential in preparing South Africa's Olympics hopefuls of the future.
Greens

Environmental concerns discussed

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have given notice that they will be intensifying their vigilance over Cape Town's Olympic bid, as well as signalling their concerns to the International Olympic Committee.

The Environmental Charter they are drafting as the guiding document for every conceivable environment-related feature of the bid, is likely to set tough targets and restraints on developers. This emerged last night from a series of workshops under the general title: "Olympics: An Environmental Threat - Towards a Collective and Coordinated Solution."

The workshops, the product of a broad alliance of about 30 environmental and other non-governmental organisations, met to work through the third draft of the charter, which will guide the environmental assessment of all Olympic bid planning.

It was suggested that the charter - the framing of which the Bid Company agreed to in May - should set strict, measurable targets for things like energy and water consumption at Olympic facilities, and ensure the use of environmentally-friendly technology in every possible sphere.

The charter will have to be endorsed by the local, provincial and national governments, the bid company and, if Cape Town wins, its successor, the Olympic hosting company.

Last night's workshop also decided to:

- Write to the IOC to question the policy of considering bids from cities before the bidders had completed environmental impact assessments "according to accepted environmental practice in their country."
- Have an independent facilitator appointed to negotiate the setting up of an environmental commission to oversee impact assessments, and the establishment of an environmental trust fund to give environmentalists the wherewithal to monitor and guide the bid.

The alliance is a wide grouping ranging from the Wildlife Society of SA, Earthlife Africa, the Botanical Society of SA and the Khayelitsha Environment and Tourism Forum to smaller anti-Olympics groups such as the northern suburbs-based Concerned Citizens Against the Olympic Games.

Some of the organisations are implacably opposed to the Olympics, while others favour it, in part as a vehicle for development and upliftment. The fault lines in the alliance came to the fore at last night's meeting when one of the participants, Win Foorde of the National Council of Women, expressed the fear that excessive emphasis on environmental concerns "might mean that we are making it difficult for disadvantaged people to come in on something they have not had before."

She added: "I am for the environment, but I am also for the disadvantaged and I think they are beginning to see something to look forward to."

Ms Foorde said she had been impressed by Bid Company chief executive Chris Hall's presentation in Rondebosch on Monday and was anxious that the opportunity the Olympics offered should not be lost.

This was disputed by Virginia Roof of People's Dialogue, who said that her research of the experience of other Olympic cities showed that the "disadvantaged always become poorer."

Meeting chairman Marlene Laros of the Wildlife Society stepped in, pointing out that "the major concern is that not enough consideration is being given to the environment."

She added: "We cannot say as a collective that we are for or against the Olympics because some in the alliance are dead against and others are passionately for the Games."

The essential thing was to maintain a critical focus on the environmental element of the bid, Ms Laros said.
People's plan for tourism

DURBAN: The white paper on tourism to be released today sought to redress past injustices against disadvantaged communities in the tourism business, Deputy Environment Minister Mzi Banini Holomisa said yesterday.

He told a business summit here that the document said the perception that tourism was a "white man's thing" had to be addressed. The document said ways had to be found to create access to educational and training institutions to build capacity and meaningful participation in the tourism industry by "the majority of our people."
JOHANNESBURG: The National Olympic Committee of South Africa is to fight for new laws governing sponsors' rights and to prevent so-called "ambush marketing".

Nocsa president Mr Sam Ramsamy said the laws were essential to Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympics. A number of companies had tried to take a free ride on the Olympic bandwagon to the detriment of Nocsa's official sponsors for the Atlanta Games.

In a strongly worded statement, Ramsamy called the companies "parasites" after their refusal to back down in advertising campaigns relating to the Olympics and admitted that the problem could affect Cape Town's bid hopes.

"We have to sort this thing out if Cape Town hopes to get the Olympics," Ramsamy said. "It is something that the IOC is very strict about."

Ten official sponsors have each paid R2.5 million to Nocsa for the rights to use the Olympic name and logo in advertising campaigns but as yet there is no law prohibiting other companies from using the logos. "There are only common law rules to stop this sort of thing," Nocsa executive member in charge of marketing, Mr Stan Brickwa said.

"Taking a company to court is a long drawn-out process, it's a last resort."

It might be Nocsa's only option in dealing "with enemy number one", supermarket chain Spar, who also "ambushed" the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, he said.

The company has ignored letters written by Nocsa and has continued to flight a television advertisement where the word "Olympics" is used. Other unauthorised users include Kelly Girl, Motorola and an SA Sports Illustrated special Olympic edition, which links non-Olympic advertisers to the Games.

"It is innocent athletes that stand to lose," Brickwa said. — Sapa
Companies slam Ncosa’s accusations

Deborah Fine (28)

KELLY Personnel and SA Sports Illustrated Magazine have slammed accusations by the National Olympic Committee of SA that they had used International Olympic Committee marques without permission to associate their own brands with the Olympic Games.

Protesting the disgraceful "total impotence", Kelly group MD Neville Mackay said yesterday he "deeply resented and rejected" Ncosa's allegations, while Sports Illustrated publisher Rob Moore dismissed the claims as "ridiculous and outrageous".

Ncosa accused Kelly of "embarrassing" the marques — which include the words "Olympic Games", the five Olympic rings and the Atlanta Olympics logo — by means of a Kelly-branded tear-out games schedule in the SAA publication, Flying Springbok.

Sports Illustrated was accused of illegitimately using the Atlanta logo on its cover.

"Mackay said the "stark facts" were that Flying Springbok had created and designed the schedule — with all the Olympic logos — and had afterwards approached Kelly to sponsor the publication. Flying Springbok had then inserted Kelly's logo on the schedule.

Pointing out that SAA was an official Olympics sponsor, Mackay said Kelly had every right to assume that the schedule was legitimate and legal.

"We have in no way tried to pose as an official Olympic sponsor. Ncosa should address objections to Flying Springbok and SAA," he said.

He said Kelly was consulting its attorneys regarding any damage that may have been caused to the agency's "good name".

Mackay said there was no copyright anywhere on editorial regarding the Olympics and that Sports Illustrated had never tried to pass itself off as SAA's official Olympics publication.

Ncosa's accusations were described "completely unwarranted" given the fact that Sports Illustrated had given Ncosa free advertising worth R54,000 since January.

He hoped Ncosa would clear up the matter amicably.

announcing a cut in prime andusi ng loan rates.
Tourism ‘can be big creator of jobs’

PRETORIA — The SA tourism industry had the potential for significant job creation, the tourism white paper released by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers yesterday said.

A media release from the environmental affairs and tourism department, after the white paper’s release, stated that tourism, which at present contributed 4% of GDP, had the potential to increase to 9% of GDP by 2000 and to 10% by 2005.

In monetary terms, this would represent an increase in foreign exchange earnings from the present R10bn to R40bn by 2005.

It was estimated that if such growth could be achieved, a million or more jobs could be created, directly and indirectly.

Constraints on growth mentioned in the white paper included inadequate resourcing and funding of the industry, inadequate training of locals to improve service levels and supply the industry’s labour needs, absence of sound environmental management, and lack of infrastructure particularly in the rural areas.

Also mentioned in this regard were the growing levels of crime and violence.

The white paper’s departure point was the sustainable development of tourism as a national priority in a way which would significantly improve the quality of life of all of SA’s people.

Among specific guidelines envisaged for implementation were a special tourism safety and security programme, a single tourism training institution, improved access to funding through government channels, an investigation into tourism incentives, and an aggressive local and international marketing programme. — Epa.
Tourism: ‘million new jobs possible’

Report names crime, below-par transport and poor service as obstacles to growth

BY KARIN SCHOMKE AND BARRY BROWN

The Government believes the tourism industry can grow up to 10% of gross domestic product by the year 2000, earning the country R80-billion in foreign exchange and creating about a million jobs if factors inhibiting the industry can be overcome.

A white paper, "Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa", was released in Pretoria yesterday, and names crime, poor service, inadequate protection of the environment, unsatisfactory ground transport systems, and inadequate tourism education and awareness as some of the issues limiting the growth of the industry.

The Association of South African Travel Agents president Roger Mackie said the paper was, in essence, a good one, but he questioned the Government's willingness to provide funding.

While education and training in the industry was imperative, the R50-million allocated to tourism this financial year was inadequate, he said.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Davie de Villiers said tourism contributed 4% to South Africa's GDP.

"This is well under the world average and nowhere close to the percentage of countries with well-organised tourism industries," he said.

If tourism could achieve 10% of GDP by 2005, South Africa would be in the top league.

The white paper outlines key policies which need to be developed to "ignite the tourism engine of growth in South Africa" and states that the document is to be followed by an implementation strategy.

"This strategy will also contain details regarding projects and target dates, and is planned to be completed by September 1996," said De Villiers.

Some critical programmes such as training and safety and security were already being addressed, but full-blown implementation of the policies would start only towards the end of this year.

De Villiers said the Government took the problem of crime as seriously as did the private sector, and short and long-term action was being taken.

The document advised that visitors need to be given information to improve their own safety and that appropriate legal procedures need to be implemented to "facilitate speedy and effective prosecution for cases where tourists are involved."

Mackie said 1% of tourists in South Africa were attacked and this had a major influence on figures. "We have to compete in a strong market and other countries can use our bad crime record to sway tourists into their market," he said.

The paper lists several policies that need to be followed up to improve tourism.

One of the major observations of the document is that the role of Satour, the national tourism agency, needs careful review. It suggests that a new body — to be called Tourism South Africa — be formed, to incorporate the infrastructure and personnel of Satour. This body would spearhead the international marketing effort.
NO ROOM AT THE INN

There's no question that SA needs further hotel development. But residents of Melrose in Sandton are concerned that hotel developers are about to turn Corlett Drive into another "Golden Mile."

This week an Eastern MSS tribunal will hear arguments for and against a proposed five-star, eight-storey, 280-room hotel on the south-east corner of Corlett Drive and Rudd Road — The Wanderers Hotel.

Meanwhile, a hearing is imminent on another 200-room, five-star hotel planned for a site on the north-east corner of the same intersection. The project manager is the Schneid Group.

Town planning officials of the old Johannesburg municipal administration — soon to be replaced by Eastern MSS officials — are apparently supporting both applications.

Residents negotiating with The Wanderers Hotel developer — UK-based Morrison's Development — have managed to reduce the visual impact of the proposed building. However, they're still objecting to the proposed changed land use on what was previously Wanderers Sports Club ground and an expected increase in traffic.

Morrison's town planning consultant Mitsu Venn says that "the success of the proposal" is not only guaranteed by market research, the scheme has been developed in consultation with various local residents' associations, metropolitan road planning and local planning authorities.

Another plus factor is that it will ensure the financial stability of the Wanderers Club: Venn says that at least 10 hotel operators have approached Morrison's, but a firm deal with any one of them would depend on securing development rights.

Responding to criticism that the plan to build hotels on Corlett Drive appears arbitrary, Schneid Group townplanning consultant Bob Warren & Associates says: "In the absence of structure plans, ad hoc planning cannot be avoided in growing cities. Authorities must ensure infrastructure is in place to allow for economic growth."

Melrose Ratepayers' Association committee member Bill Copeland says residents are concerned about increased traffic, vagrancy and crime and that he's personally worried the Wanderers Club is in danger of being overrun by both developments: "I'd prefer to be a member of a club than an hotel," he says.

In Sandton's Katherine Street, EuroAfrica Hotels Southern Africa, through local developer Pemexco, is building a three-star, 142-room hotel, the second of 25 Golden Tulip hotels and Inns planned for the next five years. The hotel opens on November 1.

EuroAfrica holds the SA Golden Tulip franchise from Utell International, which recently merged with Golden Tulip worldwide, itself 20% owned by Dutch airline KLM. Golden Tulip is the 10th biggest hotel group in the world.

EuroAfrica's first Tulip Inn is the former 82-room Skyway Hotel on the corner of Strand and Bree streets in Cape Town and refurbished two years ago. Owner Jacques Osse and Durban-based Pemexco chairman Gary Perlman have formed EuroAfrica. They are MD and chairman respectively.

EuroAfrica’s third hotel deal is expected to be signed this week, also in Cape Town. The site is close to Protea’s four-star hotel in the Victoria Junction complex near the entrance to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Plans are for a 60-room all-suite hotel, opening in September next year. From summer prebookings, Perlman anticipates 70% foreign occupancies in his Cape Town hotels and 60% at Sandton.

EuroAfrica’s next ventures are likely to be in Durban, where it holds an option on a site close to the International Convention Centre. It plans a three-star, 150-room, 11-storey building with conference facilities for 150 people. "All the planning has been done. We’re just waiting for certain things to fall into place," says Perlman. Next will be Hazeyview in the Lowveld and then George on the Garden Route. 

FINANCIAL MAIL • JUNE 28 • 1996
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Games begin

The 100-year history of the modern Olympics offers but one certainty: Records will fall. Boycotts, world wars and other disruptions have raised doubts in some years whether the games would be held at all. But, when the world’s best athletes gather as they will next week in Atlanta, records are usually set in a wide range of events, from the hammer throw to the marathon race.

In some cases, the reasons for improvement seem obvious. Almost anyone could pedal a modern Kevelar-framed, aerodynamic bicycle faster than the clunkers pedalled at the Athens Olympics of 1896. But the shot-put, both then and now, has weighed 16 pounds. A marathon is still 26 miles. 265 yards in length. Swimmers still swim in water.

The improvements in performance are not small. American Robert Garrett won the gold medal in Athens for putting the shot 30 feet, 9 ½ inches. The current record holder, Ulf Timmerman of Germany, set his mark in 1988 with a 73 feet, 8 ¼ inches. In the 400m foot race, Quincy Watts of the United States set an Olympic record in 1988 by running 9.9 percent faster than the gold medalist of 1896.

Even phenomenal performers compete with the knowledge that their records may have a short life. James Thorpe set his remarkable world record in the pentathlon in 1912; the record had fallen by the 1924 Games, and a world record was set in that and each of the next three Olympic Games.

Of the seven world records set by swimmer Mark Spitz and team mates in the 1972 Games, all but two were broken in the next Olympics. "It used to be just a fun thing to do. Once we got into the 1960s and 1970s, people got very serious," said Spitz.

Some improvement in performance is an inevitable consequence of population growth, which increases the potential for standouts. The pool of competitors also has been enlarged by air travel, the enhanced prestige of the Games and the demise of racial barriers. In the Athens games, only 311 men from 13 countries competed. Atlanta is expecting 10,800 athletes from 197 countries.

Equipment has played a role, too. In pole-vaulting, bamboo has been replaced by stronger, more flexible materials.

High-performance track surfaces bear little resemblance to the dirt lanes of the early games. Shoes are lighter and better designed.

