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1996

AUGUST — OCT.
Council supports Games bid

Possible debt load a major concern

PETER GOosen
Staff Reporte

THE Southern Substructure Council will support the Olympic bid, but will strike a hard bargain before it parts
with its R222-million share of the cost, the council decided this week.

In a lengthy debate on the Olympic bid, councillors said more of the facilities for the Games should be built
within the boundaries of the southern substructure.

The Olympic debate was sparked by a motion by a councillor Herbert
Syre that a referendum on the Olympic bid be held in the Southern Substructure.

Mr Syre stressed he was not against the Games, but said that those members of the public who were concerned
about the cost, had a right to make their views known.

The bid had originated with the Cape Town City Council which was
not an elected body at the time. The Southern Substructure's portion
of the costs would be R22 million over seven years, excluding the post-
Games maintenance costs for facilities within the substructure.

Councillor Neville Riley said the Olympic bid should have the support of the substructure but felt that the
council should have a businesslike approach to the issue.

Mr Riley, commenting on the Zeekoevlei issue, said the bid team had told
the council that a lake like Zeekoevlei could not be used for rowing
events. He pointed out that it was clear from television coverage that
the rowing events in Atlanta had taken place on a lake.

It would be far more beneficial to

the southern substructure for rowing
events to take place on an upgraded -
and cheaper - Zeekoevlei than in "a
hole in the ground at Wingfield."

Peter Gabriel said there was a great need for sporting amenities in the
substructure's disadvantaged areas, amenities which the Olympic Games
could provide.

Jobs would also hopefully flow from the bid, he said, emphasising that the
bid stood a good chance of being successful and that the substructure
should take advantage of the opportunities offered by hosting the Games.

William Stibbe said what was worrying people was the possibility of the
substructure being landed with a tremendous debt burden at the end of the
Games. However, he said, it was too late to hold a referendum.

During the debate the council was
told that it had to be represented at a
meeting where substructures would
meet with the bid committee to sign
the final documents agreeing to pay
their share of the costs.

The council elected Mr Riley, exco
chairman Graham Lawrence, Mr
Gabriel and Nicki Holderness to rep-
resent the council and empowered
them to get the best possible deal
they could.

After this meeting, Mr Lawrence
said no final decision on the council's share had been made. The com-
mittee was due to go back to the coun-
cil and report. He stressed that the
council had not yet formally agreed to
pay their share and there would be
further negotiation on the amount to
be paid.

The council felt that savings could
be made so that its share could be
reduced.
Cape Metro Council endorses Olympic bid

Offer of 30% of costs of W Cape provincial, local government share.

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

The Cape Metropolitan Council has unanimously endorsed the Olympic bid with an offer to put up 30 percent of the costs to be carried by provincial and local government in the Western Cape.

At yesterday’s monthly meeting, the CMC’s executive committee chairman, Pierre Uys, urged his fellow councillors to renew their commitment to the bid and to endorse the 30 percent component of the R735-million budget they are being expected to share.

Mr Uys said the Cape metropolitan area would be getting more out of the bid than it was putting into it, citing the R288 million from national government for public transport and a further R325 million for bulk services.

He said supporting the bid also meant accepting responsibility for the costs and risks attached to the bid. This meant taking political and technical responsibility.

The CMC also needed to take a leading role in the bid and to stop complaining that it was not being consulted over issues. “Let’s be proactive.”

Frank van der Velde of the ANC expressed his party’s happiness with the bid, saying that those who supported the bid should be more public in their endorsement. He said detractors tended to write letters to the newspapers and attend meetings, thereby “making a noise”.

Mr Van der Velde also attacked the Wildlife Society for a letter which he said aimed to bring back influx control to Cape Town under the guise of environmental concern.

Mr Van der Velde said he found it atrocious that the Wildlife Society expressed concern about a potential influx of people attracted by the economic benefits of the bid “in the name of the environment”. “Let them focus on central government planning and control to ensure that development is dispersed throughout the country,” he said.

Speaking for the Democratic Party, Roger Bulley said it was a happy occasion where all parties within the CMC were in agreement.

“The Olympics would be a quantum leap forward for this city and would be an opportunity to unify people behind one single great project”.

Similar to Cape Town municipality’s endorsement, the CMC has also made its backing of the bid subject to the confirmation of an over-arching guarantee from central government and written confirmation of agreement between all sub-national government bodies with regard to the R735 million cost-sharing exercise.

See page 9.
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See page 9.
US company to guide Tsogo Sun

Patrick Wadula

TSGO Sun Gaming & Entertainment has clinched a deal with US-based MGM Grand to develop and manage Tsogo’s casino operations.

Tsogo said yesterday it would be applying for gaming licences throughout the country and intended becoming a major player in the industry.

According to the agreement, MGM Grand, an entertainment; hotel and gambling company with its headquarters in Las Vegas, would set up a SA operation which would recruit and train local personnel.

Tsogo Sun is a joint venture by Tsogo Investments, a black group consisting of National Federated Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services, unions and black businesses, and the Southern Sun Group. Southern Sun MD Ron Stringfellow said MGM’s agreement with Tsogo Sun would comply with Nevada gaming laws.

MGM senior vice-president of development Ken Rosevear, formerly Sun International MD, would be involved directly in the developments and operations in SA.

Tsogo Sun chairman Sipho Tanana said casino management required specialised skills and expertise. “The tie-up with MGM will enhance Tsogo Sun’s chances of gaining casino licences in all provinces.”

MGM’s involvement in entertainment and sports promotion would be of benefit to Tsogo Sun at its planned casino, hotel and entertainment centre developments, he said.

Deelkraal’s throughput ‘to rise before cash call’

David McKay

GOLD Fields of SA’s gold mine Deelkraal needed to lift its milled throughput before it could tap shareholders for funds for vital development at the mine, the group said yesterday.

Gold operations GM Keith Spencer said yesterday that the mill was designed for 135 000 tons throughput each month, but the 313 000 tons milled for the whole June quarter fell well below this target.

The development — for which the market expects Deelkraal to call on shareholders for about R200m — could be cancelled, Spencer said, unless production improved. Grades also had to be maintained, despite the planned tonnage increase.

Spencer said management had introduced bonus schemes to encourage higher levels of productivity and was also looking into the possibility of implementing full calendar operations (fcals). However, Spencer said the introduction of fcals was being looked at as part of an integrated strategy to improve efficiencies.

The market has been expecting the mine to call the rights issue shortly — two cautionaries to shareholders have already been issued.

Spencer said the cautionaries were in line with JSE requirements and did not mean that a rights offer for Deelkraal was imminent. He said no approach to secure shareholder support for the cash call had been made by the group.

In terms of the mine extension, Deelkraal would deepen its operations below the 33 level to 47 level. This is above the mine’s boundary at a depth of about 3 500m.

Spencer said the group would also have to decide on the amount of capital required for the deepening project and on what percentage of the total capital would be raised from the rights issue. The group was also unsure of the return on investment, he said.

Deelkraal enjoyed a turnaround in the June quarter posting pre-capex income of R11.8m (R1.4m loss) on the back of higher tonnages and an increased gold production. It lifted ore milled to 313 000 tons (283 000 tons) producing 1 844kg of gold (1 683.3kg).

Capex for the June quarter was R15m (R10.1m) which accounted for the development of the mine towards its No 1 tertiary shaft on the 36 level.

One of the challenges of increasing milled throughput was maintaining its grade which had been increased in the June quarter to 5.3gpt (5.8gpt).

Deelkraal closed unchanged at 420c on the JSE yesterday, valuing the mine at R423m.
ALMOST everything you ever wanted to know about the Western Cape will be accessible at one address with the launch today of a unique Internet home page.

The Cape Connection — on the world wide web site http://africa.dlcs.co.za/cape/cape.html — is being launched by the CSIR to provide users of the Internet with a one-point source of information on the Western Cape.

The service is believed to be a world first in terms of the diversity of information it offers and the depth and scope of its focus on one particular community. The Western Cape is the first of the country’s nine regions to be highlighted.

The site will facilitate faster decision-making for prospective tourists and local and international business people, thereby promoting economic growth and interest in the region, according to Dr Timos Boshoff, manager of CSIR's

Worldnet Africa Service (WAS).

Boshoff said the "lack of information" on the Western Cape in electronic format, and its "scattered nature," presented a challenge.

"Taking into account the value of the Internet for modern society, the Cape Connection was a logical next step," Boshoff said, adding that the service had taken three months to establish.

"Identifying the various role-players and obtaining the information proved to be an immense task. We have received permission to link some web sites and to duplicate others onto the service."

Boshoff said the information service is currently in its first phase and the CSIR would continue to add more information to all categories as it became available.

The service starts with 70 information providers ranging from accommodation and travel, agriculture, arts, culture and entertainment to the film industry, sport, events and the weather.
Parks Board set to fight Oudekraal hotel ruling

NATIONAL Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson arrives in the city today to raise R1 million to fight the controversial Oudekraal hotel development in the Appeal Court.

At a meeting in Pretoria yesterday the National Parks Board’s board of trustees gave Robinson the go-ahead to launch an appeal — if he can raise R1m by next Friday to cover legal costs.

Robinson said: “It’s going to be hard work. I’ve had some commitments from individuals, but obviously not for the whole amount. I’ll be meeting people today to try to get as much financial support as we can.”

The board aims to appeal against the Supreme Court decision last month that gave the green light to the luxury hotel development on the White House site at the foot of the Twelve Apostles.

The board brought an action against the developers, Hottentots Huisie, the Llandudno/Noord Bay local authority and the Western Cape MEC for Planning.

They sought a review of the processes whereby rezoning of the property and the Oudekraal Hotel complex development plans were approved.

In their judgment, Mr Justice J J Fagan and Mr Justice Fritz Brand said their decision related to the correctness of the process, rather than the correctness of the decision to allow the development, which was the prerogative of the Llandudno/Noord Bay council.

The court found that the processes followed had been correct.

The board’s move has been welcomed by the green lobby, which has slammed the development as “inappropriate and undesirable”.

Mountain Club spokesman Mr Lester Coelen said yesterday: “We admire the board for having the guts to have a go at court action again. If it can be legally reversed, we would like to see it happen.”
The first such project could be the development of ecotourism facilities at Lake St Lucia.

Now that the threat of dune mining has subsided, the board is almost obliged to get more involved. The campaign against mining maintained that tourism was a bigger and more sustainable resource in the long term. Now it has to prove it or lose it.

Board director George Hughes says the board is investigating mobilising private capital for the development of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. "There are several possible routes," he says "of which one could be the establishment of a development company to raise funds."

Hughes says the board is also meeting representatives of Virgin Airways, which starts its service to SA in October. The airline has a policy of investing in the tourist destinations to which it flies.

As developer and manager of KwaZulu-Natal’s parks — the board has always argued that it is best able to judge the right balance of conservation and development without being overtaxed by the profit motive. "We'd become nothing more than traffic cops if we relinquished this control," he says.

With about 750 000 ha under its jurisdiction (just under 8.4% of the province) the board is one of the province's largest landowners.

Clearly, game camp operations pay much of the running costs. Visitors contributed most of the R60m which the board generated in 1995-1996. And pressure to make more to meet costs came after the provincial government last year pruned R6m from its budget.

Other pressures include 90% of the parklands being subject to land claims.

Hughes says successful claimants can, by law, be rewarded through monetary compensation, the provision of other land or restoration of the claimed land.

"The parks are potentially vulnerable because they are public property and there are always constituency and party pressures which could make government consider passing its compensation burden on to us. It could have a crippling impact if nature conservation is burdened with the payment in perpetuity of small sums to a large number of successful claimants," he says.

This possibility could diminish if the board develops a successful conservation industry generating benefits to all, especially those who live near the parks.

THE WAY TO GO

The Natal Parks Board is flirting with the concept of entering into development partnerships with the private sector — hitherto unthinkable.

FINANCIAL MAIL • AUGUST 2 • 1996
Main movers behind bid believe Mother City has what it takes to host the big one

Can Cape Town realistically hope to organise an event as huge as the Olympic Games, asks CAROLYN McGIBBON


Former Durban-for-the-Olympics stalwart Robbie Stewart has now joined the Mother City's bidding team and is unswerving in his belief that Table Mountain will soon be the backdrop to the Olympic flame.

Speaking from Atlanta this week, he said: "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that we can host it."

And former skeptic Edward "never-in-a-thousand-years" Griffiths, who edited Cape Town's bid book, is also convinced that the chances of playing host in 2004 are outstanding.

Stewart said the Cape Town Olympic bid committee had done its homework and was using the Atlanta experience to fine-tune its proposals. He had been overwhelmed by the positive response to South Africa. "Everybody, even opposing bid countries, are very supportive and sympathetic."

Cape Town is competing against Stockholm, Lille, Istanbul, San Juan, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Athens, Rome, Seoul and St Petersburg. A decision is due to be made next September.

Stewart said: "If we survive the evaluation committee in December, then we are almost assured of winning the Games."

"Some people were concerned about our technical ability, but we have done an enormous amount of homework making sure the technical bid isn't going to be a weakness."

He added: "I've no doubt Cape Town's infrastructure, with the right upgrading, can handle the Olympics.

"Our rail links are very strong." Stewart said, "and most venues planned for Cape Town are close to railway stations."

"Our planning is better than Atlanta's, which has some venues 40 minutes away by train, and another 40 minutes by bus. There are 3 800 bus drivers in Atlanta for the Games. Most venues there were temporary."

"Quite frankly, our venues will be better. Many will be permanent and have been costed into our budget."

Stewart also knocked criticism that SA did not have the human resources to handle the Games. "There are 100 000 volunteers in Atlanta, and I have no doubt that with our track record of races like the Argus Cycle Tour, Two Oceans and the Comrades, that South Africa can gather the volunteers we need."

He said thousands of international volunteers would also be available and willing to help.

SA had this week proved it ranked among the top swimming nations of the world. The achievements of medallists Penny Heyns and Marianne Kriel had become a beacon of hope for the country.

"My 10-year-old son can now actually believe that it's possible to win a gold medal. Penny Heyns has proved it can be done. Every swimmer in South Africa now has reason to believe he or she can win a medal. That's a phenomenal motivator for our country."

Stewart knocked critics who said SA's rampant crime would account against winning the bid.

"Barcelona has the same problem, but with the enormous security, there was very little crime. Atlanta is one of the murder capitals of America but it is properly policed," he said.

"One of the causes of crime is unemployment and what we are trying to do with hosting the Olympics is create employment. Crime is one of the limiting factors to tourism, so if we can curb it, tourism will flourish."

"That's why it is so important that we get the Olympics."

Former sports journalist Griffiths, who wrote on his return from the Barcelona Olympics that SA could "never in a thousand years" host the Games, has done a 180-degree turn.

"There are many things about South Africa today that people would never have thought possible four years ago. Hosting the Olympics is one of them."

He said there were two elements to winning the bid. The first was to have a technically sound bid, including a plan for venues, accommodation, security, transport and accreditation.

"The other half of a successful bid is something extra: some glamour, something emotional, some extra quality. The reality of the situation is that the president, his personality and his standing in the world, coupled with the fact that Africa has never hosted the Games, means Cape Town has an outstanding chance of winning the Games."

May 318 '96

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May 318 '96
Mokaba cleared over tourism forum scandal

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

DEPUTY Environmental Minister-designate Peter Mokaba has not been implicated in the investigation by the Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) into financial irregularities at the National Tourism Forum.

OSEO director Jan Swanepoel said the investigation had involved funds which were withdrawn from the account run by the forum.

The completed report has now been handed to the attorney-general's office for a decision, he said.

The National Tourism Forum, a non-governmental organisation chaired by Mr Mokaba, was set up in 1993 to promote black development in the industry.

Mr Mokaba was thrust into the limelight recently when he was appointed environmental minister following the dismissal of Bantu Holomisa by President Mandela. Mr Mokaba's appointment came into effect on Thursday.

National Party claims that Mr Mokaba was being investigated for alleged offences relating to the National Tourism Forum were slammed by the African National Congress.

While the OSEO investigation has now concluded, Mr Swanepoel said the amount of money which had been misappropriated was hard to ascertain.

"It was difficult to determine as we did not find any books or records," he said.

Mr Swanepoel said he could not reveal further details about the investigation until the Attorney-General's Office had studied the OSEO report.

Last year Mr Mokaba told SATURDAY Argus how he was the first to raise the alarm about the R100 000 he believed was missing from the National Tourism Forum.

Mr Mokaba said he would welcome the report from the OSEO.

"I will be quite happy when the report is released. When I ordered the internal investigation in the first place, it was not because I was being vindictive.

"It is just that we are going to have to rely more and more on NGOs and they must have their houses in order," he said.
Sun International casino referee for

Ewijn defends
Set to benefit from tourism boom
NFT Probe Completed
Tourists to SA - "the honeymoon is over"

(288) ARG 6/8/96

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - South Africa's tourism honeymoon is over, says Satour's Martin van Niekerk.

He was commenting after foreign tourism statistics for the first five months of this year were released and said: "We can no longer ride the wave of political change."

The number of foreign tourists arriving in South Africa by air was up on 1993's figure by only 0.2 percent.

"Not only does Satour have to compete with national tourism organisations that have budgets far in excess of ours, but we had to cut our marketing budget owing to the falling value of the rand," Satour executive director Mavuso Msimang said yesterday.

Mr Van Niekerk said Satour had considered closing some of its 15 offices abroad, and had scaled down advertising in international magazines. It was now relying on publicity, he said.

The main reason for the drop in growth was the budget, and another the perception that South Africa was not a safe destination, he said.
Cape Town must now learn from the lessons of Atlanta
Satour pins its hopes on White Paper

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — The South African Tourism Organisation (Satour) urgently needs its R488 million in government funding to be increased by at least 18 percent to counteract the effect of the weaker rand, Martin Maitland, its executive director, said yesterday.

He and his staff were pinning their hopes on a White Paper on tourism, which identified "inadequate resources and funding" as a major constraint on Satour's marketing of South Africa as a tourist destination.

The White Paper recommends an urgent review of the government's contribution.

A spokesman said yesterday: "We hope this will be approved very early on in the next session of Parliament.

"Even an 18 percent increase would only return our budget to the real level of the one we had in April, that would still be far less than that available to our overseas competitors. The Australians spend about four times as much as we do."

Maitland said that although tourism was regarded as a vital industry "the number of foreign tourists arriving in South Africa by air has shown an increase of only 0.2 percent during the first five months of this year."

The number arriving from Europe rose 5.1 percent and from North America 6 percent. But there had been a fall of 9.8 percent in arrivals from Asia and the Middle East, 6.2 percent fewer arrivals from other African countries and 26.3 percent fewer from Central and South America."
‘Beauty of the Cape our advantage – but get rid of the smog’

CAPITOL REPORTER

CAPE Town will have to clean up its smog – otherwise known as brown haze – if it wishes to be an Olympic city.

This was the view of Professor R K Dutkiewicz of the University of Cape Town's Energy Research Institute at the annual symposium of the National Association for Clean Air.

Professor Dutkiewicz was giving a progress report on the brown haze study which has been conducted in the city over the past 18 months.

The results of the study are likely to become available early next year after samples, which have been sent to the Desert Research Institute in Nevada in the United States, have been analysed.

With the help of the weather office, samples of some of the city's worst episodes of brown haze in spring and autumn were taken for the study.

Professor Dutkiewicz said there was no brown haze in Atlanta, and Cape Town would have to do something about this problem if it wanted the Olympics.

This did not leave much time to put the findings of the study into effect.

The study hopes to identify the main causes of the brown haze and to propose strategies to improve air quality. A draft report is expected by January, he said.

Also on the Olympic theme, provincial finance and environmental affairs minister Kobus Meiring said the Western Cape should safeguard its natural heritage because this would give it an advantage in its Olympic bid.

Mr Meiring said that after visiting Atlanta, he believed Cape Town would be capable of hosting the bid. The two cities had similar populations, which were spread out.

Atlanta did not have anything equivalent to the Newlands cricket or rugby grounds, and Centennial Park was "nothing compared to the Waterfront", he added.

"We have one very big advantage in the beauty of the Cape," he said.
Satour head calls for big increase in tourism budget

Satour has called for a major boost to the tourism budget if the industry is to have any chance of reaching its full potential.

Speaking as the most recent statistics reveal South Africa's tourist boom having levelled off, executive director Mavuso Msimang urged a doubling of the R48-million allocated to the tourist board under the umbrella of the environment, affairs and tourism ministry.

The devaluation of the rand alone since April had slashed overseas funds for selling SA as a tourist destination in 14 countries by 18%, he said.

"Satour is no longer competing with tourism organisations with far bigger budgets, but being forced to cut its marketing budget due to the declining rand," he said.

Figures released by the Central Statistical Service show that only 886 more people arrived in SA by air between January and June this year compared with the corresponding period last year, bringing the total to 432 424.

Kemmis Travel national operations director Rupert Lawlor echoed Satour's call, which he said was a regular appeal which had been just as regularly ignored over past years.

"It is common knowledge that South Africa's tourism budget falls far short of the amounts allocated in many other competitor countries.

Boosted by Rugby World Cup, 1995 was an exceptionally good year for tourists.

"But the question is whether SA is as cheap as it is believed to be when compared with 150 other holiday destinations.

Part of Satour's additional funds could be used for proper research into this issue," he said.

Msimang said tourism dropped this year by 25% from Central and South America, 10% from Asia and the Middle East, and 6% from Africa.

Increases were notched up from France (16%), Germany (14%), the Netherlands (19%) and America (7%).
City Lodge bucks the weaker trend

By Audrey d’Angelo

Cape Town — Hotels in the City Lodge group are bucking the national trend of fewer visitors by maintaining an average occupancy rate of more than 80 percent countrywide. Hans Enderle, the group’s executive chairman, said yesterday.

There are 19 hotels in the group, ranging from four-star Court Yards to one-star Road Lodges. The roof-wetting of the 20th, a 90-room Road Lodge near N1 City in Cape Town, will take place this evening.

Enderle said he was confident the number of foreign visitors would continue to increase, though growth seemed to have slowed from the hoped-for 20 percent annual rate.

Figures released by the Central Statistical Service have shown a drop in hotel occupancy, particularly in the four- and five-star categories.

Enderle said more five-star hotel rooms had been added in some areas that would “take some time for the market to absorb”.

He said there could be an oversupply of hotels in some areas if tourism did not return to double-digit growth.

Enderle, who is a member of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, said Satour was “hopelessly under-funded” compared with organisations promoting other countries.

The council was analysing the situation, he said.
Trust pledges R100 000 to opposing hotel plans

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — A trust representing groups including scratch card operators Ithuba and Viva has pledged R100 000 to help scupper plans for a hotel development at the foot of Cape Town's Twelve Apostles.

National Parks Board trustees have agreed to appeal against last month's Supreme Court ruling which gave the R45m White House development the go-ahead — providing the public comes up with R1m to foot the legal bill.

The National Ubuntu Welfare and Development Trust said yesterday that its members — Ithuba, Viva, Kagiso, the World Wildlife Fund and the SA National Sports Council — had decided to back the appeal due to the importance of SA's natural heritage.

"We appeal now to members of the public, corporates and government to do what they can," trust spokesman Jacques Verster said.

National Parks Board spokesman David Duets said it was still too early to determine how much the public had committed to appeal costs.

The board was, though, in talks which could raise a guarantee for the R1m by the end of the week.

Hotel developer Stephen Jones said the National Parks Board had overstepped the mark with its fund-raising campaign.

"This action, against a private land owner who has undertaken a legal and authorised action, is beyond comprehension," he said.
Government snag delays CMC guarantees for Games

ANDREA WEISS and ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporters

The Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) has not yet signed guarantees for Cape Town’s bid for the 2004 Olympic Games because the central government has still not given its financial guarantee.

CMC chairman William Bantom was due to sign four guarantees late yesterday but the signing was cancelled.

CMC’s guarantees were to cover R220 million or 30 percent of the cost that local and provincial government are to carry.

There is growing concern over the outstanding central government guarantee as the August 15 deadline looms for the submission of the bid book in Lausanne.

Confirmation of a further R285 million to be paid by eight local authorities also depends on government overall backing.

Bid book director Ronnie Kingwill is due to fly to Switzerland on Monday with 70 copies of the bid book.

The guarantees are a separate but vital document.

Meanwhile the Western Cape provincial government yesterday signed a document guaranteeing that it would honour the Olympic Charter and Host City Contract for the 2004 Olympic Games.

The document commits the provincial government to funding 15 percent of the R205,5 million of government contributions towards the “capital costs of facilities”, in preparation for the Games.
Save mountain appeal fund gets pledge for R1-m

ANDREW SMITH

THE National Parks Board’s campaign to raise R1 million by tomorrow to finance an appeal court challenge to the Oudekraal hotel development has been saved by eco-tourism promoters Conservation Corporation Africa, which has agreed to underwrite the campaign.

David Daitz, project co-ordinator of the Table Mountain Project, said the public response to the campaign was disappointing. Less than a quarter of the amount needed had been raised.

Mr Daitz said the Parks Board was looking into a prolonged and more organised campaign to raise the funds. Mr Daitz said the guarantor, Conservation Corporation Africa, would be liable only if the extended campaign to raise R1 million was unsuccessful.

Chief executive of Conservation Corporation Africa Dave Yarty said in support of the campaign that the National Parks Board “has a duty to prevent a precedent from being set for a ring of developments around the slopes of Table Mountain”.

He appealed to business and industry to follow his company’s pledge.

South Africa’s booming eco-tourism industry would continue to thrive only if it was underscored by ecologically sustained practices.

Contributions could be sent to: Save the Mountain, WWP-SA, Box 456, Stellenbosch, 7600.
City Lodge bucks trend to lift earnings by 47%

Amanda Vermeulen

City Lodge Hotels lifted attributable earnings 47% to R33.5m for the year to June, on the back of high occupancies, improved operating margins and a full contribution from the Courtyard chain.

Share earnings after exceptional items improved 41% to 128.7c, while the dividend rose 20% to 48c. Shareholders could elect to take a capitalisation award.

The group, which consists of four brands — City Lodge, Town Lodge, Road Lodge and The Courtyard — boosted turnover 17% to R108.7m while operating profit before depreciation rose 21% to R60m.

Interest income increased to R8.3m from R1.8m while interest expenses rose to R13.3m (R12.3m). Pre-tax profit rose 31% to R45m, and after tax of R13.7m (R10.7m), taxed profit was 32% higher at R61.3m.

Chairman, Hans Enderle said the performance was pleasing, given a slowdown in the economy during the second half, continuing high levels of crime and violence, lower weekend occupancies and a reduction in the growth of foreign tourists compared to the previous year which included the Rugby World Cup.

The three Lodge brands recorded an average occupancy of 82% this year compared to 81% last year, while the Courtyard’s five hotels showed occupancies of 81% (80%).

The group’s operations were bolstered by strong full-year contributions from the Courtyard chain and the first Road Lodge near Johannesburg International Airport. The Room 2000 conversion plan to enhance security, technology and comfort features was implemented at City Lodge Randburg and would soon be introduced at three more Lodges in Johannesburg.

Enderle said the group would open two new Lodges next month in Sandton and Goodwood in the Cape.

This would increase the group’s total capacity to 2,519 rooms and suites. The group was making good progress in securing new sites in various areas, particularly Pretoria and Durban, and announcements should be made soon.

“Despite increased competition and over-capacity in places such as Sandton, we expect to achieve acceptable real growth in the year ahead by maintaining operating margins and occupancy levels at our lodges and hotels,” Enderle said.
QUESTIONS ON NEW TOURISM GROUP

HARARE — Does southern Africa need a regional tourism organisation to market its beaches, wildlife, deserts, cities and peoples to the world, or are tourism operators doing nicely without state interference?

That question is far from being settled, but a regional organisation has been formed nonetheless.

The idea of creating the Regional Tourism Organisation for Southern Africa (Retosa), was born at an SADC meeting early last year in Windhoek. Tourism is the world’s fastest-growing industry, but southern Africa’s share is still minuscule.

An estimate last year by the World Tourism Organisation showed world tourist arrivals of 582.4 million people, generating nearly $322bn in revenues — but Africa got only $8.3bn or 1.6%.

Both the private and public tourism sector of each SADC country will each have one member in Retosa’s board and contribute to its funding, to the tune of $50 000 for each country initially.

By the third year, Retosa should be totally privately funded. How, it has not been explained. Neither has a final budget been presented, according to Masonase Nkokoane, an SADC tourism official in Lesotho.

Zimbabwe has taken steps towards funding money by imposing a 2% levy in early July on all its tourism operators, from hotels to car rental companies, “to promote the tourism board.”

With an annual profit of $100m, tourism in Zimbabwe’s third largest tourism earner, and one that the government can squeeze for funds. Not surprisingly, having drafted Retosa’s charter, Zimbabwe’s authorities are pushing it with enthusiasm.

“Considering all the bickering since Windhoek, and all the doubts voiced by the private sector, we are quite satisfied,” says Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister ET Chinondi-Chinga.

Others disagree. “Retosa is a total waste of time and money, another bureaucratic tower, another mini-United Nations, another way of spending money on fancy cars, fancy salaries, a full-time secretariat and regular cocktail conversations,” says Colin Blythwood, MD of a major Zimbabwean tour operator. “There is absolutely no need for that kind of institutional framework.”

In SA, the tourism private sector — the strongest in the region — is not jumping on the boardwagon either, although Retosa would be located in Johannesburg.

“The fact that at ministerial level there is a decision about Retosa does not bind SA’s private sector. We have our definite doubts about who should market the region internationally, and whether it should be a combined effort,” says Anton Rooh, acting executive-director of SA’s Tourism Council.

“Hiring the country, the SA private sector believes we may need a platform, not necessarily an organisation. We would accept Retosa only if convinced that it will benefit the entire region and not duplicate other efforts,” he says. “We are what we are, and will continue to operate our business on profit-oriented principles.”

His doubts are echoed by Nigel Muyati, a Zimbabwean tourism consultant: “There is an inevitable contradiction in bringing the private and public sector together, since one is driven by money imperatives, while the other emphasises development.”

On the political side of the SADC, the strongest foe was that Retosa would supersede or bypass the largely inoperative SADC tourism unit based in Lesotho.

A diplomatic way out was found at the SADC meeting in Maputo in June, where it was decided that Retosa will be the marketing arm of the unit but Lesotho will remain the co-ordinator for policy, according to Nkokoane.

Several questions remain unanswered. Does the region really need two different tourism structures within the SADC but in two different countries? Can the public and private sector work side by side? Who really needs Retosa and why? When the matter is discussed at the next SADC meeting this month in Lesotho, light may be shed.

Meanwhile Sapa reports the Northwest Tourism Council has attempted to boost the industry in the province by establishing a database of its facilities and new products. Some of the new products included on the council’s “stocktake” are new farm cottages, guest houses, a diving resort, a fly-fishing club, river trips, safaris and many more and within its testing tours.

Council marketing director Uli Nieman said only 1% of 567-million tourists worldwide had visited SA last year.

He stressed the importance of first impressions to tourists and said word-of-mouth was the best advertisement to attract tourists to the country. — AIA.
Fedhassa calls for tourism funding

By Stuart Rutherford

Any success in international tourism marketing required an annual government contribution of about $100 million, compared with R17 million currently, Ken Forrest, the president of the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa (Fedhassa), said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual congress of Fedhassa in Durban, Forrest said Satour (South African Tourism) had been hit hard by numerous resignations over the past year and government budgetary cutbacks. The organisation also lost R9 million from its present budget due to the drop in the value of the rand.

"If tourism is to assist with increasing South Africa's foreign currency earnings and at the same time ensure accelerated growth in the provision of job opportunities... tourism needs a powerful cash injection," Forrest said that at provincial level, where domestic tourism had been relegated, progress had been "non-existent and pathetic.

"For two years now, provincial authorities have attempted to get their houses in order but most of them have failed," Dennis Dykes, the chief economist at Nedcor, agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed on the service sector, rather than manufacturing.
City Lodge
home and dry
(228)

By John Spino

Johannesburg — City Lodge Hotels continues to power ahead, with results for the year to June 30 again showing remarkable growth.

High occupancy levels, improved operating margins and a full year's contribution from the Courtyard group contributed to a 31 percent increase in earnings after exceptional items to R1.29 a share. Pretax profit increased 31 percent to R46 million on turnover that rose 37 percent to R108.7 million. Earnings after exceptional items were 47 percent higher at R33.5 million.

Hans Faberle, the executive chairman, said yesterday that the performance was achieved against a slowdown in the economy in the second six months of the financial year, continuing high levels of crime and violence, lower weekend occupancies and a reduced rate of growth in international tourism.

The group will open two new lodges next month, a 142-room Town Lodge in Sandton and a 92-room Road Lodge at the N1 City complex near Goodwood.

Faberle said despite increased competition and overcapacity in certain areas, City Lodge expected to achieve "acceptable real earnings growth in the year ahead."
Games bid hinges on 11th-hour rush to get deal signed

MICHAEL MORRIS on the Olympic Bid

CAPE TOWN’S Olympic bid hinges on a frantic round of 11th-hour appointments to get signatures on crucial national and local government financial guarantees.

The multi-billion rand enterprise cannot go ahead without them ... and officials have until Monday afternoon to get them.

The Cape Town Central sub-structure – in whose name the Bid Book must be submitted to the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne next Thursday – and the Cape Metropolitan Council have undertaken to sign the candidature file only on receipt of the government guarantees.

In effect, the crucial central government guarantee will shield the city and ratepayers, from onerous financial risk.

The documents have been drawn up, but a frantic effort will be required between today and Monday to have them signed and delivered to Cape Town.

Despite the mounting tension, the bid company’s director of finance, Mike Fuller, was confident. “I had discussions yesterday with Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel and his director-general, Maria Ramos.

“There is no problem with the guarantees. They have been drawn up and are ready for signature.”

A convoluted logistical plan was being put in place to have the guarantee, held by Ms Ramos, taken to ministers in Pretoria, then brought to Cape Town to be signed by Nelson Mandela.

“Everything is set up ... all we need are signatures,” Mr Fuller said. He and others would spend the weekend monitoring the process to make sure that the wad of central, provincial and local government guarantees were signed, collected and bound as an appendix to the Bid Book.

The Bid Book is being taken to Switzerland on a scheduled SAA flight on Monday afternoon by co-editors Ronnie Kingwill of the bid company and Paul Bell of publisher Churchill Murray Publications.

They will deliver 70 copies to the IOC offices in Lausanne on Thursday morning, with a covering letter. The fact that the IOC will not accept copies of the guarantees means they must be signed and handed to Mr Kingwill and Mr Bell by Monday afternoon.

The agreement is that central government will pay about half the R1.3 billion to build venues and provide bulk services, and provincial, metro and local government the other half.

* More Olympics on page 6
Leucadendron levisanus awaits its fate

Leucadendron levisanus sounds a bit like a dinosaur, and indeed it is. It is a rare and endangered plant species that is found in the Cape Floristic Region. The species is threatened by habitat loss, over-grazing, and the introduction of invasive species. As a result, there is a growing concern among conservationists and scientists about the fate of this species.

In recent years, efforts have been made to protect and conserve Leucadendron levisanus. This includes establishing protected areas, implementing conservation measures, and raising awareness among the public about the importance of protecting this species. However, the future of Leucadendron levisanus remains uncertain, and continued efforts are needed to ensure its survival.

In the meantime, researchers and conservationists continue to study the species and its habitat, in order to better understand its needs and develop effective conservation strategies. The fate of Leucadendron levisanus is an important issue for the conservation of the Cape Floristic Region, and for the maintenance of biodiversity in the region.

In summary, Leucadendron levisanus is a rare and endangered plant species that is facing numerous threats. Efforts are being made to protect and conserve the species, but its future remains uncertain. Continued efforts are needed to ensure the survival of this important species.
own starts planning ... as we bid for the flame

VAITS ITS FATE

Make the most of it — expert

Opponents of Cape Town's Olympic bid run the risk of losing sight of the immense opportunities the project holds. This is the view of environmental scientist Stephen Crampton, head of a multi-disciplinary team whose detailed, preliminary critiques of six key Olympic venues will be available to the public from next week.

For this reason, the assessment team suggests, "Inclusive public participation in Goodwood and Factreton will be necessary, and, if appropriate, legislation protecting the rights of tenants should be enacted". Swiss expert Mr. Crampton said, "I have viewed the Olympics as a neutral tool, having been appointed to head a professional assessment team to look into the implications of it. We have taken a dispassionate view, and have been neither protagonists nor antagonists. The essential question in what are the impacts?"

He added, "There is no doubt the Olympics provides opportunities which those who are opposed to the bid are in danger of losing sight of ... these are opportunities to protect the environment, develop spaces, develop occupational environmental management plans, upgrade dilapidated habitats and re-order the city."

Just as there are potential pitfalls and weaknesses, so there are opportunities which we need to look out for, and use. The point is that if the Olympics is coming our way, we should at least make the best of it and use it to its optimal potential."

For this reason, "It is far better for people to be involved proactively. The more people are involved in raising issues and concerns, and helping to shape solutions, the better".

He pointed out that the critiques were not part of the formal environmental assessment of the proposed Olympic sites, but part of the preparation for that assessment.
Tourists abducted:
SA crime in world focus

PETA KROST
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The international focus on South African crime intensified again after the dramatic hijacking and subsequent disappearance of three tourists, believed to be British.

The men had hired an airport shuttle minibus to take them from Johannesburg International Airport to their Sandton hotel late on Thursday night. Police have been unable to establish any trace of the men or their identities, since they were hijacked by five armed men a short while later in the northern suburb of Marlboro.

The driver was thrown from the vehicle during the incident. He recalled yesterday how the men had appeared “terrified” as they were driven away.

He reported the incident to the police, sparking an all-night search centred on Alexandra township. Police reinforcements were brought out, from as far as the Vaal Triangle and Pretoria to assist. A search helicopter was also used.

Yesterday morning about 11am, police found the empty silver-grey metallic minibus hidden off the road between shacks in Alexandra after an anonymous tip-off. Residents in the surrounding shacks said they had no idea when or how the bus had got there.

Despite of the manhunt that swept through the township until late yesterday, police had last night yet to establish the whereabouts or identities of the three men. It is understood they were still searching airline records for any information that could

To page 4, see picture

P. T. O.
SA Olympic chief gets roasted for ‘negativity’

By LINDA RULASHE

BUSINESSMAN Raymond Ackerman and Sanlam head of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa are bidding this week for a public clash over Ramsamy’s alleged ‘negative’ attitude towards Cape Town’s bid to host the Olympics in 2004.

Ackerman said this week that as many as 10 senior people — ‘International Olympic Committee officials and senior politicians and business people from South Africa’ — had approached him while he was in Atlanta about Ramsamy’s apparent failure to support the bid publicly.

Ackerman’s allegation came just as Cape Town’s ‘bid book’ was about to be delivered to the IOC along with those of other competing cities, including Rome, Athens and Stockholm.

A source told the Sunday Times that Chris Hall, chief executive of Cape Town’s bid, had not President Nelson Mandela to complain about Ramsamy’s lack of support.

Hall was not available for comment yesterday, and presidential spokesman Parka Muthakama said he would ‘rather not comment’.

Ramsamy this week labelled the allegations as ‘outrageous’ and ‘ridiculous’. He said his detractors were ‘creating problems’ and would have to substantiate their allegations.

‘If we were not 100 percent behind the bid, it would not be where it is right now. There is no question of me not supporting the bid’.

Ramsamy added that he had also made public the fact that he would be playing an active role in the bid only after the Olympic Games had ended in Atlanta.

Ackerman said he had been forced to fend off criticism of Ramsamy:

‘There was a lot of talk about this in Atlanta and I was spoken to about it on a confidential basis. I had to try to pour a little water over it’ Ackerman said this week.

Ackerman, who resigned from the bid committee去年 he and Ramsamy could not “see eye to eye”, said: ‘Everybody has to get together to win the bid. We need complete unanimity. The question is, are we in line to win if we do not have complete support from everybody’.

National Olympic Committee of South Africa spokesman Chris Day said the organisation was the custodian of the bid and would do all in its power to ensure that it succeeded.”
Council pledges R220m for Bid

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

THE Cape Metropolitan Council yesterday confirmed that it has offered its share of R220-million for Cape Town's bid for the Olympic Games in 2002. The offer was made at a meeting of the Olympic Committee. The offer is in line with the required level of support from the provincial government.

The offer was made after the Cape Town Olympic bid was successful. The bid was submitted by the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee, which is a joint venture between local and provincial governments. The bid was successful on the understanding that the provincial government would contribute R600-million to the cost of the Olympic Games.

The offer was made after the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee submitted its bid to the international Olympic Committee. The offer was made in line with the requirement for the provincial government to provide financial support for the Olympic Games.

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The offer was made after the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee submitted its bid to the international Olympic Committee. The offer was made in line with the requirement for the provincial government to provide financial support for the Olympic Games.
Fresh phase in race for 2004 Games

CAPE TOWN'S bid to host the 2004 Games, bearing President Nelson Mandela's signature and buttressed by several vital government guarantees assembled at the weekend, enters a new phase today.

The first seven-month phase of the bid, the preparation and approval of the Bid Book, came to a nailing end at the weekend as government and Bid Company officials raced against time to meet today's deadline.

Mr Mandela's signature endorsing the government's over-arching financial guarantee, the most important element, without which the city would have been obliged to scupper the project, was secured at the weekend.

There followed a flurry of appointments to secure the outstanding guarantees. Among these was the signing of guarantees by the Cape Metropolitan Council on Saturday, an event announced and postponed three times during the preceding week.

The Bid Book is being signed today by the Cape Town City Council, in whose name the bid is submitted, in the final step of a tense countdown.

Also today, 70 copies of the Bid Book and two files containing about 130 financial guarantees from the private sector, and national, provincial and local governments, were loaded on to SAA 206, bound for Frankfurt.

Accompanying them were the candidature file's co-editors, Ronnie Kingwill of the Bid Company and Paul Bell of the publishers Churchill-Murray Publications.

They will transfer to Geneva tomorrow and drive to Lausanne, where, on Thursday morning, they will deposit the Bid Book at the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The next phase will be to prepare for the December visit of the IOC's evaluation commission. This will, in large part, determine whether or not Cape Town makes it on to the shortlist of bidding cities, due to be announced in March.

By then work will have begun on five fast-tracked projects—venues that will be built even if the city loses the bid—and priority infrastructure and transport projects.

Cape Town will be the last of the 11 contenders to be visited by the IOC. Its technical preparation will be vital, but the general impression the city makes will be just as significant.
Fears hoax will hit SA travel industry

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - The negative publicity sparked abroad by the hoax tale of three foreigners supposedly hijacked near Alexandra, Johannesburg, will cost South Africa dear, the tourism industry warns.

Police Commissioner George Pivaz expressed outrage at the hoax, believed to have cost tens of thousands of rands in wasted police resources.

He said the person who made the false claim, tour company driver Peter Monyekane, "deserves to be dealt with mercilessly in terms of the law".

Mr Monyekane told police on Thursday that the tour shuttle bus he was driving had been hijacked in Sandton with three foreign tourists inside.

An intense police investigation found Mr Monyekane had made up the story after the minibus, a company vehicle, was hijacked in Alexandra while he was using it illicitly as a taxi on Thursday night.

Mr Pivaz said this kind of false claim could not be tolerated, particularly when police needed to concentrate all their efforts on crime prevention, rather than engaging in wild-goose chases.

"Besides, these false reports create a wrong perception internationally that police in South Africa are incapable of containing crime, thus undermining the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the Police Plan," Mr Pivaz said.

Members of the travel and tourism industry believe Mr Monyekane's tall tale will cost South Africa dear.

The case of the fictitious three missing tourists was broadcast extensively on international television channels.

Chris du Toit, executive director of the Association of South African Travel Agents (Asata), fears the negative publicity could lead to a decline in foreign visitor numbers.

Mr Monyekane is due in court today on a charge of defeating the ends of justice.
Little comes of sport's St Lucia ecotourism plan
Bid wings its way to Europe

Tense moments as Olympic officials race for check-in

Michael Morris on the

OLYMPIC BID

THERE were some tense moments at Cape Town's international departures hall as Olympic Bid Company officials paced the gleaming marble, checking their watches, fiddling with cell phones.
The mock-deprecatory banter was joky, but the prospect of the all-important Bid Book missing yesterday's flight SA260 to Frankfurt - and a convoluted contingency plan having to be concocted in haste to ensure the documents got to Lausanne by Thursday morning - was real enough.
This was, after all; a mere 45 minutes before take off.
And neither the chunky boxes containing the Bid Books, nor the three lever arch files containing the 260 indispensable guarantees had arrived.
"We're going right to the line on this one," noted Bid Book co-editor Paul Bell grimly, as he punched the printer's number into his cell phone.
Then, with 40 minutes to go, he was given the heartening news that the cargo was on its way.
"Five minutes and they'll be here," he reported hopefully to Bid Company chief executive Chris Ball.
And, indeed - cutting it fine, but with some minutes to spare - the goods came in ... first the boxes from the printer, then Bid Company directors Mike Fuller and Deni Madzunya with the guarantees.
"To say I'm relieved is an understatement," grinned Bid Book director Ronnie Kingwill who, with Mr Bell, has the task of delivering the candidature file to the International Olympic Committee on Thursday morning.
"In fact, it may have seemed touch and go at the airport, but the bid team never seriously believed the plan would falter.
From the very beginning, the production of the Bid Book - the legally binding foundation of the city's hopes to host the Games in 2004 - has been taxing in the extreme.
Complex and time-consuming processes of consultation and information-gathering have bedevilled the Bid Book team's best efforts to keep to deadlines.
Many, if not most, of the 700 pages of the file have been through up to 30 revisions - and since the document must be presented in English and French, the translations have had to be carefully revised too.
Hundreds of photographs, maps, tables and drawings had to be worked into the text, verified and labelled.
But throughout, there was a spirit of optimism, just as there was at the airport yesterday.
Without it, there probably wouldn't have been a bid in the first place, and the Bid Book would almost certainly not have been completed in time.
As Mr Bell put it in the final stages of production: "This is probably one of the most detailed planning projects ever put forward in this country ... and this has had to be done in seven months."
Co-editor Ronnie Kingwill added: "One of the single most important features of this process was simply the belief that we could do it."
Speaking at the airport, Mr Ball acknowledged the effort by all the individuals - in the Bid Company and in government and the private sector - that culminated in that final dash for the check-in counter yesterday afternoon.
"I am very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard on the Bid Book. This finally is the platform from which we proceed," he said.
"It is Cape Town's proposal for staging the Games, and we have now to start preparing for the process of evaluation by the IOC later in the year."
One of the most significant elements of the documentation winging its way to Europe is that every single guarantee the Bid Company set its sights on securing has been achieved.
The 260 individual guarantees include influential endorsements by each of the 28 international Olympic sports federations.
This paves the way for a new and challenging phase in the city's Olympic bid for the 2004 Games.
Mayor signs city into world focus

It took Cape Town mayor Theresa Solomon a few seconds to sign Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympics, but her elegant squiggle gives legal status to the biggest contract ever entered into by the city.

It's a contract that, as the city's legal adviser Howard Firth put it at the brief signing ceremony at the Civic Centre yesterday, "will enjoy international scrutiny, and turn the world's focus on Cape Town."

Mr Firth said: "It means Cape Town will be under the spotlight. The city was very aware of that from the outset and has taken great care, along with the Bid Company and other parties, to ensure every aspect is properly addressed. It's quite an achievement."

The Bid Book will be lodged in the library of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne.

"It becomes a document of international standing, to be consulted by academics, lawyers and anyone else who wants to get the lowdown on the city," he said.

- The central government will pay about half of the R1.3 billion required to build venues and provide bulk services, and the other half will be paid by provincial, metro and local government.

The breakdown of the provincial and local government share of R1.35 billion is: Province - 30 percent; Cape Metropolitan Council - 30 percent; Central - between 20 and 24 percent; Tygerberg - six percent; Northern - two percent; Southern - three percent; Helderberg - two percent; Eastern - two percent; Paarl - one percent; and Stellenbosch - a proposal, not yet ratified, to pay one percent.
FULLY BOOKED: Moments before the check-in for the flight to Frankfurt, members of the bid team gather round the boxes containing 70 copies of the Bid Book. They are, from left, Bid Company technology director Deni Mazunya, Bid Book co-editors Paul Bell and Ronnie Kingwill, finance director Mike Fuller, and chief executive Chris Ball.

Jane proud to represent SA

JANE Mandeans, a 24-year-old from Athlone, could not believe her ears when she heard she had been selected for the South African paralympic team to compete in Atlanta.

"When I first heard the news I almost fainted," she said.

"I am very proud to be a South African and grateful for this opportunity to represent my country.

Jane has a cerebral disability, which affects the left side of her body.

She began her schooling in Athlone when she was selected for the Western Province athletics team. She is a member of the Unity Sports Club in Athlone.

She has been supported by her family, friends and fellow athletes from the Unity sports club in Athlone.

"I am going to Atlanta to do my best," she said.

"I am confident of bringing back a medal, and with the support of my family and friends, nothing can go wrong."
Facilitator to help forge links with green groups

MICHAEL MORRIS

independent facilitator David Shandler is to help forge agreement between the Olympic Bid Company and wide-ranging environmental organisations on procedures to assess the impact of Olympic-related development.

Mr Shandler's appointment - proposed by the Bid Company and endorsed by the environmental sector - is a key step in the formulation of an environmental charter and the establishment of an environmental commission.

These are among so-called "minimum requirements" set by the environmental sector earlier this year for their participation in the bid process.

Not all environmental organisations are opposed to the bid. However, they do share broad concerns about the impact of Olympic-related development on the environment and the social fabric of the region.

Arising from this, they have emphasised the need for thorough environmental impact assessments of each Olympic site, and an over-arching strategic environmental assessment to gauge the overall impact of the Games bid.

The Bid Company has agreed to this procedure.

Mr Shandler's first task will be to facilitate a common understanding of the minimum requirements, and the roles of the Bid Company and environment and development organisations.

Mr Shandler's appointment reflects the Bid Company's keenness to establish its bona fides, and engage the skills and insights of the environmental sector in fine-tuning an Olympic plan.
Tourist forum probe report studied

PRETORIA — A report on alleged irregularities at the disbanded National Tourism Forum — then headed by newly appointed Deputy Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba — is being studied by Witwatersrand attorney-general Andra de Vries.

Although De Vries said yesterday it was too early to comment, and that investigations into possible criminal charges were continuing, it was understood from a source that the report did not implicate Mokaba in the disappearance of R100 000.

"We are in the process of investigating the facts to establish whether any criminal offences, which can be proved in a court of law, have been committed," De Vries said.

He said it was not possible to say when a decision would be taken.

Findings in the report, drafted by the Office for Serious Economic Offences, could lead to the criminal prosecution of other forum officials, the source said.

The Office for Serious Economic Offences launched an investigation into the activities of the forum in February last year following an earlier inquiry by Johannesburg advocate GM Khosa into the disappearance of the money.

Khosa at the time found evidence of certain irregularities.

The Khosa inquiry took place at Mokaba’s request.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz
City Signs Last 2004 Bid Guarantee
COMMITMENT: Cape Town Mayor Mrs Theresa Solomon signs the last of the guarantees that enable Cape Town’s bid for the 2004 Olympic Games to be taken forward to the next stage. The Bid Book and the guarantees are on their way to Europe.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR
By Audrey d’Angelo

South Africa’s tourism boom is over and has been killed by international television coverage of rising crime and rising prices, travel trade executives said yesterday.