Swimming is done indoors, in a 50m pool. In 1980, swimmers were ferried by boat into the open sea off Greece. Hungarian Alfred Hajos braved 4m waves and 11-degree water to win the 100m freestyle gold medal. His time of 1 minute, 22 seconds is twice as long as the 1992 winning time of just over 49 seconds.

The emergence of full-time Olympians who could afford to train intensely for years is a relatively new phenomenon. It began in the 1980s in communist countries that sought international validation by drafting promising youngsters and paying them to train for the Olympics.

Later, as the games grew in profile, athletes found ways to make money at even obscure sports. Bruce Jenner parlayed a gold medal in the 1976 decathlon into a career in broadcasting and product promotion, including a stint on Wheel of Fortune.

Corporate money has grown even more influential, as the popularity of the games has increased. Sponsors now finance many sports, providing athletes with stipends, housing and expert coaching.

That wasn’t the case when Professor Daniels won the silver medal in the team pentathlon at the 1956 Melbourne games. "It used to be that the Olympics were full of college athletes who would then go on with life. We had a regular turnover of athletes. Nowadays, there’s enough money in the sport that a guy will stay with it," says Professor Daniels.

Innovations in technique — often a function of chance inspiration — also affects the outcome of many events. Dick Fosbury’s backward, head-first high-jump style, in which he kept his centre of gravity below the bar, won him the 1968 gold and became an immediate sensation. The "Fosbury Flop" is still the standard.

Computers also have replaced dumbbells in training rooms of many athletes, who use the machines to monitor their workouts or to refine the biomechanics of their performance.

“It’s an accumulation of knowledge,” says Walter Gove, a sociology professor at Vanderbilt University who has studied Olympians. “People know how to exercise a particular muscle. They didn’t used to know how to do that.”

The impact is seen in the scores. In the 1992 Games, new Olympic or world records were established in one fourth of the 24 men’s track and field events. And that was a below-average year.

According to the book Olympic Trends, by AB Bell and Melinda Johnson, in each of the 21 modern Olympic Games between 1896 and 1992, records were set in an average of 67 percent of the men’s track and field events. In swimming, records were set in an average of 81 percent of the events.

Phil Sparling, a professor of exercise physiology at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, says there was no sophisticated testing of athletes 100 years ago, but assumes today’s best performers use oxygen more efficiently and have less body fat than their predecessors.

“I think it’s primarily a consequence of being able to select and screen for the best athletes,” says Professor Sparling. “If there was an improvement in the species, then you would expect to see the general level in fitness tests we give our children to increase. Those really have not, and in some cases have declined.”

Women’s scores mirror the advances of the men. Women’s events were added to the Olympics much later and the scores improved dramatically in the first few decades. They now are flattening out. It is a trend that women typically get gold for men and women as the top athletes begin to bump up against biological limitations.

“We’re still getting improvement, but there’s a flattening of improvement,” says Sparling. “I don’t think we’ll see dramatic change anymore.” — Los Angeles Times-Washington Post.
Crime wave could sink our hopes of hosting Olympics

Cape Town has been warned to get its act together on crime or lose the bid, writes Metro Reporter ANDREA WEISS.

I
South Africa's crime situation does not improve by September next year, there is no hope of winning the Olympic bid.

This view was expressed by Chris Ball, chief executive officer of the Bid Company, at a briefing for new members of the Cape Town City Council.

September 1997 is when the International Olympic Committee will announce the host city for the 2004 Games.

The new 74-member council, 60 of whom are first-time councillors, will be asked to decide whether the bid book should be submitted to the International Olympic Committee at its monthly meeting at the end of July. Mr Ball was responding to a question from Democratic Party councillor Chris Joubert on the security situation in central Cape Town.

Mr Joubert suggested that the Bid Company should sponsor several "rent-a-cops" to help the city clean up its act. He argued that spending the money on 10 extra policemen would serve the purpose of a security marketing exercise.

"What is happening in Cape Town can do the bid no good," said Mr Joubert.

Mr Ball responded that it was not the bid company's business to spend money on security, but that it could influence the government to take action. The Olympic Games themselves were very secure, and a very large portion of the budget for it would go towards security. Every venue would be fenced to protect ticket-holders and prevent acts of terrorism, and 30 000 volunteer security staff would be employed, he said.

Mr Ball said the crime wave in South Africa also affected Cape Town's image, even although there were indications of a downward trend in tourist-related incidents in the city.

"If in September next year, the crime position is as it is now in South Africa, you can be absolutely sure we won't win the bid," he said.

But, Mr Ball also reassured the councillors that Cape Town stood a very good chance, saying it appeared to be one of three favourites. The other two were Stockholm in Sweden and Rome in Italy.

Other concerns expressed by councillors centred on the absence of Olympic facilities in Mitchell's Plain, the conversion of houses into bed-and-breakfast establishments, black empowerment through the awarding of Olympic contracts, and a potential influx of unemployed people into the city because of the Games.

On black empowerment, Mr Ball said the bid company had a charter which said that 40 percent of the ownership of companies tendering for contracts should be by people from previously marginalised groups.

He said where skills were lacking, people would be encouraged to go into joint ventures, not for enrichment contracts, but to build expertise.

But, he added that work would have to meet the Olympics' tight deadlines imposed by the IOC. For instance, by December work on three projects must have started so that an IOC evaluation commission could see them.

The IOC evaluation commission will visit Cape Town between December 6 and 10 this year, after the bid book has been handed in. Shortlisting of the bidding cities will take place in March next year.
Tourism set to play key role in RDP

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — Tourism in South Africa is set become a major contributor to economic growth and the Reconstruction and Development Plan.

This emerged yesterday when outgoing Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers presented a White Paper on the development and promotion of tourism in South Africa.

The cabinet approved the White Paper and tourism is set to take off, he told a media conference at the Union Buildings.

The government realised tourism was an important facet of the national economic strategy, he added.

It is anticipated tourism, which constitutes about 4% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has the potential to increase its share to 10% by the year 2000 and 12% by 2005.

This will not only result in a dramatic increase in South Africa’s annual foreign exchange earnings from about R10-billion this year to R40-billion in 2005, but will also create an estimated one million additional direct and indirect jobs, said Dr De Villiers.

Tourism is the fourth largest earner of foreign exchange in South Africa, but has the potential to become the country’s number one industry, he said.

In terms of the RDP, Dr de Villiers said tourism more than any other industry can provide sturdy, effective and sustainable legs for it to walk on.

On tourism and the RDP the White Paper concludes: "The tourism sector could provide the basis for and sustain the RDP. To achieve this mandate, tourism must be developed as a strategic industry. A 'wait and see what happens' approach pervades the industry.

"Unless tourism is viewed and developed as a strategically important industry — the greatest engine of growth for the South African economy — the true wealth-creating potential of the tourism sector will never be realised."

The White Paper also proposed the creation of a new national tourism organisation — Tourism South Africa.

The new body would incorporate Satour’s infrastructure and personnel and spearhead international marketing and research.

Dr de Villiers said the White Paper was a milestone in the history of South Africa tourism, adding that the policy guidelines should be implemented as soon as possible.

An implementation strategy would be drawn up by September, he said. Legislation in this regard would be passed during the second half of the year, he added.

"I have also obtained cabinet approval for changes to the Satour Act to enable speedy creation and implementation of Tourism South Africa."
Councillors question aspects of Games bid

PETER DEMENGY

WHILE the city's Olympic Games bid met with no opposition from Cape Town, councillors who attended a presentation on the bid yesterday, several aired concerns about how taxpayers would finance the Games and cope with their consequences.

After a presentation by Bid Company Chief Executive Officer Mr. Chris Ball, councillor Mr. Owen Kinahan of Observatory said he was concerned about Cape Town attracting illegal immigration from the rest of Southern Africa.

Mrs. Bellinda Walker of the City Bowl said people in her area were concerned about development pressure on the city's buildings, particularly those of historic value.

Ball emphasised that Cape Town would grow dramatically, and that within two decades, Cape Town Airport would process twice the volume of air traffic as Johannesburg now does.

Mr. Daniel Silke of the Democratic Party said he hoped the bid would succeed, but questioned the effect hosting the Games would have on property rates. He also wanted to know at what stage the city would have to start paying.

Ball said raising property rates would be a political decision, not one in the hands of the bid company. He also said that provincial and local governments would share the cost with the provincial government paying 30%. The six municipalities would have to pay R200m between them.

Asked at what stage capital spending would be halted if the bid should not succeed, Ball said it would be after the first R600m had been spent on projects in Philippi East, Mew Way in Steytlerville, and Belhar, and R250m on transport infrastructure.
New eco-tourism firm set up

By John Spiro

Johannesburg — A new leisure company, Chapman Leisure, with assets of R25 million, has been established to capitalise on South Africa’s vast eco-tourism potential.

Chapman Leisure, trading as Country Escapes, has been created by the EG Chapman Group, JSE-listed Yabeng Investment Holdings, Tiny Barnetson, the managing director of Ovland, and hotelier Graham Ledger.

Country Escapes, which envisages a JSE listing three to five years hence, has acquired four resorts — Mount Sheba Hotel and Nature Reserve near Pilgrim’s Rest, Halala Lakeside Lodge between Hazyview and White River, Glenishel Country Lodge in Magoebskloof and Madikwe River Lodge in the North West Province.

The Chapman Group, Yabeng, and Barnetson and Ledger each hold a third of the equity in the new company.

Announcing the formation of the new company yesterday, Barnetson said the intention was to grow the company’s portfolio to a gross asset value of between R150 million and R250 million in three to five years.

Country Escapes would extend its manor house-country lodge arm into Johannesburg’s northern suburbs, Cape Town and environs, and the southeastern suburbs of Pretoria.

Barnetson said that South Africa had a poor share of the world tourism market but great upside potential from a very low base. He said Country Escapes already had permanent representatives overseas.
Not all bad news for Sun International

Sun International

By Alexey D'Angelo

June 28, 1996

Business Report: Friday, June 28, 1996

Page 2
'Not all bad news’ for Sun International

By Audrey d’Angel

Cape Town — New gambling legislation should not hurt Sun International South Africa’s operations as much as many people think, according to Wynand van Zyl, an analyst with Senegal Mouton Kitchoff Securities.

He said yesterday that although there was an element of risk, he expected the share price of Sun International SA to rise to R9.42 with a price-earnings rating of 16 by the end of the financial year to June next year in anticipation of higher earnings. The share is now trading at about R4.90.

Others were more cautious. Shaun Stockigt, at Appleton’s Cape Town office, said that while Sun International SA should benefit from the growth in tourism, there were uncertainties over the

Sun International

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 gambling operations.

And no one will go to Sun City to gamble when there is a casino near home.”

Van Zyl was reacting to the report earlier this week from rating agency IBCA, saying that it had put the Safren Rennes group on a long-term negative rating watch because of uncertainty about the casino interests of subsidiary Kersaf Investments, the parent company of Sun International SA.

Van Zyl said that, under the National Gambling Bill, Sun International SA would be allowed to retain three gambling licences in the Northwest and Eastern Cape provinces and two in the other provinces.

“Using last year’s figures as a base, Sun International SA will experience only a 14 percent drop in turnover, or approximately R275 million, through rationalisation. In this rationalisation process, Sun International SA will dispose of eight of its present 17 gambling licences, retaining a total of nine casinos. So the impact of rationalisation ... will be less than expected.

“The key issue is that Sun International SA will be able to retain all the value-drivers, including the Carousel ... This development will allow (it) to become a more focused operation while disposing of mainly weaker contributors.”

The location of new casinos would be a critical issue. Indications were that a compromise would be made and locations chosen to maximise employment opportunities and uplift undeveloped communities.

Both key requirements would benefit Sun International SA as they implied that new casinos would be located where the impact on its remaining casinos would be limited. Van Zyl also expected consortia lead by Sun International SA to receive at least three new licences.
Oudekraal gets the green light - for now

Oudekraal hotel

Court gives Oudekraal green light - for now

Oudekraal - 29/16/96

From page 3

Court gives Oudekraal green light - for now

Oudekraal - 29/16/96

From page 3

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Court gives Oudekraal green light - for now

Oudekraal - 29/16/96

From page 3
Sartorius man in the US

By Shashank Maharana

The company aims to reach a target of 7,776 by the time of this report, saving 8,000 jobs...
Hotel project beckons as consortium puts San Vito back on track

By Marc Hosenfuss

Cape Town — San Vito Development has been brought out of limbo by a consortium intent on developing its existing properties into hotels.

San Vito Development, which previously traded as Faircape Homes, will be relisted on the JSE today after a two-year suspension.

The property company nearly folded after the estate of Saverio Polero, its controlling shareholder, was sequestrated.

The share was suspended after the Reserve Bank launched an investigation into the company after a multimillion Rand foreign-exchange scam. Polero, an Italian, fled the country.

The consortium acquired a controlling stake in San Vito from the various liquidators of the Polero estate. The remaining minority shareholders are expected to stay on board for the ride.

The consortium has already appointed new directors, including Monty Kaplan, a former chief executive at Cape of Good Hope Bank; Dennis Davis, a leading academic and television personality; and Philip Joffe, the financial director at Spur.

Allan Groll will serve as the managing director.

The company's main assets are properties at Bantry Bay and in Cape Town's central business district.

The Bany Bay site, originally earmarked for a block of flats, will now be developed as a self-catering apartment hotel. A director reported that sales had been satisfactory and that the development would be complete by next month.

Negotiations for converting a commercial building into Cape Town's Tulbagh Square into a self-catering hotel were also at an advanced stage. The hotel should be completed by the first quarter of next year.

The director said both projects were expected to produce a satisfactory profit and bolster the company's capital position.

"We think San Vito can move back into the black by the end of the financial year to end June 1997," he said.

He said that other property development projects in Johannesburg and Pretoria were under consideration.

San Vito traded at 65c before suspension and showed a net asset value of 0.15c in its interim report to December 31.
Imagine not inviting Mrs Ball...

Olympic bid gets "divine leadership" from Tutu

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

WHILE South Africa's athletes prepare for the Centennial Olympic Games starting on July 19, Cape Town Olympic Bid chief executive Mr Chris Ball, his directors and his wife Sue, are set to jet off to Atlanta to lobby international support for Cape Town as an Olympic venue.

It was disclosed yesterday that the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company was moving into "international gear" and that Ball, his team and 10 directors and his wife would arrive in Atlanta next week to conduct a "series of projects".

The inclusion of Ball's wife on the trip to Atlanta was sanctioned by the Bid Company's directors and paid for through the company's operating budget. Ball and his wife leave on Sunday and will be in the US for four weeks.

Nine other cities putting together bids for the 2004 Summer Olympics are also sending delegations to generate support for their respective cities.

Ball said yesterday that the purpose of the trip was twofold.

"We will be expanding our contacts with members of the Olympic family, including the International Olympic Committee. Now is a good opportunity to get to know them.

"And secondly, to study the operations of the event so we can increase our expertise and modify or enhance our plans to deal more professionally with the visit of the evaluation commission."

Ball said the inclusion of his wife on the Bid team "was necessary" so that she could meet with and assist in the "lobbying" of IOC members' wives.

"The board says it is essential that she be there. Some of the key people in the lobbying process are wives," Ball said.

Meanwhile, those still keen on a glimpse of the Games will have to pay dearly. Hotels and other accommodation facilities in Atlanta are full and the nearest available room is situated a half-hour's drive from the city. It will cost R12 720 per person sharing for six nights.

A city travel agent said those who could scrape together R10 697 would still get a room 45 minutes driving time from the city. These prices do not include the cost of commuting daily or meals.

[Image]

TOURISM WRITER

LEADING South African personalities have thrown their weight behind the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company's efforts to secure the Games for the city, and have agreed to serve as members of its newly constituted convocation.

The convocation, launched at the V&A Waterfront yesterday, is to serve as an "honorary national and par-African advisory body to the Bid Company" and will be headed by retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was elected president.

Among the 43 leading personalities to join the body are Professor Andre Brink, Gauteng Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale and Cape Town mayor Mrs Theresa Solomon.

Institutions have been extended to sports leaders, mayors of major African cities, provincial premiers and rectors of Cape universities and technikons.
COME LET US BID: Cape Town Olympic Bid chief executive officer, Mr Chris Ball, and former Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu at yesterday's launch of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Convocation. Tutu, who was elected president of the body, will be joined by other leading South African personalities, in giving advice to the Bid Company in an honorary capacity.

PICTURE: OLIVE SMITH
Oudekraal: Parks Board ‘won’t give in’

THE National Parks Board will go to court “time and time again” to stop development on the borders of the proposed Table Mountain National Park.

Commenting on the Supreme Court’s dismissal on Friday of the board’s application to review the decision allowing development of the controversial Oudekraal Hotel, Mr Robbie Robinson, NPB chief executive, said the board would go to court repeatedly to protect the environmentally sensitive borders of the park.

The multi-million rand hotel, restaurant and conference centre is to be built on the site of the White House, on the pristine strip of coastline between Bakoven and Llandudno.

“We will never give in. We are trying to stop the tremendous onslaught on the environment and are going to have to protect the area between the high water mark and the national park, even if it means amending the National Parks Act or asking the Minister of Environment to limit development,” Robinson said.

He said the urban fringe was of vital importance to the value of Table Mountain as a national park, in visual impact and environmental sensitivity.

He did not believe the developers had shown sufficient sensitivity to the environment, in the scenic beauty of the site or the board’s proposals.

Ms Marlene Lagos, a Wildlife Society of South Africa conservation ecologist, said buffer zones between the national park and high density urban areas were vital to protect the pristine natural area.

Her biggest concern was looming future development proposals in the Twelve Apostles area.

Developers cancelled a meeting with the Cape Times yesterday.
Olympic Bid
for the
City

Michael Morse

Olympic planning is an enormous undertaking. The City has spearheaded the effort to create a comprehensive and sustainable plan for the Olympic Bid. A key component of this plan is the development of a detailed, long-term vision for the Olympic Village. The Village will serve as the hub of the Olympic Games, providing a range of accommodations, facilities, and services for athletes and spectators from around the world.

The Village will be designed to accommodate the needs of the athletes, while also providing opportunities for the local community to participate in the Games. The Village will include a range of amenities, including housing for athletes, training facilities, media centers, and spectator venues. The Village will also feature a range of public spaces, including parks, plazas, and squares, that will serve as community gathering places.

The Olympic Bid will provide a significant boost to the local economy, creating thousands of jobs and generating millions of dollars in revenue. The Village will also provide a significant legacy for the community, creating a new destination for visitors and residents alike.

The Olympic Bid is an opportunity to transform the City into a world-class destination. With careful planning and execution, the Olympic Bid can create a lasting legacy for the City and its residents.
Nelspruit tourism plans hinge on airport tussle

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Amanda Vermeulen

A MASSIVE hotel and entertainment zone outside Nelspruit, with an estimated cost of between R2bn and R4bn, hinges on the outcome of a tussle between two major international groups backing two proposed international airports in Mpumalanga.

The airports — one based at Hazyview and the other outside Nelspruit — are competing for tourism traffic into the province which sees one in five foreign tourists visit the region, according to Satour statistics.

The Hazyview airport is backed by Daimler-Benz Aerospace, which has a 33% stake in the consortium, while the Nelspruit airport at Primkope is backed by Malaysian company Mycom, a large French construction group, and a Saudi Arabian company called Fanco.

Hazyview airport has received national government and department of civil aviation approval, and Primkope airport is endorsed by the Mpumalanga cabinet.

A large entertainment zone adjacent to the Primkope airport has been proposed, and several international hotel groups, including Hyatt, Hilton, Sheraton, Regent and Caesar’s World have expressed interest in developing as many as 20 hotels on the 120km² site. Fanco was also considering a joint venture development with Sheraton.

However, the airport developers have warned this development, which could touch R4bn, may not proceed if the Hazyview airport goes ahead. The airport, two years in the planning, had been intended to replace Skukuza airport, and would be used to ferry tourist and business traffic into the region.

Izak Fick, the lead negotiator on the project, said the airport had already been granted a licence and could be operational two years before its rival.

Primkope airport is at least a year away from being granted a licence.
Tourism report is ‘not accurate’

By Isaac Moledi

MANAGEMENT consulting firm Kessel Feinstein has denied reports that the number of tourists visiting South Africa is declining.

The company, responding to figures released by the Central Statistical Service which indicated that the number of the tourists arriving from overseas had decreased by 22 percent.

Kessel Feinstein said South African Tourism Board (Sotour) international airport arrivals figures for the period January to April were misconstrued.

The 22 percent decrease that was widely quoted in the Press is only representative of a drop in visitors from Central and South American regions – a very small segment of South Africa’s foreign tourism market,” said the company’s director Gillian Saunders.

“The other statistics not broadly published show, in fact, a positive growth.”

Tourism in general was up by three percent while overseas arrivals rose by four percent. Specifically, there was an increase of eight percent in visitors from Europe and seven percent in arrivals from the United States.

Although South Africa could expect continued growth in the foreign tourist arrivals figures during 1996, it was unlikely that the rate of growth would match that achieved last year.

“The 1995 statistics were boosted by the 1995 Rugby World Cup.”

Other obstacles to foreign tourism growth, according to Kessel Feinstein, included high prices, poor standards, the escalating crime rate as well as a lack of Government commitment to the industry and a national marketing body constrained by a low and shrinking budget.

“Unless these issues are addressed, South Africa’s tourism potential would never be realised and growth rates may fall off further,” argued Saunders.
Plans set to benefit local councils

Central government to contribute R250 million for provision of services and R86 million for building facilities.
Luxury Oudekraal hotel to open doors next year

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

THE proposed hotel at the White House site in Oudekraal between Camps Bay and Llandudno, which has been dogged by controversy since the developer applied for rezoning in 1993, is set to open its doors during the spring next year.

Work on the site is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

Developer Steve Jones said that the R45 million development had met all legal and environmental requirements and he was thrilled that the tourist facility had finally been given the go-ahead.

The Cape Supreme Court last week dismissed an application by the National Parks Board for a review of the decision allowing the development.

Mr Jones said the Oudekraal coastal area was one of outstanding natural beauty and he wanted to assure Capetonians that this had played a major role in the design of the small country-style hotel.

"The development of the 70-room, five-star luxury hotel with a tea garden, conference facilities and ample parking is much needed in the Southern substructure and will be a boost to Cape Town's chances of hosting the 2004 Olympic Games."

He said that contrary to general belief, the 6 000 sq m hotel site was not on the national parks boundary and was in fact surrounded by privately owned land.

"From an environmental perspective, we have complied with all the conditions set out in the Victoria Road coastal structural plan and an independent environmental consultant has been appointed to advise on and monitor the development.

"If the city wants tourists and foreign investment, it must make way for some development as long as it is controlled and environmentally sensitive."

Mr Jones said the operator of the hotel, Protea Hospitality, trading as Belair Hotels of the Cape, was a signatory to the international environmental charter for hotels, which set out clear guidelines on environmental management.
Olympic Track: An artist's impression of the northern elevation of the R460 million velodrome roof planned for the existing Bellville cycling track, the proposed main venue for Olympic 2004 cycling events.

Major boost for 2004 Olympic bid

Massive upgrade for Bellville sports stadium

Chene Busnault
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN’s 2004 Olympic Bid has received a major boost with the approval of a massive upgrade of the Bellville sports stadium, which will include a R460 million velodrome roof over the existing Olympic standard cycling track.

In a move which will put the Tygerberg firmly on the international sporting map as an integral part of Cape Town’s Olympic bid, the Tygerberg University’s new executive committee (exco) yesterday gave the provisional go-ahead for the project.

It will include the impressive 38m-high roof structure over the existing cycle track as well as 5 000 additional permanent seats, a mini stadium, a two-storey hotel and a multi-purpose concrete floor.

An aquatic centre, which will include an Olympic size swimming pool and 10 000 additional permanent seats, is planned for the second phase of the project.

The new council is expected to ratify the exco decision at the end of this month.

The 260m cycling track, which forms an integral part of the Bellville stadium, will be bid for the Olympic cycling events if Cape Town wins the bid to host the Olympics in 2004.

The Olympic Bid Company has also agreed to contribute R5 million to the roof of the track, which is necessary to counter the Cape’s unpredictable weather.

The plan is to create a multi-purpose sports complex which could be used for sports, exhibition and entertainment activities long after the 2004 Olympics.

To make the project financially viable, an adjoining portion of council land, 4.2 hectares, in extent, will be made available to a development consortium as a part of the proposal.

The land, with an estimated value of R11 million, will be developed for commercial, office and hotel purposes, to help finance the erection of the velodrome and the ancillary changes to the stadium.

This proposed package deal will mean that the extensive upgrade of the sports centre will not cost the Tygerberg ratepayers a cent, because the cost of the velodrome and its facilities will be covered by the income generated from the projects on the council land.

Guidelines for the development of the land include 36 000m² of offices, 14 000m² of retail, entertainment and fitness centre space and two hotels with 150 and 100 rooms respectively.

The tender for the huge development has been provisionally awarded to a development consortium, comprising architects J. Soden and Partners, who will be backed by Murray and Roberts, Desprop Projects and Cape Consult. The roofing of the track has to be completed for next year’s World Junior Cycling Championships.

Injured Runner: Adri de Jongh, who is a competitor in the women’s 200 metres event at the Atlanta Olympics, relaxes at the Lagrange training camp in Georgia, with her foot bandaged. There is some doubt whether her foot will respond to treatment in time for her to take part in the event.
OLYMPIC TRACK: An artist's impression of the northern elevation of the R40 million velodrome, the proposed main venue for Olympic 2004 cycling events.

Major boost for 2004 Olympic bid

Massive upgrade for Bellville sports stadium

CHENE BILGNAUT
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN’s 2004 Olympic Bid has received a major boost with the approval of a massive upgrade of the Bellville sports stadium, which will include a R40 million velodrome roof over the existing Olympic standard cycling track.

In a move which will put the Tygerberg firmly on the international sports map as an integral part of Cape Town’s Olympic bid, the Tygerberg Substructure’s new executive committee (exco) yesterday gave the provisional go-ahead for the project.

It will include the impressive 38m-high roof structure over the existing cycle track as well as 5 600 additional permanent seats, a mini stadium, a three-star hotel and a multi-purpose concrete floor.

An aquatic centre, which will include an Olympic size swimming pool and 10 000 additional permanent seats, is planned for the second phase of the project.

The new council is expected to ratify the exco decision at the end of this month.

The 250m cycling track, which forms an integral part of the Bellville stadium directly south of the Tyger Valley shopping centre, has been earmarked as the main venue for Olympic cycling events if Cape Town wins the bid to host the Olympics in 2004.

The Olympic Bid Company has also agreed to contribute R5 million to the the roofing of the track, which is necessary to counter Cape’s unpredictable weather.

The plan is to create a multi-purpose sports complex which could be used for sports, exhibition and entertainment activities long after the 2004 Olympics.

To make the project financially viable, an adjoining portion of council land, 42 hectares in extent, will be made available to a development consortium as a part of the proposal.

The land, with an estimated value of R21 million, will be developed for commercial, office and hotel purposes, to help finance the erection of the velodrome and the ancillary changes to the stadium.

This proposed package deal will mean that the extensive upgrade of the sports centre will not cost the Tygerberg ratepayers a cent, because the cost of the velodrome and its facilities will be covered by the income generated from the projects on the council land.

Guidelines for the development of the land include 34 000sq m of offices, 14 000sq m of retail, entertainment and fitness centre space, and two hotels with 150 and 160 rooms respectively.

The tender for the huge development has been provisionally awarded to a development consortium, comprising architects J. Sedan and Partners, who will be backed by Murray and Roberts, Devprop Projects and Cape Consult. The roofing of the track has to be completed for next year’s World Junior Cycling Championships.
Bid site claims unresolved

Louise Cook (288)

On July 196

The bid of war over the Wingfield military base, Cape Town's main Olympic site, was building, with the Ndabeni land restitution committee claiming the site. It said yesterday it would not settle for alternative land suggested by government and the Olympic bid company.

The Thabeni community, ejected from Ndabeni in 1927 by the previous government, was locked in continuing talks with government officials and the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights. Ndabeni, near Wingfield, was now industrialised and claimants had chosen the military base as an alternative. Up to 5 000 families could seek restitution.

If no settlement was reached, the Land Claims Court would probably have to rule on the issue. The bid tender is to go to the International Olympic Committee by August 15.
Southern Sun threatens pullout over casino tax

Southern Sun has threatened to pull out of the proposed R2.4bn Century City project in Cape Town, blaming the Western Cape's planned gambling tax regime.

The group, involved in the project through its joint venture casino resort company Tsogo Sun, said yesterday its returns on its component of Century City would be rendered "unviable" by proposals to hit casino operators with a tax bill of up to 26% of revenues.

"A large casino will generate revenue of up to R500m a year. On top of 14% VAT, an extra 12% could be levied on the operator, which would make a sizeable dent in its ability to generate adequate returns," said MD Ron Stringfellow.

Tsogo Sun CE Jabu Mabuza said the investment could still proceed, but would be scaled down if the proposed tax — the highest among all the provinces — was legislated.

Moenx Investments, which is developing the Milnerton site through listed subsidiary Illo Homes, said yesterday it was not aware of the withdrawal or scale-down plans.

Tsogo and Southern Sun announced plans in January to build a casino complex as part of the development planned for the 800ha Milnerton site, which includes hotel, retail, office and entertainment facilities.