Hotel occupancy rates continued to fall in June, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Service (CSS). The report said room occupancy was down by 4.4 percent to 50.6 percent and bed occupancy down by 7.1 percent to 94 percent compared with June last year.

Roger Mackie, the Association of Southern African Travel Agents president and William Puk, the chief executive of the Sure Travel group of independent travel agents, have called for raised prices and poor service for falling tourist numbers.

Yesterday they said CNN coverage of gun battles between gangsters and vigilantes in the streets of Cape Town, and international coverage of South Africa’s car hijacking problem, were further deterrents to foreign tourists.

Mackie said even though the supposed kidnapping of three British tourists turned out to be a hoax, it was given extensive television coverage and the fact remained that the vehicle really was hijacked. “People’s readiness to believe in the kidnapping shows the light in which this country is regarded.”

He said millions of television viewers worldwide had heard that Josiah Thugwane, South Africa’s gold medal winner in the Olympic marathon, had been shot in the face by car hijackers.

Commenting on the CSS figures, Mackie said they included visitors from neighbouring African countries and last year they did not. The drop was worse than it appeared.

William Puk said the South African tourism industry was on the slippery slope to nowhere. “There is a tremendous price war between the airlines who are trying to make up for the drop in foreign passengers with special offers.”

“Our crime levels have dealt a death blow to tourism and I believe it will stop this country from getting the Olympic Games. Why, with all the attractive destinations available to them, should people come to a destination perceived to be as dangerous as South Africa?”

Puk expected airlines, which had increased their capacity earlier, to cut back on capacity if passenger numbers failed to improve. Meanwhile, Arthur Gillis, the managing director of Protea Hotels, has mounted a spirited attack on suggestions that high hotel prices and low service standards have discouraged foreign tourists.

He produced figures showing that South African hotels were the cheapest in the world in dollar terms and, he said, their service compared well with that in five-star hotels he had stayed at in other parts of the world.

“Our airports are as good as those abroad. The Airlines Company has done wonders in transforming them,” he said.

Gillis said it infuriated him to hear people in the travel trade accusing South African hotels of pricing themselves out of the market and alienating tourists by poor standards of service.

He said hoteliers had been forced to increase prices because wages and other costs had risen in line with the need to give more training to the black labour force, uplift and empower them.

Gillis said he had stayed at five-star hotels in many countries and found service levels below those at their South African equivalents.

Gillis said Johannesburg came 70th in a cost comparison of large cities in the June edition of the British magazine Business Traveller. The comparison gave the average daily living cost in each city, including a single room with bathroom in a four-star hotel, with continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, taxi fares and incidentals.

Tokyo was the most expensive, costing $493.85 a day compared with $176.76 in Johannesburg and $246.26 in Sydney. Bombay was the cheapest at $158.54 a day.

Mackie said rather than compare our five-star hotels with those in a Third World country such as Turkey, Gillis should compare them with those in Australia, which are light years ahead of ours.

Mackie did not dispute the fact that South African hotels have been faced with rising wages, but they must modernise service standards. “People don’t mind paying more if service levels are extremely high.”

“Besides, Gillis is looking at the cost in dollars to foreign travellers. South African hotels are certainly pricing themselves out of the reach of local people. And even foreign visitors are asking for accommodation in good guest houses which offer better value.”

Gillis said service standards in Australia were excellent, but they cost 40 percent more in dollar terms. “What I am saying is that South Africa offers the foreign traveller better value for money.”

Hans Enderle, the City Lodge group’s executive chairman, said suggestions that high South African hotel prices were driving foreign tourists away overlooked the fact that foreign tour operators negotiated big discounts.

Enderle, the five-star Cape Sun Intercontinental said the rate for individuals without discount was R975 a night for a single room and R915 for a double, both without breakfast. A brochure for a conference to be held at the hotel in April however quoted a discounted rate of R840 a person for a double room with breakfast.

The CSS figures so far this year have shown rising hotel incomes and lower occupancy rates, except for ungraded hotels.

Income received by ungraded hotels was still going up in June, when it soared 23.4 percent, but bed occupancy slipped marginally by 0.6 percent.

Mackie and Puk have said in recent months that rising hotel income and falling occupancy rates spoke for themselves, and so did a move from four- and five-star hotels to ungraded establishments. The latest figures suggested ungraded establishments, too, may be becoming too expensive.
Plan carefully to enjoy SA visit, tourists urged

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

SOUTH AFRICA is still a tourist paradise and a carefully planned visit to the country had every chance of being enjoyable and just as safe as a visit to most other countries.

Dr Mike Fabričius, chief director for tourism in the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, said although the government was taking the matter of tourist safety seriously, it should be placed in context and not be blown out of proportion.

He was commenting on the bad publicity generated by the hoax story put out by an airport shuttle driver last week that three British tourists had been abducted.

"They should be aware of this and reduce any risk by planning their routes carefully, choosing safe transport and travelling in groups when possible."

He urged visitors to properly acquaint themselves with the area they would be visiting.
US warning on Cape crime as tourism falls off

MICHAELE MORRIS
Staff Reporter

A US State Department warning to American tourists to avoid conflict-plagued areas of the Peninsula underpins tourism industry concern that crime is to blame for poor business - a year-on-year fall of 44 percent in hotel room occupancy.

Although the US "advisory" was limited to certain areas of Cape Town, it was likely to reinforce foreign perceptions, based in part on extensive coverage of the gang-related violence in Cape Town that the Peninsula was unsafe, sources said.

A US consular spokeswoman said this week's State Department advisory was a routine response to circumstances such as the conflict between the militant grouping People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and gangsters.

She added: "It does not urge Americans to stay away from Cape Town - only the areas where violence has occurred or may occur. In fact, tourists are not likely to visit those areas."

Earlier this week, bid company chief executive Chris Ball warned that a high crime rate would affect South Africa's chances of bidding successfully for the Olympic Games.

He urged the authorities "immediately to use all legal means at their disposal to root out unlawful activities."
OPENING CEREMONY: But will Cape Town be able to avoid the pitfalls encountered in Atlanta? The Bid Committee thinks so.
New forum to keep eye on Olympic bid

MICHAEL MORRIS
Staff Reporter

Boosting public participation in Cape Town’s Olympic bid, and ensuring sustainable development, are among the key goals of a potentially influential community forum being set up next month.

It is committed to “engaging proactively” with the Bid Company and lists as one of its draft objectives “working with the Bid Company to ensure the success of the bid”.

Making sure the bid’s economic, environmental, developmental and cultural policies are sustainable and geared to meet the needs of the city top the agenda of the Cape Town Community Olympic Forum.

The forum stems from a conference held last month for nongovernmental organisations where the need to make the bid “truly people-centred” was emphasised.

While the forum is likely to include organisations and individuals who are deeply concerned about some elements of the Olympic plan and its overall potential impact, the new group’s point of departure will be to back the bid and make sure it has the most positive impact.

Omar Badsha, chairman of the committee charged with setting up the forum, told SATURDAY Argus, “The majority of people and organisations have said, ‘Yes, we support the bid’, but that depends on a free flow of information and maximum community participation. The potential economic, cultural, sports and social benefits of the Olympic bid are enormous. The transformation of the city in the short period of eight years will impact fundamentally on the people of greater Cape Town.

“There’s no doubt that there are enormous opportunities, but there are pitfalls too, especially for the poor, and so we need to make sure there’s a balance.”

“The bid has been delivered to the International Olympic Committee – and now is the time to take a more serious and vigorous interest in it.”

He believed that, up to now, communication between the Bid Company and the community had been inadequate and flawed, but was confident the forum would provide a credible and effective link between the broader community and bid planners.

A conference to launch the Cape Town Community Olympic Forum will be held at the Civic Centre on September 7. Telephone 832 9048 for details.

Cape Town on the Ball - page 18.

Tour operator slams US for scaring off visitors

MICHAEL MORRIS

A City tour operator, whose popular alternative tour takes foreign visitors through some of the poorest areas of the Cape Flats, says gang-related violence has not harmed his business.

But he fears this week’s State Department warning to Americans to avoid certain areas of the city could cost him dearly.

Ali Khan, operator of the “Route of Many Cultures tour”, has slammed the US for putting people off.

“I have led tours through these areas in times of violence, and there has never been any difficulty,” he said. Mr Khan’s tour starts in the city centre, and, from District Six, follows in the steps of the African, coloured and Indian people who were forced out under the Group Areas Act. The route takes in Athlone, Rylands, Guguletu, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and Mitchell’s Plain.

“In all these places, people welcome the visitors and there is always a wonderful spirit. The tourists love it.”

Mr Khan said his tours had been “running normally” in the past two weeks, but he feared his business would be harmed by the US government’s warning to American tourists to avoid areas on the Cape Flats.

A US consular spokeswoman said the warning was a routine response to circumstances such as the conflict between People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and gangsters.

While studies show that only a fraction of tourists visiting South Africa are personally affected by violent crime, overseas perceptions of risky conditions in South Africa have been blamed for a drop in foreign visitors this year.
Sun International income up despite bad conditions

Amanda Vermeulen

GAMING group Sun International lifted attributable income 6% to R386.3m for the year to June amid mixed trading conditions and a second-half slowdown.

Share earnings rose to 49.8c (47.2c) pro forma, while the total dividend grew to 29c from an actual 26.4c in the 1995 year.

Chairman Buddy Hawton said gaming revenues had been hit by the illegal casinos, which had made inroads into the slot machine market.

Deteriorating trading conditions were likely to continue in the current year. But the closure of the illegal casinos, and the fact that new casinos were unlikely to open in the current financial year, should lead to earnings growth.

Turnover improved 10% to R2.2bn, with gaming and hospitality revenues increasing 9% and 16% respectively.

Hospitality revenues showed satisfactory growth, with room occupancies at 70%, two percentage points higher than last year.

Hawton said room rates grew 15% due to strong foreign demand, especially at Sun City which had average occupancies of 79%, four percentage points ahead of last year.

All the group’s hotels reported improved performances.

The Wild Coast Sun posted an 11% growth in turnover despite growing illegal activities in Durban and surrounding areas. The four Eastern Cape hotels traded well, Hawton said, with revenues 13% up on last year.

Pre-tax profits were 14% higher at R496.6m thanks to improved margins and a R9.1m decline in interest costs to R23.3m following the April capitalisation award and better employment of the group’s cash reserve.

But tax charges increased 59% to R110.3m as higher SA tax rates became effective for the first time for the full reporting year, as well as STC, which did not apply in the previous year.

The group, together with its black empowerment partners, would pursue new licences, which would lead to a rationalisation of the group’s operations. The group is well placed to pursue new ventures through its extensive experience in the industry, sound track record and significant resources.

VAT on gaming revenues would be imposed at the standard rate from October.

Hawton said initial talks with provincial authorities indicated that levies could be reduced which means the aggregate level of VAT and gaming levies would not materially exceed the current level of gaming levies.
Satour ‘needs a real shake-up’

By Isaac Moledi

The South African tourism industry needs to be separated from the Government for it to function properly.

This is the view of South African Tourism Board (Satour) executive director Muvuyo Msimang.

He says for tourism to become one of the largest foreign exchange earners in the country, the tourism board needs to be restructured in such a way that it does not function like a government department.

“The organisation needs to have a leaner structure with fewer layers of positions. But as long as the conditions in Satour are as inflexible as they are now, we are going nowhere.”

Change needed

Proper management, coordination and funding of the organisation can only take place if it is fully restructured and run by people with suitable qualifications.

Msimang says tourism can easily contribute up to 11 percent of South Africa’s gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the century — thereby earning the Government tremendous revenue in terms of foreign currency — if the “bottlenecks and bureaucracy” can be removed.

Tourism presently contributes about four percent to South Africa’s
gross domestic output.

Growth in tourism, he says, will not only earn foreign exchange for the country, it could also create thousands of jobs, particularly in rural areas where work opportunities are lacking.

Msimang argues that from a meagre budget of R48 million, the tourist body contributed R2.6 billion to South Africa’s coffers.

“We say to Government: If you restructure, Satour, give it more resources and remove the bottlenecks and bureaucracy, then the organisation will perform as is required.”

According to Msimang, Satour’s budget has been reduced from R57 million during the previous financial year to its current level because the institution’s domestic tourism function was phased out and taken over by provincial tourism bodies.

Satour’s main functions now, says Msimang, are its international tourist promotion, with 14 offices abroad and one in Harare, as well as promoting quality service in the local accommodation industry.

“Satour itself is in transition as it will soon be phased out and replaced by another national tourist body which will coordination both national and international tourism activities.”

“If South Africa’s tourism industry is to reach its full potential, then increased funding for the development and promotion of the industry is essential,” he says.

Tourist destination

Msimang says it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain South Africa’s visibility as a tourist destination in the international marketplace.

For example, he points out that Satour’s budget to promote South Africa abroad is 10 times smaller than the amount spent by Australia.

“Not only does Satour have to compete with national tourism organisations who have budgets that far exceed ours but we have also had to cut our marketing budget due to the declining value of the rand.”

“We are speaking to the Government on this issue at the highest level. We also believe that the new Tourism Act, which will make provision for the creation of a new tourism body, will be flexible enough to allow us to make some changes.”
Sun International raises earnings

By John Soderlund

Johannesburg — Sun International South Africa, the gambling and hotel group formed from the amalgamation of its separate regional arms last year, raised earnings a share 6 percent to 49,8c in the year to June 30 from comparative pro forma figures for the past financial year.

Attributable earnings a share rose to R386,3 million from R364,1 million in the 1994-95 financial year after a 14 percent increase in the tax charge to R10,3 million. The higher tax rate was because of the full effect of higher South African tax rates becoming effective for the first time for the full year and the imposition of secondary tax on companies.

Turnover for the year under review was R2,16 billion, compared with the previous year's pro forma R2,96 million. A final dividend of 14c was declared, putting the full year distribution to 29c from last year's actual cumulative 26,4c.

Sun International said trading conditions were mixed for the year, with the group enjoying relatively buoyant conditions in the first half, which was followed by a decline in consumer spending and general business activity in the second six months.

"Gaming revenues were impacted by the activities of illegal gaming operations," the group said.

Hospitality revenues showed satisfactory growth. Average occupancy for the year was 79 percent, 2 percentage points up on the previous year.
Investors look for gold as Games fever favours some companies

STOCK market interest in Cape Town's Olympic bid is mounting as companies and sectors most likely to benefit from the multi-billion rand Games are identified by local and international investors.

Stockbroking firm TA Securities South Africa assessed the potential, and spokesman said that if Cape Town got the 2004 Games, the "entire spectrum of the South African economic community will benefit".

The company believed Cape Town had an "exceptional chance" of making it on to the shortlist of four of five of the 11 contending cities to be drawn up in April or May next year, and that this "should spark interest on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, locally and internationally".

Stockbrokers Smith Borkum & Harte last month urged clients to take stock of the Olympic opportunity, predicting that the construction, manufacturing, retail and financial sectors of the economy would benefit most from the Games.

Dealers there foresaw the event having "an enormous and positive impact" on the whole country.

TA Securities South Africa has suggested that clients would benefit from investments in a list of companies the stockbrokers believe are well-placed to reap rewards from the Olympics.

The main beneficiaries would be industrial, and service companies involved with the development of the Olympic infrastructure, as well as those meeting the needs of visitors to the Games, and the steadily increasing number of tourists.

The company lists nine potential "gold medal" winners on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. These include South African Breweries, Anglovaal Industries, IBM South Africa, Cadbury Schweppes (South Africa), Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Pick 'n Pay and Safmarine & Rennies Holdings, as well as media groups.


It is expected that, as the city's bid develops, listed companies will try to re-position themselves to gain the most advantage.

TA Securities, which characterises the bid as "the most powerful marketing tool South Africa has yet had at its disposal", predicts that the entire country's tourism industry "will feel the impact of the Games, during the event and in the years following, and that this should spill over to South African food and consumer product exports".
Foreign visits to golden city still favoured

Gauteng and the Western Cape received the highest number of foreign visitors in June 1996 compared to the same period the year before.

Figures issued by the Central Statistical Service indicate that although there was a 3.2% drop in Gauteng; it remained popular for foreign tourists, followed by the Western Cape which also dropped 3.3% from last year.

The total Gauteng bednights sold to foreign tourists in June was 44.8% with Johannesburg getting 18.7% of the total, Pretoria 11.5%, East Rand 2% and the rest of Gauteng 16.8%

Of the 24.4% of the total Western Cape market, Cape Town Peninsula and the wine lands got 20.3%, 2.4% went to the Garden Route, and 0.6% to "Overberg" and Bree River Valley, the remaining 1.1% went to the rest of the province.

Northwest Province netted 12.9% of market share, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (24.1%) and Mpumalanga (16.1%)

"Nil-star" hotels showed the largest number of bednights sold to foreign tourists (29.6%), followed by four-star hotels with a market share of 26.1%

Hotels sold 137541 bednights to foreign tourists in June 1996, 29.3% lower than the unusually high 194831 bednights sold in July 1995, a figure attributed also to the large number of visitors to the Rugby World Cup tournament.

European tourists account for 40% of the market share, followed by African tourists (19%), Asia (18%), North America (11%), Australia (9%), and Central and South America (2%).
Sun International, City Lodge give Kersaf boost

Amanda Vermeulen

CASINO and entertainment group Kersaf reported a 67% rise in attributable earnings to R344.4m in the year to June, buoyed by strong performances by City Lodge and Sun International’s offshore operations.

Share earnings before exceptional items rose 26% to 317c and the total dividend was raised 13% to 1.32c.

Turnover climbed 9% to R2.6bn, with profit from operations 11% higher at R677.3m.

Interest income showed a substantial increase at R89m (R53.2m), with exceptional items more than three times higher at R11.3m.

Operating profit improved 15% to R756m, and after interest expenses of R70.7m (R55.2m), pre-tax profits rose 14% to R684.3m.

An increase in tax to R146.5m (R104.5m) left taxed profits 8% up at R537.8m.

Chairman Buddy Hawton said a feature of the financial year had been the virtual eradication of debt, bringing the group’s gearing down to 3%.

Long-term borrowings dropped to R15m from R313.4m.

Sun International’s earnings, which rose only 6% to R386.3m in the year to June, had been hit by the illegal casinos and higher tax.

However, good performances from Sun International’s offshore operations, a strong contribution from City Lodge and an improvement in Interleisure’s profitability had mitigated the weaker Sun International contribution.

Hawton said trading conditions had been mixed during the financial year, with the hospitality industry buoyant despite a depreciation in the rand, high interest rates, and a fall in business and consumer confidence leading to a fall in consumer spending in the final quarter.

Sun International turned in a satisfactory performance, Hawton said. Room and gaming revenues increased 19% and 9% respectively, with occupancies improving because of higher foreign tourist demand. However, gaming revenues continued to be affected by the illegal casinos and a decline in consumer discretionary spending.

Paradise Island in the Bahamas traded above expectations, with average occupancies of 88%.

The Mohegan Sun casino resort in Connecticut, recently granted a permanent licence, would open in October, and the group’s plan for a new resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was progressing.

Sun International had also opened a fourth Mauritian hotel, and its fifth hotel would open later this year. City Lodge had again reported good growth in earnings, and improved occupancies. New lodges would open soon, and others were on the drawing boards for calendar 1997.

Cinema group Interleisure reported its third year of acceptable earnings growth.

Hawton said the year ahead was important for the group as the casino industry was expected to gain momentum, but the slowdown in economic growth and personal expenditure would put pressure on Sun International’s local operations.

However, the closure of illegal casinos and the group’s strong positioning in the market place, should lead to real revenue and earnings growth.
Investors and tourists get warning from Pagad

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

PEOPLE Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) has questioned the ability of the police to ensure the safety of tourists in Cape Town, and has discouraged international investment in South Africa. Pagad chief co-ordinator Farook Jaffer said at a Press conference in the Gatesville mosque last night that investors’ money was not safe while gangsters were at large.

The conference was also attended by Pagad military leader Ali “Phantom” Parker. Both men are on the police wanted list in connection with the fiery death of gang boss Rashaad Staggie.

A planned march on a drug merchant’s house was called off last night because of the tense situation, and Pagad leaders’ fears that it would lead to a confrontation with police.

Mr Jaffer said: “They (the international investors) should not invest until Pagad says so.”

He said: “I can’t see how tourists can come to this country. The police cannot even ensure the safety of its own citizens, how can it provide for the safety of people visiting the country?”

African National Congress MP Salie Manie said many parliamentarians did not understand the magnitude of the gangster problem in the Western Cape.

He would do his best to facilitate a meeting between Pagad members and Safety and Security minister Sidney Muamadi.

The next speaker responded, to loud applause: “Pagad will not meet with Muamadi until all charges against our members have been withdrawn.”
Sun Hotels gets a
$210m US toehold

Amanda Vermeulen

SUN International SA’s (SISA’s) offshore operation, Sun International Hotels, has bought 100% of US group Griffin Gaming & Entertainment in a $210m deal, giving it a toehold in the New Jersey gaming market.

Last month SISA said it would bid for a licence to build a $800m casino hotel in Atlantic City. Yesterday chairman Buddy Hawn said due to the Griffin deal the group would put its hotel on hold.

Griffin Gaming, trading as Resorts International, would be merged into a wholly owned SISA subsidiary. The deal — which does not automatically guarantee the group a licence to operate a casino in Atlantic City — would only become effective once SISA had been granted a licence, and this could take up to nine months.

In terms of the deal, SISA would also take on $127m in debt from the Griffin group, while Griffin chairman, entertainer Merv Griffin, would become a 4% shareholder in SISA.

This is the second transaction between the two parties. Sun International bought the Bahamian resort on Paradise Island, Sun Atlantis, from Griffin in 1994 for about $66m.

In terms of the deal, each share of Griffin common stock would be exchanged for 0.4324 SISA ordinary shares. Griffin Gaming has about 9.4 million shares of common stock outstanding on a fully diluted basis, valuing the merger at about $210m.

Once the deal was done, SISA would start renovating Griffin’s Atlantic City Resorts Casino Hotel.

Hawn said the Griffin deal now gave the group “two bites” at entering New Jersey’s gaming market. SISA already has two North American casino licences — Sun Atlantis and, recently, a permanent licence awarded for the Mohegan Sun, Connecticut.

SISA chairman Sol Kerzner said the deal would allow the group to start operating in New Jersey “almost immediately”. The Griffin deal is his second try to enter the New Jersey market. A 1986s bid failed due to union opposition to the SA-based organisation.

Merv Griffin bought control of Griffin Gaming from Donald Trump in a 1988 leveraged buyout. Griffin Gaming has filed for bankruptcy twice.
Partnership needed to foster tourism

Kwazulu-Natal - A significant partnership between the business sector, government, organised labour and tourism organisations would have to be created if tourism was to prosper in Mpumalanga.

That was the advice from Mpumalanga Tourism Minister Jacob Malema at a tourism awareness conference this week.

Malema said the first step was the creation of tourist awareness among all residents.

"The previously disadvantaged community in particular still needs to be convinced of the great opportunities tourism offers," he said. "For this reason, we have embarked on an awareness programme aimed at making the majority of the provincial population aware of the importance of a healthy tourism industry," he said.

The key to a successful industry was the adoption of the right attitude towards tourists, which would, in turn, boost the industry and create jobs for people in the province. - Lowveld Bureau
Drop in visitors to SA significant, says Jordan

BY JUSTICE MALALA

Political Staff

Cape Town - The number of tourists to SA grew by only 5% in the first five months of 1996, compared with a whopping 32% in the past two years, and one of the major reasons for the dip are concerns about crime in the country.

Speaking at a briefing at Parliament yesterday, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said the drop in the number of visitors was "significant" and if it continued it meant the tourism industry would register only a 5% growth this year.

He revealed that his ministry had been in talks with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to discuss the establishment of a police task force that would deal with the protection of tourists and the investigation of ways of minimising security problems.

"We have not yet been able to fully assess the damage that the negative publicity has done, and will probably be able to see the full impact at the end of the year," Jordan said.

He said the three main reasons that seem to have led to the drop in growth were increasing perceptions internationally that SA was riddled by crime and violence, the limited budget allocated to tourism marketing and the lack of availability of accommodation and other infrastructure.

In 1994 and 1995, SA attracted more tourists than any other African country except Egypt.

Jordan said the call by Cape leaders of People Against Gangs and Drugs (Pagad) that foreigners desist from investing and visiting the country until the drug problem had been solved was "unfortunate and unwise".

The problem of high crime levels was linked to social problems SA faced, and measures being taken to deal with crime at present "are really firefighting measures", he said. Only by dealing with the social ills could the problem be solved in the long term.
CAPTOUR BID TO COUNTER BAD PUBLICITY

‘Violence can cripple healthy tourism trade’

CAPTOUR has sent a number of reassuring messages to consulates and booking agencies in a bid to keep foreign tourists from cancelling their trips. DAN SIMON writes.

SCENES of violent clashes between Pagad and gang leaders in the city which were flashed around the world led to many cancellations by foreign holidaymakers who were to visit the city this summer.

Consulates and high commissions in the US and in Muslim countries in particular, were warning citizens to avoid Cape Town, Captour chief executive Mr Gordon Oliver said yesterday.

“We have sent urgent notifications to consulates by facsimile and booking agents via the Internet assuring them that this issue is being addressed with great urgency by all levels of government ...”

“We have also advised these countries and their authorities that the conflict is restricted to certain areas on the Cape Flats and is not apparent at any of the main tourist attractions in the Peninsula.”

“We recorded a 25% increase in tourists to this region in 1995 over 1994 and for every additional 30 overseas visitors to this city, one job is created.”

“As a result of the violence the anticipated growth in foreign tourists “has dropped to a meagre 4% for this year”, he said. Oliver said that while Captour understood the motivations of Pagad and supported the eradication of gangsterism and drug dealing, the organisation could in no way support activities that were irresponsible and threatened the mainstay of the economy and the people in the region.

“The violent nature of their approach could cripple a healthy tourism industry.”

“We too want freedom from drugs and crime but freedom is coupled with responsibility. At a time when all eyes are on Cape Town as an Olympic Bid city, threatening ultimatums such as a holy war will not only endanger the city’s chances to host the Games but will undo the enormous work that has been done since the 1994 elections.”
Task group to monitor Bid

A SPECIAL task group has been appointed to monitor the development of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid on a daily basis, Minister of Sport and Recreation Mr Steve Tshwete said yesterday.

He said the group, which includes technical experts from several government departments and representatives of the Olympic Bid Company, were co-ordinating practical implementation of the bid.

Tshwete said Cape Town had a good chance of being shortlisted among the five contenders in March next year.

The business community should get fully involved — beyond just sponsorship — in the Bid, he said. — Staff Writer
DEMANDING EXPECTATIONS

A year ago, the share was R21 and investors were cautious, fearing overvaluation. In February it hit a high of R38 before slipping to its current R30. On a historical p:e ratio of 23.3 it is close to the top in a highly-valued sector. The question is whether it can continue to perform at this level.

The 1996 results tend to suggest it may. Boosted by a full year from the Courtyard group, they show sound growth in turnover, operating margins, attributable profit and EPS, and an increased dividend. Average room occupancy rate for the whole group was 81%.

A 53% rise in pre-tax profit on the back of a 17% jump in turnover indicates a healthy widening of margins. EPS rose 41% to 128.7c. Though long-term borrowings rose by a quarter to R42m, a boost to shareholders' funds, in part from the Employees' Share Trust, resulted in a lowering of gearing.

The share trust, which holds 1m shares funded by a company loan, was set up for all employees (other than management) on its 10th anniversary. It lets employees share in the group's wealth, says chairman Hans Enderle, which should stimulate motivation and productivity.

At each year-end a certain number of shares — calculated by a simple formula based on the increase in share price — is issued equally to each eligible employee. The employee is free to hold or dispose of the shares. If the share price drops, no shares are issued. But the dividends are distributed equally.

This year being the first, an exception was made: Each employee will receive 30 shares, even though the share has fallen below the issue price of R34.

Enderle predicts "acceptable, real growth" this year, at least beating inflation. Strongly represented in Gauteng, the Western Cape and tourist nodes, the group is still expanding steadily, with a new Road Lodge in the Cape and a Town Lodge in Sandton due to open soon.

The rise in tourist numbers is estimated at 20% a year until 2000. If this materialises, Enderle observes, the five-star hotels should be filled and occupancies will stay high. If not, some discounting will take place at the upper end, depressing margins and average occupancies throughout the industry.

Saturation in certain markets is a medium-term threat, and occupancies could be further reduced if crime and violence are not addressed. Business travel is expected to stay high, and is an important source of clientele.

So far management has judged travellers' needs for quality, limited-service accommodation well, with commensurate rewards. Market expectations are demanding, partly because the pay-off has been reliable.

Margaret-Anne Halse
Act now, or say goodbye to tourism

MICHAEL MORRIS
Olympic Bid Reporter

MULTI-MILLION rand hotel developments, precious foreign exchange earnings and the bid to host the Olympic Games could be jeopardised by continuing crime and lawlessness, the tourist industry has warned.

Exasperated hoteliers and others in the sector are going all-out to warn the Government that unless it takes tougher action now, the industry will flounder, and it will take South Africa years to recover. They were responding to a report in the Argus yesterday highlighting cancellations by foreign tourists.

The militant group Pagad (People Against Gangsterism and Drugs) has also been sharply criticised for failing to appreciate the impact of its activities on international opinion.

Group bookings from Europe — which in Cape Town but often include a round-trip through South Africa — are falling apart as would-be tourists change their minds at the last minute for fear of lawlessness.
Cape Town's breathtaking beaches may find themselves void of foreign tongues this summer after a spate of cancellations from holidaymakers as a result of ongoing conflict between gangs and vigilantes.

Captour, a division of Satour, reports that foreign holidaymakers destined to visit the Mother City this summer, cancelled bookings after vivid international media reports of tension and violence.

"Many countries, such as the United States and Muslim states, who are particularly sensitive to clashes of this nature, are warning citizens to avoid this destination," said Captour spokesman Gordon Oliver.

He said the modus operandi of the People Against Gangs and Drug organisation — particularly its recent execution of Cape Town gang leader Rashaad Staggie — could cripple the tourism industry even though Pagad was drawing attention to unacceptable levels of drug abuse and gangsterism.

He said Captour had already sent urgent messages to consulates and booking agents to inform them that the conflict was restricted to only certain areas on the Cape Flats. It was certainly not apparent at any of the main tourist attractions on the Peninsula.

"We have assured them that the issue is being addressed with great urgency by all levels of government and by national intelligence." Oliver said.

Although Captour understood the motivation of Pagad and supported the idea of eradicating gangsterism and drug dealing on the Cape Flats, it could not support activities which were irresponsible and threatened the mainstay of the local economy, he added. — Staff Reporter.
Test of Games bid viability

MICHAEL MORRIS
on the Olympic Bid

A KEY element of Cape Town's Olympic plan for 2004 will be tested later this year when the world’s top pentathlon athletes muster at Stellenbosch for a high-profile one-day event.

The Pentathlon World Cup final on October 5 will, the Bid Company believes, help demonstrate the viability of the city’s Games plan.

This view has been given credence by Klaus Schormann, president of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon, who is visiting South Africa this week.

He believes Stellenbosch is the perfect setting for pentathlon events, and that existing facilities, perhaps with minor adaptations, will match the needs of Olympic-level pentathlon competition. The pentathlon covers running, swimming, riding, fencing and pistol shooting.

Mr Schormann said that among the advantages of the Stellenbosch facilities was that, unlike those in the recent Atlanta Games, they were all within walking distance of each other.

“The setting – a historic university town – is also perfect. The pentathlon is not just about big muscles. There’s a cultural element too, and Stellenbosch is the perfect setting for it,” he said. “The other thing that makes Stellenbosch ideal is that all the venues are there already – and may need only minor modification.”

Sixteen top male pentathletes from 12 countries will take part in the one-day event on October 5. There will also be a demonstration event by six top female pentathletes, and a biathlon demonstration by 16 athletes.
SA has six months to rescue its tourism industry, says professor

By Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — South Africa could still save its tourism industry, but the next six months would be decisive, Bavie Heath, professor of tourism management at Pretoria University, said yesterday.

"The window of opportunity is still open for us but I think it will have closed in six months if we do not take positive action to make people want to come here," he said.

Heath and Marvin Marinang, the executive director of the South African Tourism Organisation, have just returned from the second annual conference of the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation in Australia.

Heath said attitudes towards South Africa were positive, but there was concern about the inadequate marketing of this country as a holiday destination. There was also concern about safety and security.

South Africa was also seen as an expensive destination offering poor value for money and service.

In Australia, on the other hand, he had been made to feel welcome as soon as he arrived at the airport.

"The cab driver and the hotel staff all made us feel they were glad to see us," Heath said.

"It is clear that people in Australia understand the importance of tourism as a foreign-exchange earner and provider of jobs. The government is investing in it.

"The private sector takes a long-term view and keeps its prices down to reasonable levels," he said.

He said he did not consider the tourist boom to be over, despite the recent fall in the number of tourists.

"It would be unrealistic to expect to be as busy in the winter months as we were last year, when there was a lot of curiosity about this country and the world rugby cup matches were on," Heath said.

"But we have been wasting our opportunities by failing to market this country properly as a tourist destination and by the negative messages we have sent out about individual safety.

"There is hardly a country in the world that has not seen the opportunities tourism brings — to improve the quality of life for everyone, and we have had so much going for us with all the helpful publicity in the past two years.

"The international tour operators see Australia as offering opportunities for long-term investment. They have doubts about South Africa. We must get rid of those question marks hanging over us," Heath said.
Pentathlon boosts city's Games hopes

DAN SIMON TOURISM WRITER

The 1996 World Cup Final of the modern pentathlon for men is to be held in Stellenbosch on October 5—a decision that enhances Cape Town's prospects of staging the 2004 Olympic Games.

In the one-day pentathlon, 16 of the world's best pentathletes are to compete in swimming, running, shooting, fencing and riding.

The line-up of sporting stars is expected to include Olympic champion Aleksandr Parving of Kazakhstan. An unnamed South African is also on the list of competitors.

The president of the South African Modern Pentathlon Association, Mr Nick Fousie, has refused to name the competitors, but indication are that it could be Claude Cloete, who came 15th overall in the modern pentathlon in Atlanta.

The staging of the event in Stellenbosch was announced yesterday by the president of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne, Mr Klaus Schmitt. He is spending three days in the city to finalize details.

The World Cup Country Championships were held in Stellenbosch earlier this year.

Schmitt said Stellenbosch was an ideal venue for the modern pentathlon. It had the facilities and its mountain setting had played a large part in its selection.

Meanwhile, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has expressed satisfaction that Cape Town can go on to stage the 2004 Olympic Games. It believes the expense will not affect ratepayers.

Its deputy director, Mr Colin Boyes, said that in fulfilling its role as "watchdog" for the business community, the chamber had held meetings with the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company and had evaluated its budget plans.

A meeting was held recently with the deputy city treasurer to assess the degree of financial prudence that will be exercised by local authorities and by Cape Town in particular.

The chamber had been told that the Western Cape government and local governments share of the cost would be limited to 30%. Boyes said.

Also, the Bid Company and government had agreed that an endowment fund would be established to subsidize the cost of running the Olympic facilities after the Games.
ANDREA BOTHA
Staff Reporter

PEOPLE Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) has condemned Cape Town’s bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games and say they will stop the bid at all costs.

Pagad leader Ali “Phantom” Parker said last night the organisation would use national and international support to stop the Olympic Bid from succeeding.

Mr Parker said the Olympic Games was a celebratory event which could not be supported at present.

“It is premature. It can’t be justified to have the Games in the present climate, in this abnormal society”, he said.

“Our stand is that no Olympic event should take place until society is rid of gangsterism and drugs”. He said Pagad would intensify its anti-drug campaign and the organisation was monitoring the police – whose performance had so far been disappointing.

Speaking at a press conference at Gateville Mosque in Athlone last night, Mr Parker, who was wearing a bullet-proof vest, also lashed out against press reports that Pagad had promised to work within the framework of the law.

He was referring to reports of the meeting between Frank Kahn, Attorney-General of the Western Cape, and Pagad representatives, after which subpoenas in terms of Section 293 of the Criminal Procedure Act were withdrawn against the media, including The Argus.

“We feel the need to let people know that Pagad’s non-aligned, non-affiliated and its sole aim is to eradicate gangsterism and drugs.”

“Kahn was trying to make a deal, but he’s in no position to make a deal.

“The entire justice system is incompetent to deal with gangsterism and drugs.” Mr Parker also emphasised that no representative of Pagad had a mandate to negotiate with Mr Kahn.

“We warn anybody not to negotiate on behalf of Pagad to sell the people out.”

“We have legal representatives and no one else must assume this responsibility”, he warned.

Mr Parker said Pagad did not want to speak to anyone other than Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

Mr Parker said: “Frank Kahn says we will work in the structure of the law. ‘What law? We will not be threatened by Kahn, he gives the impression that he can negotiate our freedom.”

Two men were arrested at the Pagad meeting at the Gateville Mosque last night, resulting in a volley of gunfire from the crowd.

The arrests also triggered a protest march to the Athlone police station early today.

The two men were arrested on charges of car theft after the police’s discovery that a green Mercedes Benz parked in the vicinity of the mosque was stolen in Durban in December last year.

When the two men returned to the car at 11pm they were arrested and taken to Athlone police station.

One of them was later released.

But angry Pagad bystanders assumed the police were arresting the men on charges relating to Pagad’s “holy war”, and demanded an explanation from the police.

Some tried to jump on the Casspir to prevent the police from taking the two men away.

Police inspector Virna Simon said seven shots were fired but it was not clear where the shots came from and who fired them.

There were no reports of injuries.

“The situation was tense and it was probably only a result of ignorance at the time. The people did not understand why the two men had been arrested,” said Inspector Simon.

After the arrests about 500 Pagad members gathered outside the Athlone police station about 12.16pm and demanded to know why the two men had been arrested.
Now Pagad vows to scuttle Cape Olympic bid

Cape Town - People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) has now condemned Cape Town’s bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games and said it would stop the bid at all costs. Pagad leader Ali “Phantom” Parker said last night the organisation would use national and international support to prevent the success of the bid.

He said: “We cannot have the Olympic Games at all costs. It is premature. It can’t be justified to have the Games in the present climate, in this abnormal society. Our stand on the Olympic Games is: no Olympic event can take place until society is rid of gangsterism and drugs.”

He said Pagad would intensify its anti-drug campaign and was monitoring the police, whose performance so far had been disappointing.

Speaking at a press conference at Gatesville Mosque in Athlone, Parker, who was wearing a bullet-proof vest, also denied reports that Pagad had promised to work within the framework of the law following a meeting with Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn.

After the meeting, subpoenas in terms of Section 208 of the Criminal Procedure Act were withdrawn against the media.
Liberty to build six(288) Southern
Sun hotels
CT(BR)28/3/96
By Audrey d'Angelo

Johannesburg — Liberty Life Properties said yesterday that it would invest R350 million in six new hotels to be managed by Southern Sun.

The company will build three hotels in Gauteng and three in Cape Town in the next two years, adding 1,207 new hotel rooms to the South African market.

Wolf Cisman, the chairman of Liberty Life Properties, said the three hotels in Gauteng would be a 157-room Holiday Inn Garden Court in Hatfield, Pretoria, a 158-room Holiday Inn Garden Court and a 138-room Holiday Inn Express, both at Eastgate, Johannesburg, with easy access to the Eastgate shopping mall.

Construction of the Pretoria hotel would start next month; it should open next June. Construction of the Holiday Inn Garden Court had already begun and work on the Holiday Inn Express would start in a few months. Both were due to open in May.

The three Cape Town hotels would be a 220-room Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, a 400-room Holiday Inn Garden Court and a 135-room Holiday Inn Express. They would be at the entrance to the Waterfront.

Cisman and Holker Pereira, Southern Sun’s chief operating executive, said in Sandton yesterday that they were confident about the South African tourism industry.

They said the fall in foreign tourists’ arrivals in June was a seasonal trough, and it was unrealistic in any event to compare the figures with last June’s, when the Rugby World Cup brought many fans.

However, they admitted that crime levels were a deterrent to the continued growth of tourism. Pereira said crime and violence were the only big factors which could discourage tourism’s growth.

See Business Watch, Page 20
Three new hotels planned for city

AUDEY D'ANGELO
CT 28/08/96

CAPE TOWN will have three new hotels providing 756 rooms by the end of next year.

The three hotels, on a site near the entrance to the waterfront adjoining the old power station, are part of a R350 million investment in a total of six hotels in Cape Town and Gauteng by Liberty Life Properties, which Southern Sun will manage.

Announcing this at a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr Helder Pereira, Southern Sun chief operating executive, said work would start on all three before the year end and all the hotels were due to open next year.

They will include the first four-star Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza to be built in Cape Town, with 220 rooms, and the first two-star Holiday Inn Express with 136 rooms.

But the largest, with 400 rooms, will be a three-star Holiday Inn Garden Court, which Pereira said was growing the most attractive to foreign tourists.

Southern Sun managing director Ron Stringfellow said the group's existing hotels in Cape Town currently had high occupancy rates and "exceptional pressure is being placed on them during the peak season".

Stringfellow said that although there was a marked drop in occupancy in Cape Town during winter the trough was becoming shorter and "the timing is now right for additional capacity in the right product range".

See Page 19
Big drop in visitors to SA

But Western Cape packs 'em in as 37% more arrive in first half of the year

THE number of foreign tourists in South Africa in June dropped by nearly half compared with the figure for June last year, the time of the Rugby World Cup.

The number of foreigners entering the country at international airports in May dropped by 49 percent in June. And the June figure was 44.1 percent down on June 1995, according to Central Statistical Services figures.

There was also a 28.9 percent drop in the number of South Africans who went overseas in June compared with June last year.

Visitors from Australasia and Europe showed the largest decreases in the comparative June figures: 63 percent and 47.8 percent respectively.

But the combined figures for the first half of 1996, compared with the same period last year, show only a 2.5 percent decrease.

Of the 525 738 foreign visitors who entered the country during the first half of the year, 66.5 percent (345 403) came on holiday and 21.5 percent (113 040) on business.

Locally, the industry is maintaining the positive growth shown last year, says Nick Malherbe of the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

He said the number of overseas visitors to the Western Cape in the first half of 1996 increased by 37 percent over last year.

“We are in fact carrying the rest of the country when it comes to tourism.”

Referring to the effect of crime on the industry, he said: “Unless there is a major catastrophe, people will still come to Cape Town, just as they go to Israel and Ireland although there is sporadic violence in those countries.”

ACTION STATION: Chairman of Channel 6 Broadcasting Sam Montsi, centre, with directors Cobus Kotze and Zubeida Jaffer.

Get your kicks on Channel 6
Major drop in tourism

Cape Town - The number of foreign visitors to South Africa has almost halved, compared with the number of tourists that flooded the country at the time of the Rugby World Cup last year.

There was a 49% drop in the number of foreign visitors between May and June this year, compared to the same period in 1995, and a 44.1% drop in comparative figures for June of 1995 and 1996.

This is according to the latest statistics released by the Central Statistical Services.

The June figures also showed a 26.9% drop in the number of South Africans leaving to take holidays overseas.

Visitors to South Africa from Australasia and Europe showed the largest decreases in the comparative June figures; 65% and 47.8% fewer visitors respectively.

But the combined figures for the first half of 1996, compared with those from the same period last year, show only a 2.5% decrease.
Tourism to become school subject

The Western Cape will embrace tourism in its schools, with a regional core programme being introduced to learners across the province. This initiative aims to equip learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue careers in the tourism sector.

Learners will be exposed to various aspects of tourism, including hospitality, culinary arts, and transportation. The programme will be delivered through a blended learning approach, combining classroom instruction with practical experiences in real-world settings.

This initiative is expected to enhance learners' employability and contribute to the economic development of the Western Cape.

Source: The Western Cape Department of Education

Date: 24 August 2021
Games site delay: Council fears R20-m loss

CAPE TOWN municipality fears it may lose R20-million in government money to finance an Olympics project in Philippi because the council may not be able to develop the site in time for a visit by the International Olympics Committee in December.

The council has been negotiating to buy a site in Philippi for about R51.5-million to build an indoor sports hall for Olympic events.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the council resolved that if the money was not spent in Philippi, it should still be at the disposal of Cape Town municipality and not be allocated to Khayelitsha in the neighbouring Tygerberg municipality.
The figures are skewed in that the bulk of foreign arrivals (73%) - including business travelers (91%) - are from Africa.

The potential for tourism, however, is significant. According to the South African Tourism Development Corporation, tourism is a key driver of economic growth in South Africa. The country has a number of unique attractions, including its diverse wildlife and cultural heritage, which are popular among international tourists.

However, South Africa faces challenges in attracting more tourists. One major obstacle is the perception of safety, particularly in urban areas. Several high-profile incidents of violence and crime have damaged the country's reputation for tourism. The government and industry leaders are working to address these concerns by implementing measures to improve safety and security.

In conclusion, the potential for tourism in South Africa is significant, but efforts must be made to address safety concerns and improve the overall tourist experience. By doing so, the country can attract more tourists and contribute to economic growth.

Reference:
Express, in about six weeks. It is also due for completion in mid-1997. The Holiday Inn Express brand is a notch down from the Holiday Inn Garden Court.

The Eastgate site is on the R24, which links the city with the Johannesburg International airport, and is close to the major N3 route to the coast. A bridge across the R24 linking the Bruma Lake Precinct with the Eastgate shopping centre will form part of the development.

The total cost of the three Cape Town hotels, which will be built half a block from the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront on a site near Cape Town's incomplete freeway, will be R250m.

Liberty bought the 10 000 m² site for R19m a few years ago. A deluxe 220-room, four-star Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, a 400-room Holiday Inn Garden Court and a 136-room Holiday Inn Express are planned for the property. They will share common facilities such as restaurants and a 400-car parkade but will have separate entrances and lobbies.

The Pretoria hotel will be a 157-room Holiday Inn Garden Court in Hatfield. It will be near the main highway network and the city's ambassadorial district. Construction is scheduled to start soon and it should be open by May next year.

Cesman says when Liberty decided on its Cape Town venture, it ignored the possibility of Cape Town being awarded the 2004 Olympic Games. "We worked on current demand and concluded the hotels would still be profitable."

Southern Sun chief operating executive Helder Perreira says the extra 1 200 rooms will bring Sun's room capacity in its 60 hotels to more than 12 000. Measured by rooms, Sun is the biggest hotel chain in the southern hemisphere and the 47th largest in the world.

Perreira favours Liberty's approach of building hotels "where they're needed." He says Sandton is over-supplied with five-star hotels but Cape Town has a bottleneck. "We turned away 250 000 room nights last year. At an average of R280 a room night, that's R70m of business."
Rows will not sway IOC, says expert

The amount of work that has gone into answering the 450 questions put by the IOC is quite remarkable, and I am sure that will be the impression of those who will review the bid.

"It is excellent: it is a very honest presentation and does not try to promote or sell anything that cannot be delivered."

Mr Jackson believed the IOC team would concentrate on certain key features during its December visit. "They will spend a fair amount of time assessing accommodation, and the capability of the city to provide first-class accommodation."

"They will want to review the athletes' and media village requirements, and the Press and Broadcast Centre. Other key issues will be transportation and security, and they will take a very careful look at budgets and finance, and the guarantees that go with them."

"In this, Cape Town's bid has exceptional support from all three levels of government. This is important for the IOC's comfort, particularly in view of the fact that the bid is a developmental one," Mr Jackson said.

As a concept, the developmental nature of the project was likely to be "very appealing" because all facilities and related developments "have such an important purpose."

The world community was "genuinely interested in social and political developments in South Africa," he said.

See page 8
Bench appointments delayed

See page 76 for more details.

Cape's 2004 hope still alive — Ramsamy

One of the key issues in the Cape Town City Council's budget negotiations is the delay in the appointment of key officials. The lack of appointments has been a significant obstacle to the council's ability to effectively manage its finances and deliver services to residents. The situation has raised concerns among council members and residents about the council's ability to address pressing issues.

The mayor and the city's finance department have been working to resolve the appointments issue, but progress has been slow. Some council members have called for a more aggressive approach to address the delays.

In the meantime, the council has continued to operate with a reduced workforce and limited resources. The situation has created tension and frustration among council members and residents.

The council is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the appointments issue further. The council will need to find a way to address the delays and ensure that key officials are appointed as soon as possible to enable the council to function effectively.

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NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town City Council's budget negotiations have hit a snag due to the delay in the appointment of key officials. The council has been unable to finalize its budget for the new financial year due to the lack of appointments.

The city's finance department has been working to resolve the issue, but progress has been slow. Some council members have called for a more aggressive approach to address the delays.

In the meantime, the council has continued to operate with a reduced workforce and limited resources. The situation has created tension and frustration among council members and residents.

The council is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the appointments issue further. The council will need to find a way to address the delays and ensure that key officials are appointed as soon as possible to enable the council to function effectively.

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Dean's advice on winning the bid

One of the key challenges in the bidding process is how to present a strong and convincing case to the International Olympic Committee. Dean's advice is to focus on the city's strengths and unique selling points.

In his presentation, Dean emphasized the city's rich history and cultural heritage, its world-class sporting facilities, and its vibrant and lively community.

Dean also highlighted the city's commitment to social and environmental sustainability, as well as its strong support from the wider community.

Dean's advice has been well-received by the city's bid team, who are preparing to make their final presentation to the International Olympic Committee later this month.

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National Olympic Committee of South Africa

The National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA) has announced that Cape Town has been voted as the preferred host city for the 2004 Olympics.

The decision was made by the NOCSA executive committee after a thorough review of the bid proposals submitted by the city.

The NOCSA executive committee praised Cape Town's bid for its innovative and creative approach, as well as its strong support from the wider community.

The NOCSA executive committee also highlighted the city's commitment to social and environmental sustainability, as well as its world-class sporting facilities.

Cape Town will now begin preparations for the 2004 Olympics, which are scheduled to take place in 2004.
Olympic hope boosted by Cabinet agreement

(288) B0 31/96

Jacqueline Zaina

THE national Cabinet has agreed in principle to enact legislation to protect the Olympic trademarks, including the "five rings" synonymous with the international event, strengthening Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Games.

The bid committee is gearing up for the estimated R7.2bn capital costs involved in hosting the event. R3bn of the R5.5bn operating budget has already been secured from the sale of TV rights by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in dollars.

Olympic bid committee financial director Michael Fuller said yesterday that the Cabinet's endorsement of the need for trademark protection would boost the bid committee's chances by ensuring that SA complied with international standards in terms of safeguarding intellectual property.

The legislation, which would also deal with the misuse of Olympic trademarks, would currently be a "grey area", would bring SA up to speed with overseas countries by September next year, when it was expected to be passed.

Assurance

It would also provide sponsors with the assurance that their rights to the Olympic logo developed for the SA Games, would be protected by law. Private sector sponsors would have the right to link their products to the local Olympic logo, but would not automatically be allowed to use the "five ring" symbol in their advertising.