The proposed tax regime has already led Sun International and Global Resorts — both planning licence bids — to warn their proposed developments could be reduced.

Mabuza said the province was being short-sighted. "Money accruing — about R50m yearly from the proposed 12% tax — would not compensate for the benefits of cross-subsidization by casinos of tourism infrastructure."
Green lobby's help needed

OLYMPIC planning is giving Cape Town a matchless opportunity to forge and implement progressive environmental policies and processes, but it is essential that the "green" lobby helps to negotiate solutions.

So says Mary-Jane Morris, responsible for the environmental portfolio of Cape Town's Olympic bid, under director of planning Peter de Tolly.

The apparent reluctance of the environmental sector to "come eyeball to eyeball with us" and try to find solutions was regrettable, she said.

Ms Morris was speaking on the eve of a major two-day conference this weekend, which will bring together bid company planners and a wide spectrum of non-governmental and community-based organisations.

Environmental concerns - and criticism from the "green" lobby that the bid has been formulated without sufficient attention to environmental impact - are expected to be a key feature of debate. Ms Morris hoped the conference would lead to "real debate".

"My view of the Olympic bid is that one thing it is doing for the city is to get people to focus on issues that are critical to its future.

"There's nothing that concentrates the mind like a deadline. This applies not only to the environmental lobby, but to the local and other government authorities, and professionals.

"There are a lot of people getting their heads around this, and there's an opportunity to use the Olympics as a vehicle to implement the sort of environmental policies and processes one would like to see."

"It's an ideal vehicle because it's such a focused project. It's not nebulous pie-in-the-sky."

She added: "Speaking as an environmental professional, the key issue is unpicking the implications, the negative and the positive. That's why we need the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

"It's not a question of selling the bid. Our environmental process is not there to sell the bid, but to critically evaluate it and make sure we make environmentally sound decisions."

She rejected the notion that the Bid Company "has been sitting on its hands waiting for the NGOs" to formulate an environmental charter.

Extensive work, including environmental assessments associated with the RDP and the Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework, "has been going on for the past six or seven months."

"If we did not go through the process of 'what ifs', we could do disastrous things, and the NGOs play a valuable role because they are very good at raising the 'what ifs'."

But there was a reluctance on the part of NGOs to enter deliberations.

Ms Morris said: "This whole business of not eye-ballling flies in the face of the tradition of negotiation in the new South Africa. Let's identify the common ground and then debate the differences and see whether we can find some way of resolving them. I am hoping this will be central to tomorrow's conference.

"Ultimately, we want a healthy city that's a good place for people to live in, but we need to meet one another and find the answers."

She said she understood the NGOs' fear of co-option, but believed the Olympic bid provided a real option for discussion.
MASTERS WAVE: The government's stimulus can create many jobs in the informal sector.

GOVERNMENT'S VISION: ZIVA's green shoots of the SA tourism industry will be bolstered by the transformation of the sector into greener, more sustainable practices. The balance sheet of tourism and leisure will experience a new era of innovation.

INFRASTRUCTURE: The public works and transport development grant will ensure that the tourism and leisure sectors are equipped with necessary infrastructure for growth.

CONCLUSION: The government's stimulus aims to create a new wave in tourism, ensuring growth and recovery in this sector.
Gaming tax scares off hotel group

4/7/96

By JEREMY WOODS

SOUTH AFRICA\'s casino industry is facing a crisis after the government imposed a 10% tax on gaming revenues.

The tax has caused concern among developers and investors, who fear it will deter investment in new projects.

One of the most affected companies is Tsogo Sun, which had planned to build a new casino in the Western Cape.

However, the company is now reviewing its plans, citing the tax as a major factor.

The tax was introduced to raise funds for tourism infrastructure, but critics argue it is too high and will harm the industry.

Tsogo Sun is one of the largest casino operators in South Africa, with multiple venues across the country.

The company had invested heavily in developing new properties, but the tax has put a damper on its expansion plans.

The tax also affects other players in the industry, including Sanlam City and Sandton Casino, which are also reviewing their strategies.

The government has defended the tax, saying it is necessary to support tourism development.

However, many in the industry are calling for a reduction or removal of the tax, arguing it is too detrimental to the sector.

Gaming experts warn that the tax could lead to a decrease in the number of visitors, which could have a knock-on effect on the wider economy.

The impact of the tax is likely to be felt not just in the casino industry, but also in the wider tourism sector, which relies on visitors from both local and international markets.

The tax is expected to affect the bottom line of many companies, with some predicting a significant drop in profits.

The government has indicated that it is open to discussion on the tax, but it remains to be seen whether it will make any changes.

In the meantime, the industry is bracing itself for a challenging period, with many fearing for the future of their businesses.

The tax is a clear signal that the government is serious about funding tourism infrastructure, but it has come at a cost to the industry.

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Optimism as Goverments aids tourism

Industry is buoyant but real growth has slowed down considerably

By Shadrack Mashalaba

THE GOVERNMENT'S intention to increase funding for tourism has increased optimism about future prospects for this industry.

Government's move comes in the wake of the of the new tourism white paper entitled Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa released last week after a long-drawn process of consultations with all stakeholders in the industry.

"Satour's executive director Mavuso Msimango is happy with the Government's interest in the industry.

The new draft identifies inadequate resources and funding as a major constraint for the tourism industry and recommends an urgent review of the Government's financial contribution to tourism," says Msimango.

According to statistics, tourism's contribution to South Africa's total domestic output or gross domestic product (GDP) was four percent last year. But on the other hand, it contributed 10.9 percent to the world's total output.

The industry currently employs 550,000 people in South Africa.

For every 25 people employed in South Africa, one person is employed in the tourism sector. Its biggest budget slice comes from the Government, with the rest of the funds being raised through "bed levies". This, according to Satour, accounts for an average of R20 million a year.

Msimango says due to lack of funds and the depreciation of the rand against the American dollar, Satour has been forced to review its business plans, including staff cutbacks in some cases.

Apart from the Government, Satour says it will also solicit funding from the private sector.

"Satour's board is committed to obtaining additional funding for the organisation. We are hopeful that it will be forthcoming soon," he says.

Government support

The organisation's information director, Martin van Niekerk, says the parastatal, whose financial year ends next March, has a R248 million in its budget.

"With increased Government support we hope to recover losses made as a result of the depreciation of the rand in April. Tourism is the fourth biggest industry in the country which has the potential to earn more foreign exchange in the future," says van Niekerk.

The industry is buoyant but real growth has slowed down considerably.

"Crime aside, South Africa is no longer seen as a cheap tourist destination, because of skyrocketing accommodation rates.

"To stem this we will need to embark on an aggressive marketing strategy," he says.
Ackerman and Ball make peace

IN a far-reaching multi-million rand deal, supermarket magnate Raymond Ackerman's differences with Chris Ball's Olympic Bid Company have been settled and Pick 'n Pay has become a major sponsor of Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Games.

Details of the settlement have not yet emerged but the agreement is being hailed as a breakthrough. Mr Ackerman had made a claim for about R6-million which he had spent on the initial bidding process.

Mr Ackerman, resigned as Bid Committee chief executive and co-chairman, and as a trustee of the bid, in March 1994 after weeks of acrimony over the then bid company's right to sign an endorsement contract on behalf of the Cape Town City Council.

The move drew strong criticism, not least from Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, who had tried in vain to broker a peace deal at the time.

Bid Company sources said today the agreement - which would see Pick 'n Pay and Mr Ackerman throwing their full weight behind the Olympic effort - was an important milestone in Cape Town's bid.

Personal intervention by present chief executive of the Bid Company, Chris Ball, is understood to have been decisive in securing the deal.
Bid Company pays Ackerman

Supermarket magnate Mr Raymond Ackerman has been paid about R5.6 million of the R8m owed to him by the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company.

This is part of a reimbursement deal negotiated last year when Ackerman pulled out of the bid process under a dark cloud.

And in a separate development, Pick’n Pay yesterday disclosed that it had become a major sponsor of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company and would be sponsoring the 2004 Olympic bid process to the tune of R10m.

In September last year, the Olympic Bid Company’s chief executive officer, Mr Chris Bull, agreed to pay the costs of the former Bid Committee headed by Ackerman as reimbursement for the money Ackerman spent on Cape Town’s 2004 Olympic Bid since the inception of the Bid Committee in 1993.

At the time, the Pick’n Pay chairman said he had “personally stood surety” for a R5m loan from the Good Hope Bank and had spent about R2.8m of his “own money” to get the bid process under way.

Ackerman also said an amount of R3.5m was also outstanding for services rendered by consultants.

The payout to Ackerman, which amounted to 70% of the R8m, was paid out by the Bid Company last week, according to Ackerman’s son Gareth, who is Pick’n Pay’s managing director for group enterprise.

The Bid Company’s director of finance, Mr Mike Fuller, yesterday confirmed the payout saying the money had been raised from the company’s “ongoing sponsorship programmes”.

However, he refused to divulge the amount.

Mr Ackerman said his father was overseas and had been notified of the payment. The outstanding amount, he said, would be repaid in tranches over the next few months.

In February last year, Ackerman gave his first hint that all was not well when he announced that he was reconsidering his role in the Bid Committee he was co-chairing, because city councillors were questioning the committee’s legitimacy.

Matters came to a head when he fell out with National Olympic Congress of South Africa (Nocsa) chairman Mr Sam Ramsamy who refused to sign an agreement with the Bid Committee which would allow sponsors’ money to be freed to pursue the bid.

He finally pulled out of the bid process in May on the eve of the first board meeting of the newly constituted Bid Company.

Yesterday Pick’n Pay’s marketing director Mr Martin Rosen said the R10m sponsorship for the Bid Company had been made possible as the Ackerman/Nocsa affair had been resolved.
Pick 'n Pay in R10m Cape Olympics sponsorship bid

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Ackermans will be reimbursed the R8.5m the family ploughed into Cape Town's Olympic bid campaign and, in a separate deal, family-controlled retail chain Pick 'n Pay has committed R10m to become an official sponsor of SA's bid.

Pick 'n Pay marketing director Martin Rosen said the two deals were completely separate. He said the sponsorship deal, finalised yesterday, would have gone ahead even if the Ackermans had not been repaid because "it made sound business sense."

Pick 'n Pay group enterprises MD Gareth Ackerman said the company did not want to kill the bid, but at the same time was determined to recoup the money spent on running the bid for more than two years, including the costs of major feasibility studies.

The Olympic Bid Company already had paid the bulk of the R8.5m, and the balance would be paid in instalments during the next six months. The major stumbling block in the tough, months-long negotiations had been the bid company's lack of funds.

Rosen said that the sponsorship was only for the SA bid. Pick 'n Pay now joins an elite group of sponsors for the SA bid, including Mercedes Benz, SAA, Unifrac, Collex, Sun International, Nedbank, IBM, V&A, Waterfront, Eskom, Primedia, Ad Display, Siemens and Opportunity.
Driving along a six-lane highway in the suburbs of Atlanta, listening on the radio to how people in the city are worrying about how they will cope with the influx of visitors, one cannot but ask the same question of another city that is hoping to host the Olympic Games in eight years' time.

Atlanta has a well-developed infrastructure of highways, public transportation including buses and underground train service, both of which run efficiently, if a three-day visit sponsored by South African Airways is anything to go by.

But what the city has is clearly not enough, as buses are brought in from as far away as New York, to help transport residents and visitors to the capital of the "new South".

That is equivalent to driving Johannesburg municipal buses to Cape Town to assist that city with moving people around with their great influx if they are awarded the Games in 2004.

Of course, Cape Town will then have traffic jams it has never dreamt of as all the buses and cars try and negotiate the city's few major routes as regular workers continue going to work. Unless they do as Atlantans do, with stories abounding of people fleeing town and renting out their houses, with costs estimated at $800 (more than R3 400) a day for the duration of the Games.

But the influx of travelers is not the only problem. In the lead-up to the Games, the city is giving itself a major facelift, resurfacing many of the roads downtown, which is causing congestion all of its own.

The last seven years since Atlanta knew it would host the Games appear to have achieved very little, as everyone rushes around in a mad flurry to resurface the last roads, or put the finishing touches to the Olympic Stadium.

The concern of being finished in time was epitomised by a cartoon in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution showing the city's Olympic mascot Izzy, juxtaposed with a roadworker digging furiously with his jackhammer. Above the mascot, the slogan read "Izzy", and above the roadworker "Isn't ready".

People everywhere are also talking about how the city will manage to transport the extra half a million people they anticipate will want to move around the city each day to see the various events.

That is in addition to all the Atlantans who will want to go places, if not to work, when the Games begin at the end of next week.

There have also been other polls hanging over the city which came in for strong criticism, like giving its homeless a one-way ticket out of town.

A court case brought an end to that and now the homeless are being employed in various capacities including selling drinks and Olympic novelties on street corners.

But that is not to say that people are opposed to the Games being hosted in their city. It seems to have sparked a patriotic fervor.

Coupled with a trip on Independence Day, everyone seems obsessed with ensuring the Games in Atlanta will be a success.

Another feature where South Africans will have to catch up in a big way if they want to host such an event successfully is in levels of service, whether you are visiting a posh downtown hotel or a sleazy suburban burger joint.

It is normal to be greeted almost as a long-lost friend, initially one is sceptical coming from paranoid South Africa, until you realise it is simply the "southern way"; an all-encompassing description that embraces much of what happens in this wonderful city.

Atlanta is so wonderful, and indeed so well situated geographically, that it is understood that South African Airways is considering using its Hartfield Airport, the country's second busiest airport (after Chicago's O'Hare) as a destination for direct flights from South Africa.

Those who are part of the Cape Town bid are already in close contact with officials in Atlanta who were part of their bid, in the hope of finding out what it takes to land the Games successfully.

But if Cape Town's bid is successful, a huge task lies ahead as they set about rebuilding the Mother City.
Study Games contract
Top Swiss Lawyers to

Michael Morris

Olympic Bid

Atlanta

from 10.5.96 (282)
Levels of service in tourism a drawback

Deborah Fine

SA's comparatively poor level of service in the hospitality and tourism industry was one of the reasons behind the recent decrease in foreign tourists visiting the country. Hospitality Industries Training Board executive director Tony Anšara said yesterday.

He said the enormous potential of the international tourist market — which had brought in N$12bn in foreign exchange last year — would not materialise if the industry failed to deliver the same level of service as world-class competitors. Statistics had shown 47% of Far East visitors were especially critical of service levels in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, and would not recommend South Africa as a tourist destination.

In view of this, Anšara said the hospitality industry would have to reassess training needs to deliver service standards comparable with the world's best.

To ensure this goal was met, the board had developed performance standards for operators, providing the basis for the development of a workforce qualified in accordance with nationally agreed standards.