Corporate sponsors of the Olympic bid had already raised R70m towards the bid company's operating expenses. Mercedes-Benz, SA Airports, Caltex, Nedbank, Unifrust, Pick n Pay, Telkom and Sun International had each sponsored the bid to the tune of R7.5m. Siemens, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Primedia Ad Displays, Ericsson, IBM and Opportunities Communications had contributed R2.5m each.

The committee aimed to raise a further R300m from the private sector to cover the budgeted R86m operational costs until next September. Pre-event capital expenditure including R86m for the construction of multipurpose community facilities and R250m in transportation upgrades had been agreed to in principle by the Cabinet.

Costs involved in hosting the actual event would require another set of sponsors. The expected operating budget for the bid committee between 2000 and 2004 is R5.5bn, most of which would be funded by the private sector, with R3bn already raised from the sale of TV rights on an international market. The event would require a capital budget of R7.2bn - roughly divided between the private sector and government, Fuller said.

Bell Dewar & Hall attorney Clifford Green said McDonald's recent victory in securing sole rights to their trademarks registered in SA would definitely boost SA's chances because it demonstrated the country's commitment to the protection of intellectual property - a firm priority for the IOC in deciding where to stage the event.

The IOC was known to be extremely strict about the protection of its intellectual property including the "five rings" symbolising the five continents, and would not have considered giving it to any city that could not afford it and its sponsors adequate protection.

Sources close to the bid company said the Cape Town pitch would not even have got off the ground, had McDonald's not have been able to secure its exclusive rights to its trademark.

Precedent

Director of Olympic fund-raising agents Grinaker Sports Management Marc Tudhope said that any case that set a precedent in terms of SA's ability to protect famous foreign trademarks benefited the sale of trademark rights to potential SA sponsors.

Fuller said sponsors could optimise marketing opportunities which had emerged due to SA's success at the Atlanta Games in July. Apart from a mere linking of their products to the Olympic logo, sponsors could capitalise on the "Olympic fever" which had gripped the country.

In the longer term, Olympic sponsorships would provide marketing opportunities on the basis of nation building.

In terms of a recent economic analysis, hosting the Games was expected to provide the SA economy with a R300m boost, generating an additional R8.3bn in tax revenue and creating 91,000 jobs.
PRETORIA. — The Mount Nelson Hotel has been voted the best hotel in Africa by foreign business travellers.

A poll of readers of the magazine Executive Travel, published in London, has given the accolade to the world-famous hotel ahead of the Melkies Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe. The hotel was recently renovated.
Captour appoints new tourism marketing team

In the wake of severe budget cuts and the loss of key staff, Captour yesterday announced a new marketing team that will aim to position the Cape as Southern Africa's premier tourist destination and serve as a watchdog over the standards and quality of service offered by its members.

Captour chief executive Mr Gordon Oliver said Mr Jeremy Harris, formerly a key marketer for a leading cellular network company, would head the five-person team.

"We are now truly restructured with this talented and focused team in place," said Oliver. — Tourism Writer
SA tourism business to boom this summer

By Audrey d’Angelo

Cape Town – The South African tourism business is in line for another good season this summer, with airline and hotel bookings on the increase.

Tourist arrivals this winter were sharply lower than last year, with some travel trade executives saying rising hotel prices and reports of violent crime had already killed the tourism boom.

But hotel and airline executives said yesterday that bookings were looking better from October onwards.

However, some hotels have had cancellations after reports of violence, and most of the airline capacity has been taken up by block bookings from tour operators who have not yet paid for the tickets and could still cancel.

Otto Stehlik, chairman of the Protea Hotel chain, warned that if violent crime was not curbed there could be more cancellations and South Africa could find itself in the same position as Kenya and Rio de Janeiro.

The once-booming tourism trade in the two countries had been almost completely destroyed. “They are still struggling to get back where they were,” Stehlik said.

Richard Johnson, of the Tower Hotel group, said bookings for this summer were “definitely picking up and are looking very good indeed”.

Most of the bookings were for European visitors. “But we are starting to pick up more from the US, where we have representation.”

Johnson said his group had not had any cancellations as a result of crime and violence.

However, Paul Johnson, managing director of the Karos Hotel group, said: “We have had at least 10 cancellations since flights were diverted. We are only affected by the reports of violence and car hijacking can have a very negative effect.”

Selwin Hurwitz, chairman and chief executive officer of the Karoo chain, said: “Cancellations are being cancelled at a higher rate. These cancellations seem to have levelled off now and forward bookings are very healthy, particularly in Western Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal.

“We could be the world’s premier destination if it is not spoiled by continuing reports of crime.”

Mike Kahn, Cape manager of Lufthansa, said he already had waiting lists for some flights and was having difficulty in finding hotel accommodation in Cape Town for a group of 50 people arriving in November.

Heini Rohrer, general manager of Swissair in southern Africa, and Josy Etkind of Sabena, said bookings were heavy from the end of September.

Ian Petrie, British Airways’ general manager in the Cape, Natal and Namibia, said: “Our forward bookings are encouraging from September onwards. Generally speaking, things are looking up.”

Heinz Enne, a travel agent at Welcome Safaris in Johannesburg, said there were signs that it would be a good year for tourism.

“It will probably not be quite as good as last year, but that will not be a bad thing because we had more than our infrastructure could handle properly. It will be better if we can achieve steady growth.”
Mandela: It's our duty

that the rainbow flag never touched the ground in Atlanta. In every way you have been role models for our youth and ambassadors for our nation.

"The exploits in Atlanta laid the basis for the race we are beginning today. In this race, there is only one medal: gold.

"In as much as our successes in the Olympic Games were part of Africa's growing excellence, so is Cape Town's bid Africa's own."

It was "part of the African renaissance, part of our confident assertion on the world stage," he said.

The government had undertaken to honour the Cape Town bid "out of our conviction that Africa deserves a chance to host the Olympic Games in a unique African way."

"The Games have been staged in the four other continents. Now is the time for Africa to complete the five Olympic rings," he said.

The cabinet had endorsed the bid after "careful consideration of facts and figures presented by the national and provincial governments and the Cape Town Metropolitan Council, as well as the advice of the Development Bank of Southern Africa."

Olympic-related construction "must be seen as part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme," he said.

"The stadia, the villages and the improvements to the transport system will benefit the people of this city and country for years to come, long after 2004. There must be no white elephants," he said. The people of the city should not lose sight of these goals. "Even as the jobs are being created and the construction and renovation work unfolds, there will be disruptions to daily life, and there may be some stepping on one another's toes from time to time. But let us keep our eyes on long-term interests. Let us focus on the bid."

"Remember," he concluded, "if Cape Town wins, South Africa wins; Africa wins."
R750m ‘Riviera’ for Oudekraal

IT'S ONE of South Africa's most spectacular and ambitious residential housing developments ever. News Editor COLIN HOWELL is first with the story of a land deal 39 years in the making, that's about to redefine the top end of Cape Town's property market and provide a major shot in the arm for the Western Cape economy.

In less than two months' construction will start on a unique township of 240 luxury homes on the scenic slopes of the Twelve Apostles bordering Camps Bay and Rondebosch.

The Oudekraal Estate will be the ultimate in exclusivity — plots will sell for an average of R1 million. The developers are already reporting huge interest from international, local and expatriate purchasers prepared to spend a further R1m to R2m building architect-designed homes which take full advantage of the area's magnificent sea and mountain views.

The developers said the estate was being developed fully in accordance with its environmental impact study requirements. The leisure resort hotel development on the site of the now-demolished White House about five kilometres south.

The White House developers recently approached the city council for permission to build a commercial hotel and a number of which had already been transformed into offices, shops and restaurants.

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French, Spanish and Italian Riviers, said Bernstein.

"We are aiming at foreign investors and upcountry buyers — business people looking to move to the Cape," he said.

Major spin-offs for tourism were also expected as the world's rich and famous were searching for quality holiday rental accommodation in the Cape in growing numbers, he said. Already, some homeowners on the Atlantic seaboard were holidays at ski resorts in the Alps over the Christmas season as the likes of top fashion designer Giorgio Armani paid huge rentals to stay in their homes.

"The estate will offer international quality accommodation and township infrastructure planned around the beautiful mountain and sea views. We expect that the adjoining suburbs will benefit hugely from our added investment in the area — this is fantastic news not only for property in the Camps Bay, Bakoven and Rondebuit area but also for Cape Town in general," Bernstein said.

Engelbrecht said the project would usher in "a quality of living hitherto unparalleled in the Western Cape".

"The unique aspect of this Atlantic development is that there are no existing houses — so the environment can be controlled and the quality of the end product ensured through the endorsement of title deeds," Bernstein said. "Clearly, there will have to be construction guidelines and constraints — that protect the spectacular views from each plot. Each plot will be assessed individually and there will be no high-rise development.

"Each home will be unique — there will be no prototypes. But all Cape Town's leading architects who choose to come aboard will be invited to sit on a panel to determine the final architectural controls and to decide on building material restrictions. So purchasers will have the freedom to choose their own architect, who will then be aware of the estate's design principles.

"The capital appreciation on these homes will be secured because of the environmental controls and building restrictions we install. Very few other prime residential areas offer an opportunity to build secure in the knowledge that none of your neighbours can obstruct your views or erect unsightly structures," he said.

Plots will range in size from 850 m² to 2 500 m² and in price from about R800 000 upwards.

"Luxury three-bedroom homes on the estate will become available from about R2m," Bernstein said. "In essence, we envisage most owners spending about R1m on their plots and about R2m to R3m on building their homes."

We've already been inundated with calls from developers who want to buy and build.

"We are talking grand-style plot-and-plan — with controls," said Bernstein.

Approval to establish the township was granted by the Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope to the then landowner, British philanthropist millionaire Sir Henry Phillip Price on September 17, 1987.

The township was surveyed and approved and a general plan approved by the Surveyor General and registered in the Deeds Registry. Engelbrecht said, "Legal advice obtained confirms that these rights are still firmly in place."

Final drawings of the technical services for the estate were submitted to the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) last week.

"For the time being, the whole of Oudekraal remains within the area of jurisdiction of the CMC," he said. "Once the authorities have restructured their activities, the area will be under the jurisdiction of the Central Substructure."

The clearing of vegetation on the site had already been done to assist a typographical design survey. The construction of the engineering services would start in a matter of weeks.

"The landowner is acutely aware of the sensitive environment in which the township is to be placed and regards this environment as a major asset of the area," Engelbrecht said. "Consequently, no expense will be spared to minimise the effect of the development on the area and to ensure maximum protection of the environment."

To this end, landscape architects Ian Ford and Associates had been commissioned to assist the consulting engineers, and Marius Bils and Associates were invited to advise on environmental control and to facilitate an environment management plan. Mr Dirk Larsen of Steyn, Larsen and Partners would assist the team in this process.

Sir Henry Phillip Price bought the historic Van Breda Estate known as Oudekraal for 660 000 in 1954. This estate extended along the Twelve Apostles beyond Camps Bay, from Bakoven to Apostletre Battery overlooking Llandudno. The area covered 429 morgen and follows the coastal road to Hout Bay for about seven kilometers.

The purchase included the picturesque Dutch-gabled White House homestead, home until then to the Van Breda family, who in the early days of the Cape owned the greater part of Oranjezicht, Camps Bay and the Oudekraal territory.
Tourism earnings R13bn — Satour

Companies
Monument status for mountain site?

THE proposed housing development at Oudekraal drew heavy criticism yesterday, but there are no legal grounds on which to challenge it unless the National Monuments Council steps in, says Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING.

In a last-ditch attempt to stop the controversial multi-million rand Oudekraal township development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, the National Monuments Council (NMC) may have the land provisionally declared a national monument.

Director Mr George Hofmeyr said yesterday the NMC had already provisionally declared most of the privately owned Oudekraal land a national monument under the National Monuments Act. This excludes portion 7 of Oudekraal, the site of the proposed township, but includes portions 4, 5 and 6, stretching from the southern edge of the new township up to the old White Houses site and beyond.

There has been howls of protest from Capetonians and environmental organisations after the announcement of the development.

Save the Mountain Campaign spokesperson Ms Cecelia Assad said: "We are demanding answers as to why the Cape councillors are allowing greedy developers to destroy this sensitive area so precious to our environment and to future generations. How is it possible that the Twelve Apostles are threatened because of laws that date back to 1957 during the apartheid regime?"

Green Coalition spokesperson Ms Liz Linsell said the entire development proposal was out of date and the permission granted needed to be revisited. "A lot has happened since 1957. Circumstances have changed and this development is completely inappropriate."

Ms Aldie Coudroy of the Redhill Landowners Conservation Group said the authorities should protect the peninsula's fast-growing tourist industry by turning down developments in pristine areas.

"They should revisit the legality of the development and accept that certain principles like long-term conservation take priority over short-term financial gain for a handful of developers," she said.

The Cape Times was inundated with calls from Capetonians who objected to the development. Mr Peter tables the said that he and colleagues had started a petition to have the development vetoed:

"This land should be part of the future national park. If the authorities let this happen, then how will we say 'no' for the future?"

A World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) statement said they were in principle against the development of untransformed land on the peninsula.

The way forward was to delay, not expand.

"Any major development which predates modern land-use planning principles is viewed with great anxiety. The time is right for the government to urgently and comprehensively revisit land use on the whole Cape Peninsula."

National Parks Board chief Mr Robbie Robinson said yesterday he was "devastated" by the announcement.

"It's definitely going to have a major visual impact on the future national park. But the owner had rights and there is nothing the parks board can do about it."

Co-ordinator of the future park, Mr David Daitz, said: "We have thoroughly researched it from a legal point of view and can find no grounds legally to overturn the permission granted in 1957. The NMC is the only organisation with the legal capacity to do anything. It will be a sad day for Cape Town if the development goes ahead, but unfortunately no one has enough money to buy out their rights. It is with a very heavy heart that I say if we fight them, we will probably lose."
Fick wants tour board ready for Xmas boom

STAFF REPORTER

ATTEMPTS to have the Western Cape Tourism Bill passed in the face of objections from interested parties were motivated by a desire to set up a single Tourism Board and take advantage of the Christmas/New Year "boom" period, Tourism MEC Mr Lampoline Fick said yesterday.

Addressing the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Fick said he had met substructures of the Cape Metropole "about three times", held seven public meetings and "involved more than 800 people". There had been "comprehensive consultation".

Objectors include the Cape Metropole, George and the Western Cape Local Government Association.

The committee chairman, Mr Byno King, gave Fick an undertaking to speed up the consultative process, to which Fick agreed.
Tourism improves in SA

By Isaac Moledi

MORE than four million people arrived in South Africa as visitors last year, earning the country R13 billion in foreign exchange.

In its annual report, South African Tourism Board (Sabinet) says the number of foreign tourists to this country by the end of December last year was more than four million.

Target possible

The organisation says its main aim is to see eight million visitors a year coming to South Africa by the year 2000.

“We believe this target can be reached if current growth rates are maintained. Such an achievement will entrench tourism as the most important foreign exchange earner for the country,” says Sabinet chairman Piet van Heerden.

Van Heerden says tourism has the potential to contribute significantly to the social and economic upliftment of all South Africans, as the statistics have shown.

During 1996, Sabinet also saw tourists coming from non-traditional countries.

The biggest increase in these new markets was recorded among visitors from Saudi Arabia.

There were also increases in the number of visitors from India, Bulgaria, Russia, Pakistan and countries of the Middle East.

Tourists from the African continent rose by 12.4 percent while levels of domestic tourism also increased.

“Overall, this was a signal achievement compared to worldwide tourism growth of just 3.8 percent,” says Sabinet executive director Mavuso Msimang.

Significant role

Msimang says international marketing activities of Sabinet and other associations, South Africa’s successful rapid transition to democracy and President Nelson Mandela’s unique ambassadorial skills played a significant role in encouraging foreign visitors to the country.

“However, the influx of visitors placed a great pressure on the tourism infrastructure.

“Demand outstripped supply at times, both for accommodation and airline capacity,” says Msimang.
The official bid book promises a great tonic for thousands of people at Cape Town bags 2004  

Olympic wind: family, scores, free health care
Parks Board to acquire stake in Table Mountain cableway

Transaction viewed as an ‘extremely shrewd business move’

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

The decision by the cableway company to sell off some of its shares to the National Parks Board is seen as a shrewd move to pave the way for the smooth future running of the city's second biggest tourist attraction. Yesterday company chairman Louis de Waal announced that the NPB would acquire a large share in the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACO).

At least two consortiums of black businessmen have also been waiting in the wings to take up shares in the cableway company, just months before it starts on one of the most ambitious upgrades in its 60-year history.

The R70-million upgrade should start before the end of the year and will increase the carrying capacity of the cableway system by almost four times, with two bigger and faster cable cars.

Managing director John Harrison said although the deal was still being negotiated, the Parks Board would have more than just a token share in TMAC Holding, the mother company of which he is the chairman, and business partner Ron Reid are the main shareholders.

“We are talking about a double percentage figure,” he said.

The company is worth between R40- and R60-million.

The deal has been described as an extremely shrewd business move, as the company will have to re-negotiate their lease agreement with the NPB, who will have control of the Western Table where the upper cable station is situated.

Should they become shareholders and board members of the company operating the cableway, these negotiations should be no more than a formality.

The acquisition of shares in the cableway has been criticised by the Mountain Club's Lester Coelen, who said their might be a conflict of interest if the NPB, as custodian of the mountain, also had a share in a business operating on the mountain.

“This decision could have tremendous ramifications ... (and) should have been discussed with other interested parties before it went ahead,” he said.

Legal experts said a lot depended upon the lease agreement or concession signed between the custodians of the Western Table and the cableway company.

Under the existing agreement with the city council, the lease could be terminated every 10 years. As this timespan is too short to validate a multi-million rand upgrade, the agreement would need to be renegotiated with the new custodians.

Last month the city council made a decision in principle that the Western Table would be transferred to the new proposed national park.

Mr Harrison said the NPB will have to pay a market-related price for the shares offered to them, although the company had offered to help them finance the transaction. Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson said the board would use its trust fund to buy the shares.

Apart from the stake offered to the NPB, shares have also been offered to at least two black investment companies.

These shares would be offered in TMACCC Ltd, the company responsible for the day-to-day operation of the cableway, Mr Harrison said.

It is understood that black investors would have at least a 20 percent stake in the operating company.

Although the company has up till now refused to name the groups, spokesmen for two Western Cape companies, Fuhud Investments and Mnyama Holdings, confirmed their involvement in negotiations.
This is Cape Town, 2004

Games aimed at ‘capturing the world’s imagination’

R1,2-m earmarked for magnificent Olympic park should city win bid
Cape Town plays green card in bid to host Olympics

Trees for Africa may be in the pipeline

Pollution-free shuttle buses, sophisticated energy efficient technology and water-saving measures such as dual-flush toilets and low-flow showers are among extensive pro-posals for an environment-friendly African Games in 2004.

Pilot projects for the installation of environmental technologies will be linked to the development of Olympic facilities.

Amidst these will be the South African innovation, the Enviro-Loo—a toilet that uses no water, is odour-free and generates organic compost.

A joint initiative with Trees for Africa, an organisation involved in tree-planting throughout the continent, and a clean-up campaign launched in conjunction with an organisation dedicated to the welfare of street children are also being considered.

The impact on the environment of an event of the magnitude of the Olympics has been the source of the greatest protest and anxiety, and—especially since April—debate between the Bid Company and the green lobby.

Not surprisingly, large sections of the Bid Book have been devoted to spelling out to the International Olympic Committee what the Bid Company’s environmental vision is, and that much of the final planning of venues will depend on individual environmental impact assessments and, by May next year, an independent, overarching strategic environmental assessment.

Negotiations on these and other elements of the bid’s environmental policy are continuing.

The Bid Book makes it clear that some venues—notably the controversial multi-million rand rowing course at Whipfield, centre piece of the envisaged Cape Town Olympic Park—may be altered or moved if environmental impact assessments, or the costs associated with limiting environmental risk, make this necessary.

But within this framework the Bid Book sets out the primary focus of the 2004 Games as an opportunity to embed land use, transport, and development and environmental planning that will “meet the needs of a growing urban population, re-structure the metropolis and project its unique environment”.

The key principles have been identified as “development and conservation, sustainability, equity and opportunity”.

Within these guidelines there is a strong emphasis on reducing waste, using recyclable materials, conserving energy and water, limiting air and other forms of pollution and linking environmental projects to improvements in the quality of people’s lives.

Also high on the agenda is rehabilitating natural habitats, and promoting historical sites.

Going for goal: hallowed home of Western Province rugby it may be, but Newlands will host the Olympic football finals. The preliminaries of the 16-team men’s tournament and 8-team women’s tournament will be held in four cities: Athlone stadium, Kings Park in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Basil Kenyon stadium in East London. The semi-finals will be played at Soccer City in Johannesburg and at Newlands.
Lottery, stamps and coins form part of budget calculations

MICHAEL MORRIS

Reserves of some R250-million will be set aside in the budget for the 2004 Games to pay for continuing upkeep of Olympic facilities in the years after the event.

And, over and above that, according to the Bid Company's calculations, the Games will end with a surplus of more than R286-million. Television rights, sponsorships and licensing will bring in about R3,4-billion, more than half the total operating revenues of R5,6-billion.

An Olympic lottery, which hinges on gambling legislation, will net about R149-million. Together, the coin and stamp programmes and the lottery will bring in about R292-million.

Other income includes ticket sales (R777-million), disposal of assets (R221-million), a national government subsidy (R446-million), accommodation (R355-million), and catering concession fees (R51-million). The maintenance fund forms part of the expenditure budget of R5,5-billion.

Details of the fund will be worked out before December, but it is expected that the sum will be placed in an operating trust and that working funds will be drawn from the interest.

The Bid Book says the application of "genuine business opportunities is regarded as an integral part of the post-Games development plan, and it is intended that commercial opportunities will be used to cross-subsidise the maintenance and operating costs of sports facilities".

It also notes that "a number of key Olympic venues" are regional facilities and will be funded by the Cape Metropolitan Council. "Costs will be shared by all levels of local government."

Several of the facilities will be funded by the private sector, with no call on public money. Among these are those "which are currently the subject of casino licensing in the city centre".

The spending budget also includes contingency reserves of R267-million. The biggest expenditure items are the operating costs of the broadcasting and media centre at Culemborg (R1,4-billion), administration (R714-million), transport (R327-million), security (R367-million) and the opening and closing ceremonies and programmes (R28-million).

The capital budget totals R8,4-billion. This covers construction and upgrading of the airport, or roads and railways, visitor accommodation, sports venues, the Olympic village, the media village at Culemborg, bulk services, land costs and contingencies (R1,3-billion).
Cape could draw 1.5m tourists a year, says Fick

ESAIIN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Western Cape could increase the annual number of international visitors from 500 000 last year to 1.5 million in four years, according to Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lamele Fick.

He told business people at a function organised by the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the socio-economic impact of such an increase could be significant.

For example, from 1994 to the year 2000, a cumulative amount of about R50-billion in foreign exchange could be earned by the province and about 40 000 direct jobs could be created.

Mr Fick said if one accepted that half of all people who arrived in South Africa visited the Western Cape, one could project that a ticket requirement would increase from about 2 500 a day in 1996 to about 4 700 a day in the year 2000.

Speaking at the same function, Western Cape Transport and Public Works Minister Leonard Ramatlabane said if Cape Town was serious about hosting the Olympic Games in 2004, it would have to provide sufficient transport for the more than two million visitors.

"We are going to have to ensure that what we offer here is free of violence and provided to the visitor in a helpful and friendly manner."

Mr Ramatlabane told business people Cape Town's bid would fail if the province could not show the International Bid Committee that its public transport would be safe, reliable and user-friendly and that there would be sufficient capacity to handle the volume of visitors.

He added that what was required for the Olympics was also required for the Cape's own population and was an important ingredient of the future economic well-being of the province.

Taxi violence had to stop and attitudes to the provision of transport had to change.

"Funding for transport has reached critical proportions and while we try to optimally use the resources available to us, this falls far short of meeting the growing needs," Mr Ramatlabane said.

Mr Fick said the region might not realise its tourism potential if crime and personal safety did not improve; if standards of service and facilities were not improved; if environmental degradation escalated; if international marketing and promotion was insufficiently funded and lost its focus and if the tourism industry did not get its fragmented and unco-ordinated house in order.

The government and the tourism industry would have to work together in close partnership.

"We do not have such a policy at the moment and neither do we have commonly accepted tourism plans and strategy for the province."
Muslims given Oudekraal sop

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

ONE of Cape Town's most flamboyant developers has swept away expected Muslim resistance to his elite Oudekraal development with a multi-million rand undertaking to preserve hallowed Islamic graves and shrines on the mountainside property.

While dispirited environmentalists this week admitted they had no legal grounds on which to stop the R750-million Oudekraal Estate development, Declan Holdings' Neill Bernstein this week told Cape Metro he feared strong resistance if he did not take Muslim sensitivities into account.

Earlier this week, Bernstein disclosed plans to build 240 luxury homes on land next to Rontree Estate which was approved for township development in 1997. The development will considerably extend Camps Bay and Bokvlei.

The land, which is owned by city tycoon Cassie Wicomb, is dotted with at least 40 Muslim graves and shrines which date back over 200 years when fugitive slaves and Muslims escaped to Table Mountain to flee religious persecution.

In a major coup for his development, Bernstein yesterday had a meeting with board members of the Cape Mazaar Society (CMS) at which he guaranteed the integrity of all known graves and nine kramats or shrines to exist. These include the Sayed Jaffer (RA) and Sjeik Nural Mubeen (RA). Bernstein undertook to buy the nine plots on which the kramats were located for R1-million each to secure them for the CMS.

The proposals must still be ratified by an Umrah or general meeting of Muslims at the Gheaza Muzulm in Rylands Estate on Wednesday. CMS chairman Ismail Dalvie said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Oudekraal Estate project engineer Wouter Engelbrecht this week ruled out an integrated environmental management process for the development, which has been greeted with dismay by the National Parks Board, Worldwide Fund for Nature (SA) and the Save the Mountain Campaign.

"We cannot go through a complicated public participation programme because we already have rights. We can't allow these kinds of issues to hold up the project," he said on Friday.

All contractors would be bound to an environmental management plan; indigenous vegetation would be rehabilitated and there would be no visible scarring, he said.

"But a senior city landscape architect, who asked not to be named, said, "Something is wrong with modern planning laws if totally outdated plans can be carried through without official or public review."

Meeting CMS members on Friday, Bernstein said he was concerned that the society had no occupation or access rights to the Oudekraal estate.

Bernstein said he had also warned of a backlash if he did not agree to the kramat land being bought for its security.

Bernstein's R9-million proposal to the Cape Mazaar Society overtook an earlier proposal by Engelbrecht that the kramats be moved into Slangkop Ravine to make way for the elite township next to Rontree Estate.

Confirming this yesterday, Dalvie said this would have been totally unacceptable to Muslims, who attach immense religious status to the graves of forebears and exiled Batavians, who are buried on the slopes.
‘Bid book’ gives full details of Cape Town’s Olympic tender

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — The Cape Town 2004 Olympic Games will depend heavily on sponsorships and ticket sales to fund its operating costs, with about 35% of the bid’s $1.32bn operating budget financed by one or the other, the Olympic bid company’s official “bid book” shows.

The bid book — effectively Cape Town’s tender document for the 2004 Games — was made public at the weekend after being handed to the International Olympic Committee last month.

Revenues from television rights, which have already been guaranteed, would fund 43% of total operating expenses, with subsidies from national, regional and local government contributing 8%. A $22m operating surplus was expected.

The bid book said tickets to the Cape Town games would range between $19 and $65, with the premium events set at the latter price.

About 6.2-million tickets would be made available, of which 5.6-million would be for public sale. The balance would be set aside at “modest prices” for underprivileged communities.

“It is also intended that a set number of tickets for each event will be allocated exclusively to SA residents,” the bid document said.

On security, the bid book said Cape Town could guarantee its status as a “safe, secure and friendly” host city for the 2004 Olympic Games.

This would be co-ordinated by a committee which would draw on the SAPS, the National Intelligence Agency, the city’s metropolitan security and traffic services and private security and risk management specialists.

While on a smaller scale than either the Barcelona or Atlanta games, the Cape Town games would lead to the creation of a R1.2bn Olympic Park at Wingfield, outside Cape Town, which would include a main stadium seating 75,000 where the opening and closing ceremonies would be held.
Let's talk, Oudekraal site developer tells his critics

Greens urged to face 'reality' of estate

John Yeld
Environment Reporter

Come to talk about environmental safeguards for the new housing estate to be developed on the slopes of Twelve Apostles next to Camps Bay – but accept its legally approved status.

That's the word to environmentalists from developer Neil Bernstein of Devland Group, who plans to build about 340 luxury houses on Oudekraal Estate, a township approved by the then administrator of the Cape in 1987 and gazetted in 1988.

The section to be developed – within two months, says Mr Bernstein – is the only part which has existing township rights. The estate stretches beyond the White House property towards Llandudno.

Other sections of the estate owned by the same trust are zoned single residential, but have not been formally approved as a township and may be developed only after a lengthy legal planning process.

The development move has evoked shock and concern in conservation circles, although the township's approved status was never a secret. Mr Bernstein said although he understood the concern, he believed it was based on a misunderstanding of the vision of an environmentally sensitive development, which he shared with the property owner, Kasper Wiebahn.

There had been a huge and enthusiastic response from potential buyers – about 500 on the day after the announcement, who probably far outnumbered those opposed to the development, he said.

Mr Bernstein said he had been involved in big property developments in New York, London and Germany and had returned to work in Cape Town because of its unique environment.

"If I genuinely believed this development was going to ruin the mountain, I wouldn't do it. I've never done a development for money in my life," he said.

Asked how he could justify developing a township that had been planned and approved nearly four decades ago, before environmental protection was of serious concern, Mr Bernstein said approved density and use of space were the same as in Camps Bay – although the actual development there would be "totally different".

"The planners weren't stupid in the '80s," he said.

His group had got involved in planning the township five years ago, and had consistently discussed it with the authorities since then, but had not been able to reach agreement. However, they were still prepared to negotiate about the development.

Developers also planned a public participation process, whereby concerned people could get involved to help develop stringent design parameters that would be written into the title deeds of each plot, and an environmental management plan for the township that would be based on existing overseas standards, Mr Bernstein said.

"We would welcome them to come to talk to us – we wish they would, as long as we can start off from a position of reality. I'm prepared to talk to people but they must be prepared to listen to the facts and to face reality. Then, I believe, we can achieve a win-win situation."

John Yeld
Environment Reporter

Further controversy has erupted over the new hotel development at the White House site at Oudekraal – with conservationists alleging environmental damage to the Lekkerwater stream flowing off Table Mountain and "illegal" off-site work.

But developer Steve Jones and his landscape architect, Johan van Papendorp, who is also the Cape Metropolitan Council's official environmental officer for the site, deny the charges, saying they have permission to stockpile soil and stones on the adjoining property for future landscaping.

Also, they say all landscaping work is being done in terms of a comprehensive landscaping plan approved by the council.

Mr Van Papendorp conceded that small stones and a small amount of soil had slipped down the steep slope towards – but not into – the course of the stream during rehabilitation work to stabilise the sides of the ravine.

"Everyone working there is very aware of public pressure and we are being very careful, but you are dealing with big machinery and bulk work and there are some constraints to it," he said.

"There has been some disturbance but ultimately it is for the benefit of the area."

In a letter to the Cape Metropolitan Council, Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Marlene Laros said she believed the earthworks at the site were illegal as no plans had been approved and that they were having an impact on the Lekkerwater stream.

The council had a duty in terms of the Environment Conservation Act to ensure that all development in its area of jurisdiction was environmentally acceptable. "We trust that this council will accept the responsibilities delegated to it through this legislation and seek to rectify this environmental damage caused and prevent such irresponsible development in the future," said Ms Laros.

Mountain Club environment committee spokesman Tim Price urged that the council investigate and take any necessary steps to prevent further environmental harm to the "sensitive area."

Dave Wildman of the Llandudno environmental committee said several residents had become so concerned about the earthworks that they had contacted Mr Jones to discuss the issue.

Mr Jones said none of the work on the site was illegal. "It is all under the control of the environmental officer, and we can stop it whenever he wants to."

John Yeld
Environment Reporter
New Cape Town address for tourists

CAPE TOWN's luxury tourist accommodation will offer a new address from next month with the opening of The Sea Castle.

Construction of the guest house, which was designed by architects Kellerman & Adler for Peter Castle Projects, began a year ago and is now nearing completion.

Apartments range from the one-bedroom studio to the three-bedroom, 140m² presidential suite, which has its own swimming pool set in a tropical garden and a sea-facing deck for entertainment.

MD Peter Castle says: "Tourism is destined to play a critical part in the development and enhancement of SA. Our goal is to contribute to, and to capitalise on, the role of both local and international tourism. To do this we must provide accommodation at least equal to the most stringent of European standards."

The apartments have many sophisticated features. These include marble tiles with underfloor heating, as well as heated handrails in the bathrooms, satellite-linked TV sets and state-of-the-art sound systems.

The kitchens have granite worktops and are equipped with up-to-date facilities. Castle's research indicates that tourists are keen to avoid the rigidity of hotel life and prefer home-from-home accommodation which provides privacy and security.
Tighter B&B policy urged

PETER GODSEN (28E)
Metro Desk

ARG 12/19/96

The Southern substructure council is likely to take another look at a “bed and breakfast” policy for the area because of a rise in the number of applications.

The council’s urban and environmental planning committee has decided to recommend that the policy, which applies to Constantia, be tightened and made applicable to the council’s entire area of jurisdiction.

The policy came up for airing when the committee debated an application to set up an upmarket bed and breakfast establishment in Constantia.

David Bettesworth of town and regional planners DC and Associates told the committee his client, Eva Egerenzinger, was a German national who wished to settle in Cape Town and open a B&B at 14 Duckett Avenue, Constantia, which she intended buying.

It would cater mainly for German tourists and she would run it with her partner, Herman Schuler, a director of one of Germany’s largest companies, Otto Veand.

There would be no external changes to the house, but the interior would be altered to include five double bedrooms with bathrooms en suite. The proprietor would also live in the house.

Mrs Egerenzinger had been in the guest accommodation business for 30 years. No children younger than 14 would be allowed as guests, Mr Bettesworth said.

The application had already run into objections from neighbours, and a report by council officials recommended it be turned down.

They said: “There is no doubt that the structure proposed for the bed and breakfast establishment is well-suited.

“However, its location and circumspect accessibility does not meet the accepted performance criteria of the current policy.”

Objector Richard Harris told the committee the Constantia policy on bed and breakfasts was that any such undertaking would not be run purely as a business venture.

It was designed to enable people living in houses with rooms to spare to take in paying guests.

Because of the size of the operation envisaged, it could not be considered a bed and breakfast undertaking. It would be a fully-fledged guest house.

During the debate, Constantia councillor Joan Heming said the scale of the development was enormous and would lead to complaints from neighbours.

Cape Town needed overseas investment, but this one would be non-productive and was unsuitable for Constantia, she said.

The application was turned down by six votes to four.

But the committee recommended that its policy on bed and breakfast establishments be tightened.

It was described as “loosely written”.

The council also turned down an application to rezone landmark Bridge House in Main Road, Murchoch Valley, to enable new owners to use it as a conference centre and guest house for groups of up to 30 people. There were 19 objections from neighbours.

The committee’s objections were based mainly on commercial encroachment into a residential area.
Tourists flocking to Cape

Figures up by 46%

ESAIU DE KOCK

More overseas visitors entered South Africa through Cape Town International Airport last month than during the Rugby World Cup tournament last year.

Geoffrey Ashmead, Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said the latest tourism figures showed Cape Town was the fastest-growing tourist destination in South Africa.

Last month 25 000 foreign visitors landed at Cape Town airport — an increase of 40 percent over the numbers for last August.

In addition, 194 000 domestic visitors came to the Western Cape last month — an improvement of 17 percent on last August.

For the year to date, foreign arrivals have increased by 35 percent to 220 000, doubling the number for 1994.

A record number of 180 international flights arrived at Cape Town airport last month, compared with 134 in July last year. No figures were available for August last year for comparison purposes.

Mr Ashmead said that in 1994 only 12 percent of overseas visitors entering South Africa had landed at Cape Town. This had grown to 15 percent last year and, if the present trend was maintained, 21 percent would use Cape Town as their point of entry this year.

If figures for the other two international airports were considered, the Western Cape was clearly the only real growth area, with arrivals and departures at Cape Town airport increasing significantly.

"In spite of negative crime and violence reports, it looks as if South Africa has not lost its status as a favourite tourist destination."

But Mr Ashmead warned that the country had to compete on an even footing with other long-haul southern hemisphere destinations. He said most visitors were from the northern hemisphere.
Tourism spreads its wings

By Isaac Moleli

A GROUP of 26 tourist companies from Tanzania arrive in South Africa next week to attend the first African Travel Market, a move aimed at boosting the country’s image to potential tourists in the region.

The three-day tourism fair, to be held at the Gallagher Estate, from September 19 to 22, will be attended by local and international tourism groups.

Led by senior officials from the country’s tourism industry and the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), the delegation will also consist of tour operators, hotels and other tourism and conservation bodies from that country.

Market

The aim is to show a heavy presence in South Africa in a bid to market Tanzania as a destination for international and continental tourists.

During the exhibition, Tanzania tourism officials will present the country’s spectacular scenic delights, wildlife and tourist facilities to South Africa and the world’s travel industry.

The delegation’s representative, AC Macho, says tourism has become Tanzania’s priority and the country has put aside more than R975 million to upgrade its infrastructure and to implement its Tourism Master Plan.

If this projection is achieved, then revenue from tourism could increase to R2,25 billion a year.

This will make tourism one of Tanzania’s top foreign exchange earners, bringing earnings similar to that from coffee, the country’s main export product.

As part of the Tourism Master Plan, Tanzania’s hotels and lodges will be improved. The TTB plans to build an information service.
Sun launches new low-budget hotels

By Roy Cokayne

Pretoria — The Southern Sun group will launch a new ultra-low budget hotel chain, Formule Inn, to be pitched below its low-budget Formule 1 chain, which offers one-star services.

Jean-Luc Motot, the managing director of Formule 1, said construction on the first Formule Inn started last week in Pretoria on a site next to its existing Formule 1 hotel.

“We plan to build three Formule Inn hotels in the next 15 months. The second one will be built at Southgate and we are currently involved in negotiations with Intersite to build another at the Johannesburg Station,” Motot said.

He said the hotel concept had been imported from France and was specifically targeting the bottom end of the market.

He said none of the rooms would have either a bathroom or toilet and there would be a common bathroom and toilet shared by four rooms.

Motot said the bathrooms and toilets would be self-cleaning and automatically sprayed with chemicals and dried every time after use.

The hotels would not have a cafeteria or offer breakfast, but refreshments and snacks would be available from vending machines.

Motot said the room rate would be below R90 a room a night with each room capable of sleeping up to three people.

Formule 1 hotels cost R14 a room a night.

Motot said research conducted indicated a big market existed for this type of hotel.

Motot said the market Formule Inn was targeting could include backpackers, the self-employed and anyone who needed accommodation at the lowest price.

“Depending on the success of the first three hotels, the chain will be expanded countrywide,” he said.

Formule 1, introduced in Africa in 1992, is a joint venture between the Southern Sun and Accor, a French hotel company, and is the fastest growing low-budget hotel chain in the country.

There are 11 Formule 1 hotels in South Africa.
Foreign tourism on the rise, says airport group

by Audrey d'Angelo

Cape Town — The number of foreign visitors arriving at South Africa's international airports showed signs of picking up last month from July, after a rise of only 3.7 percent in the first seven months of this year, figures released by the Airports Company yesterday showed.

The company said the Johannesburg International Airport was still the main gateway for foreign tourists, with 148 159 flying in last month, up from 135 850 in July.

The number of visitors flying into Cape Town rose to 25 000 compared with 22 010 in July, but Nick Malherbe, chairman of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industries tourism committee, said this was 46 percent more than in August last year, when the rugby World Cup followers were in South Africa.

The number of foreigners flying into Durban rose to 13 295 compared with only 8 839 in July.

Airline and hotel group executives said forward bookings were encouraging from next month, despite tourism worldwide being on the decline from last year.

The executives said disappointing figures for tourism growth during the winter were caused by the normal seasonal dip and because they had come off an abnormally high base last year.

But Roger Mackie, president of the Association of Southern African Travel Agents, said: "South Africa must get its act together" if growth in tourism was to be sustained.

Mackie said the government did not appear to be attaching sufficient importance to the tourism industry, its need for training and development and for the co-ordinated marketing of South Africa overseas.
Much of the unease appears to emanate from the fact that in terms of the White Paper on Tourism, Satour is due to be replaced by a new body Tourism SA (TSA). But everything hinges on a Draft Bill. If it is presented to parliament in the current session Satour will change its name and identity almost immediately. If it isn’t, the Bill will stand over to the second session next year.

Underfunding and the uncertainty surrounding the TSA issue has also lowered the morale of those staffing Satour’s foreign offices. They aren’t sure whether they’ll still have jobs when the change comes, and say they can’t market SA aggressively because of the shortage of funds.

They’re right. According to the latest figures, excluding the R65m SA Airways spent on foreign publicity, SA’s marketing spend per visitor in 1993 was R18,33. Australia spent R64,77 per visitor, and Bermuda — R125,23. Greece spent US$143m per capita, Mexico $139m and Spain $124m.

Industry pundits say handing Satour’s role in domestic tourism to the provinces, in terms of the interim constitution, has not been a success. Money, they say, is being spent on large-scale duplication of effort, rather than on upgrading tourism infrastructure, and provinces are spending large sums competing with each other in overseas markets.

Some provinces are having difficulty keeping track of their finances. Last week a court order closed the offices housing the Free State Liquor Board and Free State Tourism in Bloemfontein because of an R&D cheque for rent arrears of R30 000.

Government is also leaving the tourist body woefully short of funds. It granted it R79m in fiscal 1995, which ended on March 31, R18,7m less than the R97,7m granted in 1994. Insiders also say government did nothing to help Satour when the value of the rand plummeted. To add insult to injury it granted a mere R48m for the current financial year, ending March 31 1997. Many in tourism believe government is keeping Satour short of money because it regards it as a remnant of apartheid, and will pour money into tourism when the TSA comes into being.

Others who have quit the organisation include former deputy executive director Ernie Heath, Mike Fabricius, director of tourism development, Derina Holtzhausen, head of corporate communications, Greg McManus, director of standards, Nic Stathakis, international director and Martin van Niekerk, its media spokesman.

Tourism is the world’s largest industry. Figures compiled by Heath show that, worldwide, in 1995 tourism generated US$3,4 trillion (10,9% of world GDP), it employed 212m people (10,7% of the world’s workforce), the capital invested was 11,4% of total worldwide investment, and the industry generated $655bn in taxes.

SA’s share was 0,7% of the world’s tourism arrivals and receipts.

In the White Paper on tourism the contribution tourism can make to the GDP is spelt out. “The tourism industry has the lowest ratio of investment to job creation,” says the White Paper.

But a paper compiled by Heath and Fabricius says: “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. This converts into an additional earning in foreign exchange of more than R110m (with a multiplier of 1,5 to 1,68) 2,500 direct and indirect job opportunities and increased government revenue of more than R60m.”

Though never an outstanding success, government may yet have cause to regret neglecting Satour. However limited, it at least made its presence felt in the markets that count.
No green light yet for Oudekraal

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

DEVELOPMENT of the controversial R120-million luxury township at Oudekraal will not be given the go-ahead until it has been approved by the new political leaders of Cape Town.

This was confirmed on Friday by Cape Metropolitan Council engineer Rod Mitchell.

The developer — Neil Bernstein's Deviland Holdings — submitted services plans for approval by the GMC engineering department on August 23, but a decision would be deferred until the Central Sub-structures' councillors had decided on this "sensitive" issue, metropolitan council planner Charles Rudman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, opposition to the R120-million Oudekraal Estate development took an unexpected turn this week as Cape Town's controversial anti-gang and drug organisation, Pagad, sided with Muslim and environmental critics of the project in a new alliance, the Environment and Mazaar Action Committee.

The National Monuments Council was also exploring having the land declared a provisional national monument when it meets on Tuesday, NMC spokeswoman Laura Robinson said.

A senior member of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Wynand Fourie, called for a proper integrated environmental management study by the developers even though it was not mandatory.

"We don't want more ribbon development along the coast, but in this case history is against us," he added.

Besides Muslim graves and shrines on the site, other issues which need further investigation include the stability of the mountain slope, the impact of extra sewage outfall at Camps Bay and the sensitivity of vegetation in the area, informed sources said.

The Environment and Mazaar Action Committee says it is completely opposed to further development of the mountainside between Bakoven and Llandudno and will be holding a protest rally at the Nurul Mubeen (RA) shrine off Victoria Drive at 2pm today.

The committee — and the Wildlife Society and the "Save the Mountain" campaign — want Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan to invoke Section 33(a) of the Environment Conservation Act and stop the development.

ANC MP Ben Turok reportedly wants to draw up a multi-party petition against Bernstein's plans and an ANC member of the Western Cape parliament, Russell McGregor, would also be calling for a snap debate on the issue this coming week, Green Coalition co-ordinator Liz Lines said.
Hartbeespoort Dam to become major tourist playground

The idea of developing a tourism-based project around the Hartbeespoort Dam, commissioned in 1972, has been discussed for several years. The proposed development aims to provide a unique leisure experience for visitors. The concept includes the creation of a scenic park, recreational facilities, and cultural events. The project is expected to contribute significantly to the local economy, offering a blend of natural beauty and modern amenities. However, the process faces several challenges, including environmental concerns and stakeholder engagement. The project's progress will depend on the successful integration of tourism, recreation, and conservation efforts.
Cape Town an Olympic Favourite — Ball
FOND FAREWELL: "Go well and good luck to you, my dear," says Winnie Madikizela-Mandela as she bids farewell to Verena Arnold (66) and Anny Jenk (76) who were robbed at gunpoint outside Mandela's Soweto home.

PHOTOGRAPH: TJ LEMON

Tea and sympathy from Winnie

By NEWTON KANHEMA

It started out as a tour of Soweto and ended with an armed robbery, then tea and sympathy from Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and an apology from Tourism Minister Pajo Jordan.

The events of the past week will remain etched in the memories of tourists Anny Jenk (76) and Verena Arnold (66), both of Switzerland, and Briton Sue Broomefield. On Tuesday morning the three decided to take in one of South Africa's historic sights - Soweto. While they were outside the Mandela's old home with a driver, two youths robbed them at gunpoint.

Soon afterwards, the breathless tourists - stripped of their valuables - knocked on the door of "Parliament", the mansion that is Madikizela-Mandela's new home.

The two Swiss women were left behind as Madikizela-Mandela's bodyguards jumped into their car to return to the scene of the crime.

Shocked and still clutching their faces, the Swiss tourists were treated with hospitality way beyond their expectations.

"It was the gun. Yes, it was the gun which frightened us most. We were more frightened by the gun. I had never had a gun touch my body. I am too shocked... a gun on my chest," said Jenk, who struggled to breathe and was physically ill at the recollection of the incident.

"We shouldn't have got out of the car. No one warned us of this type of danger," said Arnold.

Broomfield, with the driver and three armed bodyguards - speaking a language she had never heard - drove around Orlando West looking for the robbers. They had their guns in their hands and had shot the driver. "Oh God, take me back to those Swiss ladies," she said. "If we had met up with the robbers, there would have been a shootout. I prayed it would not happen. The bodyguards were so determined that had they seen the people who robbed us, they would have shot them."

Asked whether she would have identified the robbers, Broomefield replied: "I don't know. I've had too many in my life..." she added. "We should have killed them."

My concern was getting back. There was with man I had never seen armed with guns, a walkie-talkie, cellphones and speaking their own language, and I hadn't a clue what was going on."

After the group returned to "Parliament", Madikizela-Mandela and her entourage took the tourists to Orlando police station to report the incident. Madikizela-Mandela had not, up to that point, indicated who she was. "We saw this concerned woman who was very nice to us and I wondered why she was helping us. It was only when we arrived at the police station, when I heard some policemen saying this incident would have international implications... I started to wonder why this would be an international incident," said Broomefield.

When she saw that the station commander was handling their case, and the police officers in the charge office, she realised that this was the real Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

"I was shocked when I realised that we were in the hands of Winnie Mandela," said Broomefield.

On their return to the mansion, a concerned Madikizela-Mandela took them into her comfortable house.

"Would you like to lie down?" she asked.

Jenk shook her head.

"Then you will have tea with me in my study," she said.

You could lie down while I make a cup of tea for you," Madikizela-Mandela insisted.

Although devastated by the loss of her valuables, Broomefield showed she had not lost her sense of humour.

"This is amazing. It's like being mugged outside 10 Downing Street and Norman Major invites you in for a cup of tea. They even excused our embarrassment for us," said the Briton.

While the tourists were there, Madikizela-Mandela's lawyers arrived for a scheduled appointment. "I am so embarrassed. Just yesterday I was talking about the level of crime and I was saying something had to be done to stop it," Madikizela-Mandela told the lawyers as she sat out tea cups.

Tourism Minister Jordan, whom Madikizela-Mandela had called from the police station, arrived to meet the traumatised tourists as tea was served.

"It is no excuse that snuggling and robbery happens everywhere. In the world. I would like to express my deep sorrow for what happened."

"It is very traumatic for anyone to be robbed at gunpoint. It is a terrible violation of one's rights. It must be 10 times worse when you are in a foreign country where you have no friends and relatives to turn to."

"We trust this has not turned you against South Africa. We are doing everything in our power to stop the crime. There is a determination on the part of the Government to stop the menace," said Jordan.

Broomefield, marketing director for Jeeb County in Florida, US, was angry she had not been warned how to avoid such experiences. "There are problems of this nature all over the world but we didn't have any notices in our hotel rooms. At least we must be warned," she told Jordan.

"We had recommended that warning notices be placed at the point of entry to hotels," Jordan called the British high commissioner and the Swiss ambassador before the morning had been waked up and kissed - all recorded for posters, the best advice the tourists could wish for after their ordeal."

The bodyguards had guns in their hands and I had my head under the dashboard, praying.
VICTIMS of one of Cape Town’s earliest forced relocations have laid claim to valuable state land which abuts the city’s proposed Olympic village at Windfield.

The Ndebeni claim, which can be traced back to an outbreak of bubonic plague in the city’s dockland slums in 1891, would by no means impinge on the city’s bid for the 2004 Olympic Games, land claims mediator and OIC social historian Mary Simons said yesterday.

And while the Olympic Bid Company yesterday referred all inquiries to Simons, it is reliably understood that the Ndebeni claimants have recently asked bid chairman Chris Ball for a bilateral agreement which confirms that there is not a conflict of interests between their land claim and Olympic proposals for Windfield.

The claim was particularly significant, however, because it served as a reminder of how integrated Cape Town had once been and how badly Africans had been treated in the city by a so-called liberal city council and not just the National Party government, Simons said.

“It’s a real problem, however, that the restitution process in urban areas seems to be enforcing segregated patterns of the past, instead of recognising earlier integration and producing a new community in Cape Town,” she said.

The 10 ha site most preferred by the Ndebeni claimants has been described as “desirable but not essential” for Olympic purposes by a bid company memorandum in Cape Town’s possession.

Land Claims Commission member Elizabeth Davidson says the merits of the Ndebeni claim have been accepted, but the commission wants to know precisely how many people could qualify for compensation under the Restitution of Land Rights Act.