Meanwhile, the policy and decision-making body of the education department has approved the framework of a new matric subject: travel and tourism, following extensive lobbying by the travel and tourism industry to develop service standards.

The subject will be based on the travel and tourism programme established last year by the American Express Foundation South Africa, which will be rolled out by local tourism companies and the hospitality industry.
‘Parasite advertisers’ may face charges over Olympic logo

Sports officials are meeting to discuss the legal protection of five-ring symbol

BY CHERYL HUNTER

Publications and marketers which have illegally used the Olympic Games five-ring symbol may face criminal charges for similar indiscretions in future if a meeting planned between top sporting officials this week is successful.

Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, Trade Minister Alec Erwin and Grinaker Sports Management chairman Clive Grinaker (marketing agents for the National Olympic Committee of South Africa) are meeting to discuss the possibility of legislating to make the use of logos or symbols covered in the Trade Marks Act a criminal offence.

It happened during the Comrades - Nike urged runners to wear their logo during the race despite Reebok having pumped thousands of rands in sponsorship into the event.

Now it’s happening again. Companies are using the Olympic Atlanta emblem, associating themselves with the games and, in the words of Grinaker’s lawyers, “trading on the goodwill surrounding the games and representing to the public that they are an authorised sponsor.”

The latest publication of Sports Illustrated, which claims to be the “Fan’s Guide to the Olympic Games”, was pulled from the shelves last Wednesday after the magazine was informed of the incorrect usage of the symbol.

Grinaker calls it “parasite advertising” and claims that the 10 sponsors of the South African Olympic team, who each paid R2.5-million to use the logo as official sponsors, have said they are hesitant about sponsoring the team for the 2000 games in Sydney.

“They are asking why they should spend so much money when other companies are using the same symbols for nothing,” Grinaker said.

Should these companies decide to withdraw sponsorship, the R50-million expected to train athletes for the next games will not be forthcoming.

“This sponsorship money keeps us independent of the Government and enables us to train athletes properly. Without it, there simply would be no funds for training because the Government does not have the resources,” he said.

“Sports Illustrated made their money on the issue with plenty of advertising by companies who wanted to be associated with the games and they were on the shelves for two weeks.

“Likewise, Spar used the logo and associated themselves with the Olympics before withdrawing it from their stores last week,” Grinaker said.

His worry is that companies will continue to act illegally as long as the sponsoring companies are not adequately protected by the law.

“These glory-seekers will continue to steal from our athletes and put nothing into the future of these men and women until it becomes a criminal offence for them to do so,” he said.

Independent Newspapers recently paid R100 000 for the rights to publish an official souvenir programme to the games.
COUNCILLORS TO DECIDE ON BID

Huge Olympic bill for city

CAPE TOWN city councillors will negotiate this month the exact amount the city will have to pay to help cover the costs of the Olympics before deciding whether to support the bid. Local Government Writer PETER DENNEHY reports.

The city will have to pay the lion share of the R294 million the six new municipalities must come up with should Cape Town city councillors decide this month to support the Olympic bid.

The reason the city will have to shoulder a large share of the burden is that most of the new venues and facilities will be within the city's boundaries.

August 15 is the deadline for the Olympic Bid Company to make its submission to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on how the Games will be staged.

The three volumes of the Bid Book, which outlines how the Games will be staged, is being printed.

The council undertaking means that should the city win the bid, it will immediately sign a contract to organise the Games along the lines set out in the Bid Book.

Negotiations on how the financial burden will be shared between the six municipalities, as well as Paarl and Stellenbosch, will take place later this month.

Yesterday, deputy city treasurer Mr Peter Lever outlined to the councillors what had been decided so far.

He said the costs the provincial, metropolitan and local governments will be expected to share between September next year and September 2004 will amount to R735 million.

It represents only 10% of the total capital budget, and it will cover local and provincial governments' share of the costs of competition venues (R298m), training venues (R112m) and municipal services infrastructure (R325m).

The provincial government has agreed to take on 30% of the R735m cost, which comes to R220,5m. The Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) has been approached to match that.

Lever said the CMC executive committee "more or less went along with that yesterday".

That left 40% of the R735m to be shared among the six new municipalities. Paarl and Stellenbosch will also be asked to help cover the costs as some of the venues will be situated there.

Lever would not say how much city officials thought its share should be.

However, he indicated there is a possibility that the city's share will be limited to "about what we are spending now each year" on new sports infrastructure, which is about R20m.

Lever felt the Games will be affordable for local government because central government was taking on much of the spending.

He believes the government has been persuaded to provide an overarching guarantee to pick up the tab should the private sector renege on any of its R1.7 billion Olympic capital spending commitments.

The private sector will be expected to chip in R384m as its share of spending on sports venues, over R1bn for the athletes' and officials' villages, and R256m for the broadcasting centres.

Assistant city legal adviser Mr Howard Rith said the government should be the bid's "banker of last resort".

He hoped that President Nelson Mandela would sign a guarantee underwriting the bid.
Arrears ‘bad for Bid’
Rethink may be needed, council warned

MICHAEL MORRIS
on the Olympic Bid

CITY councillors have been warned that unless the steady growth of rental and service fee arrears is arrested, Cape Town may have to rethink its commitment to hosting the Olympic Games.

Cape Town City Council’s Olympic Bid liaison officer Peter Lever said bidding alone for the 2004 Games would yield immense benefits for the region, and winning the Games would be an insatiable opportunity.

But unless the arrears problem was tackled realistically, head-on, the city could end up with an impossible burden.

It was up to local government politicians to get the message across to ratepayers that the benefits of the Games would be seriously undermined if the arrears trend was not reversed, he said.

Mr Lever was addressing a joint special session of the city’s executive and property and economic development committees yesterday.

The committees gave first-round approval to the Bid and all the contractual obligations that go with it.

One of these is payment of a US$100 000 (R522 000) deposit to the International Olympic Committee.

The full council will meet towards the end of the month to ratify today’s decisions. Approval hinges on the government providing an overarching guarantee, plus promised funding, and the finalisation of cost- and risk-sharing proposals.

These will be negotiated at a meeting of local authority representatives on July 29.

On the impact of the Olympics, Mr Lever told councillors:

“I cannot think of any other single event that we could deliberately influence that would actually boost the economy of the Western Cape for the next 10 years.

“One thing we know is that this will get us going.”

But he added: “Unless the arrears trend is reversed we will have to seriously ask ourselves whether we will have the capacity to undertake the major capital projects of the Olympics.

“We must get the message out to communities that unless we start paying our way we will lose out.

“I am not saying we must get it down to zero, but the trend must be reversed. This would give us the confidence to go ahead.”

The arrears burden, crime, the cost of post-Olympics maintenance of facilities and the cost to the city’s cleansing and greening bill for hosting the Olympics were among key issues raised by councillors yesterday.

Mr Lever said a budgetary provision of between R100 million and R230 million had been made for post-Olympics maintenance needs, but this was an important matter that required further debate between the different levels of government.

City legal adviser Howard Firth took the meeting through the technical detail of the Host City Contract, the terms of which would be binding on Cape Town if it were chosen to host the 2004 Games.

It was deemed critically important that the government provided an overarching guarantee.

“This means that if there are any losses, the government must be the banker of last resort,” he said.

In a report to the committees, Mr Lever pointed out that just as there would be a sharing of costs among local authorities, so they would also share some of the risks.

Of the total capital expenditure of R7.2 billion, the national government would pay R3.3 billion, the private sector R2.4 billion, the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games R776 million and provincial and local governments R736 million.
A HOLE IN ONE?

Scenic Knysna is on the verge of an ecotourism, investment and development boom driven by a mix of golf course, hotel and residential developments. These include:

- The Pinnacles, a R850m, 18-hole golf course, 250-room hotel and a 500-unit residential development on a 257 ha site overlooking the sea and lagoon. Though it still has to pass environmental impact assessment and plan and subdivision approval stages, it has received rezoning approval.
- The R280m Simola 18-hole golf course, with an 80-room hotel, sports complex and 60 residential units on a 200 ha site at Gouina near Knysna. The first eight holes have already been "shaped" by Jack Nicklaus, and hotel construction will begin on August 1; and
- Condev's R150m Knysna Quays project fronting the lagoon beach. Work on the project — a 70-room hotel, 3,500 m² commercial complex, 127 erven and about 80 apartments — has begun.

Other local projects include about 26 wooden chalets being built at the Heads and a R16m project to build about 900 low-cost houses.

Two regional infrastructural projects are also planned — a 20 km, R140m national road bypass above the town and the privatisation and upgrading of Plettenberg Bay's small Robberg airstrip.

Amtrak MD Graham Lindop, who recently sold the Pinnacles site to PK Development (affiliate of Thailand's Italian Thai Development Co), says facilities such as those at the Pinnacles will only succeed if Knysna is globally marketed as a tourist destination and a local airport built capable of handling jumbo jets.

California-based Ronald Fream, of the Golfplan Design Group, believes the Pinnacles "has all the attributes of becoming the most spectacular golf course development in the southern hemisphere."

Fream believes another 10-15 golf courses could be developed near Knysna, as the trend is to fly into a "core attraction" and then play other nearby courses."
Chain store boss back as major Olympic sponsor

By Sowetan Business Correspondent

Supermarket magnate Raymond Ackerman said his differences with Chris Ball's Olympic Bid Company and Ball's City_store had become a minor issue in the city's bid for 2004.

Details of the agreement had not been made public, an agreement that had been hailed as a breakthrough.

Ackerman had made a claim for about R5 million which he had spent on the visual building process. He described the bid as a joint and consensual opportunity and added that the deal was also in March 2004.

His resignation followed weeks of pressure from the bank, Oscar's, which in turn forced an agreement with the Bid Company on behalf of the Cape Town City Council.

Source: Bid company sources said that the agreement was an important milestone in Cape Town's bid.

The deal, which had been in the works since the city's first bid for the Olympic Games in 2004, was hailed as an important milestone in Cape Town's bid for the games.

Bid company sources said that the agreement was an important milestone in Cape Town's bid.
Better to have sent underprivileged athletes, writes Peter Phillips

Our Bureaucratic Olympic Squad Looks

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Our Bureaucratic Olympic Squad Looks
Top tool expert to deliver report on environmental study of $1 billion upgrade this month

**New Design**

An extensive review of the proposed new lower cable station on Toowoomba.

**Toowoomba**

In the course of conducting a feasibility study on a proposed new lower cable station at Mooral, a major cableway operating company has come up with a study that could be considered a potential game-changer for the industry. The study was conducted by a team of experts from a leading environmental consultancy firm and has been welcomed by the industry as a significant step forward.

The study, which was completed in late June, reviewed the environmental impact of the proposed cableway station and recommended a number of key improvements that could be made to the design to reduce its environmental footprint. The consultancy firm has presented its findings to the company's senior management, who have agreed to incorporate the recommendations into the design of the station.

The study highlights the importance of minimising the environmental impact of cableway operations, particularly in areas where they have a significant visual impact. The findings of the study have been welcomed by environmentalists, who have long called for greater attention to be paid to the environmental impact of cableway operations.

The company has also announced that it plans to conduct further research into the potential environmental impact of its operations, with a focus on developing new technologies that can further reduce its environmental footprint.

The study has been welcomed by the industry, with many expressing confidence that it will help to set a new standard for cableway operations.

**Environment Program**

JOHN ELAD

**Bringing in block investors to Cableyway company bids to**
Cape Town's multimillion-rand hotel boom may not be as big as forecast. After disclosures two months ago that 30 new hotels were planned, analysts now say that could be wishful thinking.

Still, hoteliers have not been discouraged from adding to the list of possible hotel projects in the Mother City.

The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry lists 24 potential projects and Gastronome MD Horst Meurer, whose company provides a "turnkey" service to the industry, recently cited 20 more in various stages of planning.

Meurer says that, in his 35 years in the hospitality industry, nowhere in the world has he seen such a quantum surge in hotel planning over such a short period. Municipal officials are now suggesting that land for suitable hotel development may soon be hard to get.

Sun International is apparently planning various budget-priced hotels with but there is not enough data to tell the industry what it needs to know about the people it hosts. Now, for the first time, Wesgro is going to undertake a comprehensive survey of the hotel industry in the Western Cape, from September.

Commissioned by the Western Cape Tourism Board, the project will finally quantify tourism's role in and significance to the area. Information gained from previous surveys, he says, was never satisfactory as it had been fragmented and offered only "smudged" data.

Wesgro's survey will look at: foreign and local tourist numbers; tourism's contribution to the gross regional product; the roles of metropolitan and rural areas; and the cash brought into the region by tourism.

Marisberg says several such studies have been done in the past, but, for instance, the 1994 Satour survey had only 800-600 questionnaires. Such a small sample, he says, can lead to distortions.

The Satour survey found that 1.1m foreign tourists visited that year, of whom 52% went to the Western Cape. By rule of-thumb, it was estimated that domestic tourism to the Cape was 10 times that of foreign tourism. Satour maintained that an extra 101 000 businessmen visited the Western Cape in the same period.

Gerald Musikanth, who chairs the False Bay Publicity Association, likewise thinks the last survey by Captour — when 1 400 questionnaires were distributed with only a 16% return — did not give a realistic picture of the number of visitors. So he welcomes the forthcoming survey.

Musikanth says there is room for lower priced family hotels in False Bay.

But he notes that False Bay had been found wanting when an international yachting competition was held there in April. Over three weeks, 700 international yachtsmen and women had been shoehorned into a limited number of hotels, lodges and caravan parks. Lodges and self-catering establishments were filled but the main shortage was in three- and four-star establishments.

LAND AUCTIONS

BOMBING BADLY

The myth that Durban's CBD would prove the exception to the decentralisation rule was exploded last week at a city land auction.

There were high hopes for a successful sale of Durban's two prime Centrum sites, strategically located on the fringe of the CBD near the Workshop shopping centre, the Reserve Bank, and the NBS.

It was believed the properties would attract interest from institutional investors and property developers and would fetch about R24m. They had been valued at R15m or more. There were only two bidders and the properties were jointly knocked down to Hans Enderle of City Lodge for a paltry R2.5m and R1 respectively.

Though there was no upset price, the auction was subject to confirmation. Disappointed, the council is almost certain to rescind the sale.

The auction's failure might not be that significant were it not for the fact that a recent auction of decentralised office sites at Westville's Westway office park realised R12.5m for 13 sites.

Take-up of sites north of the city at Mount Edgecombe's Fairways office park and Umhlanga's Gateway and La Lucia Ridge is lively. Development sites worth R45m have been sold at Fairways;
the 13 000 m² Gateway complex is sold out; and the marketing of the first of the seven phases at La Lucia Ridge (approval has been granted for 117 000 m² of offices) is attracting widespread interest.