With this in mind, Western Cape Land Claims Commissioner Wallace Mgqozi, Simons and the Ndebeni land claims committee have invited all potential claimants to a meeting at the St Francis church complex in Langa at 2pm today.

The Public Works Department had also identified other potential sites for the claimants further from the city, Simons said.

“The claimants are looking at a piece of vacant land which the Bid Company is not planning to use and, if settled, would in no way intrude on the Olympic bid.

“But it will be a great plus to the city if the Bid Company actually finds ways of incorporating the poor in their plans instead of moving them,” Simons said.

“And when we talk about restitution, we also have to look at upgrading Langa where conditions are totally unacceptable,” she added.

The history of the claim can be traced to 1901, when the city council moved African dockworkers to an emergency “location” at Ndebeni after bubonic plague swept through suburbs such as Mouille Point, Schotia, Kloof, Woodstock and District Six.

Pinelands residents can also retrace their suburb’s origin to the council’s segregationist response to dealing with the ravages of the killer disease, Simons said.
Amanda Vermeulen

DUTCH hotel group Golden Tulip plans to licence and run 25 new hotels in SA to be built in the next five years.

The first hotel, a R60m development under construction in Sandton, would be opened in November, and was financed by Syfrets and private equity, said Gary Periman, CE of Pemexco, the property's holding company.

Two more hotels, each costing about R60m, would be built in Cape Town and Durban, while other Golden Tulip brands were being planned for other locations.

Pemexco was negotiating with a range of investors, including Syfrets, to fund the two new hotels.

Building contractor Logaro Construction, one of the local investors, would go on site shortly, and would build all future Golden Tulip hotels developed by Pemexco.

Golden Tulip operates 300 hotels in 21 cities on four continents, and Periman said the group planned to increase its number of hotels to 800 worldwide within five years.

Pemexco planned to develop at least eight hotels under the Golden Tulip banner in SA. They would be marketed internationally via Golden Tulip's links with reservations company Utel, with which it recently merged. In addition, airline KLM, which has a 20% stake in Golden Tulip, and North Western Airline offered 14-million frequent flyer miles which would fall into the target market.
Bid company objects to
gang use of 2004 flag

The Olympic Bid Company has objected to the use of Cape Town 2004 bid flags in public marches and protest actions.

Yesterday a photograph was published of slain gang leader Rashaad Staggie’s daughter Janie draped in an Olympic 2004 flag during a gangsters’ march to Parliament.

Olympic bid media officer Paul Johnson said there had been an “unfortunate tendency in recent months for protagonists around extremely divisive issues to use the Olympic bid as a platform for achieving greater publicity for their causes.”

He said people should be aware that the display of Olympic symbols was unauthorised and should not be misconstrued as support for the views being propagated.
**The Ball's In His Court - For Now**

**The Big Story**

Johannesburg — Judgment will be passed tomorrow on baby Micaela abduction accused Scinta Combrink.

Yesterday the defence closed its case without calling witnesses after the judge ruled three of her four statements after arrest could be admitted as evidence in trial in the Rand Supreme Court.

In the first statement, to a magistrate hours after her arrest on February 16, Ms Combrink admitted to abducting one-day-old Micaela Hunter, although

Micaela's parents are not in court.

**In Magnus Malan trial as defence closes**

The defence in the murder trial of SABC's former head of news has introduced its last witness. Alan Hendriks, a former state prosecutor, will testify for the defence. Malan is accused of murdering 19-year-old Tshediso Ndhlovu in May 2005. The case has been postponed to next week.

**Slaughter of innocents must stop, says judge**

Pretoria — A Supreme Court judge said here the public was sick and tired of the wholesale slaughter of innocent victims which had become a national sport in South Africa.

Sentencing University of Pretoria gardener Sunday Mmaphasela, 20, who has pleaded guilty to murdering an elderly couple and their dog, Judge Thabo Jobe said he was appalled by the violence.

Mmaphasela and his accomplice were sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for the murder of the couple and their dog. They were also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for the robbery of the couple's home.

The judge said he was concerned about the increase in violence and the state's failure to deal with it.

**Top names implicated by De Kock**

De Kock gave evidence in the Supreme Court in mitigation of his sentence after being found guilty on 89 charges, including six of murder.

He implicated several retired police generals in murders and other charges on which he had been found guilty.

De Kock was previously an employee of the National Intelligence Service and serves 30 years in prison. He is accused of several murders and other crimes.

**Memorandum**

To: [Recipient Name]

From: [Your Name]

Date: 30 September 1995

Re: [Subject]

Dear [Recipient Name],

I am writing to request your assistance in obtaining the necessary documents for the upcoming examination of [specific candidates].

Please note that the examination is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 1995. It is important that all necessary documents are gathered and submitted by the stated deadline.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Metrorail on US Games mission

Plan to boost 2004 bid

SHIRLEY GRANS

Ex-con: regional infrastructure and maintenance manager of Metrorail, Louis Beukes

Metrorail experts have left for the United States to inspect the railway system in Atlanta in an effort to boost Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

The two-week study will be carried out by the regional infrastructure and maintenance manager of Metrorail, Louis Beukes, and SA Rail Commuter Corporation consultant Jim Scott.

In two months' time the International Olympic Committee (IOC) arrives in Cape Town to evaluate plans and documentation for the city's bid, including the vital aspect of public transport, especially suburban train services, the main link to sports venues.

Mr Beukes said the trip would definitely enhance Cape Town's chances in the Olympic stakes in which 11 cities are vying to stage the Games in 2004.

The fact that Atlanta, venue of the latest Games, had developed its railway network with an underground train system was neither to the advantage nor disadvantage of the city's bid. He said: "That's the way the railway network has been developed in Atlanta, but a similar system has not been deemed feasible in Cape Town, which is a low-lying geological area."

"The IOC committee will be here in December and the same criteria will be used in each city to decide which is the most suitable for the Olympic Games.

"Cape Town is the last city to be visited by the IOC on the list of 11 bids. Cities and we need to work out what is practical from the ideas so far conceptualised and we will be able to select what is practical when we get back."

High on the agenda of possible changes would be the redesign and upgrade of the Cape Town railway station near the proposed Olympic village in Wingfield. The main terminal at Cape Town station and the consoles of the computerised electronic panels in the central control unit in Windermere would also have to be upgraded.

There was also a need to erect athletic and sports stadiums near to railway lines in the existing network, which also had existing modern rolling rail lines linking various train services. The mandate to the Atlanta bid companies had stipulated athletic and sports venues should be "as close as possible" to railway lines.

Information from the Atlanta trip would also provide vital information for expanding local railway networks for natural population growth.
Cape Town third in tourist stakes

Cape Town is the third most favoured city in the world among travellers, according to a poll published in an international travel magazine, Harper's Travel.

Only three other contenders for the 2004 Olympic Games feature in the world's top 60 favoured tourist cities.

Fifteen thousand globe-trotting readers of the magazine were asked which cities they most enjoyed visiting, and Cape Town came a close third behind San Francisco and Vancouver.

Among Cape Town's rivals for the 2004 Games, Rome was closest in 21st place, Rio de Janeiro came 33rd and Athens was 40th.

Cape Town was the only South African city listed among the top 60 destinations in the world. Lower down the list were cities like 2000 Olympic host Sydney (4th), London (8th), Paris (16th) and New York (25th). - Atlanta, this year's Olympic hosts only managed 56th place.

Johannesburg came nowhere. The magazine referred to it as "another hellish nest, where the twice-mugged Lebanese ambassador now yearns for the 'safety' of downtown Beirut".

The chief executive of Captour, Gordon Oliver, said he wondered if Capetonians and leaders were sufficiently aware of Cape Town's high international profile and how widely regarded the city was in international circles. He said apart from crime, the biggest threat to tourism, "the lifeblood of Cape Town" was "the public's inability to see themselves as part of a truly great city".

He said service providers should make sure that all staff were not only trained in their specific fields, but were also trained in the handling of people.

Oliver also welcomed the influx of backpacker tourists. "They are exactly the customers we want to keep because they will be the future professionals who we want to see coming back many times over," he said. - Own Correspondent.
Cape Town is tops with tourists

Fears have proved to be unfounded that the Western Cape hotel industry was in for a slump after the spate of tourist muggings and the euphoria of last year's Rugby World Cup.

According to Central Statistical Services figures for July, more foreigners occupied beds in Cape Town than any other South African city.

The Mother City led the way with 23.7 percent of hotel beds occupied by foreign tourists, followed by Johannesburg, nearly eight percent behind.

Statistics show a four percent increase in the Western Cape over the same period last year, with four-star hotels claiming a healthy chunk of bed nights sold to foreigners. Gauteng had a decline of three percent from last July.

The Western Cape as a whole contributed a hefty 29.9 percent to the total bed occupancy rate of foreigners.

But while Cape Town shows a growth in foreign tourism, national figures show bed nights sold to tourists decreased by four percent from 155 015 in July last year to 148 620 in July this year.

Ungraded hotels reflected the largest number of bed nights sold to foreigners with a market share of 26.9 percent followed by four-star establishments with 26.1 percent.

Figures for Cape Town International Airport show that 25 000 overseas visitors arrived last month, 46 percent more than in August last year.

The 220 000 international arrivals at the airport in the first eight months of the year are an increase of 35 percent over the same period last year.

Nick Malherbe, chairman of the tourism committee of the Cape Chamber of Commerce, said the influx of Asian visitors was a major contributing factor to the increase in tourism and bed occupancy.

"Oriental countries are having their monsoon period now and people are opting to visit other countries rather than stay in places like Singapore and Malaysia to face the atrocious weather."

He said the local tourism industry should intensify its marketing in the East.

ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Reporter
Foreign tourists opt for towns

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

MANY foreign tourists are opting to stay in small towns instead of Cape Town, thus avoiding the crime problems in the city.

This has been particularly noticeable in Hermanus this year, which is fast developing an international reputation as a tourist destination, particularly during the whale-watching season.

Large numbers of foreign visitors were making the town their base and conducting day-trips to Cape Town, the Cape Point Nature Reserve or the various wine routes, said Ms. Jennifer MacKenzie, of the Hermanus Publicity Association.

And with the whale-watching season in full swing, Hermanus was experiencing a boom of foreign tourists, she said.

"These are all financially independent tourists who are increasingly taking smaller towns their base as opposed to Cape Town," she said.

"All of us, Stellenbosch and Franschhoek included, are within easy access to Cape Town and we are much safer. Here you can walk about at night.

"But since the whales arrived, the foreign visitors have been streaming into Hermanus. Now we have a tourist season all year round," she added.
Airline scramble to meet increased demand

More tourists are heading south

Alain Juvet
Long summer days make Stockholm an formidable opponent

Olympic committee asked to feel the light

The Swedish government has the

World Press
Wet summer blow to tourism

Nicola Jenvey
20/9/96

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal's R2.3bn annual international tourism market suffered dramatically during the rainy summer season with a 5% decline in visitors to Durban and 3% fall to the rest of the province compared to the previous year, SA Tourism Board research spokesman Janee Seymour said at the weekend.

Seymour said the province — which attracted about 346,500 overseas tourists or 31.5% of SA's market, mainly from the UK, Germany and North America — had the second-worst perceived safety rating after Gauteng, among the international community.

Visitors were spending on average 2.8 more nights in the Eastern Cape, 0.5 more in the Garden Route and 0.4 more in the Western Cape, while dropping their average stays in Durban by two nights and the rest of KwaZulu-Natal by 3.9 nights.

Tourism Durban CEO Geoff Austin said the domestic tourism market remained the province's 'life blood', with any international traffic attracted to KwaZulu-Natal being "the icing on the cake".

The International Convention Centre — to open next September, and to host six international conventions the first three months — would focus Durban on the business and convention tourism market.
R300-m N1 City boost for Olympic site

**Offices, rail link plan**

N1 City in Goodwood is set to grow even bigger with the approval of a R200-million office project, and there are also plans to build a R100-million station complex next to it.

Both will have a direct impact on Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid because of the centre's proximity to the proposed athletes' village at Wingfield and because the developments will improve access to the village.

The Tygerberg council this week agreed to release 68 000 square metres of land for the offices.

The project is subject to the provincial roads engineer approving an on-ramp from the M28 to the N1 highway in an easterly direction to Bellville.

The developers, Syfin Properties, have undertaken to pay 25 percent of the cost of the on-ramp. The Tygerberg council will apply to the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Board for additional funds.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot for a R100-million station complex on a Spoor net site behind N1 City, which could include a huge pedestrian bridge over the N1.

Also planned is an enormous parking garage with direct access from the N1, where people would be able to leave their cars and take a special train into town. The garage will be linked to the station.

Negotiations are under way for a direct bus service to the city centre.

**Tygerberg council go-ahead for bid project**

An R18,25-million Olympic priority project has been given the green light by Tygerberg council, adding further impetus to Cape Town's 2004 bid.

The council approved the rezoning of the Belhar town centre, pavening the way for the multi-purpose centre planned as the judo-taekwondo venue.

Two other projects, a Grassy Park baseball training facility and a road link between the N1 highway and the proposed Wingfield athletes' village, also got the go-ahead this week.

The R18,25-million Belhar venue will be funded by the government as a priority project and tenders could be awarded as early as next month. The multi-purpose centre will be built on a portion of the town centre property.
Olympic bid may help Cape builders

Robyn Chalmers

COMMERCIAL, industrial and public sector building work put out to tender in the Cape Peninsula dropped more than 40% in the first eight months of this year, prompting predictions of the worst year for the region.

Master Builders and Allied Trades Association (MBA) Cape Peninsula director Mike Loy said June and August were by far the worst months with tendered turnover of R104m and R2.9m respectively. Traditionally, June, July and August have been a good period for the building industry in the region.

Loy said the forthcoming construction programme for the initial infrastructure of the 2004 Olympic Games bid, and the expected growth of the tourism industry were likely to boost the building industry in the region.

"Optimism about the future is high, but currently we have to face the fact that we are very short of work and that tender prices at the moment could hardly be lower," he said.

"Throughout (the MBA's) membership there is a growing belief that government is not getting to grips with the economic, labour and crime issues. What is needed is a visible commitment to free-market principles and to encourage investment," he said.
Exit tax planned for visitors leaving SA

Nomavenda Mathiane

THE environmental affairs and tourism department would introduce an exit tax for visitors leaving SA, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

Addressing the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut environmental committee in Pretoria, Mokaba said money accrued from this tax would go into a special tourism fund, to market and develop the industry.

Mokaba said the tourism white paper had identified tourism training and education as major challenges facing the industry. This, he said would require a well-trained workforce with a positive service-oriented attitude.

A tourism training advisory committee — made up of all key interested and affected parties — had been formed recently to act as a think-tank and consultative forum for tourism training and education.

The white paper also proposed transformation of Satour in accordance with the realities of the post-apartheid era, especially now that the world had opened up to SA and there was need to align the tourism vision and strategies with reality, he said.

On the issue of violence, Mokaba said the white paper had also identified the safety and security of tourists as a critical factor for a healthy industry. But crime against tourists should not be equated to the overall crime situation in the country.
Fish River Canyon stands neglected as a tourist draw

Stephané Bothma visits the Fish River Canyon, a region of untapped potential.

Treasure trove

The development is financed mainly by bank loans and the four partners are not considering foreign investment, despite the great interest which had been expressed.

The biggest challenge facing them is to change the area from a sheep farming and hunting income area to a tourism income area.

“This type of rocky desert with its clearly depicted signs of evolution is a sight found only in southern Namibia. It’s a treasure trove of exotic and unique treasures, as found in most places, and foreign to most people,” Gessert says.

Natural resources on this land have been greatly tapped because the land had been previously used incorrectly for sheep farming.

“Farmers, experiencing the hardship of farming in a semi-desert area, later introduced hunting as a profit making venture.”

While farmers owning property bordering the nature park took advantage of the hunting opportunities from the natural movement of game from the park to the farms, poachers took advantage of the game and simultaneously restricted hunting in the area.

“After just a year it is already very noticeable that the game has recovered and we intend to gradually restrict game. The future looks bright.”

In addition to restoring the land, the company has also embarked on developing accommodation and restaurant facilities ranging from the more luxurious Canyon Lodge to a guest house and a camp site.

Gessert feels that a large number of the up-market accommodation facilities in Namibia are highly overcapitalised and therefore so expensive that local and even foreign tourists are discouraged from spending time there.

In many cases prices structures are aimed directly at foreign tourists, placing it completely out of reach for southern Africans.

“These prices cannot be afforded by either the local or even SA tourists,” he says, adding that Nature Investment facilities are structured to suit southern African visitors “because they remain the largest group of tourists coming into the country, not in spending percentage, but definitely in number.”

The Nature Investments development will open the south of Namibia to large numbers who in the past could not afford to stay in fully-catered facilities and had no desire for a hiking holiday.

Air Namibia currently has a scheduled service between Windhoek and Keetmanshoop and is investigating the introduction of a service between Keetmanshoop and Johannesburg or Cape Town.

Regular transport will be provided by Nature Investments to its facilities — the Canyon House, situated about 60 km north of the main viewpoint of the Fish River Canyon, the Lodge, consisting of 20 thatched units built among impressive granite boulders with a newly restored farmhouse, originally built in 1910 to serve as a restaurant, and the Canyon restaurant, a campsite with a bar and swimming pool facilities.

Statistics show that about 48,000 tourists visit Namibia each year and this number is expected to rise to 84,000 over the next few years.

“With about 40,000 tourists visiting the canyon per year, it is a source of unparalleled income if it is developed to its full potential,” Gessert says.
New task group to tackle tourists’ safety

Increasing awareness, distributing brochures and youth involvement are part of plan to protect visitors to SA

By Jovial Ramtao
Political Correspondent

The Government has come up with a comprehensive plan for the safety and security of tourists—a move seen as critical for the survival and growth of the multi-billion rand tourism industry.

In an address to the Afrikaans Handelsinstituut in Pretoria, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Peter Mokaba said the perception of crime was a worrying factor and his department was seriously addressing the impact that crime has on tourism.

Mokaba said his department had established a Tourism Safety Task Group, which consisted of senior representatives of the South African Police, Satour, Business Against Crime, the Tourism Business Council, and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The objectives of the TSTG are to ensure co-operation, awareness and action within the various departments with regard to the tourism safety issue and to initiate specific actions to improve the safety of visitors."

"These include effective communication to ensure that tourists and the community are correctly informed about tourism safety, the establishment of an accurate and sophisticated database in this regard and the implementation of appropriate measures to improve visible policing in tourism areas," Mokaba said.

He said the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism had commissioned a brochure titled "Tourist Safety Tips" which would be distributed to tourists at international airports.

Mokaba described the brochure as a friendly document that would make tourists aware of precautions to be taken in hotels and on streets.

He said the TSTG was also working on a tourism "ambassador" project to place a number of young people at key tourism points.

"The tourism ambassadors will work hand in glove with the police services, to be on the lookout for potentially criminal elements and to provide the tourist with general information."

"My department has committed seed funding to the project and is currently seeking additional funding on a rand-for-rand basis from the private sector," Mokaba said.

He said it was important that the issue of crime against tourists was put into context and that it was not equated to the overall situation of crime and violence which prevailed in South African suburbs and rural areas.

Mokaba said the tourism security database had indicated that the level of crime against tourists was substantially lower than that against the population in general and that the types of crimes committed against tourists were of a far less serious nature than those committed against the population in general.

"A clear indication of this is the number of reported tourist crimes. For example, during the period January to April 1996 a total of 376 000 tourists visited the country and only 93 crimes were reported by the tourists during this period."

"Although this is 93 victims too many, these figures indicate that the real rate of crime may be substantially lower than what is generally believed."

"Don't get me wrong—I don't condone any form of crime, because crime is unacceptable," Mokaba said.

On other matters, he said his department was pursuing the establishment of a dedicated tourism exit tax.

The tax would be paid by every tourist leaving South Africa and the funds would be paid into a special tourism fund to be used for the marketing and development of the tourism industry.

"While this idea requires discussion with my colleagues in Cabinet, I'm convinced that it's the only feasible way of establishing a sustainable funding base for the tourism industry."

"My department is also campaigning for increased funds for tourism in the next Budget and I'm confident that the funding situation could improve," Mokaba said.
'Tourist exit tax' plan could harm tourism, but cash badly needed

Chené Blignaut

A proposed exit tax for foreign tourists leaving South Africa – to create cash for the underfunded tourism industry – has been met with mixed reaction by political parties and tourism bodies.

Deputy Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba this week said his department was investigating the institution of a dedicated tourism departure tax, which means foreign tourists would have to pay to leave the country.

"Funds generated through the proposed levy would be paid into a special tourism fund to be used for the marketing and development of the tourism industry," National Party spokesman on tourism Nick Koorhof said his party would welcome such a tax to aid the cash-strapped tourism bodies.

"We will support it, provided the levy isn't excessive and in line with world standards," he added.

Western Cape Tourism Minister Lamlé Pick said levies were a generally accepted source of income in most tourism countries and it would bring South Africa in line with the rest of the world.

"However, the levy should not be for tourists alone, because we must not create the impression that there is a premium to come to the country," said Mr Pick.

With the excessive hikes in hotel tariffs the country is already experiencing, selective levies could very well kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, added Mr Pick.

He said the levy should be discussed between provincial and national government and that airport levies should be distributed fairly between the provinces and central government and should be reinvested in the tourism industry.

Fedhasa executive director Deon Viljoen said the organisation had the same objective and was negotiating with various airlines to introduce voluntary contributions on air tickets for any tourists traveling overseas, including South Africans.

"We realise that national marketing of the country and the private sector is looking at establishing another source of revenue, which could then be matched by government on a rand-to-rand basis for the promotion of the country overseas," said Mr Viljoen.

With regard to crime, Mr Viljoen said it was correct to say incidents against tourists had decreased, but that the violent nature of these crimes still created the perception that it was on the increase.

Mr Mokaba also said the real rate of crime against tourists was lower than what was generally believed.

Captor tourism manager Jeremy Harris said the organisation hoped that Mr Mokaba would consult with tourism bodies before introducing the proposed exit tax.

This was, he said, because it seemed it would counter what Captour was trying to achieve.

"We have to offer incentives for people to come here and should not make it difficult for them. Currently our rand exchange rate is one such an incentive because Cape Town is affordable to international tourists, but a tourism levy would counter that," said Mr Harris.

He said people would leave the country with a bad memory and sour taste in the mouth.

Mr Harris said crime was still a serious concern for Captour and they did not believe it should be swept under the carpet.
Johannesburg — Violent crime was placing the South African conference industry in jeopardy, putting thousands of jobs on the line and risking the loss to the country of millions of rands in hard currency.

This was the gist of a message in a letter sent to President Nelson Mandela by one of South Africa’s leading conference organisers, Brian McDonald, the managing director of Cape-based Global Conferences.

McDonald appealed to the president to give the international conference industry the assurance that the government was committed to fighting crime.

"The critically important conference business sector is being threatened by violence, which appears to be getting worse," said McDonald.

"The situation is now so bad that many of our South African clients are having to reassure their international associations that it is still safe to hold conferences in South Africa," McDonald said.

McDonald disclosed that one major world event, the international Congress of Shoulder Surgery, which is expected to attract 1,000 delegates here in 2001, could be lost to the country because of the crime wave.

South Africa last year won the bid to host the congress against stiff competition from the United States, Canada and Brazil. "But," McDonald warned, "the question of South Africa’s suitability as a venue is now to be questioned at a congress board meeting in Florida this month."

In his letter to the president, McDonald said: "I am asking you to please make a statement which we can present to that meeting, saying that the problem is being vigorously addressed and requesting that any decision regarding awarding the conference to another country be deferred for a year by which time it is anticipated that there will be a marked improvement."

McDonald expected the congress to bring in between R10 million and R15 million in foreign exchange.
Tourism seeks better finance mechanisms

ROY COKAYNE

 Pretoria — The environmental affairs and tourism department wants to provide dedicated finance mechanisms for tourism and institute a dedicated tourism exit tax, Peter Mokaba, the deputy environmental affairs and tourism minister, said last week.

 He told the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut standing committee on tourism that the finance mechanisms for tourism would be within the fold of finance agencies such as the Industrial Development Corporation and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

 “Such mechanisms are being actively pursued with these agencies and the department has already held a number of positive discussions with them,” he said.

 He said tourism’s diverse nature allowed for a high degree of entrepreneurship, but its success as a significant growth industry depended on the availability and access to finance for prospective entrepreneurs.

 He said the financing agencies had not addressed this issue adequately and tourism entrepreneurs frequently had to apply for finance as part of a retail and industrial application.

 “The financing agencies do not seem to have the required sensitivity with regard to the complexity of the tourism industry and, as a result, tourism applications are often put on the backburner.”

 He said his department was pursuing the institution of a dedicated tourism exit tax.

 He said this tax would be paid by every foreign visitor leaving the country and the funds received should be paid into a special tourism fund “to be used as additional funds for the marketing and development of the tourism industry”.

 “While the idea requires discussions with my colleagues in Cabinet, I am convinced that it is the only feasible way of establishing a sustainable funding base for the tourism industry.”

 He said his department was campaigning for increased funds for tourism in the next Budget.
Casino delay may hit Olympic bid

No licences until late 1997

*ARQ 8/10/96 (28)*

Andrea Weiss
Metro Correspondent.

An "administrative error" has set back the granting of casino licences in the Western Cape until late next year, with implications for Olympic projects and an urgently needed convention centre in Cape Town.

Provincial Premier Hernus Kriel yesterday announced that the process for appointing the Gambling Board, which will award the five licences allocated to the Western Cape, had been scrapped.

Only after a board has been appointed will tenders be invited from prospective casino operators.

Mr Kriel's spokesman, Frikkie Onddeaal, said the premier had decided to start the process from scratch because of an administrative error in the selection process. "The seven members of the board, we call the seven angels. For them to become angels, they have to go through heaven." Not one single mistake can be allowed in the selection process."

But the delay in appointing a new board, which could be as long as five months, has implications for Olympic projects and a convention centre which are likely to be linked to the granting of a casino licence. The province has indicated it will write conditions into the awarding of a licence in the metropolitan area to ensure the city gets the maximum benefit.

Mr Kriel said the appointment of the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board was "a weighty issue".

"The cessation of the appointment process will unfortunately delay the licensing of casinos in the Western Cape. It is unavoidable but equitable," he said.
Tourism set to adopt a new strategy

MEDIEVAL
Divided over Olympics

Cape Town is making a determined bid to host the Olympic Games in 2004. This would make South Africa the first African country to host the prestigious event.

While the bid committee — under the chairmanship of former bank executive Mr. Chris Ball, with the support of the Cabinet — is confident that Cape Town will win the bid, critics say money to be spent on the project could be used elsewhere.

They say that Cape Town does not have the capacity to handle such a large event. Besides, the money could be spent on much-needed housing and infrastructure in the city’s poverty-stricken townships.

Another argument is that as long as crime and violence is high, there is little possibility that Cape Town will be granted the right to host the games.

The level of crime has been highlighted by the rise of People Against Gangs and Drugs, a Muslim-led vigilante group that has sworn to “take out” drug dealers and rid the area of gangs.

Sub-automatic rifles

Already one gang leader, Rashad Staggie, has been killed by Pagad supporters, some of whom openly display semi-automatic rifles at their gatherings.

Cape Town’s notorious gangs have sworn revenge for the death of Staggie and, in a recent show of strength, about 1,500 gangsters marched for a considerable distance through coloured townships, openly brandishing their weapons.

The Minister of Justice Mr. Dullah Omar, even moved out of his house in Athlone temporarily because he was concerned about the safety of his family.

The high level of lawlessness will count against Cape Town’s Olympic bid. There is also concern that an Olympic infrastructure would benefit the rich areas more than the poor ones.

While previously it was said that a good part of the new facilities required would be built in the historically deprived black areas, the committee is now saying facilities would mainly be in the formerly all-white areas.

Ratepayers are also sceptical that the cost of the games would be covered by revenue from the Olympics.

They are afraid that should the South African bid succeed, they will be paying for a decade.

Organisations and individuals touring Cape Town for the games, on the other hand, see the Olympics as an opportunity to put the Mother City and South Africa firmly on the world map.

They believe that infrastructure built for the Olympics deserves a chance to host the Olympic Games. The games have been staged in the four other continents. Now is the time for Africa to complete the five Olympic rings.

The Cabinet decided to endorse the bid after careful consideration of the facts and figures presented by national and provincial governments, the Cape Town Metropolitan Council and the Development Bank of South Africa.

The race before us will be short but very demanding. From now until September 1997, it will be an around-the-clock operation. Discipline and team work must be a way of life.

The construction that is going to happen must be seen as part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme. The stadium, villages and improvements in the transport system will benefit the people of this city and the country for years to come. There must be no white elephants.

I appeal to the people of Cape Town and South Africa to accept this as their challenge — their duty to our country and to Africa. Give the bid committee all the assistance it requires.

Even as the jobs are being created and the construction and renovation work unfolds, there will be disruptions to daily life and there may be some stepping on one another’s toes from time to time.

But let us keep our eyes on the long-term interests. Let us focus on the bid. Remember, if Cape Town wins, South Africa wins; Africa wins! — President Nelson Mandela, Cape Town.
US dams SA with faint travel praise

Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — A new US state department information sheet on travel conditions in SA seeks to strike a tactful balance between alerting US tourists and businessmen to the country's "significant" crime problem and scaring them away.

"The vast majority of visitors complete their travels in SA without incident," the advisory, posted last week on the department's public website, noted encouragingly.

However, travellers should be aware that "criminal activity in SA is perceived to be a potential threat to the stability of the new government and the welfare of its citizens."

Although the government is making strong efforts to combat the problem, significant criminal activity such as assault and armed robbery continue. "Car hijacking is prevalent."

Visitors are advised to use "appropriate caution," not only in downtown areas but rural areas as well. "Violent crime and hijacking have moved to the seemingly safer suburbs. They are told that special care is also needed in the vicinity of "public transportation centres."

The good news is that political violence has "significantly decreased," though there continues to be violent clashes in KwaZulu-Natal, "particularly in the townships near Durban."

A new danger is vigilantism. "There have been conflicts between criminal organisations and citizen's groups which have resulted in some violence, most recently in areas in and around Cape Town."

"Happily, there is no indication American citizens are being targeted. Outside the major urban areas caution is also advised in the former Ciskei and Transkei."

"Some areas, such as the 'Wild Coast' in the former Transkei, have significant crime problems and inadequate medical services."

Visitors are urged to take care on the roads. "Drivers are allowed relatively high rates of speed on major thoroughfares... and insufficient regulatory controls regarding driver licensing and vehicle maintenance pose dangers to travellers."

Despite widespread poverty, the department observes that SA is "in many respects a developed country" with "adequate" facilities at the popular tourist destinations. "Food and water are generally safe and a wide variety of consumer goods and pharmaceuticals are readily available."

"Doctors and hospitals usually accept credit cards."

(283) BD 9 10 96
Proposed tourism tax draws criticism

Samantha Sharpe 11/10/94

Increased revenue from the introduction of a dedicated tourism exit tax would be offset by increased administration costs and fewer tourists to SA, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry said yesterday.

Reacting to the tourism department’s recently announced plans to introduce the tax, chamber president Geoffrey Ashmead said the organisation was concerned about the trend apparent in government to introduce ad hoc taxes “whenever it feels the pinch”.

On the tax’s effect on the inflow of tourists, Ashmead said tourists already paid airport taxes as well as a bed levy on their accommodation bills.

“As a long-haul destination SA has to keep the costs and convenience to tourists within reasonable bounds. Otherwise tourists will simply give the country a miss and go elsewhere,” Ashmead said.
A GAMBLE ON GAMBLING

Karos is a company with a patchy performance and its analysis is hampered by an inadequate annual report.

A full-page, six-year financial review gives no details of earnings, dividends or net worth per share, nor even of issued capital, so investors can’t even work out these basic figures for themselves.

Some of the information it does contain, though, is fascinating.

For instance, over the six years there is a cumulative net profit attributable to ordinary shareholders of just R332 000; yet dividends totalling R4,3m have been paid — some in cap issues rather than cash, it’s true, but not even that point is made in the table, though it is elsewhere

Year to March 31

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<td>1,7</td>
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<td>2,0</td>
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* Cash equivalent of cap share issues. 1 Headline. 2 Fully diluted.

in the annual report.

Yet in spite of this sad record, year-end retained profits have risen over the period from R8m to R25,3m. The apparent anomaly reflects a R22,2m surplus on realisation of investments transferred from non-distributable to distributable reserves in 1994 — though that is not explained in the report, either.

Chairman Selwin Hurwitz attributes the only marginal improvement in 1996 turnover to the closure of the Edward in Durban for refurbishment as a five-star hotel. It reopened on July 1. There was a R719 000 loss from associates, mainly from the Polana in Maputo.

Karos focused on the proposed casino dispensation last year. Development costs to date of R6,6m have been deferred and will be capitalised to the cost of casinos when licences are granted. The Polana has already been granted the first casino licence in Mozambique and operations will start on October 15.

Balance sheet ratios remain tight but should be sustainable. The apparent near-doubling of short-term debt reflects repayments due this year of R27,8m, while the transfer of this from long-term debt was offset by new borrowings.

Repayments in the next few years remain heavy: R9,3m in 1998, R8,1m in 1999, R7,3m in 2000. Hurwitz says debt-equity is "satisfactory", but various means of financing are being investigated to create the borrowing capacity that will be required if casino applications succeed.

Hurwitz says profits for the first half of this year will be "muted" but the second half should see the normal seasonal improvement. Full-year results "should show a further encouraging increase."

Some years ago Karos decided to upgrade its hotels, in part to fill the gap left by Southern Sun’s move downtown. This entailed heavy spending, which depressed results, though bringing the compensation of a negligible tax charge.

The past two years have brought a strong recovery in operating profit, not fully felt at per share level because of a higher issued equity.

After moving from a near-record low of 125c in early 1994 to a peak of 400c in mid-1995, the share price has since fallen back. This may seem paradoxical, but as Hurwitz had forecast a 40% rise in EPS for 1996 (Companies October 27, 1995), the latest figures are not up to expectations.

Karos took a different view of the future of the hotel industry from chains like City Lodge and Protea. So far, it has not been proved right. That could change, but for now, the share’s appeal is not so much intrinsic as a gamble on Karos becoming a major player in the new-look casino industry — when it gets off the ground. Michael Coulsen.
houses and offices in favour of enterprises that can turn out high-value goods with small work forces. As Dubai continues its rapid shift from reliance on oil revenues to manufacturing, there are already 930 companies and 30,000 workers in the zone, with a target of 2,000 hand-picked organisations by the end of the century.

"Not that it would hurt" SA companies to wait a while. Hints of a crack in the Gulf states' contentious 51/49 company ownership ratio came last week during the visit to Dubai by an SA trade delegation.

Until now, any foreign individual or company setting up in Gulf Co-operation Council countries (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman) has had to give a local Arab 51% of the shareholding.

A proposal to break this stranglehold is for 50% of a foreign company to be held by a local financial institution and 21% to go to public subscription (Dubai intends to open a stock exchange next year). This would leave the expatriate as the main shareholder with his 49%. "These are merely proposals for discussion," says an Economics Ministry official.

Dubai's desire to break away from reliance on oil revenues is shown in its latest figures: last year only US$1.8bn of the state's $9.5bn gross domestic product came from oil.

The showpiece of this diversification is the $4.5bn Jebel Ali Free Zone, whose harbour can dock 67 ships at the same time and handle supertankers and even aircraft carriers. With a turnaround time of less than 24 hours on each ship, the harbour handles 1,000 vessels a month.

The paperwork and collection of goods from the depot, including payment of a flat 4% import duty for those destined for the UAE and other Gulf states, is a maximum of one hour and if it takes longer, to coin an Arab phrase, heads will roll.

Diversification continues, with tourism seen as Dubai's next big money-spinner. Annual passenger traffic movements of 7m are expected to reach 12m by the time seven new holiday beach resorts now under construction or in planning are added to the 223 hotels operating mostly in the city.

Dubai sets the commercial pace in the Gulf and any tampering with the 51:49 ownership rule would put pressure on neighbouring states to follow.
Relais group opens fourth hotel in Cape

MAGGIE ROWLEY

Cape Town — Relais Hotels of the Cape, which operates five hotels in South Africa, is opening its fourth in the Western Cape today.

It will be the 110-suite Bantry Bay Hotel, on the border of Sea Point and Bantry Bay.

The group was started in 1990 by the well-known South African hoteliers Alan and Diana Romburgh.

It has also been awarded the management contract for the new and exclusive Oudekrakel Hotel due for completion by the end of next year, and has other potential management contracts under negotiation.

The 70-room Oudekrakel Hotel, which stands on the controversial White House site near Camps Bay, is set to become the flagship of the group, says Romburgh, who has 30 years' experience in the hotel industry, having worked for all the major South African groups.

Hotels in the group include the Beachhouse in Kleinmond, which is both owned and managed by Relais Hotels and which was recently awarded the silver classification by the South African Tourism Board.

In addition, the group manages Dorpshuis in Stellenbosch, Marvel Villas in Clifton and Marvel Manor House in Waterkloof Ridge, Pretoria.

Romburgh, who is also the chairman of marketing for the Western Cape Tourism Board, said that while the group was not closed to opportunities further afield, the greatest opportunities were seen to be in the Western Cape.

Hotels in the group have been running ahead of the industry average, with more than 50 percent of bednights being sold to foreigners and the rest to mostly corporate clients, Romburgh said.

Romburgh has also been retained as the marketing and management consultant on a number of large hotel projects in the Western Cape, including the five-star Grand Roche Hotel in Pearl, the Alphen Hotel in Constantia and the Kommetjie Inn in Kommetjie.

Romburgh said he was particularly excited about the Bantry Bay Hotel, which was developed by Devprop and San Vito, with units being sold off to investors under sectional title.

"This is the way much new hotel development is likely to go in future. "We have already seen a number of new projects being launched under a similar financial framework," Romburgh said.
CAPE Town's Olympic Bid Company yesterday reiterated its commitment to the empowerment of black people following allegations of racism from dissatisfied staff.

A number of unhappy Bid Company workers this week accused officials of disregarding their grievances, simply because they were black.

They complained that the problems, which were first raised before the Atlanta Olympic Games in July, had still not been addressed.

"We had hoped the issue would be an urgent priority with officials, and have no choice but to ascribe the Bid Company's refusal or inability to resolve staff problems as utter racism," a disgruntled employee said this week.

Bid Company director Michael Fuller said "not a single formal allegation of racism" had been reported to the directors or the human resource manager.

The allegations were nothing other than an attempt to discredit the bid, he said.

Salaries were determined by skills, and staff doing similar jobs were paid the same. Half the directors and 70 percent of management staff were black, he added.

But several dissatisfied workers, who asked not to be named, claimed this week that no attempt had been made to sort out grievances listed in a six-page document that had been compiled by them.

In the document, the company is accused of applying affirmative action only to junior positions.

"In some instances, it was clear that affirmative action appointments were nothing but window dressing," it claims.

A former employee said she had joined the company as a secretary, but left after only two months, because she was fed up with the attitude that "all black people were inefficient."

In a statement to Cape Metro, four black Bid Company directors — Ameen Akhalwaya, Ntsundeni Madzumwa, Saliegah Zardad and Ngcoshe Balfour — dismissed the claims of racism as "mischievous" and an attempt to smear the bid.

"The black directors were satisfied their white colleagues were equally committed to transformation and eradicating racism."
French developer in Cape hotel boom

MAGGIE KOWLY
PROPERTY EDITOR

Cape Town — Cape Town city centre is on the verge of a major building boom with construction of at least five new hotels set to get under way early next year.

Activity will be concentrated around the old power station where two new international hotels, a Hilton and a Marriott, are in the offing, and the adjoining former Imperial Cold Storage site where three new Southern Sun hotels are going up.

These developments alone will represent an investment in the city of well over R1 billion and are expected to create thousands of jobs during and after construction.

Bernard Pumel, the representative in South Africa for the French group Compagnie de Batiment et de Construction (CBC), which is undertaking the R800 million international hotel and office development on the old power station site, said CBC would be going out to tender shortly. He said they aimed to move on site early next year.

The development will comprise an 8-storey 11 000 m² new headquarter block for BP; a 400-room Hilton hotel and a 300-room Marriott hotel.

Pumel said foreign and local financiers had been lined up and letters of intent had been signed. These would translate into formal agreements once CBC takes transfer of the 9 000 m² site it is acquiring from the City Council for R24 million.

Rod Yound, Cape Town’s development co-ordinator, said the remaining technicalities delaying transfers were expected to be sorted out within a month.

These involved the lease of a portion of land underneath the Loop Street extension to provide an underground delivery and refuse removal facility.

Pumel said the lease was in the process of being finalised and CBC would meet the December 15 deadline for “conditions precedent” to be in place to allow transfer of the land to go ahead.

Meanwhile, excavation work on the former Imperial Cold Storage site, where the three new Southern Sun hotels are to be built, started a week ago.

The first of the hotels, a 140-room Express, is due for completion in October next year. It will be followed by a 602-room Garden Court which is due to open its doors two months later. The third hotel in the complex, a 223-room Crown Plaza, is due to open the following year.

The total development cost, which will be financed by Liberty Life Properties, will be about R500 million.

Louis Kariot, the architect, said the construction contract would go out to tender shortly.

These five hotels are just the tip of the iceberg. A total of about 30 new hotels are mooted for the Western Cape in the medium term.

This weekend saw the opening of the Bantam Bay All Suite hotel.

Sun International’s new mega hotel in the Waterfront is nearing completion, as are the Victoria Junction hotel in Greenpoint and the Cape Grace hotel in the Waterfront.

Also on the drawing board is the new Oudekraal hotel on the White House site near Camps Bay, due for completion next year, while a number of hotels are planned for the multi-billion rand Century City development.

The number of new hotels is expected to be boosted further when the casino licences for provinces are granted.
Visitor arrivals surge

Pretoria — The number of foreign tourists visiting South Africa rose 36 percent in July compared with the same month last year and there is no reason why this growth should not continue for the rest of the year, says Helder Pereira, Southern Sun’s chief operating executive.

The increase in foreign tourist arrivals in July this year contrasts with June when arrivals plunged 49 percent compared with the same month last year.

Pereira attributed the sharp decline to South Africa hosting the Rugby World Cup over the same period last year.

He said that at the end of June, year-to-date figures dropped 2.3 percent in foreign tourist arrivals.

But he said the year-to-date figures, including the 36 percent increase in arrivals in July, were 2.5 percent higher than last year’s.

Pereira said the July figures indicated that developments in certain markets were particularly encouraging.

He said the number of tourists from France increased 46 percent and travellers from the two large European markets of Britain and Germany also rose.

The number of tourists from Britain rose 32 percent and, those from Germany increased 15 percent.

He said it was significant that the US market, which had previously been the third largest market, was second to Britain, with an increase of 55 percent in tourists to South Africa.

He said the growth in the African market was also encouraging. The number of tourists from Zimbabwe grew 46 percent and the number from Angola 100 percent.

"There is no reason why this positive growth should not pass on to August and the rest of the year. As a result of increased airline capacity and room availability, a 5 to 10 percent increase is possible and should translate to about 100,000 additional foreign visitors by December this year."

However, tourism needed additional marketing funds if South Africa was to compete with other long haul destinations and to achieve the projected figure of 2 million tourist arrivals by 2001," he said.

Pereira said the depreciation of the rand had a positive effect on foreign tourist arrivals because of price relativitity. He said that though South African hotels had increased their rates, this had been offset by the depreciation of the rand and in some cases meant cheaper hotel costs than last year.

Pereira said a 5 to 10 percent increase in foreign tourism was reasonable considering that the number of airlines flying to South Africa had risen from 54 last year to 70 this year. In addition, landings had increased 30 percent.

He said there was a lag between increased capacity and demand, which had resulted in specials to offset the surplus capacity.

Pereira said tourism earnings last year were estimated at R14 billion. A 10 percent increase would benefit the entire economy, he said.
Cape's hotels 'over-priced' (238)

Heather Parker

LONDON — Warnings that the SA hospitality industry is pricing itself out of the market have long fallen on ears deafened by the tinkle of foreign lures.

However, now a new British survey suggests the sector would be well advised to rethink the profiteering that has been endemic since SA became acceptable as a long-haul destination for foreign tourists.

Press reports in the UK have focused on a survey by consultants Pannell Kerr Foster Associates, which found that increase of room prices in Cape Town in the last year was the third highest in Africa and the Middle East.

Only Kuwait and Tel Aviv put up prices faster.

In dollar terms, the average price of a hotel-room in Cape Town rose more than a quarter in the past year.

The survey found that the amount paid for a room, as opposed to the published rate, climbed 20% to $198 a night.

By comparison, internationally — according to a different survey by Hogg Robinson — the annual increase in hotel rates is about 7%.

Cape Town is still some way behind Hong Kong, which is the most expensive city to stay in, according to Hogg's survey. It has soared from fourth place a year ago, with the average price now $240.
On board the double-decker bus of successful ecotourism.
R1.2bn 'hotel city' planned on Foreshore

A SEVEN-STRONG "hotel city" is in the making on two adjoining sites on the Foreshore at a total cost of R1.2 billion. Together they will provide about 2 000 new rooms.

Cullinan Hotels announced yesterday that it is to build two new hotels at a cost of R150 million on a site bought from the Desland Group for R18 million (site G on the above photograph).

Liberty Life has bought site E to build three new hotels for the Southern Sun Group.

The French group Compagnie de Bâillement et de Construction is planning to build Hilton and Marriott Hotels on sites D and C1 acquired from the City Council.

Property Editor
See Business Report
Cullinan expands into the Cape with two new hotels

Cape Town — The Cullinan Hotel Group is entering the Cape Town market with a R50 million hotel project. Peter Rowell, the Seaf commercial director, who negotiated the sale, said the group had acquired a prime 4,550m² site bordering the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront from the Devland group for R18 million, on which it is to build two hotels.

The Cullinan Group, which owns and manages two hotels in Gauteng, is owned by Martin Rodrigues, the chief executive, and the Kroo brothers, Solly and Abe.

Rodrigues said the group would build a 312-room, low-service, three-star Cullinan Inn on the Cape Town site. It was also planning to build 180 executive apartment suites which would be sold under sectional title but operated as a four-star hotel.

Construction is due to start in January next year and is set to be completed in July 1998.

The group owns and runs the Cullinan Hotel and Executive Suites in Sandown and the 150-room Cullinan Inn in Sandton. Rodrigues said a new 150-room Cullinan Inn would also be constructed in the East Rand. He said the group had been planning to seek a listing on the JSE but details would be announced at a later stage.

Devland, which sold the site to Cullinan, is to stay on board as a minority equity partner in the Cape Town development. Devland recently sold its adjoining site to Liberty Life, which is financing three hotels for the Southern Sun group.
City Lodge occupancy rate ‘likely to stay high’

Amanda Vermeulen

OCCUPANCIES at the Courtyard, City Lodge, Town Lodge and Road Lodge hotels were likely to remain at high levels, despite the concern about saturation in the upper end of the hotel market in certain regions.

In the group’s annual report City Lodge chairman Hans Enderle said that it expected to achieve acceptable real growth in the 1997 financial year.

In the year to June the group lifted attributable earnings to R33,5m (R23,3m) off an increase in turnover to R108,7m from R92,5m. Share earnings climbed to 128.7c (91.3c) and a total dividend of 68c (40c) was declared.

Enderle said during the year under review there had been strong demand for accommodation from corporate travellers, but expectations of high growth in international tourist numbers after last year’s Rugby World Cup did not materialise.

Average room occupancy levels within the group improved to 81% from 80% in the previous financial year. Enderle said in its first full year, the Courtyard chain had made a significant contribution.

The first Road Lodge, which opened near Johannesburg International Airport in August last year, had been successful and had encouraged management to expand this brand rapidly within the next few years.

The Room 2000 conversion programme — focusing on reducing noise pollution and improving information technology facilities, among others — had been completed at City Lodge Randburg. Similar programmes would be implemented at other hotels in the current financial year.

Building of two new lodges started in the 1996 financial year, with significant progress made in gaining further sites in Gauteng, Durban and other parts of SA. Enderle said plans for these sites would be announced soon.
TOO MANY COOKS

President of the 700-strong Association of SA Travel Agents, Roger Mackie, is an unhappy man. He says he has been trying unsuccessfully for two months to get an interview with Tourism & Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to impress on him that SA needs one strong central tourism organisation.

The current system, which has seen the SA Tourism Board (Satour) sidelined and government funding all nine provinces’ individual international marketing drives isn’t working. Mackie says it leads to duplication and triplication of effort, and is not bringing in the desired number of foreign visitors.

Satour will take a stand at this year’s World Travel Market exhibition in London in November and in turn will lease space to the provinces. Mackie says the system confuses potential tourists who prefer to go to one counter and get all the information they need about a country, rather than cope with a situation where provinces compete with each other.

Satour’s budget has been reduced from a high of R96m in financial 1994, the last year of the Nationalist government, to R48m this year. “Government claims it is giving the provinces the money it would have given Satour,” says Mackie. “It expects Satour to cover its local and overseas needs with that grant, and market SA internationally. But SA has to compete with well-established tourist destinations whose selling organisations are adequately funded.”

Mackie doesn’t know how much the provinces get from government, and neither does Satour’s acting executive director Reg Swart. He says each province negotiates its own tourism budget with government, “and keeps the amount secret. I know KwaZulu-Natal has a budget of R39m, R9m less than Satour’s budget. Every province’s regional tourism authority also gets a third of whatever Satour collects in the province for bed levies and the grading of hotels. That will amount to about R20m this year.”

There is talk that Satour will be adequately funded when its name is changed to Tourism SA, but Jordan could not be contacted to confirm this, or say what government is spending on promoting tourism. His office says “he is out of the country” — perhaps taking in the sights and sounds of much publicised foreign climes.
Housing seen as top priority for Olympics

CHRIS BATEMAN

A FORMER co-chairperson of Atlanta's Olympic planning process and that city's former police chief, Mr. Eldrin Bell, said his best advice for Cape Town could be summed up in one word — housing.

"You will have 15,000 media people, about 18,000 athletes, about 25,000 family members — we had 25,000 police officials alone in Atlanta — housing just has to be a priority," he said.

Another major issue for Cape Town, "was, is and will be" transportation between the proposed 36 Olympic venues, which should be located close together and on major transport routes. Special Olympic lanes also help to ease traffic.

"Crime during any major event actually decreased," he said — but the biggest headache was internal security. In Atlanta, the Olympics becomes a world stage with internal terrorism posing the biggest threat and being the most difficult to identify.

"You get copy-cats, deranged people, all kinds," he said.

Bell urged the local Olympic Planning Committee, which he meets on 29 October, "to be very attentive to the Olympic Family and let them know that local and national government are all of one accord and that your President is behind it."

He said flexibility of local officials in planning and implementation was crucial when outsiders came in and wanted to tailor arrangements to meet their responsibilities.
A SCATHING report by the Cape Town city planners department has dealt South Africa's chances of securing the 2004 Olympic Games a major blow.

The report, which was placed before the council's executive committee this week, questions where the R3.5 billion in private-sector money needed to fund the bid would come from.

And it says that billions of rands in government financial contributions which are crucial to holding the games have not reached any form of finality.