A "deeply disappointed" Estates Department director Wim van Heerden acknowledges the decentralisation factor, but doubts this was the sole cause for the failure. "The timing was wrong. Undoubtedly, we would have achieved our price target had we sold the land when we wanted to a few years ago."

Since then, he says, the area's popularity has declined. It is competing with other areas, particularly the CBD (there is 27 000 m² of new space in Old-Mutual Centre in West Street), and other more decentralised areas. "I can understand why people prefer to work at Gateway rather than driving into the city."

Auctioneers Colliers RMS's Kevin Dunkley subscribes to the decentralisation theory. "The sale was aggressively marketed by JHI, RBMT and ourselves and there was keen interest. But the Centrum sites came on the market at a time when there are large tracts of decentralised land available. Eighteen months ago Gateway and Westway had not been announced, so any large organisation considering relocating would have targeted the CBD fringe."

Dunkley believes that unrealistically high price expectations played a part in dampening interest. "Though there was no upset price, everyone knew the council expected about R24m — though we had told them this was too high."

THE BIG CLEANUP?

Johannesburg's Southern Metropolitan Substructure (SMSS) has committed itself to improving services. The area under its jurisdiction includes the Johannesburg CBD (with Hillbrow, Jeppes Town and Troyeville) and Soweto (except Meadowlands).

 Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale should add impetus to the campaign soon by announcing six designated hawkers trading areas in the CBD. Three of the areas agreed so far are along Commissioner Street; Hoek Street and the Miami Bazaar (eastern sector of the CBD).

Southern MSS Section 59 planning and development committee chairman Parks Tau says the TMC will employ 1 000 additional street cleaners on a contract basis at a municipal union agreed wage of R50/day. There are 1 600 workers (contract and permanent) in the southern MSS, but how the new cleaners are being allocated is not clear. Wages of permanent workers are R1 500/month, almost double the R800/month paid by black-owned cleaning companies contracted by the private sector in the Carlton Hotel area. Tau says business has 'made' privatisation proposals to the TMC but these have to be discussed with unions.

According to Tau the clean-up campaign will focus on the CBD. He says the three-shift municipal cleaning programme introduced recently has not been successful. The TMC's emergency pavement repair programme in the CBD has also come under fire. The Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP), which represents city business, says the use of concrete paving blocks is unsuitable for CBD conditions.

In Soweto, R40m has been budgeted for the repair of sewers, installation of stormwater drains, and for the tarring of roads used by public transport.

According to CJP executive director Neil Fraser street cleaning and security services have been adequate in the two Business Improvement Districts (bids) — an area covering seven blocks between the Carlton Centre and the Johannesburg Sun; and around the Gencor HQ.

BRUMA'S NEW BROOM

Four of SA's largest institutions have unveiled major development plans for the Bedfordview-Bruma office node in response to growing demand — apparently being driven by "the phenomenal growth" in the travel and freight business generated by Johannesburg International airport.

One manifestation of that growth, according to property brokers Russell Marriot and Boyd Trust, is the relocation of office tenants from the prime nodes to the industrial areas of Isando, Jet Park and Route 24, where office rentals are around R25/m² gross.

Brokers Bradford McCormack & Associates claim that factory and warehouse vacancies in these areas are low enough for institutions to consider new developments to capitalise on the renewed surge in export and manufacturing activity.

They say the increased industrial activity has produced a spin-off for the Bedfordview-Bruma office and retail node. Local office vacancies were at 8,5% in May — down from 13,3% a year earlier. "Rentals are around R40/m² gross."

Now Liberty Life Properties, which owns the Eastgate shopping centre, plans to build a bridge across the R24 to link the centre with the Bruma office park. There are rumours that it also plans to develop two hotels and more offices in the vicinity, but director Eric Bernstein says little has been finalised. He promises an announcement later this year.

Ampros, which manages Fisherman's Village and the Game store at Bruma lake, will later this year (through subsidiary Amtrada) promote a R260m mixed use development called Bruma Broadway — an hotel, offices and leisure centre — on the corner of Broadway and Marcia streets on the Game side of the lake. Investors are now being sought for the project.

Last week, Abland announced that it will develop four new motor dealerships in Bruma for Sanlam Properties at a total cost of R30m.

Once the Cinderella of Johannesburg's decentralised locations, Bradford McCormack says Bedfordview-Bruma is now attracting a host of new office tenants. These include travel, airline, freight-forwarding and import/export companies as well as financial institutions, such as Sanlam and Santam. In one of the biggest Bruma deals, 1 200 m² was let to Ellerman & Bucknall, the SA subsidiary of international ferry and freight company P&O.

Dulux SA has recently established its HQ there, and other high profile tenants include Murray & Roberts, Pick'n Pay's regional HQ, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eagle Freight, Enterprise Foods, Homes & Hospital Dispensary, Rennies and Sasol. New tenants in the past two years are Air Zimbabwe, Air Tanzania, Royal Swazi Airlines, Uganda Airlines, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Consulate General of Cyprus and the Zambian National Tourist Board.

Abland MD Paul Kotze, who says motor dealerships tend to follow already established growth areas (new ones are planned in Bryanston and Kya Sands), says Bruma was chosen by Barlow Motor Investments because of the substantial new office and residential development in the area and the high volume of through traffic between Johannesburg and the East Rand.
City tour companies import state-of-the-art luxury coaches

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

A NUMBER of city tour bus companies are spending millions to boost their fleets with state-of-the-art luxury coaches kitted out with the latest in hi-tech audio visual systems and safety features.

With increasing numbers of European tourists choosing South Africa as a holiday destination, coach operators are now "fleetin-up" for the coming summer tourist season.

Three companies alone are to take delivery of 30 new luxury coaches this year. The vehicles incorporate features aimed at elevating coach travel to the highest international standards.

Springbok Atlas said yesterday that it was to take delivery of 18 new coaches at the end of August.

The new purchases would complement the 12 new coaches bought last year, bringing the company's total investment in new luxury coaches to R30 million, said managing director Mr Andy Miles. ProTours' chief accountant Mr Pieter Bezuidenhout said the company was importing 10 luxury coaches from Brazil.

It had decided to import fully built-up coaches to "relieve the pressure" on local coach builders who were struggling to keep up with the increased demand for luxury coaches.

"Since October last year to August, we will have increased our fleet by 22 new luxury coaches at a cost of about R24m. "They are fully luxury with a four-star grading and incorporate air conditioning, heaters, a toilet and a PA system," Bezuidenhout said.

Mr Pierre Steyn, incoming manager of tour operations for Ikapa Tours & Travel, said the company would be taking delivery of its first two luxury coaches in September.

"These are top-of-the-range, 44-seater coaches which cost about R1.3m each with PA systems, TV monitors and fridges," Steyn said.
### City Sets R1.49m Price for Olympic Bid

**Proposed Venues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>R10m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic Park</td>
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City and Town Management teams are preparing a proposal to host the 2028 Olympic Games. The proposal includes a mix of existing and new venues, with the aim of meeting the Olympic requirements. The total cost of the proposed venues is R1.49m, which is slightly above the Olympic's recommended budget. The proposal will be discussed by the city council in the coming weeks.
Sun International targets Atlantic City

Area Vermaas (22)

SUN International’s SA’s offshore arm is vying to build a $700m casino resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Chairman Buddy Hawton said yesterday that Sun International Hotels was still engaged in the early stages of planning and was trying to secure land before putting its licence bid together.

The plans follow the New York-listed company’s decision to build a $300m resort, the Mohegan Sun, on an Indian reservation in Connecticut. The resort is due to open in October.

Sun International Hotels is also expanding its Paradise Island resort in the Bahamas at a cost of $275m.

In February the offshore arm raised $340m in an 8-million share offer in the US to finance part of the Mohegan Sun and Paradise Island plans, and to repay borrowings.

Sun International has previously said its expansion would focus on offshore developments. Sun International SA is still planning to bid for several licences in SA, applying for its first in Mpumalanga this week.
R3m cutback shock for Captour

By TOM HOOD

CAPE Town's official tourism bureau, Captour, was warned this week that it may receive only R1.5-million from the city council towards its R4.8-million budget for the year.

Captour was fully funded in the past by the city but the executive committee this week decided on a cutback to R1.5-million, a figure the city council will be asked to approve on July 30.

Captour asked for a grant towards the R615 800 cost of its Adderley Street visitors' information bureau and marketing and promotional expenses of R4.3-million.

The committee agreed to pay the costs of the bureau but only R800 000 towards the marketing budget, based on the council's 35 percent proportion of voters in the Cape metropolitan area.

The chief executive of Captour, Gordon Oliver, said the council's grant would "keep us afloat" while Captour approached five other municipalities and the Cape Metropolitan Council for funds.

"We are reasonably confident they will support us," he said.

In a letter to the executive committee, he said he expected the metropolitan council to accept at least 50 percent of the cost, leaving R3-million to be shared by the other substructures.

"The funds were vital if province was to remain a major tourist destination. "Working under our current budgetary limitations severely short-changes our city and its people," he said.

Tourism was the industry with the best potential for generating new money and enlarging the city's tax base through business, expansion and development.

"If we do not market ourselves aggressively we will simply not be able to meet these needs and our tourism industry, currently contributing R3-billion a year, will wither and die."
Airpport revamp in jeopardy

CHERÉ BIGNAUT
Staff Reporter

This BIC upgrade to Cape Town International Airport, which is crucial to the city's 2004 Olympic bid, could be jeopardised if a dispute over additional power supply to the airport is not resolved soon.

Airport engineer Louis Pretorius said no extensions would be possible if Eskom's electricity supply to the airport was not increased soon. The airport was already using most of its supply.

But an ongoing row between Eskom and residents of Belhar over the erection of overhead power lines between Belhar and airport substations is threatening to jeopardise the urgently needed power boost.

Eskom is one of 12 principal sponsors of Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid. The sponsors will provide a total of R65 million for the bid process.

The critical date for the completion of the 66kV circuit power lines to serve the airport is in February next year, but Eskom has not been able to get the green light for construction from the Belhar community.

Eskom has been trying for more than a year to get the go-ahead for the project from the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC).

The CMC approved it in principle, but rejected the construction of overhead power lines through Belhar on the basis that most residents were opposed to it.

Eskom media spokesman Charles Cooper confirmed that the present power supply to the airport would be insufficient.

"We cannot delay it (the construction of the new power lines) any longer," he said. "It is critical that these lines are in place by February."

Mr Cooper blamed the CMC for the delay. Eskom has already approached the new Tygerberg council in a desperate attempt to get the CMC decision overturned.

Mr Cooper said the cost of laying underground cables in the one-kilometre stretch through Belhar would add another R3.2 million to the cost of the project, which was "unacceptable" to Eskom.

"An independent survey of the 48 affected households has shown 62 percent of them approve of the overhead lines," he said.

This was disputed by the CMC chief of engineering services, Chris Atkins, who said the survey showed that a number of residents remained opposed to the lines.

The alleged lack of support was confirmed by Desmond Poole, former Belhar mayor and chairman of the local residents' association, who said the public participation process had not been broad enough.
Over 30 local organisations have expressed extreme concern over the lack of proper environmental assessment surrounding Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid. JOHN YEELD, Environment Reporter, investigates.

A GROUP of more than 30 local organisations have told International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, they are "extremely concerned" that Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games is not based on proper environmental impact assessments.

And one of them - the Botanical Society - has told Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee chief executive Chris Ball that reference to it in the city's draft Bid Book for submission to the IOC in August is "misleading".

Lee Jones, the Botanical Society's coordinator: search and rescue project, told Mr Ball in a strongly worded letter that while the society has been participating in the Bid process and in the environment working group, this did not constitute support for the Bid.

The comments in the draft version of Cape Town's Bid Book relating to Theme Four (the environment) were "misleading and of grave concern", Ms Jones said.

The groups mentioned in the draft have been working together to ensure that the environment is not forgotten in the flurry of big finance and corporate interest for the Bid.

"It would appear, however, that this may have been a significant mistake on some levels since the Bid Company's phrasing of issues ... is ambiguous.

"It appears erroneously as if we, as the Botanical Society, individually and as a part of the working group, have been supporting the Bid ...

"Should the name of the Botanical Society appear in the final draft of the Bid Book without unambiguous statement that the Society's participation does not under any name constitute support for the bid, it will be construed as prevarication and a misrepresentation of fact."

This concern is echoed in the letter to Mr Samaranch, signed by Marlene Laros of the Wildlife Society on behalf of the Olympics Environment Working Group, a collective of more than 30 organisations concerned with the environment and development-related issues.

The letter states that South Africa will be submitting a bid for Cape Town to host the 2004 Olympics before any environment impact assessments (EIAs) have been completed.

Such EIAs are accepted environmental practice in South Africa for any large-scale or high-impact development projects.

"Our sector is committed to ensuring ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development.

"We have agreed to be involved in a process of environmental evaluation after submission of the Bid.

"However, we are extremely concerned that the decision to bid to host the Olympics in 2004 was not based on any EIAs.

"We must impress on you that our involvement in any aspect of the bid does not constitute support for Cape Town bidding for, or hosting of, the Olympic Games in 2004," said the letter.

The IOC had instituted "environment" as the third pillar of Olympicism, the letter noted. The IOC had also adopted the principle of including environmental considerations and obligatory ecological studies in the process of evaluating cities bidding to host the Games.

"As organisations committed to ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development, it is our collective opinion that EIAs should be the basis on which the decision is made to host the Olympic Games," said the letter.

Olympic Bid Company planners have reaffirmed their commitment to comprehensive environmental impact assessments, engaging the green lobby in finding sustainable solutions and advancing the cause of ecological preservation.

The planners say local government planning over several years, into which the bids plans have been integrated and which give shape to the bid, follows the key principles of nationally and internationally recognised environmental philosophy.

At the heart of the debate is criticism from environment and development organisations that the Bid Company is submitting the bid for the 2004 Games without having done Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) within the terms of the accepted Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) framework.

But the Bid Company argues it is committed to ongoing site-specific EIAs, as well as an ongoing strategic assessment (which goes beyond International Olympic Committee requirements) and to involving the non-governmental sector in planning and carrying them out. This has been made clear to the IOC in the Bid Book, the contractual document that is the basis of Cape Town's bid.

There is palpable frustration in the Bid Company at what it perceives to be an inability or unwillingness on the part of the environmental lobby to engage constructively on the basis of principled negotiation, for the sake of the environment they are so eager to preserve.

Olympic Bid Company environmental planner Mary Jane Morris said the "principles underpinning the Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) - created by metropolitan local government planners - correspond very well with the principles of IEM: public participation, informed decision-making, accountability, checks and balances in terms of development and undertaking appropriate development in appropriate locations."

"So the fact that the Olympic plan is founded on the RDP, the MSDF and (another similar plan) the Metro South East Plan means we are very much in line with the philosophy incorporated in the IEM."

It was the principles of IEM that were critical to its successful application.

"Some argue that if you do not follow the
Upgrade to airport on hold as suburb digs in its heels

Cape Town - A major upgrade to Cape Town International Airport, crucial to the city's 2004 Olympic bid, could be jeopardized if a dispute over additional power supply lines is not resolved soon.

Airport spokesman Colin Cooper confirmed that the current power supply to the airport would be sufficient in the light of the proposed developments. "We cannot delay the construction of the new power lines any longer. The demand at the airport and in the surrounding airport areas is growing," Cooper said.

The upgraded power lines would extend the main grid to accommodate the airport's growing power requirements. However, the suburb of Table View is opposed to the extension, saying it would have "unacceptable" consequences.

The extension is part of a proposal to upgrade the airport's power supply to meet the increasing demands of the airport and the surrounding area. However, the residents of the suburb have expressed concern about the impact on their quality of life.

The airport's power supply is currently inadequate to meet the growing demands of the airport and the surrounding area. The upgrade to the airport's power supply would extend the main grid to accommodate the increased demand.

The Airport Development and Operations Committee (ADOC) approved the construction of the new overhead power lines through Table View, but residents are opposed to the extension. The extension is part of a proposal to upgrade the airport's power supply to meet the increasing demands of the airport and the surrounding area.

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Who will pick up tab for Bid?

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

LOCAL authorities meet on July 29 to reach agreement over the cost-sharing arrangements for the city's Olympic Bid.

In an important step yesterday, the Cape Metropolitan Council's executive committee recommended that it pick up 30 percent of the local and provincial government's share of hosting the Games in 2004. In terms of the current budget this will amount to R220 million.

This amount also matches the figure already pledged by provincial government.

Local and provincial government are being asked to put up R735 million towards the estimated R7.2 billion capital expenditure. A successful bid will generate.

Other sources of income will be national government, the private sector and the organising committee for the Games, which national government expected to provide an over-arching guarantee for the total cost.

A proposal which will be put forward at the July 29 meeting is that the City of Cape Town should put up R149 million (20 percent of the local/provincial government share), Tygerberg R44 million (six percent), Northern and Southern substructures R64 million together, Eastern and Helderberg R29 million (four percent), and the Paarl and Stellenbosch councils also a joint R29 million.

Agreement on cost-sharing has to be reached by July 31 for the bid to proceed.

During a briefing session, deputy city treasurer Peter Lever told the CMC's executive committee that one of the biggest risks was construction cost inflation if demand for construction exceeded supply. He said this could impact seriously on local government, which had "less elastic" budgets than central government.

There also had been a plea to central government for VAT exemption for Olympic projects because the tax added 14 percent to all the costs. This had not been resolved yet.

Further costs were the high deposits required by the International Olympic Committee (a total of $5 million (R21.5 million) by 2004) and post-Games operating costs of large facilities such as the indoor arena, swimming complex and Olympic stadium.

These three facilities, which are regional in nature, are likely to fall under the control of the CMC after the Games.

Mr. Lever said a Joint Olympic Funding and Development Agency (Jofada) would be formed to manage Olympic funding.
Cape Town rated tops as foreign tourists' prime destination in SA

ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporter
288
ARG 23/7/96

CAPE Town has advanced its position as prime destination for foreign tourists to South Africa, with figures for the first half of this year showing an increase of 37 percent over the same period last year.

Statistics issued by the Cape Chamber of Commerce show the Western Cape "sitting pretty" as foreign tourists flock to enjoy its scenic beauty and favourable exchange rates.

Nick Malherbe, chairman of the tourism committee for the Cape Chamber, said: "The number of overseas flights has increased dramatically to at least three flights a day, with consistently full aircraft."

Continuing on a wave of optimism, Mr Malherbe said: "A 1996 total in excess of 400 000 overseas visitors and 1.6 million domestic visitors through Cape Town Airport is envisaged.

Cape Regional Director of the South African Tourism Board Theuns Vivan said the "overall economic climate and the amount of disposable income" has impacted positively on the tourism industry in the Western Cape.

Of the 1.1 million overseas visitors to South Africa last year, 49 percent visited the Western Cape.

Key statistics from the South African tourism industry show that the average international tourist spends R16 100 during a visit to South Africa.

This figure includes airfare, prepaid expenses, accommodation, meals, gifts, transport and entertainment.

In 1995, tourism earned South Africa a whopping R13 billion and was the fourth highest earner of foreign exchange.

However, James Seymour, head of the research and information department at the South African Tourism Association in Pretoria, was less enthusiastic about the growth of tourism nationally.

"Growth was relatively slow and projected increases didn't materialise. There was only a 2.5 percent increase in cumulative total growth in the foreign visitor market."

He said growth had been "phenomenal" last year and that it was unreasonable to expect a substantial increase "on those figures".
San Vito developing its second sectional-title hotel in Cape Town

By Marc Hasenfuss

Cape Town — San Vito Development, which has been resuscitated after serving a two-year suspension from the JSE, has concluded negotiations for a second hotel of sectional-title suites.

The company's newest venture, the Pier Place Club Suites Hotel in Cape Town's CBD, is a joint venture with Seeff Holdings and Protea Hotels. The development is in line with San Vito's new shareholders’ intention to transform existing properties into hotels.

San Vito, which previously traded as Faircape Homes, was suspended in May 1994 after a Reserve Bank investigation into the company after a multimillion-rand foreign-exchange scam.

Last month a consortium of high-profile businessmen snapped up a controlling stake in the property development company. They included Dennis Davis, the academic and television personality, Morton Kaplan, the former chairman of Cape of Good Hope Bank, and Phillip Joffe, the financial director of Spur.

They acquired their stake from the liquidators of the estate of Saverio Polero, the former controlling shareholder who fled the country on hearing of the Reserve Bank investigation.

Allan Groll, the managing director of San Vito, said work had begun to convert the AA Life Building in Cape Town's Tuldagh Square into the Pier Place Club with 56 sectional-title suites.

The company's sectional-title Bantry Bay Hotel opens for business next month.

Groll said the Bantry Bay Hotel was heavily sold and that judging from bookings for the summer months the development should exceed the returns of its projections when it was launched.

He said the plan for the Pier Place Club Suites was to create a hotel with a business club atmosphere. The sectional-title suites would be sold to investors with an initial projected return of 14 percent on 65 percent occupancy.

"Protea Hotels in the immediate area are currently running in excess of 75 percent, so we don't believe that our predictions of 65 percent are in any way optimistic. "We've already proven that our predictions for the Bantry Bay were far too conservative," Groll said.

San Vito's shares rose 3c to 43c on the JSE yesterday.
Councillors angry as Bid company doesn’t arrive

CHENÉ BIGNAULT
Staff Reporter

CAPE Town’s Olympic Bid company, which wants local authorities to put up big money to sponsor the 2004 bid, has infuriated the Eastern substructure by failing to arrive for a meeting to explain its plea for cash.

A bid company delegation was to address the full council of the Eastern substructure at its monthly meeting last night, but did not arrive.

The presentation would have been to inform councillors of the financial implications for the metropole; to enable them to make an informed decision about the substructure’s possible contribution.

The bid company wants the substructure to commit R14 million over the next eight years. The contract must be signed before July 31 in time for the formal submission of the bid on August 15.

"The council was very disappointed and, we felt, if this was going to be their attitude, then they must not expect a financial contribution from us," said mayor Jacobus Brynard.

He said the bid company had sent a fax to each of the councillors to say they would not be able to attend the meeting because of a communication problem, for which the company accepted full responsibility.

Executive chairman Daniel de la Cruz, who has been dealing directly with the company’s representatives, also expressed his disappointment with the company, saying the “ball was now in their court.”

He said the bid company expected money, but did not appear to be serious: “How can they expect the council to make a final decision if we have not been properly informed?”

Local and provincial government are being asked for R735 million towards the estimated R7,2 billion capital expenditure a successful bid will cost.

The bid company said today it accepted full responsibility for the lapse, and had apologised to each councillor.

"There was an unfortunate misunderstanding for which we accept full responsibility," a spokesperson said.

Bid company financial director Mike Fuller, who is in Atlanta, would send a full financial motivation to Eastern substructure councillors today, she said.
Cape Town. The city's Olympic Bid company, which wants local authorities in the area to put up big money to sponsor the 2004 bid, has infuriated the Eastern substructure by failing to arrive for a meeting to explain its plea for cash. A delegation was scheduled to address the full council of the Eastern substructure at its monthly meeting on Tuesday night, but they did not turn up.

The purpose of the presentation was to inform the councillors about the financial implications of the bid for the metropole and enable them to make an informed decision about the substructure's possible contribution. The bid company wants the substructure to put up R14-million, and the contract has to be signed before the end of the month in time for the formal submission of the bid on August 15.

"The council was very disappointed and we felt if this was going to be their attitude, then they must not expect a financial contribution from us," said mayor Jacobus Brynard.

Exco chairman Daniel de la Cruz, who has been dealing with the company representatives, also expressed his disappointment with the company, saying the "ball was now in their court.

He said the bid company expected money, but did not appear to be serious about the whole issue. "How can they expect the council to make a final decision if we have not been properly informed?" he asked.

He added that R14-million was a very large sum of money, which the substructure could not afford. Local and provincial government are being asked to put up R735-million towards the estimated R7,2-billion capital expenditure a successful bid will cost.

Agreement on cost-sharing has to be reached by July 31 for the bid to proceed.

The Olympic Bid company could not be reached for comment. - Own Correspondent.
Atlanta chaos 'good for Cape bid'

CAPE TOWN. — The logistical chaos that had marred the Atlanta games would help Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympics, a director of the city's bid committee said yesterday.

"The chaos is reinforcing Cape Town's case," Ronnie Kingwill said, describing Cape Town's plan for the Olympics as one appropriate for the developing world.

"Cape Town's proposition is not for a gigantic affair like Barcelona or Sydney. We will work within our capacity," he said. Barcelona staged the 1992 Olympics and Sydney will stage the next games in 2000.

"We don't have the accessibility for huge crowds of people that Atlanta has. There aren't enough planes flying here for one thing," Kingwill said, explaining at future games, would shift towards TV coverage from live attendance. A team from the Cape Town bid committee was in Atlanta and would study what had gone wrong between the planning stage and implementation, he said.

The International Olympic Committee will decide by September 5 next year which city will stage the 2004 Games. Athens, Rome, Stockholm and Cape Town have been tipped as favourites, but Santiago, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville, St Petersburg, Lille in France and Istanbul are also in the running," Reuters.
HEAD COUNT DROPS
F. M. 26/7/96

Foreign tourists are still visiting but the rush is over, say industry spokesmen.

The slowdown in the rate of arrivals is being blamed on high prices, poor hotel standards and rising crime, says Kessel Felnstein, director of Gillian Saunders.

She adds that these factors, along with a lack of government commitment to the tourism industry "and a national-body constrained by a low, shrinking budget," are contributing to lower growth.

Saunders predicts a small growth in the rate of foreign arrivals this year but warns this is not likely to match levels achieved last year when the influx was boosted by the Rugby World Cup.

"Statistics show foreign arrivals rose 4% in the first five months of the year with an 8% increase in arrivals from Europe and a 7% increase from the US."

Where they stay is another matter. Though some use hotels, many stay with family or friends to avoid rising hotel costs. SA Tourism Board grading scheme administrator Greg McManus says there was a 2% drop in January-June hotel occupancies this year, compared with the same period last year.

McManus, who bases his findings on the returns of the 1 069 establishments that render monthly reports, says hotels in the Western Cape were 57% full in the first quarter of this year, compared with the 67% mark in the same quarter of last year. In the year to April, all the hotels were 54.4% full, compared with 55.6% full in the first four months of last year.

Stocks Hotels group MD Bruno Corte says the foreign tourist trade has shrunk because of crime rather than high prices. "When tour operators look at your property, they also look at security to assess whether it's safe for clients."

He says hotel prices are reasonable but concedes they are high in some places such as Sandton and Cape Town's Waterfront during peak demand periods.

Tourism Business Council chairman David Wigley says hotels are not overcharging: "The average room rate achieved — not what is advertised — is not far above the inflation rate."

Wigley argues that if hotels overcharge, they lose custom and, being private sector orientated, cut prices again.

Figures released by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) tell a different story. In April, bed occupancy countrywide fell 4.5% but income rose 16.4%. In Johannesburg, bed occupancy dropped 12.2% and room occupancy 2.4% but hotel income increased by 31.6%.

In March, says the CSS, about 113 000 foreign visitors arrived here, compared with 90 000 in the same month last year and 42 000 in that month the year before; hoteliers sold 276 000 bed nights to foreign tourists (1996: 212 000; 1994: 133 000).
Major international airlines flying to Cape Town forecast that the boom in airline traffic to the city is projected to grow.

Several major carriers report heavy bookings for both inbound and outbound flights from November to April next year with many flights already fully booked.

In response to projected increase in foreign tourism to the city, several major airlines have recently boosted their flight frequencies to the city, while others have announced that increased flight frequencies will be added in the coming months.

World airlines are eyeing Cape Town as one of the world’s future major long-distance destinations. Figures forecast by the management of Cape Town International Airport project that growth will be dramatic, with the 3.6 million passengers passing through the airport last year growing to seven million by the year 2004 and 14 million by 2015.

The huge year-on-year growth could even exceed these projections, according to Henkie Taljaard, general manager of Cape Town International Airport.

He said international passengers handled by the airport during May this year soared to 56 744 compared to 25 788 for the corresponding month last year, while 46 356 passed through the International Terminals during May this year compared to 20 102 during May 1995.

Increased aircraft movements also reflected the continual growth in air traffic, said Mr Taljaard. For the period April 1994 to March 1995 there were 22 267 domestic flights, growing to 28 600 for the corresponding 1995/96 period. Regional flights increased from 982 to 1 166 with international flights growing from 531 to 640.

The airport presently handled 70 international flight departures each week to destinations in the Far East, Europe, United States, South America and Africa.

A number of airlines flying to Cape Town have indicated they will boost their weekly frequencies to coincide with the introduction of the new timetables in November.

Lufthansa’s recently introduced non-stop flight to and from Frankfurt has gained considerable support, according to Karen Duncker, the airlines marketing manager in Johannesburg. Cape Town will get a second non-stop flight next year, boosting Lufthansa’s weekly flights to five, she said.

Air France and Swissair will add a third weekly flight to its Cape Town network while KLM recently added a fourth and is planning a fifth weekly flight.

Flights options to the Far East are also being increased following the announcements by Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and SAA to increase flights in and out of Cape Town.
BOOSTING TOURISM GROWTH

For the first time, local government in the Western Cape has made specific provision in its R1.3bn metropolitan budget for tourism and economic development. Though the R4.8m allocated to the regional tourism board and the R2m for the Western Cape Investment & Trade Promotion Agency pale next to the R437m set aside for RDP projects, their inclusion in the Cape Metropolitan Council's first budget is significant.