The report says the transport system envisaged for the games has 'massive financial implications' and it raised concern about the environmental impact of plans for the games.

The report has ignited a war of words between the council and the Olympic Bid Company. The head of the bid’s planning department, Peter de Tolly, said the report displayed a 'staggering ignorance' of the company's operations.

The council needs to get out of the civic centre more often and come over and see what we are doing," he said.

The report calls for the urgent creation of a public-authorities committee comprising representatives of national, provincial and local authorities to investigate serious unresolved shortcomings in the submission to the International Olympic Committee.

The report comes amid growing frustration among city planners at their exclusion from key aspects of the Olympic bid agreement. De Tolly has acknowledged that but countered by saying the council "wants to run the hole show" it's a problem all the bid companies go through.

Other problems identified in the report include:

- Not enough planning for the supply of bulk services;
- The marketability of Olympic housing units after the games;
- Concerns about the viability of a 6,000-seat indoor stadium;
- A proposed tennis venue that is "contrary to developmental principles";
- "Serious concern" with the rowing site proposed by the company;
- Concerns about the ownership and maintenance of facilities;
- "No clear understanding" of the national government's role in the bid;
- "Much work that needs to be done to clarify the implications of the bid for the council."
The world’s in love with Mother City

By GRAHAM HOWE

SOUTH Africa’s big tourism boom is like the tale of two cities. Foreign tourists believe Cape Town is one of the most enjoyable destinations in the world but Johannesburg is a place that most would sooner avoid.

Cape Town is rated the third most popular tourist city across the globe in the authoritative Hideaway Report published by Harper’s. The recent survey of 1 500 globetrotters from the United States reveals the top five destinations to be San Francisco, Vancouver, Cape Town, Sydney and Jerusalem, in that order of preference.

Johannesburg did not win a single vote of approval in the poll. The survey describes the city as "a hellish nest, where the twice-nugged Lebanese ambassador now yearns for the ‘safety’ of downtown Beirut."

Johannesburg comes after Nairobi, "a sordid urban jungle rife with violent street crime and armed shootouts, which only goes to show that both African cities enjoy a similar reputation."

The ongoing attacks on foreign visitors and township violence in South Africa make sensational headlines abroad. The country’s poor security image deters many American holiday-makers.

Interestingly, Americans are also critical of their own cities. Old favourites in the top 35 tourist attractions include Boston, Seattle, Santa Fe, San Diego, Chicago, Washington DC and New York. Out of favour are Atlanta (perhaps because of the crowds during the Olympics), Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston, Miami and Detroit.

The survey concludes that the hottest item on the tourist grapevine is where to spend New Year’s Eve 2000. They describe it as "the thinking-man’s date for celebrating the next millennium". If Cape Town keeps up its image it could be on the shortlist as a venue for celebrating the start of the twenty-first century.
Transport, crime and accommodation seen as key Olympic bid - with a few buts

International press chiefs back
Plan to give safety tips to tourists

Kevin O'Grady

The tourism safety task group, formed by the environmental affairs and tourism department nine months ago, plans to distribute brochures at SA's international airports, providing safety tips for tourists, says Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan.

This formed part of the group's aim of initiating specific action plans to improve the safety of visitors, Jordan said last week.

The group is made up of representatives of Jordan's department, the SAPS, Satour, Business Against Crime, the Tourism Business Council and the foreign affairs department.

The group was also toying with the idea of a "tourism ambassador" project that would entail placing young people at key tourism points to work with police in identifying "potential criminal elements" and to provide tourists with information.

Jordan said that while the issue of crime was worrying for the tourism industry and the economy, the perception of a high crime rate and a lack of safety and security for visitors was "far more dangerous" to the industry than the actual number of crimes against tourists.

South Africans needed to involve themselves actively in the promotion of their country and "not be our own worst critics" if they wanted to counteract the negative effects of crime, he said.

Many other countries had a higher rate of crimes against tourists than SA "but these countries do not advertise their crimes, they advertise what they have to offer tourists".

Jordan also spoke of black people's feeling of exclusion from the tourism industry, saying this applied to the ownership and image of SA portrayed to the rest of the world.

At a recent business conference in Durban, Jordan said, black businessmen raised concerns about the fact that 95% of the tourism industry was owned by the white private sector, that black businessmen still had difficulty getting finance to enter the tourism market and that community-driven tourism projects aimed at diversifying ownership of the industry was almost non-existent.

Jordan said Satour had accumulated statements of intent from various organisations in the past year to invest R71bn in tourism infrastructure alone during the next 10 years. This included hotel and recreational developments.
Gloomy report surprises hotel chiefs

AUDREY D'ANGELO (288) 25(52) 22/10/96

Cape Town — The average net profitability of hotels in South Africa plunged 36.5 percent in the first half of the year, figures issued by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) yesterday showed.

Senior executives of major hotel groups, who said they had not had the chance to study and analyse these statistics, expressed surprise. They said costs had risen but their bottom lines were still strong, and pointed out that hotel group results reported so far this year had been good.

The report, based on aggregated survey results from "the most important hotels", says that "the profitability ratio (net profit after tax and turnover) of hotels fell from 18.6 percent for the first quarter of 1996 to 10.4 percent for the second quarter.

"This was due mainly to the decrease in net profit of 36.5 percent during the same period. Capital expenditure was higher in the second quarter.

The quarterly percentage change of capital expenditure on new assets increased by 124.5 percent for the quarter to June 1996. Call money, demand deposits and cash on hand as a percentage of turnover decreased from 21 percent in March this year to 8.3 percent in June.

The ratio of net profit after tax to fixed assets was 2.71 percent in June, compared with 5.26 percent in March and 14.77 percent for last year.

Another set of statistics issued by the CSS yesterday said that the average room occupancy of South African hotels decreased by 1.6 percent to 55.5 percent, and the average bed occupancy decreased by 0.8 percent to 80.8 percent in August compared with August last year. But total hotel income rose by 12.7 percent.

From April to the end of August hotels in Pretoria had repeatedly achieved the highest room occupancy. In August, the room occupancy for this region was 81.1 percent followed by the East Rand (76 percent) and Cape Town, the Peninsula and Wineland (70.5 percent).

Selwin Hurwitz, the executive chairman of Karos Hotels, said that costs, including wages and salaries, rates and utility services such as electricity and water, had risen.

But occupancy rates had also risen. "We are in for a tourism boom this year. The number of tourists arriving rose steeply from the beginning of October and forward bookings are strong.

"To judge from these forward bookings, the season this year will continue well into May."

Helder Perreira, the chief operating executive of Southern Sun, said that although costs had risen, hotels had also raised their prices "to catch up after a long period when they had to be very competitive. This 32.5 percent drop in net profits certainly does not reflect our bottom line."
As a newcomer must be mind of the guests for whom he is going and make sure the rates he set match the service.

Mr. MacPhail, of Leeuwen House in Tamboerskloof, said he could make a living from his houses, but would become only when they sold them.

Cptour said that of the 267 houses in the Peninsula, 57 in the city, 95 on the Atlantic Road, 60 in the Southern Suburbs, 35 in the False Bay area and the Northern Suburbs, the Cape Times visited eight establishments last week.

Leeuwen House, Long Street and Parkside in Oranjezicht, Bergzicht, Underberg and Leeuwenhoek in Tamboerskloof, Leeuwenhoek in Fresnaye and Roseberry Lodge in Mowbray.

The owners said that most of their guests had heard of their establishments by word of mouth or had stayed there before.

Three that have created niche markets are Longwood, which often hosts foreign film and photographic crews, Underberg, which is a favourite with the South African corporate market, and Hilltop House, which caters for upmarket German tourists.

Oliver said guest-houses had made an "enormous" contribution to meeting the city's accommodation needs.

"The number is growing rapidly — showing there is a great need for this type of accommodation," Oliver said.

The Western Cape had "by far" the most guest-houses, he said.

Ms. Ilona Silverman, Captour's conference marketing and membership consultant, said most of the Peninsula's guest-houses provided a high standard of service.

"I would say I am happy with the standards of service offered by 95% of them. We have had negative feedback, but this usually occurs in the high season."

Silverman said the rates charged by some guest-houses were on the "high side". These included Ellerman House in Bantry Bay which charged between R1 400 and R3 200 a night for a double room.

The Cape Town municipality strongly favors the development of guest-houses.

Among its reasons is that it believes these will help "conserve Cape Town's architectural heritage."

The city council has noted that a number of large Victorian and Edwardian houses in Gardens, Oranjezicht, Rondebosch, Claremont, Kenilworth, Wynberg, Muizenberg and other suburbs would make excellent bed-and-breakfast establishments.
City planner raises Olympic concerns

CYNTHIA VONGAI AND PETER DENNY

CITY planner Mr David Daniels, who asked a series of interesting questions in his latest report on the Olympic Bid, denied yesterday that he had lost enthusiasm for the Games.

"I have always been very positive about the Olympics," said Daniels. "The bottom line must be that they are developmental."

It seems from his report and from the Bid Company's responses to it, that Daniels and his deputy, Mr Peter de Tolly, who has been seconded to work as director of planning for the Bid Company, are at loggerheads. Daniels denied this yesterday.

In his report Daniels raised the following concerns; and de Tolly responded:

- The "bulk services", or large underground pipes serving each Olympic development site, must be planned in detail and have their costings verified, said Daniels.

- De Tolly said all the estimates had been provided and the costs had been allocated to those who will pay.

- Daniels said there were serious concerns over the immediate viability of a 6,000-seater hall in Phulpin.

- De Tolly responded that the venue would be built as a multi-purpose community hall, but it would be designed to be expandable for the Games, "with a lot of temporary seating."

- Daniels was unhappy with the proposed tennis venue on Green Point Common, because sitting there did not fit in with developmental principles.

- De Tolly said the tennis location may change.

- Daniels and city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton are concerned that the rowing course at Wingfield would not be sufficiently used afterwards, and would cost a lot to maintain.

- De Tolly said the Bid Company would be open-minded on whether to relocate the rowing to Zuurfontein.

- Daniels said the terms of the national government's participation in the bid had to be clearly understood, and the implications addressed. He wanted talks with the government on this.

- De Tolly said that of all the cities bidding for the 2004 Games, Cape Town had the best overarching guarantee that the central government would take on the risk of holding the Games.

- Daniels said the private sector's share of the cost of staging the Games was R3.5 billion. He was concerned about who would pick up the tab.

- De Tolly said the government guarantee even covered the building of the Olympic villages.
Committee approves abortion Bill

Wyndham Hartley
and Kathryn Strachan

THE abortion Bill was approved by Parliament’s health committee yesterday with clauses allowing abortion because of “social-economic hardship”.

Measures forcing doctors who are unwilling to perform abortions to refer patients to other doctors were dropped but a statement of a national policy on abortion on demand without parental consent was approved.

Opposition parties slammed the Bill. The NP, disappointed by the “bulldozer” approach of the Bill, said it would take up abortion as an election issue in 1999.

NP MP Sheila Camero said the party was considering referring the Bill to the Constitutional Court.

Meanwhile, Medic scheme director Reg Magennis said medical schemes were under no statutory obligation to pay for abortion. Medic had advised the 65 medical schemes it administered that the decision to cover abortions should be made by each scheme’s management committee.

The decision would not be influenced by whether abortions were free at state institutions.

Medic had advised medical aids that covering the procedure could lead to a further escalation in medical aid costs. Magennis said he imagined in the wake of the new Bill there would be pressure from members for abortion to be included, and this would be an important factor.

Cabinet to be asked to approve fuel levy and national roads plan

Robyn Chalmers

The transport ministry would seek approval from the Cabinet next week for the establishment of a national roads agency financed by a dedicated fuel levy, transport director-general Ketso Gordhan said yesterday.

The agency, to be funded by a dedicated fuel levy of R6, would be responsible for operating the national road network, including overseeing toll roads and managing the build-operate-transfer system.

It was decided to form a tightly focused board of directors which will be made up of 30% government representatives and 70% private sector representatives.

Gordhan said SA’s road network was severely underfunded.

It was estimated that at least R78bn a year was needed to maintain the condition of the non-toll road national network.

Ideally, about R1bn a year over 10 years would be needed to address backlogs and new needs.

As a result, Gordhan said, government was concentrating on the build-operate-and-transfer method of financing roads whereby they were fully funded by the private sector.

Traditionally, toll roads involved a state subsidy of up to 50% of the cost of the road.

Gordhan said the current toll road strategy was working well and a number of new toll roads were being considered.

These included the extension of the N2 south of Durban from Port Edward to Port St Johns at an estimated cost of about R900m.

Expect outcry

The road would reduce the travel distance between Durban and Port Elizabeth by up to 80km as well as open up the Trankei Wild Coast area to agriculture and tourism.

“We are expecting an outcry from environmentalists, and we will not be insensitive to these concerns,” Gordhan said.

Other roads included the N3, where three consortiums had already pre-qualified and tenders should go out by January, the N4 west of Pretoria and a road north of Mtubatuba in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Costs mount at ‘coffee train’

caravan park

BISHOF — The Eastern Cape had added a “coffee train” to its gravy train, NP provincial MP Sakkie Louw told the Eastern Cape Legislature yesterday.

Louw had asked about the financial attraction of Coffee Bay’s caravan park, a coastal resort less than an hour’s drive from Umtata.

Provincial economic affairs and tourism MEC Smute Ngonyama said the quiet 35-site caravan park needed 27 employees to keep it in shape.

However, while the staff cost R38 478 a month, monthly income from visitors to the caravan park averaged between R240 and R3 181.

Louw suggested that the only way to get tourism off the ground was for resorts such as the Coffee Bay caravan park to be sold to joint ventures between local communities and the public sector.

Sols DP provincial MP Eddie Trent supported the suggestion, and advised that the department step up its promotion of such resorts, particularly as Coffee Bay was easily accessible via an excellent tarred road.

Ngonyama said that he had already referred the glaring discrepancy between income and costs at Coffee Bay to the East Cape Development Agency.

Further development there would also be announced soon as part of a strategic development initiative for the entire Wild Coast, in which Coffee Bay was an important node. — Bena.
Analysts upbeat at hotel group growth

Josey Ballenger

ANALYSTS are upbeat over US-based Sun International Hotels’ projecting annual earnings growth of 40%–50% over the next four years and putting the share on their “buy” and “outperform” lists.

Not even the controversy in SA over the past activities of Sol Kerzner — founder, chairman and CEO of the US company — has fazed US analysts and investors.

Following Sun International’s opening of a casino on the Mohegan Indian reserve in Connecticut two weeks ago, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) initiated coverage of the stock with a “buy” rating. It forecast the share price would reach $60 within a year and $75 in 24 months.

The share peaked at $54.13 on October 15 and has been trading just above $50 over the past few days.

DMG gambling and lodging analysts Maria Vallejo estimated Sun’s earnings growth would be 81% this year, 50% next year and 43% in 1998. She said earnings a share were likely to reach $1.58 for the year ending December, from $0.87 last year. The eps could reach $2.43 next year and $3.49 in 1998.

Sun’s competitors in the gambling and lodging sector had an average growth rate of 30%, 10 percentage points below that of Sun.

Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), the lead manager for the secondary share offering on the New York Stock Exchange in March, said in a recent report that the “company should generate annual earnings growth of 50% or better through 1999”.

After giving Sun a “recommend” rating in March when the share was trading at $33.38, DLJ lowered the rating last month to “outperform” because it hit the top of its expected 12-month range in less than six months.

Oppenheimer & Co, which has also dubbed the stock “outperform”, projected Sun International’s eps to be $1.54 this year, $2.27 next year and $3.32 in 1998.

Kerzner ran SA’s Southern Sun Hotels between 1989 and 1989 and Sun Bop from 1989 to 1994, but is no longer directly involved in the SA companies.

Although a controversial figure in SA following allegations of bribery in the allocation of casino licences, US analysts could care less.

“In the US the gambling industry is extremely regulated, so while he may have had questionable activities, he will be following things by the book here,” DMG’s Vallejo said.

DLJ leisure analyst Mark Manson said: “He’s a great operator, regardless of his background, and he’s going to make more money because what he makes works. Our view is that he has performed within industry standards and that he is an honest man and has reputable standards.”

Sun: International Hotels manages six hotels, casinos and resorts on Indian Ocean islands, four casinos in France, three properties in the Bahamas and, most recently, the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut.

In addition, the company signed an agreement in August to acquire Griffin Gaming & Entertainment in Atlantic City, subject to both companies’ shareholder approval and New Jersey granting a gaming license to Sun.
South Africa's tourism industry has massive potential but a few greedy operators could kill it.

Price-hikers end demand for tourism

On the waterfront, South Africa could miss the tourism boat if prices go any higher.

"We believe that is acceptable in Paris, but we have a free market," said one hotelier.

"The South African tourism industry has lost its edge," said another.

"Our costs have increased," said a restaurant owner.

"We are being held hostage," said a business owner.

"We need a new strategy," said a tourism expert.

"We need to get away from the past," said a cultural entrepreneur.

"We need to look to the future," said a social entrepreneur.

"We need to build a new country," said a political leader.

Africa's gross national product, which had lost significance, had regained its importance in the tourism industry, while South Africa's tourism industry had lost significance in the past year. This was the third year in a row that South Africa's tourism industry had lost significance.

The South African tourism industry had lost its edge, said the tourism expert, who added, "We need to get away from the past.""
SEEKING PROTECTION

SA Airways has asked the international and domestic licensing bodies of the Civil Aviation Department not to approve the Comair-British Airways franchise agreement struck in June.

SAA's objection may well be a knee-jerk reaction to its deteriorating circumstances. It went into the red in the April-June first quarter but was back in profit at the start of the September-December quarter — only to lose about R80m this month because of a technicians' strike.

SAA is losing ground on international and domestic routes. Locally, privately owned Comair, which will soon be flying under BA's livery, and State-owned Sun Air are chipping away at SAA's market share.

On the international front, most foreign airlines are increasing their services to SA. Swiss Air, for example, will add another flight to its schedule on October 30. Moreover, SAA executive director Zukile Nkomwele recently put the airline's order for nine new Boeing aircraft on hold. This makes it difficult to compete with overseas airlines, most of whom are flying new aircraft.

When Virgin Atlantic started its Johannesburg-London service this month, SAA lost the treasured duopoly it had enjoyed on the London-SA route, paradoxically with BA. A few days later, Commissioner of Civil Aviation Jan Smul granted Britannia Airways a permit to operate 26 return flights between the UK and SA for up to six months.

Smul says SAA's objection will be treated like any other. A hearing will be scheduled 21 days after receipt of the objection and both parties will be expected to attend. Local commentators reckon Comair might yet emerge unscathed.

They say Comair's purchase of the BA franchise without surrendering shares could negate SAA's submission that BA is being allowed to become a domestic carrier and does not have the licence.

Meanwhile, more tourists are flying in. Federated Hospitality Association of SA executive director Deon Viljoen says the publicity which resulted from the Rugby World Cup accounted for the phenomenal growth experienced in October-March but "things are back to normal and tourism is still growing."
The above-mentioned figures are provisional. There is a certain time lapse between receiving and settling claims, and it is thus possible that there could be some outstanding claims which are not included in the above figures.

Foreign tourists: visits to SA cities

1074. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†
(a) In 1995 and (b) during the period January 1996 to July 1996: 
(i) Pretoria 92 328; 
(ii) Johannesburg 344 692; 
(iii) Durban 160 036; 
(iv) Northern Province 49 242; 
(v) Mpumalanga 98 484; 
(vi) Cape Town 307 764; 
(vii) Free State 36 931; 
(viii) Kimberley 36 931; 
(ix) East London no information available; 
(x) Port Elizabeth 43 087; and 
(x) North West Province 49 242. 

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

The following numbers of tourists visited the undermentioned destinations:

(a) in 1995:

(i) Pretoria 195 000; 
(ii) Johannesburg 728 000; 
(iii) Durban 338 000; 
(iv) Northern Province 104 000; 
(Source: SATOUR International Market Surveys—Winter 1995 & Summer 1996)

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Aventura: senior management structure

883. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:
(1) What (a) is the (i) name, (ii) job title and (iii) annual salary and (b) are the (i) qualifications, (ii) line functions and (iii) responsibilities of each of the persons in the senior management structure of Aventura;
(2) whether any of these persons are entitled to (a) housing allowances, (b) business class travel, (c) home telephones, (d) overseas travel and (i) accommodation, (e) car allowances, (f) entertainment allowances and/or (g) any other specified fringe benefit; if so, (i) which persons are entitled to each of these benefits and (ii) what amount did each of these persons claim during the period 1 November 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

N1634E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(i) Name</th>
<th>(ii) Job title</th>
<th>(iii) Annual salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr A J Louw</td>
<td>Managing Director/CEO</td>
<td>R400 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr H Oosthuizen</td>
<td>GM Operating Standards</td>
<td>R270 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R M Smith</td>
<td>GM Operations</td>
<td>R270 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr J N Mchabela</td>
<td>GM Human Resources &amp; Community Relations</td>
<td>R260 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr M Flynn</td>
<td>GM Development</td>
<td>R250 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr T J Koekemoer</td>
<td>GM Finance</td>
<td>R360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr F N Koeh</td>
<td>GM Marketing &amp; Sales</td>
<td>R300 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr B Ackers</td>
<td>Manager Internal Audit and Special Projects</td>
<td>R210 000</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(i) Qualifications</th>
<th>(ii) Line functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr A J Louw</td>
<td>B.Compt (Hons) (Unisa) CA Group general management and strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr H Oosthuizen</td>
<td>BSc Computer Sc &amp; Mathematics (UF) BQP (UP) Mini MBA Computer Systems, Quality Service Programmes, Physical Standards, Eco Product Standards, Group Entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R M Smith</td>
<td>Diploma in Hotel Management, General Managers Pro (Cornell USA) All Resort Managers, Profitability and efficiency and productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J N Mchabela</td>
<td>Diploma Personnel Management, IR Training (UMISA), Marketing Diploma International HR Management UCLA/Messa (USA) All human resource functions, personnel, IR, training and development, community relations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crime hits less
than 2% of tourists

Less than 2% of international tourists to South Africa have become victims of crime while visiting the country, according to a South African Tourism Board (Satur) international market survey.

Further research indicated that most incidents were of petty nature and could have been avoided if basic safety precautions had been followed.

According to Satur: most of the crime which occurred in South Africa including that committed by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) on the Cape flats, occurred in areas which were not key tourist areas.

Satur chairman Peter Swartz warned, however, that continuing crime and violence in the country could have a negative effect on the tourism industry.

"Tourism is an extremely fragile industry, and potential tourists are becoming increasingly concerned about personal safety and security in the country," Swartz said.

He pointed out that a decline in overseas tourism to South Africa would lead to thousands of job opportunities and millions of rand in foreign exchange being lost.

The poor perception of personal safety in South Africa was a direct result of the general crime and violence problem in the country and the negative publicity afforded such incidents of crime, and not necessarily a reflection of the reality of crime committed against tourists, Swartz added.

He said while police statistics might indicate crime was in fact on the decrease, Satur and various other bodies were doing everything possible to address the problem of personal safety.

In November last year Satur and the Department of Environmental Affairs were instrumental in establishing the Tourism Safety Task Group (TSTG).

Representatives from the police, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Airports Company, the Department of Justice, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa and Business Against Crime also serve on the task group.

Actions taken by the task group to combat the crime problem in SA included the following:

- A database of actual incidents of crime committed against tourists was developed and would be used to formulate appropriate strategies to combat crime.
- A brochure on safety tips for tourists was published and would be distributed as widely as possible to incoming foreign tourists. The first batch of brochures would be distributed this month at the Johannesburg International airport (JIA).
- A tourism ambassador project was in the planning stage and would in all likelihood be launched before the end of the year. The project entails tourist assistants who would provide tourist information in key areas and would initially be launched at JIA. The police have also established special Tourist Protection Units in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.
The committee decide that the 2004 Olympic Games should be held in Athens. The bid to hold the Games includes plans for a new Olympic stadium, a new Olympic village, and a new Olympic park. The bid is expected to boost the Greek economy and attract tourists.
Where tourism is blossoming

Disadvantaged get chance to branch out and thrive

This year it seemed, more foreign tourists and fewer South Africans came to see the flowers in Namaqualand and the Hantam and Olifantsrivier Valley. Esann de Kock examines what the future holds for the region.

The flower season in Namaqualand, and the Hantam and Olifantsrivier Valley brings a powerful injection to the economies of these regions and plays an important role in publicising the all-year tourism value of the area, say those who live and work there.

According to Springbok Lodge and restaurant owner Jopie Kotze, the fact that there were more foreign and South African tourists at the flowers was due to several petrol price increases since August last year.

Other people said they were concerned that South Africans might not be aware that the flower season would extend well into October due to a good rainy season.

Everyone from restaurant owners to tourism officials — was working hard at efforts to draw more tourists, they said, adding that the season had again played a crucial role in the local economy.

Marlene Coetzee, marketing assistant of the Namaqualand District Council, said the flower season boosted the profits of a wide variety of businesses. Lasting from about August through September, the flower season also helped create jobs for local, especially those from disadvantaged communities.

Hannelle Smit, tourism official for Clanwilliam and the Olifantsrivier Valley which stretches from Citrusdal to Lamberts Bay and Bitterfontein, said if it had not been for the flower season, some guest houses in this region would not even exist.

She said Clanwilliam and the surrounding area during the season was often so busy that even the person was doing something to contribute to sell goods to tourists.

"No one is free during those two months and we really have to start to draw and involve people from our disadvantaged communities so that they, too, can reap the economic benefits of the season. Tourism is not a ‘white’ thing anymore and we have started training people from disadvantaged communities in entrepreneurship."

"Obviously, the effects of this will be felt on a wide scale, but the initiative really stems from the flower season in an effort to equip people to produce and sell goods."

She said that, in some cases, preparations for the flower season started after the Easter weekend with people preparing jams and making other homemade goods to sell in August and September.

And, it’s not just towns in the flower areas that benefit from the hordes of tourists.

Ms Smit said Wupperthal — in the Cederberg about 9km from Clanwilliam — was also beginning to experience the effects of the flower season.

"Although the town falls outside the flower area, many tourists either in any case to experience the town."

"All it has to offer at the moment are a shop, factory and a cafe, but the town is planning to put up an information office, shop and tearoom soon."

Ponnie van der Merwe, regional developer for the North West District Council, said the economic benefits to the region were clear — in the fact that Calvinia, Loeriesfontein and Newlandsville already boasted four hotels and 30 guest houses.

With accommodation a major source of income, he said these hotels and guest houses would not have been able to exist if tourist numbers did not warrant it.

"This year, the annual meat festival, held towards the end of August in Calvinia, attracted more than 7,000 people — more than the total number of residents in the town.

"Newlandsville is known as the balmy kingdom of the world and that ensures people flocking to the region every year."

"From August 17 to September 26, more than 5,000 people had visited the Veldflom Reserve and more than 10,000 had visited the waterfall. In the same period, more than R28,000 was made by the caravan park."

"And, that’s for a town of 1,300 residents!"

The publicity association also had been encouraging the disadvantaged community in the area to produce and sell their goods at the Meat Festival.

Mr Van der Merwe said the economic benefits of the flower season had a wide application.

"We have to draw together all our people in this or we’ll be wasting our time."

He added that the Hantam, which stretches from Calvinia to Sutherland, used to be "the last outpost of tourism."

But the flower season had placed it on the map.

"We are now becoming the conscience of tourism in the region."

He said the region was growing popular year round with strictly controlled dirt routes, mountain bike routes, hiking trails and farm holidays — with obvious economic advantages.

Ms Coetzee of the Namaqualand District Council said that apart from the economic benefits which tourists brought to the region during the flower season, the spin-off was that proper marketing had made tourists to the region had lots to offer outside the flower season.

Jopie Kotze said the flower season was a huge drawcard of people to the Namaqualand and Springbok regions and had a very positive effect on the economy.

Mr Kotze, who has been concentrating on promoting tourism in the region for more than 30 years, said the flower season had definitely resulted in people realising there was more to Namaqualand than just flowers.

Marketing of other tourism areas such as Pella, the Orange River and Richtersveld was starting today off — with obvious economic benefits for these regions all year round.

Still, he said, much could be done to further stimulate the economy in the region.

The Richtersveld is a national park — a mountainous desert area — is breathtakingly beautiful all year round and the date plantations and cranefish season here also provide excellent opportunities for tourism which can boost the economy.

With this year’s late rainfall, the flower season is expected to last well into this month.

If Cape Town gets to host the Olympic Games in 2004, the flower season will fall right in the middle of the Games and benefit the flower region will be obvious, according to Captour conference marketing and membership manager Ilona Silverman.

Ms Silverman said the Olympics would put Cape on the map as a tourism destination and many overseas people would come to the country not only for the Games.

"There will be families and tour operators who will discover Cape Town as a holiday destination and as one of the most beautiful and scenic places in the world — especially with our floral kingdom."

The flower season, she said, had and would continue to benefit the region in diverse ways — from disadvantaged communities learning skills and marketing and selling their craft and produce to tourists to existing businesses benefiting from the spending power of tourists and passers-by.

"People from disadvantaged communities have shown they have great entrepreneurial spirit and ability."

"With the training they are getting from existing businesses in the flower region, they are put in a position to develop their skills and eventually start their own businesses," said Ms Silverman.

Weege economist Wolfgang Thomas said although economic development in a sparsely populated area was always limited, the flower season provided fantastic opportunities to the region.

Mr Thomas said the flower season was a good annual test to see how people managed to cope with large numbers of tourists in one go.

"It is good exercise if Cape Town gets to host the 2004 Olympic Games."

"And, the closer we get to the Games, the more exercise we’ll get."

Flower power: the flower season has become a mainstay of Namaqualand’s growing economy.

Oor Daniel

Call for serious rethink on SA's liquor laws

Johannesburg - The necessity of a Liquor Act was questioned here by SA Breweries representative Richard Chance when making his firm's submission to a Gauteng government commission on revisions to liquor laws.

He said the liquor industry could be adequately regulated by the Businesses Act.

Mr Chance told the commission in Johannesburg yesterday there was widespread disrespect for the Liquor Act. It was poorly policed and had given rise to a huge illegal sector.

There were about 100 000 shebeens in the country, compared to only about 16 000 licensed outlets.

Besides creating "criminals", the act raised the potential for bribery and corruption in the sale of licences, and was expensive and difficult to administer, Mr Chance said.

Because shebeens were illegal in terms of the act, they fell outside the fiscal net. About R150-million was lost in value-added tax and about R250-million in income tax.

He said it was a constitutional right to engage in economic activity. The regulation of the industry should be simplified to promote business. Market forces should be allowed to determine the size of liquor outlets. Traders should be the ones to decide whether their product was consumed on or off premises and supermarkets should be allowed to sell all liquors. - Sapa
State underwrites Olympic bid

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

The government has effectively committed itself to carrying the full R7,2-billion financial risk of the 2004 Olympic Games, the Olympic Bid Company's financial director, Michael Fuller, said this week.

"The government will assume, in the place of Cape Town, financial responsibility for the organisation of the Games," he said.

However, the undertaking would come into effect only if other financial stakeholders could not meet their commitments, Fuller said.

According to Fuller, the government will underwrite 45 percent (about R3,3-billion) of the capital needed to host the Games. The private sector will contribute 35 percent (about R2,5-billion).

Local government and the organising committee — which will replace the Bid committee if Cape Town's bid is successful — will each contribute 10 percent.

If the bid succeeds, Cape Town will become the first African city to host the Olympic Games.

Peter Lever, Cape Town's treasurer, said the city had been prepared to sign the Bid Book only after the government undertook to accept the full financial risk.

Meanwhile, the Cape Town council and the Olympic Bid Company denied that they were divided following a city planner's report which questioned key aspects of the Bid.

"There is no division between the city and the Olympic Bid Company. The city is fully supportive of the Bid," said a council spokesman, Hanlef Tiseker.
The Minister of Finance

On the 3rd October 1996

An Order in Council of the Governor in Council was made to provide for the implementation of the budget and to make the necessary financing arrangements.

The Order in Council also provided for the establishment of a new equitable distribution of the cost of education, health, and welfare services.

The Minister of Health

On the 3rd October 1996

An Order in Council of the Governor in Council was made to provide for the implementation of the health care reforms and to make the necessary financing arrangements.

The Order in Council also provided for the establishment of a new equitable distribution of the cost of health care services.

The Minister of Education

On the 3rd October 1996

An Order in Council of the Governor in Council was made to provide for the implementation of the education reforms and to make the necessary financing arrangements.

The Order in Council also provided for the establishment of a new equitable distribution of the cost of education services.
SERVICES SECTOR - ACCOMM. LIQUOR & CATERING - GENERAL

1996

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
Brain-drain continues to plague SA

... but tourists love us

Joseph Aranis

The brain-drain is continuing unabated with professional and technically-trained people making up 40 percent of the economically active people who joined the chicken run to foreign countries in July.

But South Africa is still growing in popularity as a prime tourist destination with more and more travellers visiting our shores.

Figures provided by the Central Statistical Service also show that nearly three times as many employed people left South Africa during July than those entering the country.

Head of the service Mark Orkin said the number of emigrants in the professional, semi-professional and technical occupations in July was 175 compared with 135 for July, 1995.

The number of immigrants in these occupations was only 40 compared with 68 in July last year.

A total of 632 people emigrated in July this year, 12 percent more than the 743 who left in July last year.

The net result of immigration and emigration for July showed a loss of 459 people and a net loss increase of 39.5 percent compared with last year.

Mr Orkin said 112497 visitors came to the country in July, 35.2 percent more than in July 1995 last year.

Of these, 67.5 percent came on holiday.

The total number of foreign visitors who entered the country during the third quarter of this year increased by 20.8 percent compared with 1995 with the largest number of travellers from a single country coming from the United Kingdom.

The number of South Africans who went abroad temporarily in July increased by 61.9 percent compared with July, 1995.
Cape Town council redefines games bid

Linda Ester

CAPE TOWN - The Cape Town council resolved yesterday to establish a Public Authorities' Olympic Bid Committee, which would be representative of national, provincial and local government, to allow the public sector to become more involved in preparing for the bid.

This body would also take up issues relating to the planning and development of sport facilities and provide a forum for presenting a common government view.

Senior council officials were mandated to investigate the implications of the bid's Olympic plan as a preliminary to undertaking a full risk analysis of hosting the games in 2004.

The council will also seek a meeting with the National Olympic Committee of SA (Noessa) and the Cape Town Bid Company on an appropriate role for the city when the International Olympic Committee's commission visits next month.

Senior management was instructed to urgently investigate issues such as the provision of bulk services to Olympic sites; the feasibility of the large-scale housing scheme proposed by the Olympic committee's bid book and whether the house would be marketable; and the use of land on specific sites.

A report by the council noted its concern over the fact that the private sector would have to foot 50% or about R6,5bn of the Olympic Bid Company's budget.

Government has agreed to provide R230m for transport infrastructure and R56m for priority projects but concerns over private sector involvement remain.

Another major concern was that Cape Town would not have the population to sustain all of the proposed new facilities.

The council recommended that consultants be employed to do a risk-cost analysis of the facilities which would be owned and maintained by local authorities.

The Bid Company should be asked for environmental plans on the envisaged projects, with the estimated costs and funding proposals for environmental impact studies.

The council also believed that as an accountable body representative of ratepayers it needed to be more involved in the public consultation programme.
The chips are down for Sun's ex-pop for Sun's mega-casinos in gaming could flow.

resorts

for Sun's

The chips are down for Sun's ex-pop for Sun's mega-casinos in gaming could flow.

resorts
Tourist boom predicted

Johannesburg — South Africa’s long-awaited tourism boom is poised for a take-off, judging from global tourist operators and international hotel executives who have been passing through Johannesburg’s new Michelangelo hotel.

David Bonning, the new marketing director of Stocks Hotels and Resorts, part of Stocks & Stocks, said yesterday that leading lights in world tourism were visiting South Africa.

Only two months after opening its doors, occupancies at the Michelangelo are in the high 60 percent range.
Clash between sports bodies may spoil Cape Town's Olympic bid

DALE GRANGER

THE power struggle between National Olympics Committee president Mr. Sam Ramsamy and National Sports Council president Mr. Muleki George has stirred disunity in SA sport.

Simmering tension between the two men has culminated in George accusing Ramsamy of being a power drunk and the latter's subsequent resignation from the NSC. The row may have a negative impact on Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

There seemed to be little hope of a reconciliation between Nosa and the NSC yesterday, and Mr Dan Moyo, personal assistant to Ramsamy, said the Nosa president "will not change his mind", despite the NSC's refusal to accept his resignation.

He further warned that the International Olympic Committee could be asked to intervene in the dispute, as the Olympic charter clearly stipulated that the NOC should be affiliated to sports councils. Furthermore, as autonomous bodies, they should remain independent and "resist any pressure to bow to political, religious or economic forces to fulfil their mission."

"Sam Ramsamy has made his decision after much consideration and it would be futile for him to continue wasting a lot of energy by continuing to serve on the NSC executive," said Moyo.

The row between Nosa and the NSC materialised over the NSC's insistence that they should control South Africa's 1998 Commonwealth Games teams. Previously this was tackled by a committee comprised of representatives from both organisations.

The ball is now in the court of "Mr Flext". Minster of Sport Mr Steve Tshwete, who must decide which of the two bodies will take responsibility for the team.

Nosa, however, remain adamant that this is their department and say if necessary the IOC will be called on to intervene.

Moyo said the Olympic bodies of America, Jamaica, Cuba and many other nations all took control of their teams for the Pan American Games. In Africa, every Olympic organisation had the same jurisdiction over teams for tournaments such as the All Africa and Commonwealth Games.

"Nosa is an organisation which is structured to take charge of sports stars over four-year cycles, to build a team which is consistently improving."

"The role of the National Sports Congress in South Africa is to develop rural and township facilities, which are non-existent," said Moyo.
Southern Sun to expand economy-hotel brand in SA

ROY COAKAYNE

Pretoria — The Southern Sun group intends expanding its quality economy-hotel brand, Holiday Inn Express, to about 20 hotels in South Africa in the next five to six years, says Helder Pereira, the chief operating executive.

Pereira said they were also investigating how to make the new brand viable with only 60 bedrooms.

He was speaking at a function in Pretoria yesterday to introduce the first Holiday Inn Express developed by the group, a 136-room hotel at the Berea City retail project in the city.

Pereira said the hotel was running at more than 70 percent occupancy after being open for only four weeks.

Holiday Inn Express has a two-star rating and is run with a staff of six with many activities outsourced.

The expansion programme for the hotel brand includes the opening of hotels at Eastgate in Johannesburg and the Cape Town Waterfront by the middle of next year.

Pereira said the new brand would have a wide distribution and they would know by early next year whether a smaller derivative of the hotel was viable for smaller centres, such as Beau Fort West.

He said they had sought the design material of the international hotel group’s 80-bed hotel brand in Europe “so we can learn from it”.

But, said Pereira, there was certainly a market for 12 of the full 136-room hotels.

He said there was place for eight or nine by just establishing one in each of the major urban centres around South Africa, but he emphasised that some cities, like Johannesburg and Durban, would be able to sustain more than one of these hotels.

However, he said, the biggest problem was finding suitable sites for these hotels.

Pereira said the Holiday Inn Express was geared to meet the needs of cost-conscious business and leisure travellers requiring stopover accommodation and breakfast.

He said the hotel brand provided the basic services budget travellers expected of a hotel stay — essential business services, breakfast included in the price, a clean, comfortable room offering traditional Holiday Inn values and facilities and efficient checkout.

Pereira said the Pretoria Holiday Inn Express was the first in Africa and only the fifth outside the US, which had more than 340 of these hotels.
First hotel in new budget chain opens

BY MICHAEL CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The first of a new brand of hotels to establish itself in South Africa has opened its doors in Pretoria.

The 136-room Holiday Inn Express, a two-star budget-style hotel, is also the first of the chain to be built in Africa.

It will be followed by two more hotels – one at Eastgate in Johannesburg and the other on Cape Town’s Waterfront – and other sites are being sought.

Helder Pereira, the chief operating executive of the Southern Sun Group – which operates the franchise for Holiday Inn in southern Africa – told The Star yesterday the group had identified the two-star type of establishment as important to the market place, in particular for business travellers.

"It is designed to meet the needs of cost-conscious travellers requiring stop-over accommodation and breakfast," he added.

In its first month of operation, the hotel – which provides regular as well as pay-as-you-view television programmes and computer and modem connections in each room – has shown an occupancy rate of 70%.

The hotel constitutes Southern Sun’s third hotel in Pretoria, with a fourth – a Holiday Inn Garden Court – under construction at Hatfield.
No specific text is present on this page.
More clarity needed

FM 8/11/96

The gyrations of the Sun International SA — previously SunBop — share price indicate investors have not found it easy to assess the changes which have taken place within this group and will still take place as SA’s gaming legislation is finalised.

Up to end-January, sentiment was bullish. The share was favourably rated, its price rising from around R400c to 685c. This reflected, at least in part, benefits attributable to the incorporation of Sun International’s Transkei, Ciskei and Venda operations under the SunBop umbrella.

From then on perceptions soured, depressing the price to a 12-month low of R4 by mid-August. Now, at 420c, the continued incidence of widespread illegal gaming operations.

Sun should again be able to show real profit growth in the current year as benefits of acquisitions are brought to account. The 1996 financial statements still showed the group to have paid almost R50m in finance charges last year, though gross borrowings at balance sheet date had all but been eliminated. Elimination of material finance charges this year would add about R32m to the bottom line and at least 4c (85¢) to EPS, before normal revenue growth.

Against this is the question of group structure, to which there are two aspects. The first is whether last year’s acquisitions are the end of line in terms of Sun’s position within the greater Sun International group, or whether there will be further realignment of activities.

A fundamental issue is whether it would not make more sense in the context of Sun’s geographic spread of interests to group together all of the southern African activities, including those in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. All these are managed by Bermuda-registered Sun International Management (wholly owned by Royal Resorts and 73%-held by Sun International).

One senses either that we are looking at an interim picture, or that the grouping of Sun has been dictated by interests higher up the control line and which may not coincide with the best interests of Sun minorities.

Another aspect is how Sun deals with, and is affected by, yet-to-be-completed gaming legislation in SA, at national and provincial level.

Broad outlines are known. At national level, Sun will (like any other operator) be limited to 16 gaming licences; one
less than now and not in itself a major problem. The crunch comes at provincial level. Current activities (14 of the gaming operations) are concentrated in the Eastern Cape and North West provinces.

By May 1999, it will be required to reduce this to six, involving the disposal of four licences in each of these provinces. Given that North West (which includes the Sun City complex) accounts for two-thirds of total group earnings, investors have a right to be wary of how this will affect Sun, particularly as the establishment of significant gaming operations in Gauteng will inevitably draw custom away from what is now the group’s prime gaming area.

The short-term outlook for Sun is reasonably positive as full benefits of last year’s acquisitions manifest themselves. This is unlikely to do anything more than to underpin the share price at its present depressed level, pending some clarity as to how the group will fare in the new gaming dispensation. Brian Thompson

GROWTH MOVING OFFSHORE

There is an interesting contrast between the performance of Kersaf’s share price and that of its major local operating subsidiary, Sun International SA.

Whereas the market appears to have reservations about growth prospects for the local company (see previous story)

- ACTIVITIES: Leisure activities including gaming, casinos, hotels and cinemas.
- CONTROL: Safiren 73.1%.
- CEO: D.H. Havon.
- CAPITAL STRUCTURE: R4,782m. Market capitalisation: R3,878m.
- SHARE MARKET: Price: R46. Yields: 4.0% on dividends; 9.6% on earnings; p/e ratio, 11.1; cover, 2.3. 12-month high, R51; low, R36. Trading volume last quarter, 1.7m shares.

and has sent its price reeling from a high of 685c last January to an August low of R4, the same considerations do not seem to have rubbed off on Kersaf.

Sun still accounts for almost half of Kersaf’s earnings. For most of this calendar year, Kersaf has traded between R44 and R51, having run up from around R29 in mid-1999.

This is not to say the market “likes” Kersaf. The historical earnings multiple of 11,1 rates the share at a 29% discount to the industrial board and a 40% discount to the more highly rated beverage, hotels & leisure subsector where it is listed. Yet this is materially better than Sun’s 8.4 times ratio, which represents discounts of 46% and 55% to the market and sector respectively.

A welcome addition to Kersaf’s latest annual report is a comprehensive segmental analysis of the group. This shows Sun’s share of total attributable headline earnings to have slipped from 58% in 1996 to 49%. The disparity in performance of the two is reflected in that Kersaf’s bottom line grew by 26% in the year to June 30, 1996; the corresponding growth rate for Sun was only 5.5%.

There is an even more marked contrast between the performance of the Sun and the non-Sun operations of Sun International Inc (SII), which showed a 44% earnings improvement from R61.4m to R88.7m, boosting their share of total Kersaf group earnings from 29% to 34%.

This mainly reflected the return to profit of Sun International Hotels (in which SII has an effective 13.9% interest through Royale Resorts), which earned US$28,3m (1995: $1m loss) after a full year’s trading at the reopened Atlantis resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Higher interest earnings on offshore funds and the translation of foreign earnings into a weaker rand also helped.

Kersaf, like Sun International SA, is largely dependent on the operation of gaming resorts, with other leisure interests (investments in City Lodge and Interleisure) contributing only 14% of attributable earnings. But the market obviously sees growth in Kersaf’s offshore interests which it believes is lacking in the domestic operations.

Reasons are not hard to find. The Paradise Island operation is poised to double in size after the acquisition and redevelopment of an adjacent Holiday Inn property and a $580m expansion programme.

Sun International Hotels is also acquiring a resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, which will be similarly refurbished and expanded, and there is the recently opened Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut where the group holds a 50% interest in the management company.

Probably of equal importance is that the group has the financial muscle to match its plans, with the balance sheet at June 30 showing gross cash resources of R734m (mostly held in Bermuda-registered Royale Resorts, Kersaf’s holding company for its offshore interests).

It is difficult to argue against the assumption implicit in the different share ratings of Sun International SA and Kersaf that future earnings growth of the latter will be sourced mainly from its non-Sun Interests and that the trend whereby Sun’s importance to Kersaf diminishes progressively is likely to continue.

Brian Thompson

TURNING TO PROFITABILITY

The challenge of turning Forward Corp (formerly W&A) around is proving an interesting experience for the current managers — though one they would not want to see repeated.

Chairman Ray Hassin and his team inherited an unprofitable mess from their predecessors, but the rescue they have masteredminded has had a mixed reception from investors.

- Forward Group

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FINANCIAL MAIL · NOVEMBER 8 · 1996
African joint venture, a drive to increase weekend occupancies and the up-market Courtyard suite hotels which are now under City Lodge management.

Financial director Andrew Widgeggers acknowledges that rising competition and the softer economy have contributed to a slowdown in 1997's first quarter. "But the results are pleasing. This is traditionally a quiet period."

Operating margins are high. In 1996, City Lodge's pre-interest margin widened from 50.7% to 55.8% on a 17% turnover increase to R108.7m. And various factors are likely to shield the group from the pressure of growing competition.

Among its target business market, the group is widely recognised as offering a good, fairly priced service. City Lodge has four hotel brands — Road, Town and City Lodges and the Courtyard group — varying from economy to luxury accommodation. Not reliant on the leisure market, the group is partly protected from economic downturn.

In this industry, operating margins are primarily a function of occupancy levels and rates, and fixed costs. Widgegger says last year City Lodge's rate increases were below the industry norm. A selected-service formula cuts fixed costs.

He says word of mouth keeps the hotels full and adspend is not significant. Last year the average occupancy rate was 81% — including the recently acquired Courtyard group — slightly higher than 1996's 80%. He expects profit growth from the current drive to increase weekend occupancies. "During the week, most hotels are almost full," he says. "It takes two or three good weekends to maintain 80% occupancy rates."

The contribution from Courtyards is expected to increase this year; in 1996 occupancy was slightly less than that of the City Lodge group. Though the four-star Courtyard hotels were acquired from April 1995, managements were consolidated only by the 1996 year-end.

"The purchase price — R18m, including the management company — was based on a multiple of future earnings," says Widgegger. "We couldn't get too involved in management until this year." City Lodge values the investment at R38.6m. Management has no immediate plans to expand abroad but will add local hotels as sites become available.

"Certain parts of the SA market are by no means saturated and now we have a joint venture with a southern African group," says Widgegger. "We will have ho-
Everybody's playing the Games

Olympic planning group all set to lay down the law

THE WEASELSOME REGULARITY OF HEADLINES PROMISING "BOLLY, NEW OR "TOUGH" PLANS TO CURB CRIME HINT AT THE IMPERFECT, AT LEAST, OF MOST PAST LAW AND ORDER INITIATIVES. WHY, MICHAEL MORRIS, WONDERS, SHOULD THE PUBLIC HAVE ANY MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE LATEST OLYMPIC SPONSORED STRATEGY?

Chris Ball is probably quite right when he says Cape Town could stage an Olympics today without fear of any major risk of violent crime.

The level of control and supervision, the ability to manage, the special security arrangements, the mass of officials - all these factors suggest that the Olympics could happen without risks. But it is not all that will be needed.

The point is that tackling crime is not simply about reducing criminal risk for a two-week period in the spring of 2000.

Nor is it a question of trying to stop the international community from believing the city is safe.

It is, rather, about achieving a significant long-term improvement in the quality of life of the people of the city on the one hand and creating for the world a genuine perception that decisive, workable measures are being taken to deal with debilitating homicides and the socio-economic forces that impel it.

Both of these elements have a critical bearing on the economic and social wellbeing of the Western Cape and both are drawn together as a realistically attainable challenge by Cape Town's bid for the 2000 Games.

Often critics say the high crime rate is one good reason why the bid should be abandoned or delayed.

What they overlook is that the bid itself is almost the only - and certainly the most potent - instrument we have right now to actually bring down the crime rate.

Unlike most grand, well-meaning schemes, the Olympic bid sets compelling deadlines for action.

It requires the city to achieve a range of goals - from crime to the economy - within the very time frame in which we live.

Unlike most bids, the Olympic bidding process sets agendas that can be tracked and measured.

In every instance, bidding-related goals are salient to revealing the state of play, whether or not Cape Town gets the Games at the end of the bidding process.

So the virtue of the bidding process is that it compels the city to get cracking - to achieve things, not merely to get the Games, but to improve the lives of people.

One need only reflect on the fact that it was this bidding-related initiative, for the first time, that brought together in one room members of the provincial cabinet, senior police and army officers, senior justice officials, top politicians and business leaders, to work together.

"It is an illustration of how this bid can act as a catalyst in getting things done."

"If we convey to the IOC and the international community, they will have a view of the trend that will be likely to develop in Cape Town".

The planning group will meet regularly to adjust strategies and co-ordinate law enforcement. The group is a multi-disciplinary one.

John Pembridge, head of security planning at the bid company and the facilitator of last week's open forum, noted: "This is not just about preventing crime, but about creating the environment in which crime in all its facets and quality of life are minimized."

"So one is interested in the welfare of the street children and in the alleviation of poverty and malnutrition as much as in nailing burglars and stopping muggers in their tracks."

"We have to get to the causes. This planning group will be empowered to do that."

He added: "Constructive steps will be evident within months."

Johannesburg attorney-general Frank Kahn believes, like Chris Ball, that the Olympic project has "generated the momentum to create a co-ordinated strategy to tackle crime and its root cause."

"If we get the Olympics, everyone will have a stake in ensuring we achieve a secure environment."

"There will be huge material rewards and instead of resigning ourselves to being a crime-ridden, lawless society, the focus has changed. The Olympic Games has provided a positive, uplifting and realistic goal for people."

Western Cape Police Minister Gerald Morrell is equally optimistic.

"This is the highest-level summit we have ever had and it is the key to a successful crime plan."

"The conviction that is required to achieve this will create a whole new awareness of the environment across the public and private sectors."

"This is precisely what this new initiative is all about."

"Probably the biggest challenge facing the new outfit will come within the first 12 months of its operation."

"It is a very complex and difficult task, but we are determined to make it a success."

"I believe that the confidence we have in this plan is justified."

"If we get the Olympics, everyone will have a stake in ensuring we achieve a secure environment."

"This is the first time," he notes, "that the Western Cape has had a plan on this scale to tackle such a serious problem in the context of quality of life, rather than simply sending in the cops."

Optimistic: Western Cape Police Minister Gerald Morrell believes the planning group will be able to achieve successful crime reduction.
Money freed for work on venues before IOCs hit Cape Town

Race on to beat bid deadline
Tourism bill gives Satour new control structure

Tourism White Paper.
The bill, an amendment to the Tourism Act of 1983, is being carried out against the background of the Constitution which has declared tourism to be a provincial legislative competency.

In efforts to fulfill this mandate, provinces are currently at different stages of drawing up legislation for the development, promotion, marketing and administration of tourism in their territories.

Certain functions and responsibilities which, in terms of the principal Act, fell within the exclusive competence of Satour, could now fall within the ambit of provinces or become responsibilities that will be shared with the national tourism authority.
Ramsamy and Bid Company pull together after meeting
It's a B&B boom - but industry can't rest on its laurels

Call to maintain standards

The Western Cape's bed and breakfast industry is booming, but while the venues are interesting and room quality good some organisations are calling for a set of industry standards.

Concerns include the tendency to overcharge in prime areas and the lowering of standards by people entering the market and offering inadequate accommodation.

A bed and breakfast operator said: "People are trying to get into the market by advertising small outdoor rooms that they don’t know what else to do with."

Heinz Spies, a standards consultant with Satour, said: "There’s been a tremendous surge in the number of bed and breakfast establishments seeking accreditation through Satour."

In the past two years more than 400 bed and breakfast, guest houses and self-catering establishments have been graded and accredited.

The Western Cape leads the country with bed and breakfast establishments. There are 220 such venues registered with Satour in the province.

Accreditation by Satour provides international exposure through its accommodation guide. Accredited members contribute to the total marketing strategy for accommodation in South Africa and, are expected to conform to certain standards.

"Many surpass the room standards required by Satour," Mr Spies said.

He said the standards had been laid down to prevent tourists having a bad experience.

Satour administers a voluntary grading and classification scheme.

A spokesperson for the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa said that at the moment only guesthouses were registered with the association, but it would welcome applications from bed and breakfast establishments.

Gordon Oliver of Captour said he welcomed the increase in bed and breakfast venues because Cape Town would need every bit of accommodation possible to show it could cope with the influx of visitors if Cape Town won its bid for the 2004 Olympics.

In addition to those establishments registered with tourist bodies, there are many independent operators.

They use the media for advertising as well as depending on word of mouth.

So successful has the bed and breakfast business been that many operators have branched out to provide conference facilities for small groups.

Johnny Burnaby-Atkins of Bay View Manor in Hout Bay said: "Bed and breakfast in the Cape works well during the season, but it is the conference facility that helps keep things going out of season."

The bed and breakfast venues are smaller than hotels, and the emphasis is on personal service.

Knysna, filled to capacity during the summer season, is believed to have at least 240 private operators renting out holiday accommodation.

Bob Stannard of the recently established Knysna Bed and Breakfast, Guest House and Self Catering Association said: "The association has been established to ensure standards are met."

Mr Stannard said local operators knew what tourists coming to Knysna wanted. He said they would draw up a set of regulations based on these needs.
Branching out: Johnny Burnaby-Akins of Bay View Manor in Hout Bay added conference facilities to his operation.
Mandela's Mexican wave for Bid team

MICHAEL MORRIS

A strong Cape Town Olympic bid team flies to Cancun in Mexico today for a week-long lobbying exercise at the international congress of the influential Association of National Olympic Committees (Anoc).

They will take with them letters of endorsement from President Mandela to International Olympic Committee president Juan Samaranch, Anoc president Mario Vazquez Rana and the president of the Association of Olympic Committees of Africa, Jean-Claude Ganga.

The team includes Nocsas chief Sam Ramsamy, bid company chief executive Chris Ball, Cape Town mayor Theresa Solomon, and other city, Nocsas and bid company officials.

The conference ranks as the largest gathering of sports officials, and a prime opportunity for cities bidding for the Olympics to lobby some of the most powerful figures in the Olympic movement.

Each of the 11 cities bidding for the 2004 Games will be given an opportunity over the next few days to make a presentation on its bid to the main assembly.

Mr. Ball told the Cape Argus the team would go all out to convey a sense of Cape Town's keenness and capability to host the Games in 2004.

"This is a great opportunity and we are deploying a strong team to use it to our best advantage," Mr. Ball said.

Mr. Mandela and President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia would meet in Pretoria today to discuss crucial bilateral issues, a spokesman for Zambia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

With only seven days remaining before Zambia's elections on November 18, Mr. Chiluba would try to persuade Mr. Mandela to prevail on former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda not to cause violence nor employ violent tactics.
Tourism a concept foreign to blacks, says

Mokaba

Tourism a concept foreign to blacks, says

The Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Peter Mokaba, opening the Duma Nature Reserve yesterday.

The subject was investigated recently.
Real power is economic

R18m boost for ‘big holes’

By Muzi Mkhwanazi

THE Northern Cape government is to spend about R18 million to boost the tourism industry because of the decline in diamond production in the region.

Speaking at a briefing in Kimberley this week, premier Mr Manne Dipico said with the decline in the output of diamonds the region had to focus on tourism to create employment and to close the gap that will be left when most diamond mining ends.

Since the decline of diamond mining in the area, it has been decided that the large holes left behind could be used to facilitate a viable tourist industry in the region.

Historical background

"The region has a rich historical background encompassing both the Afrikaners and Africans. Dipico said although most of the people in the region did not benefit from mining because miners used the migrant labour system, most of the people would be directly or indirectly adversely affected by the closure of mines in the area.

He said major mining companies were willing to aid the province in boosting its tourism industry with financial help, and added that the provincial government had already made available R100 000 to a consulting company charged with developing ideas to turn the large holes in the area into major tourism attractions."
Benefits of successful Olympic bid questioned

CAPE TOWN — The Olympic Bid Committee was accused yesterday of having failed to address the implications of hosting the 2004 Olympic Games in Cape Town.

During a briefing before the Cape metropolitan council's planning committee, Wildlife Society Western Cape vice-chairman Ed Tilanus questioned whether disadvantaged communities would benefit from the facilities built for the games once they were over. He also believed that the expected flood of visitors and tourists to the Peninsula would threaten an already vulnerable habitat of diverse flora.
Key city Olympics rail, road projects take off

MICHAIL MORRIS

Major road and rail projects totalling about R250-million are to be launched across the Peninsula in the first phase of a far-reaching Olympics-linked transport plan.

Details were announced today. The emphasis is on public transport, the prime mover of people in the city, and the main form of transport in Cape Town's Olympic plan.

The investment has been cleared by the National Roads Board for priority projects scheduled to begin early next year, well ahead of the International Olympic Committee's choice in September of the host city for the Games of 2004.

The priority transport projects concentrate on improving Peninsula-wide public transport.

They are broadly intended to help reshape the city of the apartheid era, and are a key element of fast-tracked initiatives aimed at projecting Cape Town's readiness and capacity to host the Games.

There is a strong emphasis on development and upliftment of disadvantaged communities.

See page 7
More tourists arriving, but
they're not staying as long

Cape Town — Average hotel room occupancy in South Africa fell 3.5 percent to 59.9 percent in September, although more tourists came into the country, figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Service showed.

James Seymour, the head of research at the SA Tourism Organisation, thought the statistics could be misleading because they reflected a tendency for people to stay a shorter time in South Africa. "On average, people are staying two days less in this country. This would show up as a drop in hotel room occupancies."

The swing away from five-star hotels seems to have been reversed. Room occupancy in five-star hotels rose 10.3 percent compared with September last year. This compared with a drop in room and bed occupancy in every other category."
Lights, camera, action for SA’s film and TV industry

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — The development of SA’s film and television industry could provide the country with an innovative means of job creation and foreign exchange earnings vital to economic growth, Debut Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Bridgette Mabandla said last night.

Speaking at the opening of the first Southern African international film and television market, the largest international film event to be held in the region, she said the film industry would form a major part of the department’s soon-to-be-launched cultural industries growth strategy, in line with government’s macroeconomic growth programme.

It would start with the commissioning of cluster studies of each cultural industry to get a realistic view of the state of various industries and identify where “problems and blockages” lay.

“Whereafter we will be able to develop industrial growth strategies for each cultural industry in an informed and effective manner,” she said.

Mabandla said the aims of state support for the SA film industry were the creation of a dynamic indigenous market able to contribute to meeting basic needs, creating work opportunities, developing human resources and stimulating the economy.

“The emphasis is on developmental issues ... with access to funding opportunities equally important.” The department would, in co-operation with the education department, facilitate film-related training schemes and tertiary education opportunities and undertake a feasibility study on a national film and television school, she said.

The independent film industry had been treated “rather shabbily” in the past, especially in the context of apartheid policies of racial inequality, and it was “obligatory” that this be rectified.

“Film has a vital role in the forging of a national consciousness as well as in the process of democratisation,” she said.

KFC restructuring takes its first step

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Restructuring of the KwaZulu-Natal Finance and Investment Corporation (KFC) to make the quasi-government body wholly representative of provincial requirements, got under way this week with the first meeting of the steering committee.

Provincial Development Finance Corporation steering committee chairman Jacob Zuma, who is also KwaZulu-Natal economic affairs and tourism MEC, said the initial meeting had been called on Tuesday to discuss the committee’s operations and ways in which the KFC could be brought into line with “the new political environment and constitution”.

Another meeting with several influential provincial stakeholders would be called early next year to brief them on resolutions as well as the approach to be used by the steering committee in bringing about KFC transformation.

The KFC transformation process, recommended by the finance portfolio committee in September as a matter of urgency, is due for completion by June next year.

Western Cape budgets for Olympics

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape sports and recreation department had budgeted to contribute R18m each year for the next seven years towards the Olympic Games effort, MEC Leroux Kalako said yesterday.

The money would be spent on community sports facilities for use during the Games should Cape Town win the bid.

Each department in the provincial government was expected to make a contribution towards the provincial and local government commitment of R735m. The local government department was likely to contribute about R14m a year for seven years for the provision of bulk services.

The R735m excluded the transport department’s obligation to provide R52m a year for seven years — a total of R574m — on transport infrastructure.

Central government had already released R56m of its R735m commitment for investment in priority projects, Kalako said.

While the sports department had allocated R17m for upgrading sports facilities this year, mainly in the metropolitan area as in the past, emphasis was given to rural areas where need was greatest.

Kalako said Cape Town had been able to secure the 1998 World Golden Oldies rugby and cricket festivals which would feature some all time sporting greats.

He noted that one of the major obstacles his department faced was “the fact that the staff I have inherited is mostly white and they are totally ill-equipped to perform the new functions they are supposed to.” In particular, they had no experience in community communication, he said.
Massive theme park for Mundaung

The plans for a new theme park in Mundaung have been announced by the local government. The park will feature a variety of attractions, including roller coasters, water rides, and themed areas. The park is expected to attract tourists from around the world, boosting the local economy. Construction is set to begin next month, and the park is scheduled to open in two years.
R250M FOR METRO INFRASTRUCTURE

Let Games spending begin

PRIORITY PROJECTS related to infrastructural developments that are necessary if Cape Town is to host the 2004 Games have been voted the required funds by the Roads Board.

SPENDING ON Olympics-related road and rail improvements in Greater Cape Town is about to take off and rise from about R8 million this month to about R20m a month in July and August next year.

On Wednesday, the government’s Roads Board approved the budgets, totalling R250m, for constructing 26 transport infrastructure “priority projects” for the metropole.

The spending on these will take place over the next two and a half years, reaching a peak just before the International Olympic Committee decides in September next year whether Cape Town will host the 2004 Games.

The first R30m of the money from the government will be released immediately. Consultants who plan the projects are already working, partly “on speculation”, on improving the N2 and the airport approach road, and also on a new road to link Philippi and Delville (between Sheffield Road and Symphony Way).

For the present financial year, an amount of R125m has now been approved for the priority projects.

Construction should start early next year, said Mr Ron Haiden, assistant director for projects of the Metropolitan Transport Planning Branch.

He said in case there were delays on the priority projects, permission had been obtained from the Roads Board to start work, in the case of such a delay, on one or more other projects from a supplementary list with a total value of over R300m.

The R250m for priority projects will be spent as follows:

- R100m on a network of taxi and bus routes that will, in the long term, have exclusive lanes for public transport for at least part of the day.
- R30m for design work, mainly on projects that will go ahead in 1998/9, and which are now only on the supplementary list.
- R20m for “transport-system-management projects”, which in practice means bus and taxi emplacements and shelters.
- R10m for bicycle and pedestrian routes.
- R40m for improvements to transport interchanges, which means places where passengers change from road to rail public transport or vice versa.
- R2m for new rail stock, and midi-buses as opposed to minibus, and new bus shelters at which only passengers with prepaid tickets will be allowed to get on or off.

R28m for rail network infrastructure, including spending on the Cape Town to Khayelitsha line to end the reported 70% fare evasion there.

One of the most noticeable projects will be the widening of the bridge on the N2 over the Liesbeek River.

A new lane is to be added on either side of it, to ease a bottleneck there.

Western Cape Transport MEC Mr Leonard Ramatlahane said that the improvement of public transport lay close to his heart, and that the Olympics provided a wonderful opportunity to achieve this objective.

“Our public transport infrastructure has been declining over the past decade,” he said.

“We are all aware of the shortcomings of the system. To set them right within a short time would have been impossible without the Olympics.”
Banks urged to finance black tourism ventures

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

BANKS could play a major role in the development of tourism if they made it easier for black entrepreneurs to gain access to finance.

This was said yesterday by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism's deputy director-general Dr P Hanekom, speaking at the opening of a two-day National Conference on Cultural Tourism at the V&A Waterfront.

The aim of the conference is to look into the potential of cultural tourism as a means of attracting more tourists and how this will affect the economy, job creation and the status of the country.

Hanekom said the ministry, department and Sotour were aware that the tourism industry and the present marketing of South Africa presented many challenges.

Most South Africans felt excluded from the industry — 95% was owned by the white private sector — and black entrepreneurs battled to get finance to enter the market.

At a recent conference, black business people raised concerns about the fact that 95% of the tourism industry is owned by the white private sector; that black business people have enormous difficulty accessing finance to enter the tourism market; that tourism is a foreign concept to most South Africans and that community-driven tourism projects, which have the potential to increase awareness and to diversify ownership, are almost non-existent.

Hanekom said the tourism white paper recognised that the industry should be private sector driven.

"It also recognises that accessing finance for tourism projects for previously disadvantaged groups remains a major problem. We think banks can assist by easing access to finance for those people who can make a creative contribution to our tourism industry and who want to be given a chance to become entrepreneurs in their own right."

Hanekom said making the tourism industry more representative would not only empower previously disadvantaged people, it would also positively affect the image we present to the rest of the world.

"SA has thus far been marketed for its fauna, flora and beautiful beaches. This has been at the expense of the rich diversity of cultural and historical experiences that could become our unique selling point."
Cape Town — Governments in southern Africa should issue one visa enabling tourists to travel throughout the region. Michael Farr, the executive director of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, said yesterday:

He said it should also be possible to travel on one airline ticket to all the main attractions including Victoria Falls, Cape Point, game parks and the Kruger Park. "That would be the ideal package to attract tourists coming to southern Africa on a 10-day holiday, but at present it is very difficult to do logistically."

"And tourists from some countries have to get up to four separate visas to see all they want in the region. We need an arrangement like that in the European Union so they can go to one embassy and get one visa covering their entire tour. That is something we should do quickly."

Farr, South Africa's consul-general in Hong Kong and Macau until September, became the executive director of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa last month.

The council was formed in February to represent the business sector of the tourism industry in South Africa. It has been working with the South African Tourism Organisation (Sotour) and has suggested the formation of a permanent forum, meeting regularly, on which the departments of foreign affairs and tourism, Nedlac and the provincial governments should be represented.

Farr said in addition to companies directly involved in tourism, such as hotel groups and car-hire companies, the council included those with an indirect involvement, such as accounting firms with consultancy divisions.

Farr said airlines, which already spent more than Satour on marketing South Africa as a destination, could give invaluable help. "They can advise us on the marketing strategies to be followed in different countries. They know these markets far better than we do."
Cape Town takes popularity for granted

ACN 16/11/96

Tourism policy slammed

Business Review
SERIOUS doubts arose yesterday over whether Cape Town can convince the International Olympic Committee (IOC) — which is making a crucial inspection visit next month — that it is capable of hosting the 2004 Olympics.

Work will have started on R77 million worth of sports facilities by the time the 20-member IOC team arrives on December 6, bid officials assured journalists yesterday.

However, one of the top coordinators of the process — the Western Cape's acting chief director of Public Works, Mr Milné van Lennep — described this claim as "optimistic".

Funds for the construction were pledged by the provincial executive committee yesterday.

Sports and Recreation MEC Mr Lenuno Kalako, and bid committee member Mr Robbie Stewart told journalists that red tape would be slashed and tendering time halved — to ensure there was visible evidence of building preparations during the crucial IOC visit in less than four weeks' time.

Stewart said professional teams had been working on the eight projects — ranging from the R10m Athlone Turf Hall sports complex and softball stadium, to Khayelitsha's R16.75m, multi-purpose boxing hall — for five months.

He said there was "no doubt we'll be on site within two to three weeks".

The IOC team will want to be convinced that Cape Town is on track to host the 2004 Games, and will be casting a critical eye over the local "bid book".

"It's not a thing that's done with mirrors," said Stewart.

Kalako said that even if Cape Town failed to win the bid, the R86m approved by the province yesterday (this includes an extra R9m reserve fund) would contribute to meeting demands in underprivileged communities.

"All but one of the eight sports facilities were in disadvantaged areas and would be usable within a year — with strict maintenance mechanisms established," Stewart said.

Stewart said construction and design were on a sliding time scale, enabling expansion of facilities on September 5 next year — when the IOC finally chooses the Olympic host city.
City set to make Paralympics bid

POLITICAL WRITER

Cape Town was preparing a bid to host the Paralympic Games in 2004 and this had major implications for the design, adaptation and after-use of the Paralympic Village, Ms Alison Burchell of the Olympic Bid Company said yesterday.

"If we are looking at a village for 18,000 athletes and officials for the Olympics, surely we can ensure that the same village can cope with 1,000 athletes in wheelchairs," she said.

Burchell said the Atlanta Paralympics had 19 sports, involving 2,527 athletes — 756 women and 3,312 men — over 11 days.

However, a total of 18 sports was likely at the 2004 Paralympics.

There would be officials accompanying the teams, so that the total number of people who should be housed in the Paralympic Village was in the region of 5,000.

She said another area that would have to be taken into account in physical planning and accessibility was the airport, which would have to cope with up to 7,000 athletes, officials and VIPs arriving and leaving, many of whom would be disabled.

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Handicapped spend R312m on tourism

ABOUT R312 million is spent annually by disabled people going on holiday in South Africa, research commissioned by the South African Tourism Board (Satur) has shown.

A Satur spokesman said this was much more than the organisation had originally thought.

However, the figure represented only a quarter of the market and excluded overseas visitors.

The survey revealed that about 400,000 adult South Africans were often excluded from a holiday in the country because they were confronted by barriers such as steps, narrow doorways, stairs, restricted spaces and inaccessible facilities.

Satur researcher Ms Adrie Schippers said: "Some members of the hospitality industry are gearing themselves for the disabled market, but the majority must still be made aware of the problem."

She said some of the most pressing needs for wheelchair-users were ramps, public toilets, transport and parking, and for the blind, Braille telephones and menus.

"If we want to stage the Paralympics after the Olympics in 2004, we could lose millions as the city is not geared to accommodate them. Some hotels can only accommodate three wheelchair-users."

City hotels should pull up their socks when it comes to accommodating disabled people, the coordinator of a conference on the rights of people with disabilities, Ms Sue de Villiers, said yesterday.

Ninety local and overseas delegates are attending the conference, which is being held in the Old Assembly Chamber in Parliament.

But, said De Villiers, a major problem was finding hotel accommodation for people who used wheelchairs. "It has been very difficult. Ordinary hotel rooms are not usable. Eventually we got rooms for everyone, but not all the rooms were satisfactory." — Staff Writer
Major Games project gets green light

Chené Blohmert
Staff Reporter

It's all systems go for the first Olympic priority project in the Tygerberg after the council approved the R45-million velodrome roof over the Bellville cycling track.

The Tygerberg council decided at a special meeting yesterday to award the tender for the upgrade of the sports stadium south of the Tyger Valley shopping centre to a consortium comprising Grinaker and Synchronised Development.

The tender was provisionally awarded to Devprop Consortium about four months ago but the process was reopened, threatening the tight schedule, because the developer's proposals differed too much from the original tender.

But the process is back on track and construction is due to start in January. Tygerberg town planner Gert Kruger said the velodrome roof would be completed in time for the World Junior Cycling Championships in July. It was hoped the track would be available for practice earlier.

The significance of the championships was that they would illustrate to the world South Africa's ability to host an international sporting event, said Mr Kruger.

The velodrome project will include a 38m-high roof structure over the 250m cycling track with 8 000 permanent seats, a restaurant and bar, VIP facilities and offices.

To make the project financially viable, an adjoining 4.2ha of council land will be made available to the developer as part of the deal. The land, valued at R21-million, will be used for commercial, hotel and office purposes.

First phase of environmental assessment for Olympic bid

Andrea Weiss
Metro Correspondent

The Cape Metropolitan Council has allocated about R250 000 for the initial phase of a strategic environmental assessment for the city's Olympic bid.

The aim is a stand-alone report which will help the metropolitan council in environmental management, one of its new responsibilities. Unlike project-specific environmental impact assessments, this one will identify areas of environmental concern proactively.

Executive committee chairman Pierre Uys said the assessment would involve "identifying, quantifying, weighing up and reporting on the cumulative environmental impacts of Cape Town potentially hosting the Olympic Games".

He added: "The results of the study will be of great benefit to the Cape Metropolitan area whether Cape Town wins the Olympic bid or not, as it will provide valuable insight into projects and proposals which are centred on developing the area's potential as a tourist destination, a conference centre and a sporting mecca."

The project was put out to tender by a consortium appointed to do the job.
New chamber president backs 2004 Games bid

Unique opportunity, says Ali Gierdien

ESAHN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

The newly elected president of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ali Gierdien, the first black person to hold that office, has thrown his weight behind Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid.

The bid held unique opportunities for the city in terms of tourism, housing, infrastructure development and sport in areas where these facilities were needed most, Mr Gierdien said yesterday at his induction in Cape Town.

Mr Gierdien, who is chief executive of Multitrade Enterprises and Condor Property Developers, called on all South Africans and particularly the people of Cape Town to support the Olympic bid, saying the country could set an example of what could be achieved if people worked together.

Mr Gierdien, who was elected deputy president of the chamber last year, has been associated with the organisation since 1976, serving on the executive council and membership committees.

With more than 90 percent of the chamber's membership consisting of small businesses, he said he was delighted that the chamber was now enjoying increasing support from people in such areas as Athlone who saw the organisation as an opportunity to network with the established business community.

"A major focus of my year of presidency will be to use the chamber as a means of connecting people and establishing links which did not previously exist. "

"Chambers of commerce worldwide recognise networking as an important function in putting people together. This facilitates the creation of strategic alliances, allows people to share knowledge and exchange views, and helps customers and suppliers to find each other."

In spite of his commitments in the chamber, Mr Gierdien will remain involved in his community as imam at the Harvey Mosque in Claremont.

He also holds the finance portfolio for the Western Cape Small Business Council, is a former vice-chairman and head of arbitration of the Muslim Judicial Council, and was active in politics during the apartheid era as a founding member of the Coloured People's Convention.
World tourism worth its weight in gold to SA

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Domestic and international tourism to SA would generate more than R42bn and represent 6% of the gross domestic product (GDP) — with foreign tourism exceeding gold in its foreign exchange earnings by 2000, the head of Kessel Feinstein Durban’s tourism, hospitality and leisure division consultancy Lee Maartens said yesterday.

Maartens said should the city aim to compete on an equal footing globally, then regional tourism developments must have their foundations in accurate, professional research.

Projects had to be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure ongoing viability.

She said tourism accounted for 10.3% of global GDP last year, but the SA industry lagged significantly behind at 4.2%. Boosting local figures to international standards demanded the country develop the tourism infrastructure, solve crime and violence and promote a hospitality culture both from the industry and the general public.

Maartens said international tourism to SA increased 40% last year and, although boosted by the Rugby World Cup, still represented the ninth successive year of substantial growth. Annual compound growth since 1986 was 17%, which outperformed the long-term patterns in Australia, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

Referring to KwaZulu-Natal she said the province was still perceived as “the centre of political unrest”.

Initiatives including Business Against Crime aimed at preventing crime and violence, reprioritising the economy and reviewing legislation to promote a tourist-friendly environment.

However, Durban also had to develop its infrastructure, particularly in light of the new international convention centre opening in September, to accommodate tourists in world-standard hotels.

Public transport, currently only better than Gauteng, also had to be upgraded to meet international expectations.
City hotels full for festive season

FOREIGN tourists are rating Cape Town tops as a holiday destination, judging by the rise in airline bookings to the country, with some city hotels doubling their international business. DAN SIMON reports.

CITY hotels are bracing themselves for a busy festive season with two major hotel groups reporting excellent bookings — and the case of one hotel group, international tourism business had increased by 105% this year compared to last year.

Despite the favourable exchange rate, Cape Town is still ranked as a top-class exotic destination by overseas visitors, particularly those from Europe. This is evident from the rise in the number of airline bookings to the country.

Protea Hotels’ Victoria Junction, the 148-room, 22-loft designer hotel, which officially opened this week, is fully booked over the festive season and heavily booked from January to March next year.

The group’s nine remaining hotels in the Peninsula, with a total of 810 rooms, are also expecting high-occupancy levels ranging in percentage terms from the high 80s to low 90s.

Protea’s international sales director, Ms Lorraine Leveux, said yesterday that international business with the group’s Peninsula hotels was up 105% from January to October this year, compared with the corresponding period last year.

“It’s going to be a very busy season for us,” said Mr Ray Smuts, the group’s public relations manager.

However, Protea sales director Mr Danny Bryer said the hospitality industry had to guard against creating the perception that Cape Town hotels would be completely full during the holiday season.

“This is a wrong perception. Occupancies will be high but there will be rooms available in the city,” Bryer said.

Bryer said the group had experienced tremendous growth in international tourism during the year.

The Karos Hotel Group’s Arthur’s Seat Hotel in Sea Point has been running at an occupancy level of about 90% since October.

Hotel manager Mr Clive Musikanth said 80% of this business came from foreign tourists.

The hotel was also fully booked for the early part of next year from January to March, and was already 80% booked for November next year.

“Our foreign tourist figures are definitely up on last year and they are predominantly British and Germans,” said Musikanth.

“The feedback we get is that these tourists find the city clean and the people relaxed.

“And when they arrive from Jo’burg they find there is no tension here.”
Better trading conditions boost Karos earnings

Amanda Vermeulen

Improved trading conditions, particularly at the Polana Hotel, boosted Karos Hotels' headline earnings 234% to R2m in the six months to September.

Headline share earnings rose to 3c from 1c. No interim dividend was declared.

Turnover climbed to R75,2m (R65,8m). Operating profits before charges rose marginally to R16,8m. After charges related to operating leases, net interest, and depreciation and amortisation, profits before exceptional items and tax rose to R2,9m from R2,8m.

An exceptional item of R9,5m, including profit on the sale of three properties to the Karos Property Investment Fund, lifted pre-tax profits to R12,4m (R2,3m). Attributable profit was sharply higher at R11,5m (R601 000).

Chairman Selwin Hurwitz said the properties sold were not income producing in their own right and no profit history could therefore be attributed to them.

The group would lease the properties, and continue earning revenue from the hotel operations located in these properties. Karos had secured tenure by signing a 10-year lease agreement with the property investment fund.

The disposal has enabled Karos to restructure its balance sheet to create the funds required if the group is successful in its casino applications," he said.

During the review period the five-star Edward Hotel in Durban was reopened after a R70m refurbishment, and the Polana in Mozambique obtained a casino licence. The group is bidding for a Mpumalanga gambling licence and was poised to make licence applications in other provinces.

Hurwitz said as trading was traditionally better in the second half of the year, results for the 12 months to March next year should show "an encouraging increase" in the 1996 financial year.
Cinderella at the Olympic ball

The Olympics are not all good news for the development of Cape Town, writes Rick de Satgé

The evidence seems overwhelming: the Olympic bid will be good for Cape Town and good for South Africa. Yet Cape Town wins, we all win!” Hansie Cronje, Desmond Tutu and a streetchild shout from the billboards. The Cabinet, Tutu, Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, the city of Cape Town, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Chris Ball, the Olympic Bid company and all the wise men and women working around the clock to make sure we win surely won’t go wrong. It’s bad timing and bad form to have misgivings about the bid. Yet in all good faith the misgivings won’t go away. “No to the Olympics — Yes to houses!” One is joined by graffiti sprayed in black on the main overpass into the mother city.

The DBSA estimates that the Olympics will create a R20 billion boost to the economy between 1997 and 2006, based on 1996 prices. Over 90,000 permanent jobs will be created, with approximately 60% of the income gains and 50% of the employment gains benefitting regions other than the Western Cape.

According to a Cabinet press statement, the total capital cost of staging the Games is approximately R7.5 billion. About half of this will come from private-sector investment. The remainder will be shared by national, provincial and local government. The Cabinet is confident the games will generate a surplus, to be used in furthering the aims of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is touring the world with a glass slipper which the bid cities compete to try on. Cape Town is the shapely foot of the whole African continent. Africa has never really featured at the international ball. Now at last it is the turn of the hardest-working sister to be the princess.

I just wish I could believe in it. Where do the doubts come from? Could it be that there is something inappropriate about Cape Town bringing the bid to Africa when it’s the only city on the continent where African people are a minority — kept out by years of apartheid planning? Too crass a reservation, surely? Could it be that previous Olympics always seemed to further marginalise the poor — whether it was rising rents in Atlanta or 720,000 people being violently evicted from informal settlements in Seoul to clean up the city in preparation for the event? But that surely couldn’t happen in the Western Cape.

Could it be that during the period of the Los Angeles games local business suffered a 20% loss in trade due to the influx of international competition? Might it be that in the new era of globalisation which we are all being urged to wake up to, small business does not have more than a token chance of getting a look into business opportunities associated with the Games?

Or is it that the many previous hosts have radically underestimated the long-term costs of maintaining and operating an Olympic infrastructure after the Games have passed and the hot money has been made? Should we have concerns about the stability of the costing scenarios against the backdrop of a falling rand and the lifting of exchange controls?

Well, yes and no. These are all issues that the bid company has been made aware of and is supposedly planning to overcome. To me the doubts stem from something more fundamental and less dramatic.

During the past few weeks I have been talking to officials, councillors and community organisations about the role which local government could play in facilitating low-income housing and integrating the segregated and inefficient city. Few metro substructures have effectively amalgamated. Councillors and officials are kept busy just trying to merge their administrations, let alone devise a new developmental approach to local government.

Add the Olympics to this mix and what will happen? Will it be the stimulus for integration, infrastructural development, affordable housing, service delivery and job creation? Or will it be the ultimate distraction which ironically diverts energy and resources away from the fundamental problems facing the bid city?

The final outcome of the Olympic fairy tale comes down to two questions: who will benefit from the bid? And who will pay the final bill? From where I am sitting, there is no guarantee of a happy ending.

Rick de Satgé works as an independent trainer and materials developer in the fields of land, housing and local government.
RUBBERNECK REVIVAL

An estimated R20bn will be spent on new hotels and leisure-related projects by the end of next year, says the Federated Hospitality Association of SA (Fedhasa).

Executive director Deon Viljoen says the gradual improvement in tourism figures has made investment in hotels and resorts an appealing proposition to investment managers.

According to Central Statistical Service, 92,324 foreign visitors came through Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban airports in July, normally the nadir of the tourist season. That is nearly 25,000 or 37% more than the 67,581 in 1995. This helped push the total number of visitors arriving by air for the third quarter to 248,869 — 21% more than the 205,978 for the same period in 1995. The figures exclude visitors from Africa, immigrants and contract workers.

Fedhasa estimates 60-80 new hotels will be built by the end of 1997. Sun International plans to invest R22bn in a five-star luxury hotel chain, casinos and gambling centres. Southern Sun has recently built a R20m Holiday Inn Express in Pretoria and has commissioned Liberty Life to build six new hotels in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town to come on stream between May 1997 and May 1998, for a combined total of R350m.

A R240m Hilton is being developed in Sandton and is due to be completed in September next year. Protea Hotels will open five new hotels, to be built at a cost of R150m, before the end of the year.

Cape Town's Mount Nelson has been upgraded and a new wing added at a cost of R62m. About R6m is being spent on a new wing for Liz McGrath's The Plettberg Bay, R75m has been spent on the Cape Grace on Cape Town's V&A Waterfront, due to open on December 11, and R42m is being spent on a Grace hotel in Rosebank, due to open in August 1997.

Captour CEO Gordon Oliver says the Hilton and Sheraton hotel groups are talking about developing five-star hotels on Cape Town's waterfront and that there are plans to build a big hotel in Milnerton.

Construction of two new five-star hotels in Pretoria will start early next year.

M Kharafi & Sons of Kuwait will build one near the Union Building at an estimated cost of R100m. Malaysian company Samrand is to build an hotel that will cost R160m at the Fountains.

Three hotels are being built in Durban, which is not enough, says Durban's tourism director of corporate communications Clive Booth. "Our international convention centre will open in August. It can take 5,000 people and is fully booked for 1997 and most of 1998. Where will we put the delegates? We will need another eight to ten 300-room hotels by the year 2000 to meet projected demand."

One of the reasons for the tourist boom is the deterioration of the rand against major currencies. It has also made South Africans realise they can get much more for their holiday money in their own country than they can abroad.
Government planning project to ensure tourist safety
Western Cape tops with tourists visiting SA

DAN SIMON
TOURISM WRITER

CT 25/11/96

The Western Cape was expanding its share of the international tourist market, with figures showing that at the end of October this year the number of overseas passengers on flights to Cape Town had increased by 26%, said MEC for Tourism Mr Lampie Fick.

Fick, who has just returned from a 10-day visit to the World Travel Market in London, said Cape Town's share of the international tourist market to South Africa had increased by 4.6%.

Addressing Western Cape Tourism Board delegates in Durbanville on Friday, Fick said international tourists were now spending an average of 19 days in the country, of which 12 were spent in the Western Cape. In the 1980s international tourists only spent an average of three days in the city.

"However, he said, 70% of international visitors who visited the Western Cape spent all their time in the metropolis. "We must strive to attract these visitors to the plateau areas," he said.

...
Olympic Bid committee mum about San Juan

Weighing up of 2004 cities continues

MICHAEL MORRIS
ON THE OLYMPIC BID

A single, characteristically spare news agency report is all that has emerged so far on the International Olympic Committee's tour of inspection of San Juan, capital of Puerto Rico and one of 11 cities bidding for the 2004 Games.

This does not necessarily prove anything but in contrast to the flurry of reports that emanated from the Olympic Committee after their visits to cities like Rome, Athens and Stockholm (Cape Town's main rivals in the Olympics race), the little attention being paid to San Juan is probably a fairly accurate reflection of its ranking in the 11-city line-up.

The commission, the report noted somewhat hopefully, was not making any promises at the conclusion of its three-day visit to San Juan.

Indeed, the commissioners have specifically refrained from saying much at all about any place they have visited beyond noting at least three favourable aspects of any given city's efforts.

In San Juan's case, only one favourable feature appears to have made its mark on the 20-strong team. This being the 86 per cent support shown by Puerto Ricans for their capital city's bid for the Games.

But the good that might do could well be undermined by the finding - which was singled out by commission leader Thomas Bach as being "less encouraging" - that 60 percent of Puerto Ricans are worried about the cost of hosting the event, estimated at about $1.3 billion ($4.8 billion), and the deteriorated state of many of San Juan's sports facilities.

Mr Bach nevertheless assured the people of San Juan that the IOC would not discriminate against Puerto Rico for being an island or for attempting to follow close on the heels of Atlanta.

Puerto Rico, while not a part of the United States, is however described as a "US commonwealth".

Mr Bach noted: "What we're looking for in the year 2004 is where the world's best athletes can find the best conditions."

San Juan was the commission's eighth stop on an inspection tour of the 11 candidate cities. It has so far visited Stockholm, Seville, Lille, St Petersburg, Rome, Istanbul and Athens.

Next up is Rio de Janeiro followed by Buenos Aires. The tour of inspection ends in Cape Town on December 11.

The list will be pared to five in March and the final decision on the host city will be made on September 5 next year.
SA to be marketed to tourists on CD-ROM

SOUTH AFRICA is to be marketed internationally on CD-ROM - with 50,000 CDs to be printed locally and distributed in foreign cities where the SA Tourism Board (Satour) has offices.

The digital marketing of South Africa on CD-ROM (read only memory) looks likely to set a new standard in local consumer travel planning technology.

Services offered on the CD will include holiday bookings as well as unlimited holiday and adventure planning, Satour said.

The comprehensive travel software, to be released early next year, will provide detailed information about accommodation, metropolitan areas, towns, tourist attractions, sport and recreation, climate and fauna and flora.

Project co-ordinator Ms Ina Kotze said Satour was entering the technology playing field of multimedia and CD-ROM facilities to promote South Africa's tourist industry, as 80% of personal computers were fitted with a CD-ROM drive, making it a growing and cost-effective tool.

She said the comprehensive database would also include information on child care and facilities for disabled travellers. - Tourism Writer
The Hilton comes to Cape Town

Foremost among new set to be city’s hottest hotel area
Plan to curb petrol fumes

Edward West

AN INVESTIGATION to be undertaken by the mineral and energy affairs department, motor manufacturers and fuel refiners could make the use of catalytic converters mandatory, as well as use of special equipment to curb petrol fumes when filling a car.

National air pollution control officer Martin Lloyd said the investigation, to be managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), would be launched next year. Initially, it would concentrate on the effects of vehicle exhaust emissions and later on the use of equipment to curb evaporative emissions.

A committee undertaking the investigation would consider whether further measures to curb vehicle emissions were necessary, and if so, what measures should be considered.

Currently only fuel storage facilities were required to have secondary seals to control fumes, and there were no regulations for filling stations, said Lloyd.

Eight European Union (EU) countries recently announced legislation requiring equipment to be installed at filling stations to recover the vapour from vehicle tanks and send it back to the tanks under the forecourt so it did not pose health risks to motorists and forecourt attendants.

The legislation has been introduced because petrol vapour contains small quantities of volatile organic compounds which could contribute to low-level ozone formation. Up to 2% of the vapour was benzene, which was widely accepted as carcinogenic. Benzene levels could be higher in unleaded petrol than leaded petrol, according to a recent report in the Financial Times.

In the EU countries emissions from vehicle refuelling were estimated at a 250 000 tons a year, about 2% of the 12-million tons emitted annually from all sources.

In the UK pipework for vapour recovery was being introduced on some filling stations, and the establishment of new retail operations, but the equipment would not be in use until legislation was introduced.

In the US, under the 1990 Clean Air Act, cities with the worst air pollution will have to phase in the vapour dis- penser systems, and car makers will have to fit large onboard activated carbon canisters from the 1998 model year to soak up vapours.

An SA Petroleum Industries' Association meeting in Pretoria last month estimated the cost of introducing vapour dis- penser systems was high, especially considering vehicle densities in SA were low compared with other developed countries. He believed legislation in this regard was a long way off.

Bid to put Olympic body off Cape Town

Pault Martin B0 27/11/96

CAPE TOWN — Former Cape Town city councillor Arthur Weinburg has asked for a hearing with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegation in a bid to stop the 2004 Olympics being staged in Cape Town.

Weinburg, as spokesman for the Concerned Citizen's Front for Olympic Games Committee, said yesterday that the 2004 Olympic Games had the potential to leave Cape Town and possibly even SA with a huge financial disaster.

"I believe that the whole Cape Town 2004 Olympic bid is a totally irresponsible project," he said. "Every other country besides the US has battled in vain to turn the event into a financial success, and Cape Town can definitely not be compared with the American cities which hosted the event."

The Olympic committee delegation is to arrive in Cape Town on December 6 to assess the city's chances of hosting the games. Weinburg said: "The bid is a very sensitive one, and I believe it is important that the committee hears both sides of the story."

Weinburg would not divulge the full list of members of his organisation, but disclosed that former Black Sash president and alderman of Cape Town Edithle Stoits was a member of his anti-bid group.

Sexwale unopposed as Gauteng ANC boss

Tim Cohen

GAUTENG premier Tokyo Sexwale remains unchallenged for the chairmanship of the provincial branch of the National Congress of South Africa (ANC), but strong contenders for other executive positions have emerged, including Gauteng health MEC Amos Masando and Johannesburg metropolitan council executive deputy chairman Kenny Fihla.

ANC branches were expected to attend the conference, which would be opened by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

The aim of the conference was to "fight against socioeconomic transformation" and it would discuss, among other issues, the ANC's past two and a half years in government and its relationship with its alliance partners.

Meanwhile, SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) board chairman Ivy Mateapo-Casaburri said yesterday that she had been formally advised that she was one of the people being considered for the Free State legislature.

Speaking in her personal capacities, she said she reluctantly made herself available for reconsideration for the SABC board and her name was put forward in the list of candidates forwarded to the president. "I will consider my options when the president makes his decision," she said. "If I am reappointed to the SABC board... I cannot afford to be considered for the legislature."
Satour faces major changes

By Russell Mole
aton 28/11/96

National News
Gauteng aims to raise tourism’s contribution

Bonile Nqoliyaza

Gauteng had indicated that of 22 investment projects announced in the past two months, 13 of them had been by foreign companies.

Moleketsi and Gauteng hoped to increase small, micro and medium enterprises’ access to mainstream economic activity through linkage programmes.

He was speaking at a media briefing called to explain the provincial government’s progress since the 1994 election and its future plans.

Moleketsi said the Gauteng government had calculated that six planned hotels in Johannesburg alone could attract investment of R940m.

While admitting that gambling and six envisaged casinos would not be a panacea for the economic woes Gauteng might have, Moleketsi said he expected these to attract a lot of revenue and visitors. He rejected the “widespread notion” of a gloomy economic outlook, saying evidence suggested that foreign investment was flowing into the country.

A tracking system implemented in

Gauteng’s financial administration had whittled down its staff complement by 50% and managed to stay “fully operational”, he said.
The Olympics have gone out of hand
Author criticises the movement for becoming a global circus

ON THE EVE OF THE VISIT TO CAPE TOWN OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S EVALUATION COMMISSION FOR A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE CITY'S BID, ACADEMIC AND WRITER CHRISTOPHER HILL TELLS MICHAEL MORRIS WHY THE OLYMPICS IS A POSITIVE FORCE, BUT RISKS GETTING TOO BIG FOR ITS OWN GOOD

Unexpectedly, for a “supporter” of Cape Town’s bid for the Games of 2004, Christopher Hill has what is probably best called a healthy, unvarnished view of the whole Olympic thing.

But just as he delights in his iconoclasm — and argues the case persistently in the unapologetically critical edition of his book, Olympic Politics — Hill nevertheless remains convinced of the positive economic and political forces generated in the process of bidding for and hosting the biggest games in the world.

In this sense, at least, it is no trifling thing: it seems to be one that one has to rely on economists to make the detailed assessment.

“All I can say is that the argument that the Olympics has an extraordinary capacity to kick-start development,” Hill explains. “Certainly in your case, in Cape Town, there is no reason why it should not work and every reason why it should.

“The greatest danger about the Olympics is that it concentrates the mind of everyone in a decision-making position on realistically looking at things within a defined time span.

“It is to kick-start mental energy and development, and of course the two go together.

He adds: “Claims that sport should be unrelated to politics is just too much waste of breath, and this is especially so with the Olympics.

“Because, it is well beyond the petty chicanery of power politics.

“The prospect of the Olympics can be a significant, even a decisive, political factor in the internal affairs of a country.

“Governments have to think carefully about the way they make their decisions about the upper echelons of international sport and although the decision on where to place the Games is not purely political, the people who make the decision belong to the international elite and seek in the same assumptions from the air as other members of that upper strata.

“They are well informed and have very sensitive antennae... so their decision is necessarily going to be strongly political, and that’s no bad thing.

“Countries bidding for Olympic favour tend, then, to mind their Ps and Qs, and the consequences in the fields of human rights, economic policy and the conduct of politics — can be telling.

In his book, Hill writes: “In an age when the provision of aid to poor countries is beginning to be linked with those countries’ records in the matter of how they treat their populations, it would be odd if the IOC — which in its role as an engineer of development can in a sense be seen as an aid-giver on a vast scale — were allowed to feel comfortable if it gave the Games to a country whose government displayed indifference to human rights.

“The IOC has to make a judgment about a country’s stability and international acceptability.

“Hills came to the subject of Olympic politics by a somewhat tangential route.

“He has what he describes as a “long history of teaching politics”.

“He was for some time a senior lecturer in politics at the University of York — where, incidentally, he established a Centre for Southern African Studies in the 1970s — and is also a visiting Fellow at the Chevening Institute of Higher Learning.

“But on taking early retirement, he established his own consultancy and soon after took on a project for the British Horse Racing Board.

“This is what really got me looking at sport and politics and the relationship between them.

“In fact, my first book on the subject, Horse Power — published in 1988 — was about the politics of the turf.

“I then started looking at the Olympics and found that hardly anyone had written about it from the point of view of politics.

“The first edition of his book was published just before the Barcelona Games, and the publishers, Manchester University Press, asked him to do an update for the Atlanta Games.

“Interestingly enough, one of the main conclusions of the political analysis is that accompanied apartheid South Africa’s long exclusion from the Olympics.

“As a whole, the book investigates the politics behind 100 years of Olympic history, from Baron de Coubertin’s revival of the Games in 1896 to the centennial event in Atlanta earlier this year.

“The book, which is essential reading for anyone interested in the Olympics, is a comprehensive history of the Games, from their inception to the present day.

“Olympian critique: Christopher Hill ponders the nature — and future — of the Olympic movement

It is important, too, to sports people, politicians and others who would not wish its help be available to practises and promote the sports they love.

“Hill’s view, the primary weakness of the Olympic movement lies in the threat of “gigantism... as the Games’ permanent tendency to grow is inexplicably ingrained”.

“If it is only sport, he says, “there is something both ludicrous and offensive about seeing the best hotel in whatever city is holding an Olympic meeting reserved entirely for sports administrators, with all the apparatus of sniffer dogs and diverted traffic.

“Nowadays, this is unhappy necessary for meetings of heads of state and government.

“It is important to remember that there is a difference between an IOC session and a G7 summit.

“Hill on the Games are quite profession by the comment of the Olympic has failed...”

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and diplomatic fates of whole countries. It is important, too, to sports people, politicians and others who would not wish its help be available to practises and promote the sports they love.

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(AKA 29/11/96)

so enormous, it is felt the IOC's methods of making a choice on which billions of dollars hang should in some way or other be made more rational and open'.

Hill notes that since Atlanta was chosen, some procedural changes have been made... but they do not so much promote openness as discourage some kinds of tactical voting, and reduce the possibility of corruption among IOC members'.

He presents a picture of the Olympic movement as an institution which has built "extraordinary power, prestige and goodwill", yet is "beset by problems'.

It is constantly preoccupied with retaining dominance, yet the only source of change is internal dissent which could lead to fragmentation of the movement'.

What, then, is Hill's prognosis?

"It is, in short, reasonable to feel that the whole thing has got out of hand."

"It does not, however, seem likely that the Olympic movement will reform itself to any significant degree, and there is no external authority that can force it to do so, although, as has been suggested, governments may show disapproval if 'bad' choices of host cities are made."

"Internally, the forces making for conflict and division are immense, but it is probable that self-interest, diplomatic skill, wealth and ideals will continue to hold the movement together."

"So long as it does hold together, there will still be a market for the Games: that is, there is no reason to suppose that they will not continue to hold the attention of millions worldwide."

"The world needs the Games because it needs to be reminded of what human beings can do, but the world also needs to be reminded, as does the Olympic movement, that in a sense, sport is a triviality."

While Hill has no illusions, he still believes the fundamental ideals deserve attention.

"It is foolish," he concludes, "to try to put the clock back, but it is still worth saying that the world may need a Games, but as they might have been.'

The significance, in South Africa, of Hill's concluding lament is that the Cape Town plan for 2004 is deliberately modest in comparison with the scale of the Atlanta spectacle, yet compellingly ambitious in the scale of its economic and developmental goals.

Indeed, part of Cape Town's strategy in winning favour is the subterfuge message that just as Africa need the Games, so the Olympic movement needs the kind of back-to-basics spiritual revival that an African bid offers.

In fact, Hill points out that one of the impressions conveyed by the "discussions of Third World problems" in international sport is that "the Olympic movement's salvation may come from the less developed countries' .

It is a debate underlined in part by a nostalgia which may do something to keep the torch of old values burning and to hold in check the less sensitive excesses of commercialism".

Hill suspects, too, that even those who are quite at home with the notion of professional athletes "must be a little disgruntled by the extremes of commercial activity into which the Olympic movement has fallen'.

"The money, of course, is recycled for the good of sport, but one cannot help wondering if there are any limits to commercialism."

He also argues that in view of the fact that the Games have, "for good or ill become as much desired as an engine for growth as for any sporting reason, and the potential for wealth creation has become

...with the nature and future of the Olympic movement..."
Visitors streaming into Cape Town

Hotels expect bumper season

ESAIYN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

'Cape Town can expect a bumper festive season if reservations for accommodation are anything to go by.

Streams of tourists - South African and foreign - are descending on the city, with hotels, guest houses and lodges booked to bursting as Cape Town's share of the tourist market expands.

Foreign tourists are now spending an average of 12 days in the Western Cape in an average stay of 19 days in South Africa, says the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ten years ago foreign tourists spent three days in Cape Town on average.

The city should be able to handle the growing number of foreign tourists, says Roy Davies of the National Hotel Association of South Africa.

'I believe we will be able to cater for the increasing numbers, although some of the European tourists, who are not experiencing a peak season in their own countries at this time of year, might be fooled into thinking they can arrive here and then find accommodation.'

Mr Davies says upmarket hotels are seeing a busy festive season - similar to last year's - and many are fully booked over the Christmas period.