These two categories were inadequately catered for through the subterfuge of grants in aid. Now the Local Government Transition Act empowers the council to spend money on these two functions. The "actual amounts are in compliance with a request from the provincial government and are a "drastic increase" on previous allocations, says council financial director Hein Herbst.

Captor CE Gordon Oliver says the move is "an enormous step forward. Tourism has been the province's star performer, growing by more than 60% in two years and providing 75,000 jobs." Captour, its de facto regional tourism authority, asked for an annual budget of R4.8m, rising to R10m within three years. Its budget has never exceeded R2m, whereas Durban's has long been R10m.

Western Cape Investment & Trade Promotion Agency CE David Bridgman says that unlike every other country, SA's prevented local government from contributing to economic development.

The agency, established in April 1996, is the first provincial public company to be created since the 1994 general election. Its R7m budget is controlled by a board representing provincial government, the metro council, substructures, district councils, labour and business.

The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry is against the 12% rates increase. It claims Cape Town businesses already pay higher rates and electricity tariffs than any other city in SA.

However, Mmadi notes that if rates would have rocketed were it not for a R375m subsidy from the council and the province to the six substructures - 46% of the total rates income of the metropole.

Council executive committee's chairman Pierre Uys stresses that the subsidy is just to help the new substructures on their feet and cannot be repeated every year. (See next page.)
Cape Town airport ‘will cope in 2004’

CHENE BEGNAUT
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN International Airport will have no problems in coping if the city hosts the 2004 Olympics, says airport boss Henrie Taljaard after returning from a visit to Atlanta where transport problems have plagued the 1996 Games.

Mr. Taljaard said the airport authority could not allow Cape Town’s planned airport upgrade to be delayed by a dispute on overhead powerlines through Bellair to increase the electricity supply to the airport.

“A solution will simply have to be found,” he said, referring to the dispute between Eskom and the Bellair community, which is holding up the crucial power boost for the airport.

Mr. Taljaard, who returned from a four-day visit to Atlanta last week, is confident that if Cape Town gets the nod for the 2004 Olympics next year, the company will have no difficulty in rising to the occasion in the eight-year run-up to the Games.

He said the planned R400 million upgrade of airport facilities over the next five years was crucial, whether Cape Town secured the bid or not. It was needed to cope with the dramatic increase in overseas visitors to the city. The airport has seen a 38 percent increase in international tourists in the past six months, compared with the same period last year. Over the past three months, the number of overseas visitors has increased by 24 percent over last year’s figures, which included the five games of the World Rugby Cup.

But, if we do get the bid we will obviously look at pushing forward some of the components of the five-year development plan,” he said.

Comparing Cape Town’s airport to its Atlanta counterpart, Mr. Taljaard said the basic layout of the airport compared very favourably.

The creation of additional parking space for aircraft was the most crucial change needed to meet Olympic requirements, he said.

An additional passenger terminal and more public parking garages would also be critical.
Tshawe returns from Atlanta confident
Cape Town will host the 2004 Olympics

By RODNEY HARTMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Sports Minister Steve Tshawe returned from Atlanta early yesterday in a positively upbeat mood; Cape Town, he declared, was a clear early favourite to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

"The buzz word in Atlanta is that the 2004 Games are ours to lose rather than to win," he said.

Tshawe told reporters at Johannesburg International airport that the atmosphere among influential people at the current Olympics was in favour of Cape Town as the host city in eight years' time. He had come away from meetings with government counterparts and sports officials from a number of nations with the clear understanding that he had their support.

"We played on the fact that the five Olympic rings (symbolising the continents of the world) would not be complete without Africa, as well as the transformation South Africa is undergoing," Tshawe said.

Tshawe reaffirmed the Government's support for the 2004 bid and promised that a growing number of state departments would soon be working "hand in glove" with the Cape Town bid committee, which had a high-profile delegation in Atlanta to bring the Games to South Africa.

"There is no time to lose. This is a huge operation. We have to start now to prepare for a successful hosting in 2004. It will not be for lack of international support that we lose the Games, only through our own dithering," he said.

Tshawe suggested that Cape Town should be inspired to overcome the sort of glitches being experienced in Atlanta. "The correct posture for us is not to see these problems as a negative but rather as a challenge.

"This is a victim of Atlanta's transport problems. We drove right past the Olympic stadium on the opening day and I thought the driver was taking us to Canada."

He said a busload of international dignitaries were forced to spend an hour in their vehicle without the benefit of air-conditioning.

A disgruntled Australian government official apparently used the "time to communicate" to display his anger in some shambles to the newspapers' back home via his cellphone.

TO PAGE 2

Olympics

Atlanta's problem, said Tshawe, lay not so much in a lack of fundamental logistics but rather in small but vital areas like hiring people from out of town as bus drivers. Invariably they lost their way.

The minister held "very positive" talks with his counterparts from Australia and Canada, and envisaged a greater level of support in areas of sporting expertise. This co-operation was likely to extend to "twinning" South African provinces with states and provinces in their countries.

Tshawe was effusive in his praise for South Africa's Olympians, notably Penny Heyns, whom he described as "a humble and dedicated athlete who has done a tremendous piece of work" in inspiring the entire South African contingent.

His gut feeling was that more medals would follow - not necessarily gold - and that South Africa's final tally would be anything between seven and 10.

"Our country has already made a meaningful contribution to enhancing the image of the continent in swimming. We have raised the image of our country as a continental force and dispelled the notion that we have de-Africanised ourselves."

The Olympic women's marathon, featuring South Africa's Elana Meyer, will be shown live on SABC-TV tomorrow. The race starts at 1.57pm and is expected to finish soon after 3.30pm. SABC2 is expected to cross to Atlanta about 12.30pm.

See sports pages
THE Olympic family’s torturous experience of Atlantan traffic this week underscores the value of first-hand observation by Cape Town’s bid planners encamped in the Georgia capital. In fact Atlanta’s traffic snarls were anticipated — and they do not prefigure what Cape Town may expect in 2004.

MICHAEL MORRIS
On the Olympic Bid

ONE of the most cherished illusions about the United States is that its cities are infrastructurally advanced beyond compare. Self-deprecating observations this week that Cape Town wouldn’t have a chance of matching the sophistication of an Atlanta — even with eight years to plan — betrays the error.

The latest urbanisation is arguably the South African city’s principal challenge — flight from city to suburb and the steady growth of metropolises as a whole — is their American counterparts’ biggest woe.

What happens to a city as a result of the “success” of its core is quite simply a massive loss of money and competitive decline.

Atlanta, though a prime illustration of this, is probably better off than Washington, which a leading US daily newspaper described last month as “literally crumbling from neglect and colossal financial mishandling”, with highways and bridges “falling apart.”

Even so, Atlanta’s appearance as a modern, gleaming citadel is misleading. When I visited the city last month, just two weeks before the start of the Games — its main metropolitan newspaper, Atlanta Journal and Constitution, presented a candid assessment of the metropolis’s transport capacity.

“Metro Atlanta,” it said bluntly, “is choking on traffic, literally and figuratively. It will only get worse. The six million visitors for the Olympics will provide a glimpse of what traffic will be like in the next century — when metro Atlanta’s population will exceed five million.”

This probably comes as a surprise to those South Africans who imagined this major American city possessed the very best, slickest First World transport system, well beyond the wildest dreams of the Mother City.

Couple Atlanta’s already choked road network with the city’s Olympic plan — which deliberately focused attention on the socio-economically hard-pressed inner-city as part of its developmental commitment — and the reasons for grave transport difficulties of the past week begin to emerge with greater clarity.

The clustering of venues within a tight radius of the inner-city (the opposite is true of Cape Town’s Olympic blueprint), and the siting of the Olympic Village across the distance from the main stadium and other key arenas again, Cape Town’s plan places the village and main stadium within walking distance of each other and have exacerbated the logistical headaches that have dogged the centennial Games.

A month ago the Atlanta Journal and Constitution mapped out briefly what it believed ought to be done.

It proposed that “the only way out of this polluted jam is to develop commuter rail systems, expand and upgrade MARTA (Atlanta’s underground rail system), and change suburban patterns to include more sidewalks and neighborhood stores.”

Yes, that was two weeks ago. In other words, fixing the city’s transport system was not a central element of Atlanta’s highly commercial, private sector-driven Olympic vision.

This is not to say that Atlanta’s infrastructure will not benefit from the considerable tax-dollars expected to flow from the Games, but in drawing comparisons with Cape Town’s plan, the distinction is instructive.

In the next 18 months alone, priority transport spending in the Peninsula will run to some R350 million, and accelerated transport spending over the next eight years will amount to some R900 million.

The envisaged acceleration in the planning and spending is the direct result of the Olympic bid — but the transport needs it will seek to satisfy arise from the projected growth of the city, even without the Olympics.

Finally, Atlanta’s airport — and its airport-to-city freeways — have also been presented as “intractable evidence of Cape Town’s deficiency.”

In fact, the comparison is weak: Atlanta’s Hartsfield Airport is indeed impressive, and not surprisingly, since it ranks as the second busiest in the world.

The city happens to be a major transport hub, which has nothing to do with the Olympics. What’s more, neither its excellent airport, nor its six-lane highways have in any way eased the nightmare of Olympian traffic jams.

And it’s significant that Cape Town Airport’s multi-million upgrade is needed not to match a prospective two-weeks sports bonanza. It would be September 2004, but the demands of the region’s rapidly growing tourist industry.

In assessing the Atlanta experience from the point of view of Cape Town’s bid, there is no place for cringing self-effacement.

The city’s bid planners — including director of planning Peter de Tolly — went to the centennial Games with the express purpose of learning lessons, and there have been plenty.

Certainly the International Olympic Committee’s scrutiny of bidding cities’ transport plans will, from now on, be that much more rigorous, and Cape Town’s planners will no doubt draw on their experiences of the centennial event in reviewing their own plans.

But there’s a stronger case for confidence than despondence in matching Cape Town and Atlanta.
SNARL-UP: Traffic is still a problem in Atlanta during the Olympic Games. Highways are running smoothly, but the centre is congested.

Cape Town won't see repeat of Atlanta woes

Aug 27/9/96
THE ANGRY CITY

Your mouth... it can leave a bad taste in the mouth of the sponsors of the garden. After the sponsors' money, the garden...
Main attractions fall by travel guide's wayside

BY GRAEME ADDISON

Journalists are afforded a privileged glimpse of the city centre and the historic markets. The guide's comments are often inflated, with its authors promoting themselves as experts in the field of tourism.

The city's attractions are far more important than the guide's ratings. The coverline, "The city's attractions are far more important than the guide's ratings," is misleading, as it implies that the guide's ratings are accurate and significant, whereas they are often inflated and serve the authors' self-interests.

The city's attractions are far more important than the guide's ratings, as they provide a more authentic insight into the city's culture and history. The guide's ratings are often inflated, with its authors promoting themselves as experts in the field of tourism.

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Protea blooms in Bantry Bay

PROTEA Hotels has won the contract to operate the new R185-million President Hotel in Cape Town amid stiff competition from other local and international hospitality groups.

The hotel, of four-star standard, will be developed on the site of the old President Hotel in Bantry Bay and will consist of 347 fully furnished rooms and suites. Each suite will have up to three bedrooms, a living area and a kitchen.

By ZILLA EFFRAT

So far sales of these units as sectional title investments total R80-million. Owners have the right to occupy their units for 30 days a year. During the rest of the year, Protea will let these out as normal hotel rooms and owners will earn a return determined by occupancy levels.

When sales started six months ago, units were going for between R246 000 and R280 000. According to Denmark, the Cape-based sales agents, prices have since risen by 15% to 25%.

The hotel, which will take on Protea's Premier brand, is scheduled to open in the last quarter of 1997 or in early 1998 and will have two restaurants, conference facilities, a gymnasium, swimming pool and on-site parking. The project, financed by Sycrets, will be built by Murray & Roberts, starting in August.
Trevor Industry says winter downturn better

Andrew Gillenham
Crime Says Enemy of Cape Town

Violence needs to be curbed if this is to be successful, warns City Lameke from

Olympics

As South Africa's entry point for the Olympic Games, Cape Town is expected to host a significant number of athletes and officials. However, the city's security concerns remain a major issue.

"There are concerns about the safety and security of athletes and officials during their stay in Cape Town," said City Lameke. "We need to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to prevent any incidents."
Hotel group buys into lodges

HOTEL group Southern Sun, owned by SA Breweries, has invested R30m in cash and equity to acquire a 10.6% share in Conservation Corporation Africa, the largest private game reserve and lodge operator in Africa.

Southern Sun Group MD Ron Stringfellow said the group had always seen game lodges as playing an important role in the tourism package. The deal would enable both firms to leverage joint marketing and sales synergies.

The group would be happy to expand its investment in the corporation in time. All further eco-tourism sector acquisitions would be integrated into the corporation's portfolio.

The deal would afford the companies greater flexibility in taking advantage of acquisition opportunities as they would be able to integrate hotel and game lodge interests into their portfolio.

Corporation deputy chairman Alan Bernstein said the company would acquire Southern Sun's game lodge operations - Zulu-land Tree Lodge, Bongani Mountain Lodge and Tau Game Lodge.

It would start operating the properties from September 1. The group would then have 19 lodges in Africa, including lodges in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar. The corporation, valued at R300m, planned to list on the London Stock Exchange or a US exchange in the next 18 months.

Bernstein expected turnover in its current financial year to end June 1997 to be about R150m.

Southern Sun Group, which reported earnings of R114m (R71m) in the year to March, will start managing the corporation's Mayfair Court Hotel in Nairobi later this year.
Olympic bid go-ahead will depend on council cost-sharing.

CAPE TOWN — Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games will proceed only if agreement can be reached on cost-sharing between local authorities, the Cape metropolitan council and provincial government, the city council decided yesterday.

However, councillors voted unanimously to proceed with the bid on condition that cost-sharing arrangements were finalised. A further condition was that central government issued an "unfettered over-arching guarantee" for the games.

At a meeting — held partially in camera — with provincial planning MEC Limpie Pick, parties involved failed to reach agreement on the percentage of costs and risks each should take responsibility for.

Saleem Mowzer of the ANC said a report back off Pick's meeting should be given in committee, and the media and public were asked to leave.

When they returned, an amendment was moved that the submission of the bid file be withheld until cost-sharing arrangements had been finalised to the satisfaction of the Cape Town city council.

During the ensuing debate, several councillors expressed concern about security aspects within Cape Town in the light of the bomb explosion in Atlanta where this year's Olympics are being held.

The need for an improved public relations profile for the bid company was also mentioned. — Sapa.