The Cape Sun is full from December 23 to January 10 and business is better than last year, says executive director Harry Murray.

Spokeswoman for the Guest House Association, Jean-Anne Harris says booking at guest houses in Cape Town for the festive season is similar to last year's levels in spite of "an incredible number of cancellations" in November after demonstrations by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad).

Many guest houses are fully booked from mid-December right up to the end of February, although some still have space during the first two weeks of December.

Lion’s Head Lodge marketing manager Rolf Hauser says the lodge had 80 percent occupancy in November and is fully booked for December.

Recent extensions of 18 rooms have enabled the lodge to accommodate more visitors.

"We are full, but people are still phoning. For the peak season we have accepted only confirmed bookings."

Peggy Klement, managing-director of the Breakwater Lodge at the Waterfront, says the lodge is fully booked for the festive season and she has "huge bookings right into 1998" from South Africans as well as from overseas tourists.

With about 1 800 backpackers in Cape Town on any given day over the holidays, a spokesman for Hostelling International South Africa says bookings at the city’s 35 youth hostels are very tight.

In most cases hostels are fully booked over the festive season.
Foreshore gets 7 new hotels

Cullinan group buys into city

Work on the two new Cullinan hotels on the Foreshore precinct next to the old Table Bay power site will start early next year.

The R150-million project will be developed on the site bordering the Waterfront, which was bought from Devland Holdings for R18-million.

Liberty Life has also announced a R250-million project for three hotels next to the Cullinan site. A French consortium is to build a 400 room Hilton hotel and a 300 room Marriott hotel.

The three star Cullinan Inn will have 350 rooms and the four star executive suite hotel 150 rooms, to be sold into the sectional title.

This brings to seven the number of hotels announced for the Foreshore block bounded by Coen, Steytler Avenue, Buitengracht Street, Long Street and Hans Strijdom Avenue.

The foot of Cape Town's Long Street is destined to become downtown Cape Town's prime tourist precinct.

Group chief executive, Johannesburg property developer Martin Rodrigues, said the two Cape hotels would be the fourth and the fifth in the group.

Johannesburg magnates Solly and Abe Krok, who own the Gold Reef City amusement centre south of Johannesburg, hold a 50 percent stake in the Cullinan Group.

Solly Krok is also the owner of millionaire Marino Chiavelli's former home in Hyde Park which he bought at an auction in October 1994 for R12.5-million.

Mr Rodrigues said the Cullinan Hotel Group was set to become a major player in the hotel industry.

Its select service hotels, Cullinan Inns, are competing directly with the City Lodges and Holiday Inn Garden Court hotels.

The group opened its first Cullinan Inn in Morningside, Sandton this week at rates of R286 per night.

Work has also started on a second Cullinan Inn with 150 rooms next to the East Rand Mall.
Reversing into Concorde

When will the hotel market reach saturation? Though some areas (like Johannesburg's northern suburbs) and niches (particularly the four- and five-star tourist bracket) are arguably rapidly becoming overtraded, growth continues apace.

The latest venture to announce major expansion plans is the Cullinan group, which plans a reverse-listing through Concorde Travel, raising R71m in the process. Concorde will acquire Cullinan's total capital from Cullinan's holding company, Airbay Investments, for R85m, to be met in shares. After the deal, Airbay will own 40% of the equity.

The change of control requires an offer to minorities; shareholders, offered R1 a share, are likely to keep shares which are now R1.34 on speculative buying.

Ultimately, management aims to develop Cullinan into a leisure group focusing on hotels mainly for the local corporate market and travel services. After the deal, Cullinan will have two 100%-owned operating companies, Cullinan (hotels) and Concorde Travel. The synergy is clear.

Cullinan's existing management stays with the group; Cullinan's is boosted by recently appointed ex-employees of a competitor.

Apart from City Lodge, the Don Group also targets the corporate travel market. "Cullinan Inn will compete head on with City Lodge and Garden Court, though City Lodge is obviously larger and now has the lion's share of the market," says Cullinan CEO Martin Rodrigues.

Like City Lodge, Cullinan Inn will offer limited service.

Analysts reckon that though competition is growing, there is still demand for rooms. "Location is the essence," says Price Waterhouse hospitality group's Richard Irvine.

Cullinan now has a four-star hotel in Sandton and plans a chain of three-star limited service hotels: Sites are secured at the East Rand Shopping Mall (150 rooms) and Cape Town's Waterfront (480 rooms and suites); and hotels are planned in Pretoria and Durban.

The immediate goal is 1,000 rooms. Management says prices will be between City Lodge and Garden Court Holiday Inn (R28 a night for a single room).

The Cullinan hotels will be developed by Rodrigues Investments, directed by Martin Rodrigues, a CA with 14 years in property development, mostly in and around Johannesburg. The Krok family also has an interest. Michelle Joubert
GAMBLING ON GAMBLING

This has never been an investment for the fainthearted — neither the patchy profit record nor often high borrowings to finance continuous upgrades and expansion provide much comfort.

Investors can find consolation in financial 1997's slightly improved performance, which management reckons is sustainable this year. But longer-term results depend on the success of the bid for eight casino licences, management's focus for the last five years.

Chairman Selwin Hurwitz acknowledges it would be naive to hope for all eight. "But it will be a travesty if we don't win any," he says. Various factors have slowed government's decisions; the first should be allotted in calendar 1997.

To strengthen the balance sheet and fund the casinos — Hurwitz reckons Karos's equity portion of three would cost R70m-90m — the group has begun to sell hotel properties to the independ-

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Huge development plan for Wild Coast

Umtata—The Wild Coast has been earmarked for a R130bn infrastructure and agricultural development programme, Eastern Cape economic affairs, environment and tourism MEC Smuts Ngonyama told potential stakeholders on Friday at Umtata.

Ngonyama said the Wild Coast spatial development initiative would be the second largest such programme after the Maputo Corridor development. It was expected to create almost 1 million jobs and promote tourism, agriculture and investment in the region.

Potential stakeholders include the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the public works department, the Eastern Cape Development Agency and various parastatals. Funds would also come from the reconstruction and development programme and international financing would be sought from the World Bank and the Global Environment Fund, he said.

The Eastern Cape economic affairs department estimated that R8.5bn would have to be spent on roads between Port Edward and Kei River to give access to the coastline. Electrification and telecommunications would cost R200m each.

Tourism-related development would include building lodges, chalets and hotels. Transport development would consist of road and bridge building and upgrading existing landing strips. Land would also be set aside for forestation and farming. — Sapa.
Only days before the visit of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission, a bold initiative begins today to revamp public transport in Cape Town.

Modalink, which opens for business in Cape Town today under the direction of chief executive officer Christopher Pecket, formerly managing director of KwaZulu-Natal Transport, is geared to coordinating bus, taxi and rail services and setting goals for improvements in efficiency and safety.

The success of this national demonstration project, funded by the national Department of Transport, will have a critical bearing on Olympic planning, since public transport will be the prime mover of crowds during the Games of 2004 if Cape Town's bid succeeds.

Today's launch is especially significant, given the arrival on Friday of the IOC's 20-strong commission, which will spend four days assessing Cape Town's capacity and commitment to hosting the Games.

Metropolitan transport will be one important area of concern for the visitors.

Modalink's primary task is to promote and market public transport, and that means finding ways to make it a better and more attractive option at a time when private transport is costing taxpayers millions, chiefly for the upkeep and expansion of freeways and other roads.

To this end, one of the company's first tasks will be setting up a public forum to hear from users what they think should be done to make public transport better, safer and more appealing.
Concrete signs that our bid can deliver

Michael Norris
On the Olympic Bid

There is nothing especially portentous to the casual observer about the scene at the Turfham sports grounds. Glimpsed through a gap in the tatty concrete wall, a lone concrete mixer is noisily churning through the piles of sand and stone that almost obscure it.

Slightly more interesting, if only because you can't fathom what it is or what it does, is the towering pile-driver, a tall, bright red drill-like contraption that gives off mysterious puffs of dust every few seconds as it slams reinforced rods into the scrappy field of grass.

That's all there is to see and that's all that's really happening at Turfham this week. What is barely conceivable, here on Lansdowne Road, Athlone, is that when the concrete mixers and pile-drivers and the streams of contractors with their machines and their trucks pack up and go for good, within the year, they will leave behind them a R100-million Olympic-class 2 500-seat softball stadium, with meeting and changing rooms, kitchens and kiosks, a permanent softball diamond, six soccer fields and a junior soccer field.

This is one of eight priority Olympics projects across the Cape Flats, top-class facilities to benefit the city even if its bid to host the 2004 Games does not succeed.

What makes that concrete mixer and its attendant pile-driver significant this week is that, as a sum, they will help convey to the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission just how committed Cape Town is to setting itself up to host the Games.

Doubters and critics dismissed as unachievable the goal of getting contractors on site before the arrival of the commission on Friday. But in a reflection of the capacity of the Olympic bid to get things done, and quickly, contractors are hard at it preparing the foundations for the softball stadium ... less than a month after the calling of tenders.

There is another dimension to the Turfham project which reflects a critical element of Cape Town’s bid - that it be driven by developmental, community-centred concerns. All local stakeholders have joined hands in the Turfham Local Olympic Steering Committee to participate in development and management of the project.

They include softball, football and netball organisations, the Turfham Sports Board, Athlone RDP Forum, RDP Sports Forum, the National Sports Council and the Greater Cape Town Sports Commission.

R7-million to be spent on sports projects in Cape townships

William-Meruin Gumede
Political Staff

The Western Cape Economic Affairs and Reconstruction and Development Department has injected more than R7 million into sport projects and the development of multi-purpose sports centres in townships that have been earmarked as Olympic venues.

Chris Nissen, Provincial Economics and RDP Minister, said this was part of R185 million approved by his department to kick-start development and job-creation projects for disadvantaged communities in the province.

He said 50 projects had been approved to get provincial discretionary funds, the money allocated for RDP projects. Projects in the Cape Town metropole got most of the funding, with more than 50 percent of the money spent on 19 upliftment projects.

Mr Nissen said that in future more funding would go to projects in rural areas.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the metro is the most populous region within the province and has a wealth of capacity that enables communities to develop sound business plans, there has been a conscious effort by the department to ensure an even spread of funding between rural and urban areas," he said.

His department had, with the help of the private sector and other government departments, been able to give 40 rural RDP projects R300 000 each.
It's crunch time for the Olympic bid
New Olympic bid survey

DAN SIMON

The response to a questionnaire could determine how the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company ultimately proceeds with its plans to stage the 2004 Olympic Games. A total of 3,600 questionnaires were mailed last week to "interested and affected parties" throughout the Cape metropole, giving them an opportunity to have a say in the hosting of the Games. The questionnaire must be completed by December 13.

The survey forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is being funded by the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) at a cost of R263 000. The CMC has appointed a task team, known as the Olympics Assessment Team, to conduct an independent evaluation of the city's Olympic bid. This will be completed by the end of May next year and will be followed by a public opinion poll.

The aim of the assessment is to look into the short and long term implications of hosting the Olympics, and whether the Games will be beneficial to the region and the country.

One of the five questions in the questionnaire is: "What are your concerns about the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid?"

Team spokesman Mr. David Shandler said: "The Olympic Bid Company has been discussing the need for an independent assessment of its proposals with many concerned organisations."

"Public participation will be a fundamental feature of the assessment, which will also help to keep the public fully informed on the issues involved in hosting the Games."

"[The assessment] will focus on the possible impacts of the Games on our economy, society and natural environment."

"It will place emphasis on the sustained or longer term impacts of the Olympic Games on the development of the metropole and South Africa as a whole."

Shandler said that the recipients of the questionnaires were drawn from an "extensive" database.
Durban fights its tourist corner in a foreign field

SHIRLEY JONES

Durban — International tourism investors favoured Cape Town above Durban because of the city's Eurocentricity, its predominantly white administration and its bid for the 2004 Olympics, Ted Hirst, a director of Tourism Durban, said yesterday.

Hirst recently returned from a tour of important hotel groups in Britain, where he hoped to attract overseas investment to a city stigmatised by perceptions.

He said local and central government should provide investment incentives to international hoteliers in the form of rate rebates, tax holidays and subsidies.

Hirst said Alec Erwin, the trade and industry minister, needed to revise his decision to offer tax incentives only to the manufacturing sector.

He questioned the central government's attitude towards tourism development, especially as it provided a fast-track means of job creation.

He said another impediment to tourism development was a lack of complementary finance from local banks.

"We need a tourism bank which is prepared to put up finance for tourism projects. International hotel groups made it quite clear they were prepared to put up 20 percent of the equity, but expected the remainder to come from local sources."

Hirst admitted he encountered scathing criticism of the South African hotel industry.

He said Virgin Hotels warned that by raising prices without increasing service levels, local hotels could price themselves out of the international market.

Hirst also said overseas operators were interested in the potential of more than 22 sites owned by the Durban city council and earmarked for development.
JORDAN REASSURES FOREIGN VISITORS

New drive to protect tourists from crime

TOURISM MINISTER Dr Pallo Jordan has issued a circular aimed at allaying concerns that South Africa is unsafe for tourists.

HENRY LUDSKI reports.

Tourism authorities have embarked on a major safety awareness campaign to make tourists feel more at home.

As of last week, tourists entering the country at Johannesburg International Airport, and soon at other international airports, are greeted by youth “ambassadors” — and a new approach to tourism safety.

Tourists are issued with government brochures, in six languages, inviting them to “go well and come back again soon”, and advising them of some basic precautions — “...to ensure that your stay is as pleasant and safe as possible”.

As part of a strategy to reassure foreign countries and industrial concerns that South Africa is a safe tourist destination, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has issued a circular clarifying the safety situation in the country.

Jordan said the circular was also aimed at correcting certain distortions, such as the recent hijacking hoax of three tourists, which had resulted in unfounded negative perceptions among potential tourist markets.

Jordan has identified tourism safety and the training and education of newcomers from disadvantaged communities into the white-dominated industry as issues requiring immediate attention.

Staying safe in the city

PRECAUTIONS which the department advises tourists to take are:

AT THE HOTEL:
• Never leave your luggage unattended.
• Store valuables in the hotel’s safety deposit box.
• Keep your room locked, whether you’re in or out.
• If someone knocks, check who it is before opening the door.
• Hand the keys in at the desk whenever you leave the hotel.

IN THE STREET:
• Avoid ostentatious displays of expensive jewellery, cameras and other valuables.
• It’s definitely not advisable to carry large sums of money around.
• At night, steer clear of dark, isolated areas.
• It’s better to explore in groups and to stick to well-lit busy streets.

While saying that he did not consider it his department’s responsibility to solve security concerns, he nevertheless considered it important to make the security establishment aware of the importance of tourism safety and to communicate the correct information to the tourist industry in order to rectify misconceptions.

The local tourist industry has grown faster than the rate internationally, despite concerns about South Africa’s crime rate.

Jordan said that tourists, as they should do in all countries, had to be careful not to stand out as easy targets for criminals.

The minister’s department coordinates the Cabinet Tourism Safety Task Group Committee, on which the industry and the security establishment are represented. The task group has drawn up a strategy emphasising the value of tourism and the importance of personal safety in the growth of the industry, to ensure that tourists can be filled with “great” rather than painful memories.
Minister calls for tourism overhaul

The Genadendal and Wupperthal mission stations and the Feurshrine of Sheikh Yusuf of Macassar are among the off-the-beaten-track historical landmarks that Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan wants to see put on the South African tourist map.

Jordan, highly critical of the way in which the historical and cultural experiences of a large section of the South African population have been ignored, maintains that the country’s tourist potential is not being fully exploited.

“A paradigm shift is needed in how we market the country. There are more dimensions to tourism in South Africa than only flora and fauna and beautiful beaches that are indistinguishable from the beaches of Majorca and Langua,”

Jordan said the country had “so much more to offer”. Its rich diversity of cultural and historical experiences could become a unique selling point internationally.

In just five months at the helm of the Tourism Ministry, Jordan, who took over from the NP’s Dr Dawie de Villiers, has stamped his authority on the multi-billion rand industry, one of South Africa’s largest foreign exchange earners.

“I’d like to believe that I’ve shaken up the industry, but I haven’t taken it by the scruff of the neck yet,” said Jordan.

In the past few months he has set about redefining his ministry’s approach towards drawing excluded communities into the lucrative industry, which is still largely in the hands of the white private sector.

One of the most significant steps Jordan took in “turning things around and beginning to think of South Africa anew” was to push through a last-minute amendment in the Tourism Act, allowing for a radical restructuring of the South African Tourism Board (Satour).

The act now provides for the appointment of a more representative Satour board, to transform it into a national tourist organisation which “reflects the true and full character, culture and heritage of South Africa”.

Besides the urgent need to make the industry more representative of the South African population through training and ownership opportunities, Jordan is also passionate about the need to reflect the often hidden side of South African tourism.

He was particularly critical of what he described as “colonial entrapment” and the “failure of imagination” on the part of the South African tourist industry to present the flip side of the South African historical experience.

“The first thing tourists do is to visit the heritage sites in Cape Town, which are usually associated with colonial conquests,”

Wtih the Oudekraal controversy erupted, how many people knew that there was a kramat (Muslim shrine) on the site?

How many people know about the kramat of Sheikh Yusuf of Macassar or even that there’s a kramat on Signal Hill?

“Genadendal, one of the first mission stations in the country, has one of the oldest printing presses in the country. Here we are sitting on a cultural tourist gold mine, yet very little is being done to promote it as a significant tourist sight.

“None of these places are being tapped for their tourist potential,” said Jordan.

He would like to see the South African tourist industry reflect the rich diversity of cultural and historical experiences from the perspective of communities who have been excluded from reaping its tourist riches.

“We have a convergence in South Africa of people from three continents with a huge diversity of backgrounds, cultures and religions. We have a lot to offer.”

In cuisine and style of cooking alone, Jordan mentions samp and mielies, pens en potjies, pap en vleis and the classically South African Ou Kaapse cuisine as hardly ever being available on restaurant menus.

He ascribes the problems in the South African industry to the exclusion of historically disadvantaged communities from any involvement in the tourism industry.

Cape Town municipality community liaison officer Ms Delysis Forbes, who is

(To turn to Page 2)
Kick-off for Games venues

Metro Writer

Work is starting just in time on four of the city sports venues that will be used either as Olympic Games competition sites or as practice facilities.

A 20-strong delegation of International Olympic Committee (IOC) members and support staff is due to arrive at 7.35am on Friday, to assess how Cape Town’s bid for the Games is progressing, and decide whether Cape Town should be on the March shortlist of cities still in the running to host the 2004 Games.

- Western Cape Minister of Sport and Recreation Mr Lerumo Kalako turned the first sod at Turffontein, Athlone, yesterday, where a R10-million 2500-seat softball stadium is to be built.

- On Friday, shortly after the IOC team arrives, he will officiate at a similar ceremony at Italian Road in Grassy Park, where a R2m indoor sports complex is to be built as a baseball training venue.

- Later in the day he is due in Belhar, where an R18.5m indoor hall is to be built for eventual use as a judo venue.

- At 2pm Kalako will be in Scottsville in the Eastern municipality, where a R2m hall will be made into a boxing training venue.

The Turffontein and Belhar venues will not yet be built to the full specifications set out in the bid book, because they would be too big for present purposes. They will be upgraded before the Games.

Bid officials were reluctant to say exactly what the IOC delegation would be doing there.

Media spokesman Mr Paul Johnson said the IOC officials might ask for changes to the schedule.

“They have made it clear they want to stick to the work. We will showcase the beauty of Cape Town, but for a lot of the time they are going to be attending presentations. They also want to do research to feed into their findings. There will not be much leisure time.”

IOC president Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch will not be among the delegation. Instead, it will be led by Dr Thomas Bach, a senior IOC member from Germany.
Bid staffers work up a
All systems go for IOC evaluation

Andrea Botha
Staff Reporter

All work and no play is making staffers at the Olympic Bid Company a very tense and jumpy bunch.

As the preparations for the arrival here on Friday of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission get into top gear, all departments at the Olympic Bid Company offices are working frantically to meet their deadlines.

Even Chris Ball, chief executive Bid officer, confesses to being excited.

"I don't even have 40 minutes for an aerobics workout at the gym," he said.

But he admits that he is something of an adrenalin junkie and that maybe this is what it takes to plan an event of this magnitude.

Most of the company's staff are certainly firing on all cylinders.

"The IOC visit is one of the most important dates in the course of Cape Town's Olympic bid process," says Paul Johnson, company media spokesman.

"It's absolutely vital that every single employee in every single department gives his best," he said.

And judging from the frantic activity in the company offices, they certainly are.

"It's not like any other job you've ever done before," says Andre Krogh, marketing director.

But most of the action is happening at the Medite building, where the planning and co-ordinating is taking place.

Here, in the "trenches", most of the different committees of the Bid Company are working out their proposals and gathering every little piece of information for their presentations to the commission.

Staff here show physical evidence of working late nights, imbibing coffee and other caffeine-filled drinks and working to tight deadlines.

One staff member manages to joke: "You don't get tense when you're on valium!"

But the steady hum of activity in the offices reveals that although it's a matter of "all systems go", everything is very much under control and taken care of.

"Yes, things are tense.

"But in the eye of the typhoon there will always be pockets of calm," says Peter de Tolly, director of planning and environment.

"We want to be a finalist city. We are going to be a finalist city. Period."

Come on Cape Town, let's give it our best shot

Michael Morris
on the Olympic Bid

Come on, Cape Town - let's give it our best shot. This is the message today from Cape Town Olympic Bid Company director Ngonde Balfour on the eve of the crucial five-day visit by the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission.

"For me the dream I have had for years is now coming to fruition," said Mr Balfour. "I believe Cape Town has a good chance, because I really believe Cape Town is capable of doing it well. All I'm asking for is Capetonians to give of their best. Let's give it our best shot... for the sake of our children - and the generations to come."

Mr Balfour's call follows the launch last week of the independent Cape Town Community Olympic Forum.

The forum, headed by Western Cape director of the Department of Labour Brian Williams, has committed itself to promoting community support for the bid and aims to monitor the process and ensure that the interests of disadvantaged people are being met. The establishment of the forum is considered a breakthrough in promoting the constructive involvement of all communities in the bidding phase.

Community support is a significant element of the IOC's assessment of bidding cities, and will clearly be among the factors the evaluation commission will seek to gauge during its visit.
frenzy to meet deadline

Brainstorming: clockwise from front left, Ronnie Kingwill, Stephen Guild, Nicola Lloyd, Jac Snyman and Robbie Stewart in conference

Computer image: Keith Coetzee, computer-aided designer, carries out some last-minute checks
Organised business in Cape Town supports the bid for the Olympic Games and has challenged the public to rally behind the project and demonstrate its support to the International Olympic Committee.

Two days before Cape Town’s plan for the 2004 Games comes under the scrutiny of a 20-strong IOC evaluation commission, a spokesman for the influential Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the chamber had “carefully and critically evaluated” the bid and was convinced that the city could afford it, and would benefit immeasurably from it.

The chamber had distributed 4 000 pamphlets to its members presenting a detailed economic assessment to allay fears about the risks and to highlight the benefits.

“The chamber calls on all its members to support Cape Town’s 2004 Olympic bid,” said the spokesman.

The chamber urged members to “dress up your shops and offices” from Friday, when the IOC team arrived, and to inform and influence stuff.

“We believe that unique opportunities in tourism, housing, infrastructure development and sports facilities in areas where these are needed most will be created by the bid.”

Reasons to back the bid highlighted in the chamber’s pamphlet are that:
■ Jobs will be created, 90 000 of them permanent, according to the Development Bank of Southern Africa.
■ The tax base will be widened.
■ The city will be upgraded and get new multi-purpose facilities.
■ Transport will be improved.
■ More hotels will be built.
■ The tourist industry will enjoy short and long-term benefits.
■ Technology will be improved and people will be trained for jobs in the service and support industries.

See pages 3, 10 and 12
In the greater scheme of things, more probably rests on the visit this week of the 13 men and women of the International Olympic Committee than a visit by a dozen envoyos, perhaps even heads of state, from the richest nations of the world.

Yet the economic impact of the Olympics not only on Cape Town, but on South Africa and, indeed, on Africa would far exceed the shifts and eddies that follow in the grand wake of a political or diplomatic mission.

The evaluation commission’s visit from Friday to Tuesday next week will have a decisive bearing on whether or not Cape Town makes it on to the short list, in March, of four or five favourites.

The final choice will be announced on September 5 next year. Much depends, then, on the opinions of these men and women, the “baker’s dozen” of the IOC. Who are they?

1. The team is headed by Thomas Bach, 42, an astute, straight-talking lawyer and Olympic gold winner for fencing at the 1976 Games in Montreal.

2. Born in Wurzburg, he studied law and politics at the University of Wurzburg and, latterly, in the United States. He was the world champion fencer in 1978 and 1979, winner of the 1978 European Cup of Champions and has 33 national fencing championship titles.

3. He has been a member of the IOC since 1981 and a member of its executive board since August this year. He serves on a number of important IOC commissions, including finance and law.

4. He is also a member of the International Federation of Olympic Numeratics. He is also the elected “Sokrates of the Games.”

Dr Bach speaks German, French, English and is a senior partner in a law firm specialising in economic and financial law.

5. He is married to teacher Claudia Karg and they have three children. Their son, Peter, is his personal assistant. He is also a keen football and tennis player, which he likes to play every day.

The remainder of the team is:

1. Chiharu “Chick” Ibayashi, 57, is a busi- nessman and silver medallist in the slalom event at the 1986 Winter Games in Cortina d’Ampezzo. He has been a member of the IOC since 1982 and, like Dr Bach, a member of its executive board since August last year.

2. In the prime of his sporting career, he won several Japanese and US national championships as well as many other international competitions.

3. He has been on the evaluation and preparation of various Winter Olympics, is a member of the International Ski Federation’s Alpine Committee, and a special advisor to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sports, the Japanese Ministry of Education and the Japanese Amateur Sports Association. He serves on numerous IOC commissions.

4. Mr Ibayashi is president of the Chiyoda Consultants, and a member of the board of directors of American Home Assurance Company and a member of American International Underwriters. He and his wife, Akiko, a businesswoman, live in Tokyo. Both serve on the board of the Tokyo Olympic Bureau.

5. Major-General Henry E. Oldemil Ade- tope, 67, of Nigeria, former military com- mander of the 1970s, Minister of Labour and, for two years, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Born in Kaduna, he graduated in medicine from Glasgow University in 1952. He joined the Nigerian army in 1957, became Director of Medical Services. His sporting interests include football, cricket, tennis, badminton, athletics and table tennis. He represented the Nigerian army in various tennis competitions.

6. General Ade tope became a member of the IOC in 1983, and served on the commission on apartheid and Olympics. He also played a role in reviewing preparations for the Atlanta Games this year, and the Sydney Games of 2000. He speaks English and Yoruba and lives in Lagos.

7. Fernando Pires de Lobo, 67, of Portugal, was a world champion sailor in 1955 and took part in the Olympics of 1960 and 1968.

8. He graduated as a civil engineer from Lisbon University, and is director general of the road construction company and director of construction for the Ministry of Employment in Portugal.

9. He has been a member of the IOC since 1985 and has served on the commissions for the International Olympic Academy and Olympic Education, and the Eligibility Commission.

10. He speaks Portuguese, English, French and Spanish.

11. His wife, Alice O’Neill de Lobo, have three children and live in Lisbon. Sailing, football and tennis are his favourite sports.

12. “Danny” Oswald, 44, of Switzerland, is President of the International Rowing Federation and bronze winner in rowing at the 1998 Games.

13. A lawyer by training, Dr Oswald is a member of the Neuchatel Bar, president of the Rowing Club of Neuchatel, and a judge in the court of Arbitration for Sport.

14. He has won numerous national and international rowing awards and, apart from the 1988 Games, took part in the Munich and Montreal Olympics.

15. He has been a member of the IOC since 1981 and has served on commissions on eligibility, law, Olympic memorabilia and medicine, among others.

16. His favourite sports are rowing, ice hockey, cycling, running and skating. He speaks French, English, German, and some Spanish and Italian.

17. Dr Oswald, a member of the Rotary Club and of Panathlon, lives with his wife Claire-Lise in Neuchatell.

18. In 1985, Dr Eugenio Vargas, 57, of Holland, is President of the International Cycling Federation and an independent business consultant.

19. He speaks Dutch, French, English and German. He and his wife Marie live in Lausanne.

20. Running, cycling, squash and skiing are his favourite sports. He ran in the New York marathon a few years ago.

21. Sis van Breda Vriesman, 67, of Holland, is a master in law and honorary secretary-general of the International Hockey Federation. Well-known and respected in Dutch sporting and business circles, she has served as a technical delegate for the IOC in the European Cup and World Cup, and at the Seoul Games of 1988 and Barcelona Games of 1992.

22. She also has been a prominent member of the National Olympic Committee of the Netherlands.

23. She speaks Dutch, English and French. She and her husband, Erik, live in Utrecht. Her favourite sports are hockey, tennis, golf, skiing, badminton and cycling.

24. Julio Cesar Magliore Roca, 68, of Uruguay, is president of the Uruguayan Olympic Committee, and a member of the IOC since 1987.

25. He is president of the Olympic Academy and a member of the Executive Committee of the Olympic Committees.

26. He speaks Spanish and Portuguese and is a former professor of law at the University of La Plata.

27. He is a form professor of law, and is a former president of the Uruguayan Olympic Committee.

28. He is an active member of the National Olympic Committee of the Netherlands.

29. He speaks Spanish and Portuguese and is a former professor of law at the University of La Plata.
Commission who will see if Cape Town is worthy

More probably rests on the visit this week of the IOC's "baker's dozen" than a visit even by heads of state.

Decision-maker: Thomas Bach, former Olympic gold medallist who will head the IOC team.

He and his wife Marie live in Lausanne. Running, cycling, squash and skiing are his favourite sports. He ran in the New York marathon a few years ago.

He is president of the Uruguayan Olympic Academy and a member of the influential Association of National Olympic Committees.

He speaks English and Spanish, and his favourite sport is swimming. He is married and lives in Montevideo.

CAROL ANNE LEBERON, 56, of Canada, is a former associate professor at the school of physical education at the University of Toronto and chief executive officer and secretary general of the Canadian Olympic Association.

She has been extensively involved in international gymnastics and was a gymnastics judge at the Olympic Games of 1976, 1980 and 1984.

Leberon has been an IOC member since 1992 and is vice-chairman of the commission for the Olympic Academy and Olympic Education, and the Cultural Commission.

She speaks English and French and lives with her husband Michael in Toronto. Her favourite sports are gymnastics, running and athletics.

Canadian Mark Tewksbury, winner of gold in the 100m backstroke at the Barcelona 1992 Games, is a member of the IOC's Athletes' Commission, and the Olympic Advisory Board and a prominent figure in Canadian Athletics for Peaceful Efforts (Hop).

He has a global communication focus. As a former Olympic delegate, he is dedicated to promoting social change through sport, entertainment and business.

He was the Canadian athlete representative to the 1991 International Olympic Committee in Paris.

In addition to winning gold at Barcelona, he won silver at the 1991 Seoul Games. He is a four-time winner of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame's National World Cup, earning in 1991 and 1992.

He set and reset the world record in the 100m backstroke seven times between 1990 and 1993.

Francisco J Elizalde, 54, of Philippines, is a businessman and company director and a prominent figure in football and development of South East Asian sport.

He was educated at the Loyola School in New York and at St Andrew's Academy and Harvard University.

He was manager of the Harvard swimming team in the 1960s.

He later became involved in the National Olympic Committee of the Philippines and the football tournament committee of the 11th South East Asian Games.

More recently, he became a member of the IOC in 1995, and has served on the commission for new sources of financing. He served on the Inquiry Commission for the Sydney 2000 Games.

He and his wife Maria Carmen Roxas live in Manila. He speaks Spanish and English, and his favourite sports are football, boxing, swimming and track and field.

Peter Bonington, 54, was a key figure and a board member, in the organisation committee for the Atlanta Games earlier this year.

After serving as a supply officer in the US Navy in the early 1960s, he studied history at the University of North Carolina, and law at the Emory University Law School.

He was a member of the team which secured Atlanta's place as the bidding US city for the 1996 Games and was responsible for international lobbying for Atlanta during the bidding phases. Once Atlanta won the bid, its responsibilities included the Olympic Village, protocol, accreditation and language services. He is married to Liza in Atlanta.

The remainder of the 20-strong team is made up of support staff and representatives of other sporting federations.
Mother City faces Olympic crunch

Cape Town — The Mother City faces the test of a lifetime this week when the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) 20-strong evaluation commission flies in from London to assess the city’s multimillion-rand plan for the 2004 Olympics.

The critical four-day tour of inspection will decisively influence the outcome of the 11-city contest to host the Games, as well as Cape Town’s hopes of consolidating its position as a dynamic world-class city.

The next seven days are Cape Town’s crunch week, the outcome of which will determine whether the city makes it on to the short list of four or five favourites in March. The final choice will be made on September 5 next year.

The emphasis of the programme will be on what planners believe are the financially sound, practicable and convincing technical details of Cape Town’s Games plan, rather than on frivou- lous entertainments.

Cape Town is the last of the 11 cities on the IOC team’s itinerary, and the strategy guiding the Mother City’s presentation is simply that, after their punishing round of inspections, the visitors are less likely to be impressed by fireworks and fanfare than by a slick and professional technical review.

The Bid Company has fine-tuned the programme — and even rehearsed the tough schedule of presentations covering all 19 Olympic themes — to ensure there are no wasteful distractions from the serious business of setting out the plan to mount a successful Olympics.

Bid Book director Ronnie Kingwill said yesterday: “We have been working round the clock to ensure we have a professional, realistic presentation to convey the good sense of our proposal.”

In a nutshell, the IOC team will be measuring the promises of the Bid Book — handed to the IOC in Lausanne in mid-August — against actual conditions on the ground.

They will not be expecting to find the city equipped and ready to host the Games next year, but will make a careful and expert assessment of its capacity and commitment to doing so eight years from now. – Own Correspondent.
KwaZulu tourism bill almost misses the boat

(288) 4/1/96

ULUNDI — The KwaZulu-Natal legislature unanimously adopted a bill yesterday establishing a board to promote the province as a tourist destination — in spite of receiving the final version of the legislation just minutes before it was voted on.

The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority Bill, introduced by economic affairs and tourism MEC Jacob Zuma (ANC), provides for the establishment of a single, 18-member board which will co-ordinate tourism development and marketing.

However, the legislature had to suspend its rules to pass the bill, as secretary Robert Mximela failed to adhere to the requirement that members be given advance copies of the legislation, and that it be gazetted with an explanatory memorandum.

Members were given the final version of the bill at the end of the two-hour debate.

NP KwaZulu-Natal leader Danie Schutte said the session had been postponed four times since October, but bills were still not ready: "How can you possibly aspire to greater powers if you cannot deal with those powers already allocated to you?"

Economic affairs and tourism portfolio committee chairman Alex Hamilton (Inkatha Freedom Party) said the KwaZulu-Natal government would have to find R38m next year to finance the tourism board.
Tourism opens
new field for
students in SA

Course at technikons

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Young South Africans eager to
become a part of the tourism boom
that could result if Cape Town
hosts the Olympic Games can take
a new tourism management
degree course offered at several
technikons from next year.

The four-year bachelor of tourism
management degree will emphasise
the development of tourism, entrepre-
neurship and management with skills
such as tour guiding and operating.

François Nel, who heads the Cape
Technikon’s tourism department, said
the course was designed to meet the
challenges of Southern Africa’s fast-
changing tourism industry. It also
introduced an innovative flexible aca-
demic approach.

With exit points after each year,
students could leave the course and
return later or move with ease
between full-time and part-time stud-
ies, he said.

Mr Nel, who spearheaded the effort
to create the programme, said it her-
alded a new era in tourism education.

“We’re introducing not only dra-
matically different content but also
the structure, which takes into consider-
ation the needs of both the students
and the industry,” he said.

“Nowhere else are advanced stu-
dents specially trained to create
tourism development plans. Besides
class work, final year students are also
required to put their knowledge to
work in real-life or action research
projects,” he added.

Captor head Gordon Oliver, who
is also a member of the industry’s
advisory committee for the course,
said: “The changes are highly neces-
sary and desirable in the light of the
need for education in our industry to
be relevant and appropriate to the
rapidly changing circumstances and
demands.”

The course will be offered by the
Cape, Border, Eastern Cape, Free
State, Natal, ML Sultan, North West,
Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, Southern
Africa, Vaal Triangle and Witwater-
srand technikons.

Meanwhile, the South African
Tourism Board has announced that a
revamp of the training programme for
tourist guides is in the pipeline after
numerous complaints from foreign
visitors.

Disgruntled tourists have com-
plained that guides are not very
knowledgeable about their country
and that the service ethic leaves
much to be desired.

The registrar of tourist guides,
Miller Matola, has appealed to guides
to adopt a more “representative and
realistic” presentation of the coun-
try’s history, heritage and cultures.

“It has also become necessary to
ensure that guides not only guide
tourists on traditional routes, but are
also able to handle routes of emerging
interest. These include townships and
other places of cultural and heritage
interest,” Mr Matola said.
It's make or break for the city as IOC flies in

MICHAEL MORRIS

In less than 24 hours, Cape Town faces its toughest test - the start of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation of the bid to host the 2004 Games. Much depends on the city's success.

With it comes the prospect of an unprecedented boost in economic growth and job-creation and wide-ranging development that will change the face of the city.

The 20-strong IOC team flies in from London tomorrow morning to a packed programme of meetings, presentations and site visits which provincial, city and bid officials are confident will earn Cape Town a place on the shortlist of four or five favourites, to be announced in March.

Cape Town's plan is the last of the 11 in the bidding to be evaluated by the IOC, in a process culminating in the announcement of the winner in September.

Its closest rivals are Rome, Stockholm and Athens. The other bidders are St Petersburg, Lille, Seville, Istanbul, San Juan, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires.

The IOC team has already had a chance to study the city's plan, as set out in the 700-page Bid Book submitted to the organisation's Lausanne headquarters in August.

Bid Company staff are confident the visitors will leave Cape Town on Tuesday favourably impressed by conditions on the ground, the natural beauty of the setting and additional detailed operational plans put together in the past three months.

One of the most important presentations over the next five days will be on the bid masterplan for transport and security, which effectively demonstrates how Cape Town would put on a snug free Games.

The key is having a simple, clear transport system to oversee every feature of the Games organisation, particularly the two most difficult elements of transport and security.

The plan has taken months to put together. It draws extensively on the lessons learned at Atlanta, where the organisation was sorely tested because of the absence of central control.

The IOC team's arrival also coincides with a significant consolidation of support for the bid. In addition to the backing of all the major political parties and all tiers of government, organised business has stepped up efforts to promote the project.

Be sure to get your Cape Argus over the next few days for the fullest coverage of the IOC evaluation commission's visit.

See pages 3 and 14
The Cape Town Bid company will be rolling out the red carpet for the International Olympic Committee's Wining and dining can be an Olympic

USA SUCCESS FOR FLEUR DU CAP

Fleur du Cap Chardonnay 1995 has been voted one of the top Chardonnays by the International Wine Centre in New York. In its recent "Best Values in Chardonnay" competition, 272 top Chardonnays from around the world were pitted against each other.

Fleur du Cap Chardonnay 1995 emerged from the blind tasting selection process as the winner in its price category.

Questions need to be answered

Charlene Houston argues the land and money planned for the Olympics could be put to better use

For the 2000 Olympic Winter Games there were nine candidates and for the first time the IOC decided on a pre-selection process to reduce the number of entrants before letting its full membership vote on the cities. The IOC established an 11-strength evaluation commission — also chaired by Bach — which undertook the same task as the previous inquiry commission. Its report was submitted to the IOC's 10-member selection committee which chose four cities to go forward to the final lobbying stage. Salt Lake City won the election at the IOC session in Brisbane last year after falling at the final barrier four years earlier.

In the little over 80 days since the current commission began its journey in the Russian city of St Petersburg on September 16, Bach and his colleagues have achieved considerably more than Phyllis Fogt in the same period. Not only have they travelled the world but they have also toured the sites of existing and proposed Olympic facilities and worked painstakingly through each of the 552 questions covering 17 themes in the candidate files of the 11 cities in four continents.

This workload is made more tolerable, however, by the carnival surroundings of the world's best hotels along with top-class entertainment, gourmet dining and meetings with royalty and business leaders.

While the commission will carry out its task in Cape Town until Tuesday, it is an almost foregone conclusion that the Olympic Committee will recommend to the IOC to choose among the four or five cities to be chosen by the IOC selection conference on March 7 next year.
event

Stockholm, Rome and Athens have the strongest bids in Europe and the IOC, in an attempt to make the contest a global affair, is also expected to opt for one South American city — most likely either Buenos Aires — and Cape Town, which is Africa's only representative. The Games have yet to be staged in Africa and the closest they have got in South America was Mexico in 1968.

From April until the final secret ballot on September 26th in Lausanne, the real fun and games will begin for the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid company. Cape Town and the other cities will have to show they deserve the Olympic Games and the IOC members. Air fares are paid by the IOC.

Each one of the 110 members of the IOC has the right to visit Cape Town and the other remaining candidate cities — at the expense of the cities.

The members might also bring spouses and other family members or friends along for the ride. They are not supposed to — only a "single companion" is allowed in terms of the rules — and it has been a common practice.

For the 2000 Olympics the IOC introduced strict new rules governing the visits of members and other benefits that could be given to them. But there is strong evidence in the book "The New Lords of the Rings" written by Andrew Jennings and published earlier this year, to suggest that these rules were ignored.

The rules have been tightened even more for the 2004 Olympics. The new rules are designed to protect the integrity of the Olympic Bid process, and to ensure no member of the IOC is given any unfair advantage during the bidding process. Members are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest and are prohibited from receiving any gifts or favors from the bidders.

Unfortunately for Cape Town there are many within the ranks of the IOC who also take the technical requirements of the bid very seriously.

City sign: Advertising for the Olympic bid

$50 for this first phase of the bid and will increase to $150 for the final stage beginning in April. It remains to be seen whether the IOC has the will to enforce these rules.

It has often been said that many an Olympic vote is cast in favour of the city where an IOC member's wife would most like to enjoy her holidays in seven years' time. If that is true then Cape Town will hope to have the prospect of a repeat of the Sydney Games, with Celia Hope, the Queen of Bathurst and Table Mountain, as the focus of attention. The Stellenbosch team is used to doing the tango or samba that Table Mountain promises as attractive as the Acropolis, the Colosseum or the Eiffel Tower.

Unfortunately for Cape Town there are many within the ranks of the IOC who also take the technical requirements of the bid very seriously.

After the problems experienced by the far more developed city of Atlanta this year — where American free enterprise chartered the IOC — Stellenbosch is unlikely to risk the Olympics to an African city with very little infrastructure in place.

Despite the strong political considerations in going to Africa its first Games — it is the only one of the five continents represented by the Olympic rings which has not yet staged the Games — and supporting President Nelson Mandela is South African, it may be 2008 or even 2012 if the IOC gives a South African city the nod.

Cape Town is, meanwhile, going ahead bravely and confidently.

Greetings and meetings

Friday: Commission to be met at airport by the mayor of Cape Town, Nkosana Mabuza, and the city's chief of police Chris Bell. The members will stay at the five-star Mount Nelson hotel. The meeting will be spent at leisure with trips available to Table Mountain by cable car or to Robben Island. Lunch at the Mount Nelson. Members hold their own preparatory meeting.

Saturday: Photo session (five minutes) for the media after breakfast at the Mount Nelson. Intro- duction to leaders of the regional and local govern- ments. Visit to the City of Cape Town and Nelson Mandela might also meet the commission. First bid meeting with the Cape Town delegation. General assembly of IOC members followed by a detailed presentation on nations, regional and candidate city characteristics; legal aspects; economics and immigration formalities; environ- mental protection. Light lunch at the Waterfront. Afternoon session to discuss meet- ing place; transportation; security; local/hospitality services; and Olympics and culture. Visit to Newlands cricket ground. Helicopter trip to the V&A Waterfront and location of facilities. Dinner in Stellenbosch.

Sunday: Discuss programme for the Games; general sports organisation, and competition and facilities at other venues. Lunch at Stellenbosch.

Monday: Additional visits to inland centres, technology and the media. Discuss finance, marketing and guaran- tees. Lunch at Preussen. Visit to other venues if required and meeting of commission. Dinner at Constantia Uitgever.

Tuesday: Photo opportunity. Closed session of commission members followed by the only planned press conference of the visit. Lunch at Mount Nelson. Afternoon of relaxation. Departure.

Commission members

Dr Thomas Bach (IOC): chairman of the evaluation commission and an IOC member in Ger- many. A former member of the IOC athletes' commission until 1988 and currently a member of the judicial commission and the commission for national federations.

Chihaya Isao (IOC): an Olympic slalom silver medallist at the Winter Games of 1998, he was appointed as an IOC member followed by a detailed presentation in the Netherlands and France.


Fernando Fernandes Lima (IOC): Portugal's most successful athlete, he became an IOC member in 1990.


Muniru Juma: member of the Chinese National Olympic Committee.

Dr Julio Cesar Maglione: president of the Congresol, member of the IOC and treasurer of the International Amateur Swimm- ing Federation.

Arnaud Massicot: secretary general of the Canadian National Olympic Committee and an expert in marketing.


Charles Balbir: former director of international relations for the French Olympic committee.

Piette Rongione: former deputy director general of the organising committee for the Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games.

Olaf Myholt: Norwegian environmental specialist.

Boosting the economy, creating jobs

Julian Drew finds out about the benefits the Bid company believes the Olympics will bring.

While Cape Town began developing a philosophy to underpin its bid for the 2004 Olympic Games it realised the Games would have to make a significant contribution towards redressing the imbalances of the apartheid era.

"It was simply about around 6-10 days then we had no business doing it but it's pre- ciously because it's about much more than that," says the bid's press officer, Paul Johnson.

The Games are about the R20 billion boost to the economy, the 100,000 jobs that will be created, the new sports facilities in the disad- vantaged areas, creating a modern public transport system and many, many more such benefits.

Although Cape Town does not compare favorably with most of the other bidding cities in terms of its current infrastructure, the Bid company believes the prospects of success are excellent because of the bid's unique selling points. The starting point was that it must be a "sustainable" bid, said Peter de Vries who was the government's Recreation and Develop- ment Programme.

The Bid Company is calling its development programme "the fourth pillar of Olympism" — the three official pillars of the Olympic Movement being sport, culture and the environ- ment — which it believes will give it a winning edge over the other competing cities.

As with any project of this size, says the Bid Company, people are opposed but two opinion polls at the end of last year showed that 65 per cent of the city's population supported the bid. That support has been carefully built through an ongoing campaign that engages communities, schools, the youth and the pub- lic at large in critical debate.

The Bid Company has held public meetings in 30 different communities and visited over 150 schools throughout the region. There are regular phone-in shows on local radio stations and countless other meetings at which Bid company members have given presentations.

"Our support comes from an understanding of the issues related to the bid and that's really what we are looking for. We don't want a core of people out there who blindly support the bid. We want to acknowledge and address people's concerns," says Johnson.

Many of these concerns have been related to the local government share will work out at

Photographs: Werner Frankin

If Cape Town wins, we all win.
The Big Five

Big cash from

Promotional growth of Conservation Connection.

The big guns are the big names in promoting conservation.

(Www.com/11/19/19)
Bid supporters to line N2 bridges

PETER DENNEHY

THOUSANDS of youths are planning to line the eight bridges between the airport and the Mount Nelson Hotel today to express their support for Cape Town's Olympic bid to the visiting International Olympic Committee (IOC) evaluation commission.

Mr Ngonde Balfour of the Bid Company said that even if there were protesters, the route would not be changed to avoid them.

"It's a democracy," he said, indicating that they were free to protest.

He said he understood an anti-bid group had approached the IOC with a request to make a presentation.

The IOC delegation will be arriving in Cape Town today and will stay until Friday. Many of their time will be taken up in listening to presentations at their hotel.

Bid company chief executive officer Mr Chris Ball is understood to be planning to tell the evaluation commission that he already has more than 74 000 volunteers pledged to work towards staging the Games here in 2004.

Atlanta used 50 000 volunteers and Sydney is expecting to call on 60 000.

South Africa's figure has been reached without including school, sports and youth organisations.

In addition to the 74 000 adult volunteers, the United School Sports Union of South Africa has committed 400 schools to taking part in the volunteer programme.

Among the other points Ball is expected to make are:

• This will be Africa's best shot at the Games for many years. The IOC members know that no African city has yet hosted the Olympic Games, although Africa is symbolically represented by one of the rings of the Olympic logo.

• All the major political parties in this country have come out in support of the Games.

• The central government has signed an over-arching guarantee of the 2004 Games in Cape Town, as if it were an insurance underwritten.

• Provincial, metropolitan and local governments have enthusiastically supported the Games and signed agreements requiring them to pay their shares.

• Surveys done independently of the bid company have indicated that public opinion in the city overwhelmingly supports staging the Games here.

• Bid company director of community relations Mr Saliile Zardad said yesterday the pledges of more than 74 000 volunteers had come from sports and civic bodies, and from companies like IBM, Mercedes Benz and Unifrac.

The bid company is making provision for 20 000 beds for volunteers who are not from Cape Town.

There are already volunteers working towards the Games, but large numbers are expected to start Olympic work in 1998 and 2001.

Yesterday a line-up of youth leaders all voiced their support for the Games.

African National Congress Youth League spokesperson Mr Justin de Allende said he regarded being involved in the bid as being "part of our patriotic duty".

President Nelson Mandela plans to address the IOC delegation at the Mount Nelson tomorrow. He will be accompanied by retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sports Minister Mr Steve Tshwete, Speaker of Parliament Dr Frené Ginwala, and several mayors.

The IOC delegation plans to visit a number of Olympic venues over the weekend, including the Newlands cricket and rugby stadia, Khayelitsha and Philippi.
If the people of Cape Town were given the chance this weekend to eavesdrop on the international deliberations of the International Olympic Committee’s evaluation commission, the one man whose reasoning they would most want to hear is probably 10-year-old banker and former Cape Town scholar Ian Goldin.

Some may remember him as a Rondebooshe academy pupil, or a UTU graduate of the late 1970s. Or as a keen saxophonist, for that matter.

But these are not the things that make him one of the most important behind-the-scenes players in the marathon 11-city contest for the 2004 Games, Dr Goldin’s role this weekend, as the chief executive of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, is that of harbinger, bearer of the broader economic logic of hosting the Games. He is especially well-qualified for the job.

As it happens, his doctoral thesis at Oxford in 1984 dealt with the destructive consequences of apartheid on the economic development of the Western Cape. Developmental economics was at the heart of his stint as a senior economist at the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, where he was intimately involved with the rebuilding of the shattered infrastructure of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He worked on development issues in more than 30 countries while with the Bank and the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

His book, Trade Liberalisation: Global Economic Consequences, has provided the basis for discussions between presidents and prime ministers of the Group of Seven nations, remains one of the most influential offerings to international trade and development negotiations and is widely cited in international trade talks. His 10th and most recent book deals with the economics of sustainable development. He is, in a word, a credible messenger, and his message is compelling.

There is no doubt, Dr Goldin’s presentation plausibly dispels it. This is what he will tell the IOC:

- given the operational and capital expenditure budgets, the Development Bank estimates growth in Gross Domestic Product of R80-billion to 2006;
- additional tax income (R3,8-billion) from greater economic activity is expected to more than offset Olympic-related government spending (R5,3-billion);
- the whole country will derive economic benefits with more than 90 000 permanent jobs being created, with about 80 percent of income gains and half the employment gains being regions other than the Western Cape;
- public investment is not expected to result in unmanageable debt burdens for any level of government and that
- an unexpected surplus, after all costs, will be available for national reconstruction and development projects.

The bank predicts that while the construction sector will approach full capacity, no additional inflationary pressures are expected, and that development tendering will prevent the construction industry from over-expanding, while, at the same time, encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, job creation and income opportunities. As a sum, the Games project will contribute to sustainable development.

These are the things that make the Olympics an unprecedented opportunity for South Africa, and the international price that has generated such fierce competition between a record 11 cities — including some of the world’s biggest, oldest and most beautiful metropolises — in the case of the bid for 2004.

The economic dynamics differ in each case, but the carefully weighed consequences for Rome, Stockholm, Athens, St Petersburg, Lille, Seville, Istanbul, San Juan, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires share a richness of opportunity that each city is striving to obtain.

These cities are neither mad, nor recklessly steering themselves to financial or environmental ruin. There are risks, of course, and the most critical, careful monitoring is vital. Big budgets, and big projects, have a nearly predetermined way of getting bigger. There is, however, an understanding of this in Cape Town’s case where, by international standards, huge contingency reserves have been built in: $102 million (about R32,5m) on the operational budget, and R300-million (about R1,3-billion) on the capital budget.

But what makes even this Games a different prospect, financially, is the guaranteed income from television. Television has revolutionised the Olympic business. There are two aspects to it: firstly, a gentlemen’s agreement matches global exposure. But the more significant aspect is the immense revenues that accrue from long-term television rights.

A case in point this past weekend is the IOC deal with four millions of dollars a year a pack of Japanese broadcasters, the latest to come on board.

The agreement gives the Japanese pool exclusive television rights in Japan for five Olympics, starting with the 2000 Sydney Games through to 2006. The total value of the package is $455 million (about R3,5-billion).

The Japanese pool is the latest in a growing string of broadcasters to sign long-term contracts with the IOC.

America’s NBC, the EBU (European Broadcasting Union), the OTI (South American Broadcasting Union) and Australia’s Channel 7 all have agreed to similar packages that also run to 2008. Sydney television rights sales total $1,2-billion (about R5,6-billion), in excess of the original budget forecast.

And international TV rights still to be finalised include Canada, New Zealand, parts of Asia including China and South Korea and South Africa.

The exponential growth of TV revenue is the chief reason why every Games city has made a surplus. The case of Barcelona is often cited as a dismal example of Olympic spending gone wrong, but its $6,5-billion (about R25-billion)
ill get Goldin touch
out Games bonanza for SA

ure out that if you can persuade the business of the world and the sports-minded people of the world to invest $1.3 billion (about £73 million) in an enterprise going on in your city, it doesn't make much difference whether you've attracted $4 or $5 billion. It's still a lot of money.

Indeed, the sober, if pink, columns of the Financial Times, in a recent special survey, bear a rosy picture of Olympic consequences for the hub of the American South.

One example of the Atlanta strategy to use the Games to help the city grow is the Olympic Development initiative named Operation Legacy, run by Georgia Power, one of the sponsors. Operation Legacy targets specific sectors - corporate headquarters, the agricultural business, telecommunications, business information and the sports industry - and used the Games as a lure to show off the city to chief executives considering relocations.

The target was 600 new jobs to be created by 20 new companies. So far, with two more years to go, 18 companies which took part in the programmes have moved to the city, bringing 3,100 jobs with them. In the run-up to the Centennial Games, Atlanta led the nation in new business relocations and expansions.

In 1994, 223 companies entered the Atlanta metropolitan market and, last year, an annual record of 260 joined them.

Atlanta's unemployment rate is expected to continue being a percentage point below the national average.

The economy of the State of Georgia - of which Atlanta accounts for 56 percent - grew in 1991 at five percent, well ahead of the national average.

And Georgia is expected to register growth of about 4.5 percent this year. The Olympic face-lift to Atlanta has paid off, too.

The city is far more attractive and visitor-friendly, and blighted downtown areas substantially redeveloped. The Financial Times notes that while Atlanta may not acquire the kind of global status with which the city's die-hard promoters aspire, "the pay-off on its sprucing up is already starting to show up.

Next year, a record number of conventions - 57 - will be held in the city, and facilities are fully booked to the turn of the century.

Cape Town's Games plan is very different from Atlanta's in several important respects. It is smaller, for a start.

This deliberate "right-sizing" of the Games is an important consideration when weighing the impact of the actual event on the city's transport network, on the environment, and, no doubt, on the taxpayers' wallets.

Cape Town's plan draws as much on the public sector as the private sector, ensuring a sharing of resources, oversight and control. Atlanta's Games were run entirely by the private sector - generating, in fact, a level of commercialism that bred no small measure of disquiet in IOC circles.

But where Atlanta and Cape Town match, broadly, is in the reckoning of rewards - not the amounts, but the dynamics: opportunity, growth, optimism, development and upward mobility.

That's really what the fuss is about.

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That's really what the fuss is about.
Excitement is mounting as Cape Town prepares to welcome the International Olympic Committee's evaluators, who fly in from London today for their crucial assessment of the 2004 Games bid.

The outcome of the five-day visit will decide whether Cape Town makes the shortlist in March of four or five favourites to host the 2004 Games.

A bonanza of economic rewards, national pride and international stature rests on the city's performance this weekend.

President Mandela will formally welcome the delegation tomorrow and underscore the Government's unanimous support for the project.

The team was to have arrived early today, but the flight was delayed because of technical difficulties.

Bid company chief Chris Ball said today: "We are as ready as we ever will be, and we are extremely excited.

"All our work has come together, and we are happy to be working as one big team, right from the Government to young supporters who will be lining the IOC's route into town."

He has spent the past few days fine-tuning a hectic programme of site visits, technical presentations and discussions with top government officials, business people and sport representatives.

The final programme is subject to discussions with the IOC team on arrival.

Bid international director Ngonde Balfour said the importance of the visit "cannot

To page 3

COMMENT: WELCOME TO OLYMPIC CITY

To the Olympic evaluators: Welcome to the jewel of Africa's southern tip, in this summer of '96. We know the seriousness of your mission and wish you well.

You come to a city whose beauty is fabled but which faces great challenges in improving the lives of all its citizens, especially the poor. This newspaper believes that hosting the 2004 Olympic Games would offer an unparalleled focal point for us to unite behind that goal in all our diversity. For us, these Games are much more than a sporting spectacle; they are a vision for our future.

Amid the enthusiasm you encounter, you will hear many concerns expressed. They are the concerns of people who sincerely love their city, and we have the will and the ability to allay them in time. No doubt, too, you will identify shortcomings; but remember that South Africa has surprised and delighted the world before. - The Editor
Tourism shift – Uncle Sam, we want you

GAINSBOURGH-WARING

While Germans and Britons dominate the South African tourist market, the United States holds the greatest potential for the South African tourism industry.

Dr Kobus Steyn, who is working on a database for the Western Cape Tourism Board, said there were clear signs tourism from the US to local shores held great growth potential. Americans were also generally bigger spenders than visitors from Europe.

Jeremy Harris, marketing manager for Captour, said North America had been identified as a prime target market and an outreach programme was planned to inform potential travellers about the Western Cape. "In August the Western Cape was represented at a travel exhibition called the North American Roadshow, which was a huge success."

Mr Harris said the Americans were very uninformed about Africa and that tourism organisations aimed to get as much representation at travel shows and exhibitions as possible. "Once the market has become established we will aim at devising tours to attract specialist groups."

The Western Cape also wants to break into the Asian market, where Australia is a fierce competitor. The flying time from Singapore to Australia or South Africa is similar.

Last year South Africa earned R13 billion from tourism. Europe dominated the market with a 65.1 percent share. Visitors from Britain and Germany accounted for the bulk of overseas tourists.

Cape Town outstripped other South African destinations in popularity. The Western Cape boasted seven of the top 10 attractions in South Africa: the Waterfront, Table Mountain, the Wine Route, Cape Point, the Garden Route, Kirstenbosch and the Cango Caves.

A survey of travellers leaving South Africa in February this year showed they felt the holiday market was on the upswing, with scenery and wildlife as the major attractions.
Cape slave trade project breaks the chains of silence

Forgotten history under spotlight

You've heard of the wine route, the whale route and the art routes - now there's a slave route.

Shareen Parker, Marguerita Omotoso and Debbie Jansen of the Development Agency for Tourism Advancement (Data) have given a kick-start to a challenging heritage tourism project - “The Cape Slave Route”.

The project is partly in response to an emerging trend for heritage tourism, as well as being linked to a global “Slave Route Project” mooted at a meeting in Accra, Ghana, last year.

Currently most of the participating countries are those with links to the Americas and West Africa.

“But,” says Shareen, “South Africa, in particular the Western Cape, has a slave history which until now has remained hidden.

“Through forging links with other participating countries it will be possible to emerge with a ‘product mix’ on the Slave Route for Africa.”

Already two of Data’s members have met the Ghana Tourism Ministry and the Ghana Museum’s Board to share ideas.

The Slave Route Project will focus on tourism products developed around the institution of Cape slavery, covering the entire slave society - from owners, slaves and missionaries to the impact of the trade on Khoisan and Xhosa communities.

Research will play a critical role in the project. Over the next two years Data will build up a data base of slave heritage sites and information in conjunction with historians, tour guides and other parties.

Shareen said Data would like to see the expansion of existing products. “We would like to see the wine estates which have gabled buildings acknowledge the input made by slaves to those buildings, as well as documenting the social fabric of that slave community.”

The abolition of slavery in 1834 was publicly remembered on December 1 for the first time for several decades. A wreath was laid at the site of the old slave tree in Spin Street, popularly believed to be where slave auctions took place.

December 1 was celebrated by slaves and their descendants throughout the 19th century and into the early years of this century.

It was usually an unofficial holiday and the cause of festivities in Cape Town. These expressions of freedom sometimes met with disapproval from employers and authorities.

For instance, on December 2 1862, the Cape Argus hoped that day trips on the newly opened railway might persuade the emancipated “to forego their midnight march round the Kloof (Nek) and their midday revels at Camps Bay... their music, their dancing, their frivolities and their feasts”.

“In fact, some of the emancipated celebrated the holiday with prayer - an ex slave, called Lydia, held services in her cottage in District Six,” the paper noted.

The new commemoration is the initiative of the December 1 movement, which says it is not a political party but committed to nation-building and to healing divisions in society.

The movement says it wants to reclaim aspects of coloured history - “their stories” - to instil a sense of values and self-worth that other South Africans might have gained from their sense of the past.

“Given the enforced racial divisions and oppression of apartheid, it would not be surprising if there is some suspicion of a re-invention of the December 1 tradition - that it is only of significance for coloured people, for coloured history, or an attempt to mobilise coloured ethnicity,” says Dr Vivian Bickford-Smith of the department of history at UCT.

“Presumably coloured history, as much as African or Indian history, should be acknowledged as part of a no longer ‘whites only’ or ‘whites-did-it-all’ South African history.”

He said history should now aim at teaching how racial and other divisions were constructed and maintained. This would give all people a sense of self-worth and common humanity, with the ability to celebrate the anniversary of slave emancipation.
Remembrance: the Reverend Michael Weeder, one of the founders of the December 1 movement, at the plaque unveiled last Sunday.
IOC assessors begin critical three-day evaluation

Grasshopper Time for Olympic Bid

[Image of an event or people related to the Olympics]
Hotel income in the Western Cape in October was 21 percent up on last year, in spite of a drop in occupancy rates.

Central Statistical Service figures issued yesterday show room occupancy rates in Western Cape hotels down 5.1 percent on October 1985, and bed occupancy rates down 8.5 percent.

In the Peninsula and the winelands, room occupancy dropped more than seven percent - but hotel income rose 21.5 percent, the figures show. Income was up 18 percent in Garden Route hotels, 20 percent in the Overberg and Breede River valley and nearly 22 percent in hotels elsewhere in the Western Cape.

Nationally, the biggest increase in hotel income was in Johannesburg.

Hotel rooms in the Cape peninsula and the winelands were nearly 79 percent full in October, the figures show.
IOC Get the 'Shoololaq' Treatment

Cape Town says hello!

Join us in celebrating the new Olympic year with the Cape Town games. Enjoy our special edition featuring exciting stories and interviews with athletes, coaches, and experts. Don't miss our coverage of the upcoming events. Stay tuned for more!
Olympic bid team in Cape

By Michael Morris

Cape Town – The Mother City’s destiny as a dynamic world city goes on the scales today as the International Olympic Committee’s evaluators begin their critical assessment of South Africa’s multibillion-rand 2004 Games bid.

After their colourful welcome to the city yesterday, the 20-strong team will get down to serious business. President Nelson Mandela heads a powerful line-up of politicians, technical experts, economists and planners who will convey to the visitors the overarching philosophy of Cape Town’s developmental Games proposal.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Speaker of Parliament Frere Giwala will also attend presentations. They will underline the all-party support for the bid, the modest scale of the project, and the detailed technical planning that has gone into showcasing Cape Town’s and South Africa’s capability and commitment.

On this performance rests Cape Town’s hope of making the shortlist of four or five favourites. The shortlist will be announced in March, and the winning city will be announced in September.

The ultimate rewards are a bonanza of economic development and job-creation – especially through increased tourism, national pride and enhanced stature in the international community. The evaluation starts today and will culminate with a press conference late on Monday.

Over these three days the commission will evaluate the bid in the context of 19 Olympic themes and will be seeking answers to 600 questions on matters as diverse as medical care, air quality, public transport, accreditation, broadcasting and accommodation. Bid city and government officials have rehearsed presentations which will help to fill a packed programme. The IOC team will also visit proposed Olympics sites across the Cape Flats and existing facilities, such as the stadiums in Newlands and the Hartleyvale stadium.

Poster protest

Asked at the airport to give an idea of Cape Town’s chances in the 11-city contest, commission leader Thomas Bach said: “Even if I knew I would not tell you. That is why we are here. We will evaluate, and then file our report. Give us an opportunity to see this beautiful city before we comment.”

The IOC visitors were welcomed at the airport by Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, Cape Town mayor Thelma Solomon, Cape Metropolitan Council mayor William Bentley, National Olympic Committee of South Africa president Sam Ramsamy and Bid Company chief executive Chris Ball.

As they left the airport, they were greeted by a huge banner bearing the words: “We Bid You Welcome” and, 100m further down the road, all of nine big critics of the Stop 2004 Olympic Bid Forum who had mounted a poster protest. The forum is hoping to have a chance to address the commission.

Spokesman Willie Adams said: “We have asked the IOC for an appointment and are hoping to get it. We will tell them that while we are not opposed to the Olympics, we must believe in this time for SA to be bidding. There are more important priorities.”

After a brief rest at their hotel yesterday, most of the visitors were taken to the spot where, if Cape Town wins the bid, the Olympic flame will be temporarily installed.
SA tourism too timid to take a leap

By DON ROBERTSON

A LARGE portion of the tourist industry apparently has little or no understanding of promoting itself to overseas visitors, says Paul Levin, advertising and marketing manager of a new publication entitled South Africa (Guest Information).

The publication is produced by Australian-based Waivista International, which also prints the "Welcome to" series for more than a dozen other countries.

Waivista was prevented from titling the book "Welcome to South Africa" because of the possibility of copyright infringement with a publication called "Welcome to Gauteng".

The publication will be placed in 3700 rooms in 38 hotels, resorts and lodges throughout the country and contains information on the various provinces.

Levin says, however, that it was extremely difficult to attract advertisers to the publication. "We had considerable problems with tourism boards and quite amazingly, there was simply no interest from any of the provincial tourist bodies."

"It has been surprising frustrating trying to sell to advertisers as they appear not to understand either the concept or value of tourism."

Only four restaurants and one shopping mall participated and there was simply no interest from any of the provincial tourist bodies."

Levin says, however, that it was extremely difficult to attract advertisers to the publication. "We had considerable problems with tourism boards and quite amazing-ly had no advertisements from either Cape Town or Durban," says Levin.
City not ready for Games, IOC told

DAN SIMON

GROUPS opposed to Cape Town's 2004 Olympic Games bid met the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission yesterday to tell them the city was not yet ready to host the Games.

Former city councillors Mr Arthur Wernberg and Mr Eulalie Stott, for Concerned Citizens Against the Olympic Games, together with Mr Ivan Williams of the Stop the 2004 Olympics Forum and Ms Charlene Houston of the Development Action Group, met the IOC delegation, headed by Dr Johan Bach, for several hours.

Cape Town is the last of the 11 Olympic candidate cities being visited by the IOC evaluation commission, whose reports will play a pivotal role in the IOC executive committee's choice of the five finalist cities to be announced in March.

Wernberg, who strongly opposes Cape Town's bid on financial grounds, said the meeting with the IOC evaluation commission had been "extremely fair" and that the anti-Olympics group had been received "with dignity".

He said he had explained to the commission that no city had made a profit from staging the Olympic Games.

The government had to deal with issues such as housing, education and crime first, he said.

Williams said the IOC commission would leave the city with an "objective view" after its meeting with the anti-Olympics lobby.

"We are not saying 2004 is too soon to have the Olympics," he said.

Western Cape Safety and Security MEC Mr Gerald Morckel and senior police officers, including Commissioner George Fivaz, also met the evaluation commission to discuss security in Cape Town.

Morckel, who described the talks as very positive, said the IOC delegation had a "tremendous understanding" of what the government and the police were trying to do in the fight against crime. Morckel added that the question of Papad's licence on the Olympics had also been brought up.

See Page 3
Giuuseppe may have to eat his words.
Supporters, and opponents, of the 2004 bid are

By design more than by nature, the studied inscrutability of the 15 evaluators of the visiting International Olympic Committee is, if not perfect, then certainly nearly complete.

In the case of team leader Thomas Bach – the man at the media forefront and, in that sense, the most visible of the lot – it is a state of disinterest, of almost unrehearsed neutrality, that one can’t help feeling is rather obviously sustained.

It is not that he is partisan in any way, but just that he is a convivial man, one who smiles easily, seems eager to be as open as he is able to be with the media, and is, in short, a man who successfully dispels the popular perception of the internecine plotting elites as aloof grandees who are either uncommunicative or indulgently self-important, or both.

It is his, and not his do his 14 peers seem to be.

What is equally true is that the commission’s visit is not a jolly picnic party in just another exotic clime. Far from it. Anyone who fondly nurtured the idea of cosy, conspiratorial dealings in luxury surrounds has been disappointed.

In fact, one senses that it may even have become, as a kind of drug to some in the bid team, that, as a sum, the serious mindedness of the process, the scrupulous neutrality, and the almost inquisitional pursuit of technical data creates an environment of aloof enquiry that is even if it isn’t actually hostile.

The commissioners have emerged as astute and knowledgeable observers who are not to be deflected from their task of fairly assessing the 13 bids for the Games of 2004.

"Grilling" and "stony-faced" are, among the words I heard panelists who faced the commission at the weekend use to describe the nature of at least some of the probing questions, and the impenetrable inscrutability of the questioners. It is, after all, a commission that is formal, and intent on its task.

It took a full day, by all accounts, for the Cape Town bid team to acclimatise, to come to grips with the somewhat discomforting dynamics of the process. By yesterday afternoon, confidence was up again.

"You’re sitting there facing the commission and you’re trying to work up enthusiasm. You need an appreciative, responsive audience for that, and you don’t get it, because the commissioners are there to be amused, or to enthuse in any way, but simply to assess, to look for the chinks, and slip-ups. They know their stuff, and of course, we’re the last of the 13 cities to be assessed, so they’ve had lots of practice.

"That’s their job, and it makes it difficult. It is not exactly an unfriendly environment, but it’s challenging and the question of establishing rapport, which is important in trying to get a message across, is rather difficult."

But another commented at midday yesterday: "We’re on a roll now. The initial jitters are over and things have picked up. It was a question of finding each other and things have really started to gel now."

Of course, things are different once there’s a break-away session, a one-on-one between the commission expert on, say, environment, and the bid environment team. Everyone seems to loosen up during the breakaway sessions, and there often seems to be a sharing of thoughts than merely a formal projection of information.

What has become very clear is that the commission has done its homework on Cape Town and Cape Town’s bid, and is not inclined to take any answer at face value if there is any doubt, or, indeed, any news report that may suggest otherwise.

The tiny gruity of transport, medical care, architectural design, environmental protection, telecommunications, policing, all the myriad aspects of putting on an Olympics, and dealt with in some 300 questions covering all 19 themes of the Games – what the commission is here to find out about, and they are pursuing that objective with persistence.

The process is by no means over once Thomas Bach finishes his Press conference this afternoon, formally ending the visit. Cape Town – and the other bidding cities – will then have one month in which to clarify issues.

The IOC may ask for clarification or additional guarantees. Cities will not be allowed to change any details of their plans, but may provide further information to explain them. This period ends on January 10.

Once all this additional information has been collated, the evaluation commission will file its report. It will focus entirely on technical matters, and as, Dr Bach put it, "any political issues will only be considered by the commission as far as they have implications for technical matters."

The completed technical report will be published towards the end of February. Early in March, the report will be considered by the IOC selection commission which comprises all members of the executive board, except members representing a country in which there is a candidate city. Interestingly, this means IOC president Juan Samaranch will be excused, since one of the contenders for the 2004 Games is the Spanish city of Seville.

At this stage, each candidate city will have a chance to make another presentation, and submission on the technical report filed by the evaluation commission.

Torch bearer: chief executive of the Bid Company, Chris Bell, who lit the Olympic torch yesterday.

"If they feel we have not understood something, this is their chance to explain that," said Dr Bach.

The selection college then reduces the list of 11 to four or five. Usual practice is to have a short-list of four, but if the selectors are unanimous, a fifth may be added. Thereafter, all IOC members will have a chance to visit each of the candidate cities, and international lobbying will intensify. The final decision will be made in Lausanne at a plenary meeting of the IOC on September 5.

At his first briefing, Dr Bach shared his thoughts on the difficulties involved in assessing 11 cities. It is especially difficult because you have to try to make comparisons between cities which have very different political, economic and sports systems. This is not easy.

"You cannot make them comparable because part of the fascination is that every city has a different approach. If each city was the same, it would become boring."

"The other difficulty is that you have to look into other things and if by the
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ey that you have to

look into the future. "We are not asking:

Can you organise the Games tomorrow?"

And if you look back eight years, especially

here in South Africa, and imagine that

you would have had to make an evalua-

tion of the situation today, nobody would

have guessed how things have changed.

"But we concentrate on facts, and indica-

tions of economic and sports development

and try to calculate things. But we do not

speculate. We restrict ourselves to facts and

convey these to the selection college.

The commission was not looking for

state of art facilities in 1996, but guaran-

tees that these would be in place in 2004.

General impressions about the city and

the country would not feature at all, he

insisted.

Equally, all political issues and matters

of sentiment – whether it was time Africa

was awarded the Games, for instance –

was not for the commission to consider.

"This can be taken into consideration

by the selection college, but it is not part of

our task," he pointed out.

Faith in the evaluation commission

process as a neutral exercise will have

been given a significant boost at the week-

end by the attention given to Cape Town

bid critics, and the points raised by non-

governmental organisations from the

environmental sector, organisations who

have long had qualms about the bid pro-

cess.

Dr Bach noted on Saturday that the Bid

Company had helped facilitate a meeting

with bid critics, and that the commission

regarded this as an important element

of its task: "All those who have something

to say against the bid should have the oppor-

tunity to see us and we will listen to them

carefully."

The anti-bid lobby is not an amalgam,

and the individuals within it reflect wide-

ly divergent interests, but they went in

together for a single presentation yester-

day.

The lobbyists were former city coun-

sellors Eulalie Stott and Arthur Wierenga,

Ivan Williams and Willie Adams of the

Stop 2004 Olympic Bid Forum (which

incorporates Azapo), Pieter Petersen of

Azapo, and Charlene Houston of the Devel-

opment Action Group (Dag), all of whom

felt the commission had given them a fair

hearing and had noted their concerns.

What they share is a belief that Cape

Town cannot afford the "extravagance"

of an Olympic Games when there is a back-

log of housing, shortage of teachers and

pressing socio-economic needs to be

addressed.

In inimitable style, Mr Wierenga railed

against the bid as "a con and a sham"

and something that was "not in the interests

of Cape Town".

He believed it was "a myth" that the

Games would spur development and felt

money would be better spent on more

"urgent priorities".

Mrs Stott said matter-of-factly: "The

crux is that you don't invite people to your

home when its not in order, and you do not

spend what you cannot afford to lose on

real ventures.

"We are not in a fit state to be hosting

the greatest extravaganza in the world."

Charlene Houston – who, it is under-

stood, at odds with her board, not least

because among its members is Nomalinda

Makete, chair of the executive committtee

of the aspirant host city – argued that the

Games "want to see more benefits flowing

out of the process for the poor, particularly

regarding housing."

She acknowledged that the project was

"potentially exciting", but felt more atten-

tion needed to be given to the costs and

benefits.

Ivan Williams said he was satisfied

with the meeting, but was disappointed

there was no opportunity to take the IOC

visitors to the townships. "How do you put

a stadium among shack, where people

have no food or jobs?"

The Bid Company, however, is confid-

ent of its own – and other, independently

researched – economic projections. Direc-

tor of community relations, Steven

Zardad said after the bid critics meeting:

"We have argued throughout that the

economic impact, and developmental stimu-

lus, is so significant that this is an oppor-

tunity we cannot miss."
Olympic officials hear from opposition

CAPE TOWN — Three groups opposing Cape Town’s bid for the 2004 Olympic Games met the International Olympic Committee’s evaluation commission yesterday.

They were happy the IOC delegation had a better understanding of Cape Town residents’ needs, they said. Stop The Bid chairman Ivan Williams, Development Action Group head Charlene Houston and Concerned Citizens of the Olympic Games spokesman Arthur Wynburg led a delegation to meet evaluation commission leader Thomas Bach.

Williams said the meeting could be described as fair, since Bach listened to their concerns regarding the games.

“We were very well received by Dr Bach and I believe that he will leave Cape Town later this week with an extremely objective view,” said Williams.

“The Stop The Bid committee cannot visualise the 2004 Olympics being a success since many of the people in the disadvantaged areas cannot afford to put food in their stomachs, let alone attend the Olympics,” the fact that only 25% of Olympic facilities were to be built in disadvantaged areas was a concern.

“And then they have the cheek to call it a developmental bid,” he said.

“The city is about to close down the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra because of a lack of funds, but they are willing to approve an R86m project to host the 2004 Olympics. The city’s priorities are not in order.”

Bach refused to comment on the meeting, but 2004 Olympic Bid Company spokesman Sailegah Zardad said it was pleasing to see that the representatives were not opposing “the bid, as such... they seem to be stating that the timing is wrong.”

She said a survey had shown 80% of Capetonians were favour of the bid.

Earlier, police commissioner George Fivas and Western Cape police MEC Gerald Morkel emerged smiling from a presentation to the visitors regarding security. “The 23,6% decrease in crime in the Western Cape this year must count in our favour,” said Morkel.
Olympic bid not blocked by need to build facilities

Paul Martin

CAPE TOWN — International Olympic Committee (IOC) evaluation commission leader Thomas Bach confirmed that, although many Cape Town's facilities included in the 2004 Olympic plan had yet to be built, this would not count against the city's chances of hosting the event.

In respect of the Bid Company presentation, which describes the plan of hosting the event as a "developmental bid", Bach said the three factors which most influenced the delegation were government's support of the bid; the Western Cape's planned transport structure for 2004 and the youth education programme. Referring to the security plan presented to the commission, Bach said it was difficult to predict whether there would be a security problem in SA in eight years.

Bach said his commission had asked the 2004 Olympic Bid Company to supply more detailed information in some areas but company CEO Chris Ball was not too worried about this.

"In one instance Bach asked us for a breakdown of a budget figure and another example was that they asked us to check a technicality regarding a fence between the Wingfield site and the proposed waterfront," said Ball.

"We had just over 100 flies with us in the room and it was just a question of sifting out the information and showing it to them. They have asked us to send the relevant, additional information to them by January 6 next year, but I am sure that we can accomplish this within a week."

Earlier, the IOC delegation visited Wingfield (aquatics), Khayalitsha (boxing indoor facility) and Belhar (martial art's hall) sites. Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus met Bach in the morning session and said the IOC panel seemed satisfied with the Cabinet's financial views regarding the bid. Government has agreed to make R5bn available for the project.

Development Bank of SA CEO Ian Goldin said the Olympics would create about 200 000 jobs, particularly in the tourism industry.
WHAT competition is Cape Town up against to bid to host the 2004 Games?

Ten other cities are vying to host the world's greatest sporting event in that year and each has been visited and assessed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its inspectors.

LISA TEMPLETON

The city needs "improvements from the environmental aspect."

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Istanbul, making its second bid to host the Games, would bring the Olympics to Europe and Asia. Games held in Istanbul would be the first to be held in the late 1990s, while the current proposed sites have failed to go beyond the 1990s. The city's proposal has gained the approval of 23 of the 28 international federations and has been welcomed by Amnesty International for its human rights improvements.

ROME, ITALY

Rome is also a contender. The Italian capital hosted the Olympics in 1960, and therefore has the necessary facilities, communications systems and experience.

The city was highly praised by the committee in the 1970s and 1980s, but its recent security plans have earned praise from the IOC panel.

CAPE TOWN 2004

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town is a strong contender. The city has a strong bid, has made improvements and has the necessary facilities.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE

Buenos Aires is making its fifth bid and hopes the proximity of venues for almost all events will clinch it. However, it is not considered a contender for the shortlist.

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

The Russian bid has been overshadowed by problems encountered at last year's Goodwill Games, for which the city was accorded a successful test of venues. However, the mayor has promised that all sporting venues will be renovated.

SEVILLE, SPAIN

Seville has a superb infrastructure — but its bid is overshadowed by Barcelona's hosting the Olympics in 1992.

The port city, 500km south of Madrid, hosted the 1992 Expo, during which 40 million people and 40,000 heads of state visited without incident.

The city, with its rich history and culture of music, bullfights and fiestas, has an extensive and well-organised public transport system and is regarded widely as a strong contender.

Stockholm promises to build 75% of its Olympic venues within walking distance of five kilometres of each other, although there are plans to build the athletes' village in central Stockholm, up to 500km from this city.

Counting against Stockholm's bid are Sweden's high prices and the lukewarm support among its citizens, of whom only 10% favour hosting the Olympics.

The city's biggest boast is its squeaky-clean environment: a photograph of men fishing for salmon outside the houses of parliament is a feature in the city's promotional material.

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Visitors set the festive tills jingling

City raring to spend

DENNIS CAVENDISH AND ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Tourists are flocking to the Mother City, setting the tills ringing and setting an optimistic note for business over the festive season.

While Capetonians themselves are not yet splurging, predictions are that high interest rates are not likely to dampen the Christmas spirit and that residents will start splashing out next week.

Retail store managers and hotel officials said international and domestic tourists had already started arriving in the city and Cape Town should be filled to bursting by next week.

And they should be in for a safe stay, with police announcing initiatives to combat crime in the city that include a watch-tower on the Parade and more patrols.

Michael Lewis, manager of Woolworths in Claremont, said the “major chunk of visitors” to the Western Cape had arrived earlier this week and sales had been rocketing, in spite of competition from the V&A Waterfront and other tourist hubs.

“We are expecting turnover to more than match last year’s figures,” he said.

And he joined forces with the management of Cavendish Square to supply alternative parking for eager consumers this festive season.

Clive Musikanth, rooms manager for the Arthur’s Seat hotel in Sea Point, said the bed occupancy rate was already close to 100 percent, and described this week as “the calm before the storm”.

There had been a “significant increase” in the number of overseas visitors to the hotel, he added.

George du Toit, front office manager for the Tulip Inn (the former Cape Town Inn) in the city centre, said that...
South Africa’s Little Rio

Cape Town is awash in big money and exuberant people. Is it growing up too fast?

International news magazine Newsweek has splashed Cape Town in a double-page spread that hails the city as “South Africa’s Little Rio”.

Big colour pictures show a perfect day at the Waterfront, with the majestic Table Mountain backdrop, as well as diners choosing crayfish for dinner.

“Now I’ve lived,” one tourist is quoted as saying in the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and “the panorama expands to take in wide beaches, green suburbs, the quaint city centre and, offshore, rocky Robben Island”.

Writer Marcus Malby says even globe-trotting photographers, models and ad producers are awed. He quotes American model Melanie Simons, 22: “It’s an understatement to say this is amazing. The mountain protects the city. It sends energy to everyone.”

Cape Town has become an international mecca, he says, not least because “a cliff-side villa can still be had for the price of a London flat”.

The Cape is the bright spot in a slow-growing economy. Johannesburg residents alarmed by high crime and taxes are moving in. So are hi-tech industries.

The writer says Cape Town has not been so intensively sought-after since the Royal Navy wrested its strategic port away from the Dutch East India Company in 1786.

“Everyone, it seems, wants the real estate. Prices have jumped 20 percent in a year but still are cheap by international standards.”

He points out that for $500,000 (R344,000) you can buy a “quaint” three-bedroom house in “leafy” Constantia or, for $100,000 (R$46,000), a turn-of-the-century mansion.

“Rumours about who’s house hunting are as rife as the winds that gust up from Cape Point. Madonna, Cher and Michael Jackson are among the perennials.”

“The reality is somewhat less sensational. Jackson and Sylvester Stallone did look recently but celebrity buyers have typically been small-time royals like Diana’s brother Charles or minor celebs like Margaret Thatcher’s son Mark.”

But there are two sides to every story and in this one the writer draws attention to environmental and other concerns the boom has raised.

“Environmentalists warn that development could destroy the very natural beauty that attract visitors.”

And, he says, “the poor haven’t gained much yet”.

“While Johannesburg today boasts a fledgling black professional class, Cape Town remains almost as segregated as during apartheid.”

Although critics say Cape Town’s image may be more “hype than happening”, the writer ends on a positive note: “But Cape Town will most likely strike a balance between development and delirium.”

World view: the article on Cape Town in the latest Newsweek, which compares the city to Rio
R500 000 boost for Olympic bid

(288) Mon 13/12/94

The Cape Town 2000 Olympic Bid received a
R500 000 financial injection in Johannesburg
yesterday when Sisal handed over a cheque
for the amount to the bid committee.

Sisal chief operating officer Pieter Cox
said the Olympic Games and South Africa's
bid to host it were of major importance to
the country, as sport had played an impor
tant role in binding a fragmented South
African society.

"We cannot overestimate the role that our
sportsmen and women have played in cer
taining cross-cultural tolerance and under
standing. An event like the Olympic Games
would greatly encourage our sportsmen and
women and highlight their importance as
role models for our youth," Cox said.

A project funded by the Olympic Bid
Committee, titled "Champions for the Bid,"
makes provision for large corporations to
participate as Friends 2000.

Donations of R100 000 qualify for
bronze membership and donations of
R250 000 for silver membership. Sisal, with
its donation of R500 000, qualifies for
Friends 2000 gold membership.

Sisal.
Fear of costs dampens enthusiasm

On paper, Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid stands to make a gross profit of more than R1bn. It may be easier to convince International Olympic Committee technocrats of the bottom line than to fire the imagination of a city which vacillates between belief in the promised benefits and fear that it will spend a lifetime footing the bill.

The cost of running the games will be vastly outweighed by expected revenue from television rights (R2.3bn), sponsorship (R1.1bn) and ticket sales (R777m).

The operating budget projects revenue of R5.6bn and operating expenditure of R4.18bn — hence a gross surplus of R1.43bn and a net surplus of R94m after transfers to capital items and reserves.

The R7.25bn capital budget will be shared between the State (R3.3bn) and the private sector (R2.4bn), with local government and the Organising Committee of the Games each shouldering about 10% of the cost.

By 2004 there will be considerable changes in technology, exchange rates, interest rates and inflation which may affect the financial outcome and are outside the organisers' control. The effects may not necessarily be negative.

Since July when the bid budgets were finalised, the fall in the rand has added R250m to projected revenue because the main contributors are denominated in US dollars.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa forecasts that for every 10% devaluation in the rand, the games will add R500m to gross domestic product. But despite the hard-won financial guarantees from government which were obtained based on Development Bank growth projections, sceptics abound.

The visiting International Olympic Committee delegation met opposition groups in Cape Town on the weekend. Concerned Citizens for the Olympics do not believe the bid is affordable. It estimates that if the projected revenue has been overestimated by 10% and expenditure underestimated by 20%, the surplus will be a mere R64m and the Organising Committee of the Games will be unable to meet its R776m obligations.

One of the most frequently voiced concerns about Cape Town's bid is that all host cities have lost money. Games supporters argue that the State's R3.3bn contribution to capital expenditure will accelerate expenditure which would otherwise have occurred by 2010. This is a moot point. Capital expenditure aside, all host cities have made an operating surplus since the 1984 Los Angeles Games because of the vast television revenues generated.

The stop the 2004 Olympic Bid Forum is against the timing of the bid because it believes it shifts State spending away from the RDP.

If Cape Town's bid fails in September 1997, the State will have spent R336m on infrastructure. R250m upgrading the transport system and R86m on eight sport centres, improved airport and sporting infrastructure will be of little comfort to people in need of housing and basic services. The Cabinet confronted this dilemma by endorsing the bid on the condition that it is firmly linked to socio-economic development.

President Nelson Mandela told the International Olympic Committee delegation the games would inject "a major stimulus into our drive for growth in pursuit of reconstruction and development."

Bid Committee (Bidco) CEO Chris Ball says the bid will conform to minimum International Olympic Committee standards. Bidco has consulted community organisations and sporting bodies in an attempt to co-ordinate their requirements with those of the games. Many sporting venues have been designed as multipurpose community centres and will be located in historically disadvantaged areas.

The formation of the independent Cape Town Community Olympic Forum, headed by the Western Cape's director of labour Brian Williams, heralds a breakthrough in community support for the bid.

Bidco has taken care to address the perception that the Olympics will benefit only the wealthy. Its empowerment policy stipulates that half of all the contracts must be awarded to black-owned companies or companies in empowerment partnerships or with demonstrable affirmative action policies.

The Development Bank says the games will create 50,000 jobs and increase tax revenue by R8bn up to 2006.

It puts the economic benefit at R30bn, a dramatic boost to gross domestic product which would increase by 0.9% from 1997-2006.

A tourism boom is guaranteed. Tourism has risen by about 40%
after previous stagings and is usually sustained.

Ball says: "The games represent the single greatest economic opportunity for SA. Nothing we can do will have the same effect." Yet one of the reasons for Capetonians' scepticism is the fear that far from sharing in the rewards, ratepayers will be saddled with a mountain of debt.

Local and provincial governments' share of the capital expenditure is about 10.5% or R735m which the Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry considers "well within manageable proportions for the city."

Cape Town spends about R30m/year on sport facilities. Under the Olympic plan, this would drop to about R22m.

Where possible, sporting venues are being designed to operate as community centres, conference halls, industrial hives and business premises before and after. In some cases, private investors have been included in the design phase to ensure they will be ready to take transfer of assets later.

A maintenance fund of R250m is to be created from the operating surplus and the interest will be used to run and maintain facilities under the control of local authorities afterwards.

But laid-back Capetonians persist in the belief that the Mother City does not have the ability to stage the games. They point to the impenetrable traffic jams that occur at local Test matches as proof of the city's incompetence.

An upgraded rail network will form the backbone of spectator transport, augmented by a 400 km-network of public transport lanes. More than 80% of Olympic sites are within walking distance of railway stations.

Cape Town International airport handles 3.6m passengers/year. It must be able to handle an Olympic peak equivalent of 14m/year. By 2004, at a cost of R668m, the airport's capacity may be increased in line with tourism growth which is expected to bring 10m passengers/year to Cape Town. The difference (4m) will be met by temporary facilities.

Games supporters argue that Cape Town and SA continue to stage major international sporting and entertainment events successfully, not least the Rugby World Cup. They say the number of visitors to Cape Town over the Christmas holidays, about 300,000, equals the estimated number of Olympic visitors on any day and that thousands of people will be trained to cope with the event. A total of 750,000 visitors are expected in Cape Town over the two weeks.

Concern is often expressed that there will not be enough accommodation in the city. Cape Town has 199 hotels providing 18,000 beds. The Olympic family of athletes, officials, media, sponsors and staff exceeds 49,000 people.

The bid book projects that by 2004, there will be 125 new hotels providing 12,000 extra beds. Cruise liners docked in Table Bay could provide 28,000 beds and other forms of accommodation could supply 200,000 more.

An agreement has been reached which commits hoteliers to rent all their rooms, excluding fixed-term commitments, to Olympic organisers in 2004 and to charge rates based on 2002 prices, adjusted for inflation.

There is a perception that crime renders Cape Town an unsafe destination. Despite the emergence of Pagad, the bid book contains a declaration from the National Intelligence Agency and the SA Police Service that "there is no indication of any threat to the 2004 Olympic Games from activist minorities or terrorist groups."

International Olympic Committee evaluation team chief Thomas Bach says that as the security situation is unpredictable in any city eight years hence, his team is concentrating on the organisational structures that will exist in 2004. A security plan based on the experience of previous Olympic Games will be orchestrated by the Committee for Olympic Security which will pool the resources of the police, National Intelligence Agency, military, private security firms and local government traffic and emergency services.

Environmentalists have expressed concern about unacceptable time constraints, the process followed by Bidco and the limited participation of Capetonians in the bid process.

To ease their fears, environmental impact assessments for all proposed facilities and infrastructure as well as a strategic environmental assessment of the games are being conducted. The findings will be made known by May 1997 to allow sufficient time for an opinion poll to be conducted should SA be one of the four or five finalists to go forward to the final round of judging on September 5 in Switzerland.

Other candidates are: Athens, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Lille, Rio, Rome, San Juan, Seville, Stockholm and St Petersburg.

On Monday, the International Olympic Committee's evaluation team ended its tour of the candidate cities in Cape Town where it was warmly received and exposed to Mandela's charm and patronage. The team emphasised it was interested only in technical criteria and apart from commending Bidco on its "professional manner," confined its comments (as it has done in the other candidate cities) to three key impressions.

It was struck by the support of the different levels of government for the bid; the detailed planning of the game's transport system and its integration into the future transport needs of the city; and the "very creative" youth education programme.

Bach says the team will produce a "fair and objective" technical evaluation of all 11 bids and the city which best meets all 19 criteria will become the 2004 host city.

If sentiment was the main criterion, Cape Town would win hands down, not least because of the sense that the economic rewards would be a fitting tribute to Mandela and a way of recognising SA's political transformation and the enormous developmental challenges it faces.

It would enable the symbolism of the fifth Olympic ring, the African continent, to be realised for the first time. To emphasise these points, the bid envisages that the Olympic flame will journey across 30 African nations to Robben Island where it will burn during the games.

Bach says that to apply to host the games is to take part in the toughest competition the Olympics can offer, a marathon for which there is only one medal. To win, Cape Town must convert the sceptics and throw its heart and soul into the race.
Wild Coast to be tamed for tourism

But beauty won’t be affected

East London – The “wild” could soon be taken out of the Eastern Cape’s Wild Coast as a multibillion rand development programme gets underway next year.

Eastern Cape economics MEC Smuts Ngonyama has met communities from the former Transkei coast to discuss the plan to invest billions of rand in agriculture and infrastructure.

The ultimate aim is to promote and facilitate tourism at the 300km of unspoiled beaches on the Wild Coast.

While exact figures were not available, Mr Ngonyama said the start-up phase of the Wild Coast Spatial Development Initiative (SDI) would cost R10 billion.

A meeting heard that about R25 million would be spent on upgrading feeder roads to the coast and R220 million on urban infrastructure in nine towns in the area.

Hospitals would get R220 million for upgrading and R200 million each would be allocated to electrification and telecommunications.

Mr Ngonyama encouraged local business people to help develop the area.

He said: "The Wild Coast is internationally renowned both for its verdant beauty and as a tourist haven.

"Without a doubt, tourism is the flagship of development in this region."

He said spin-offs from the SDI would "reverberate through the entire province."

Economic affairs spokesman Khullel Radu said that the indigenous and unspoilt beauty of the Wild Coast would remain despite the large-scale industrial and other development planned there.

Mr Radu said that while an R8.3-billion coastal road from Port Edward to East London and various light and heavy industries were proposed for the coast, its beauty would not be compromised.

Among the planned projects are the building of toll gates, food gardens for tourists and various eco-lodges and other accommodation facilities in the focus areas of Coffee Bay, Port St Johns, Mkambi and the Dwesa-Cwebe area.

An investors’ conference is planned for next month and Mr Radu estimated that the project would be launched by March.

He said various environmental impact studies on the area had been completed but further details were not available.

It is hoped the development will bring economic relief to the remote and impoverished people who live there. – Ecna
Southern Africa lures tourists with peace-parks plan

Wildlifers aim to straddle borders

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Southern Africa is set to become one of the prime tourist destinations in Africa with an ambitious plan to establish national parks straddling borders and opening natural migration routes closed by fences for years.

"Called "peace parks" because of the necessity for regional co-operation in running these areas, they would straddle frontiers between two or more countries and cover large natural systems encompassing one or more core protection areas," the man charged with making this dream come true is John Hanks, who was recently appointed director of the new Foundation for Peace Parks in Southern Africa, set up with a donation from Stellenbosch businessman Anton Rupert.

"Previously chief executive of the World Wide Fund for Nature in South Africa, Dr Hanks will set up office in Cape Town next year from where he will work closely with the National Parks Board, KwaZulu/Natal Parks Board and the conservation agencies of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho and Swaziland on a transnational parks plan.

The parks could include:
- Linking the Richtersveld National Park with the Fish River Canyon in Namibia;
- Formalising and developing the link between the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and Botswana's Gemsbok National Park;
- Creating a "bigger" Kruger Park to include areas in Mozambique and Zimbabwe;
- Expanding the Vembe-Dongola conservation area near Pontdrif in the Northern Province to Zimbabwe and Botswana;
- The inclusion of some of the Natal Parks Board parks with conservation areas in Lesotho;
- Establishing a park which would include the Tembe Elephant Reserve in northern Natal and conservation areas in southern Mozambique and Swaziland.

It is also hinted that the establishment of a totally new park on the Orange River might be on the cards.

Dr Hanks said negotiations to establish these parks were in a very sensitive stage.

He said the danger was that these efforts could be seen as a "colonial type" expansion of South African parks to neighbouring countries.

"If South Africa's neighbours do not benefit from this, the project is dead." He is also adamant that the rights and circumstances of communities living on land earmarked for national parks should be taken into account.

The foundation would not be involved in running the parks, but would raise funds, acquire the land needed, develop the infrastructure and train locals to successfully manage the areas.

Fundraising is one of the major obstacles in this project as each of these parks will cost tens of millions of rand," he said.

To make this possible the foundation would be looking at a system of incentives for major donors to the project, an approach already showing promise because there was considerable interest from international donors, Dr Hanks said.

He described the new vision as the holistic approach to nature conservation with a realisation that development should bring real benefits in the form of jobs and money to local communities.

"There is a growing realisation that conservation and using natural resources are the optimum form of land use in Africa."

Part of this vision also includes the establishment by WWF-SA of the Southern African Wildlife College, a centre for the training of wildlife managers.

The college, not far from the Kruger Park's Orpen Gate, is fast nearing completion and will open for the first courses for teaching senior and middle-level wardens in the new year.

"The college will play a leading role in building the capacity needed for successfully running cross-national parks," Dr Hanks said.

He said the possibility of transnational parks has been spoken about for years, but it was only after the democratisation of South Africa that the dream had become attainable.

With an "overwhelming" expansion of nature-based tourism, the tourism industry in South Africa has the potential to create two million jobs by the year 2000.
Growing tide of Gautie visitors swamps guest houses, hotels

Mr Steve Dagur, of Dale Court Guest House in Green Point, said he had more guests from Gauteng than before and they had booked until mid-January.

Ms Ronel Berth, of Fourwinds Guest House, said some of her guests had booked in advance before leaving last year. Some had booked until mid-February.

Ms Jacky Millard, of the Cape Sun Intercontinental Hotel, said the hotel was fully booked and many visitors were from Gauteng.

The National Traffic Information Centre reported yesterday that the single driver stopped at a roadblock on the N1 on Saturday night had been found to be over the legal blood-alcohol limit.

Erin NTABAZULI

The Gauties are coming. Capetonians should brace themselves for a bumper holiday season as more than 50,000 vehicles have passed through the Huguenot tunnel since the start of the holiday season.

Huguenot tunnel spokeswoman Ms Zebelda Edwards said yesterday that 53,726 vehicles passed through.

"On Saturday alone, about 10,908 vehicles passed through," Edwards said. "About 5,606 of these were light vehicles, which shows most people were visitors."

Most Western Cape guest houses are fully booked and more than half of their guests are from Gauteng. 
Hawton steps down as chairman of Sun International SA

SUN International SA (SISA) chairman Buddy Hawton has quietly stepped down from his position, only a year after assuming the role following the much publicised departure of former Sun boss Sol Kerzner as chairman of the casino hotel group.

Hawton, who was replaced by North West Development Corporation chairman Khehla Mthembu, has also resigned from the boards of Richards Bay Bulk Storage and Reminisce Ships Agency, subsidiaries of the Safren group where Hawton is currently chairman.

SISA MD Peter Bacon said there was "nothing sinister" about Hawton's departure — the group was complying with the King report on corporate governance by opting for a non-executive rather than executive chairman.

Hawton said at the weekend that he was also considering resigning from certain other boards to focus his attention on the offshore activities of SISA parent Kersaf and Safren.

Kersaf would hold a think-tank in January to investigate strategic opportunities, including in hotel development and subsidiary Interleisure's international expansion.

Hawton's move was one of several on the SISA board: New appointments included Real Africa Investments chairman Don Ncube, North West Development Corporation deputy chairman Moses Sindane and Thebe Investments' CBO Victor Khanyile, who will join the board in January. Hawton said the appointments had been made to make the SISA board more representative of the shareholding and new partnership arrangements. There had been two resignations: Albert Bekker, who had resigned from the North West Development Corporation, and David Gold from Yabeng.

Mthembu was nominated as chairman of the Mponalanga Gaming Board last year, but was dropped after it emerged that Mthembu had links with Thebe Investments, a member of the African Sun International gaming consortium in which Sun International is a key player.
Drivers go for green to gear up for Games bid

MINIBUS TAXIS operating on the route between Cape Town and Wynberg are being painted green to colour-coordinate them with Cape Town’s 2004 Olympic bid.

The Wynberg Main Road Taxi Association has introduced commuters to the first five taxis in its new livery – similar to the green in the multi-coloured logo of Cape Town’s 2004 Olympic bid.

The step has been hailed by community leaders as one of the most innovative to dampen friction in the taxi industry, which has often led to clashes and township wars.

The guest speaker in the Southfield Civic Centre at the introduction of the new colour, Gadijah Heuvel, chairwoman of Wynberg’s Community Police Forum, praised the step.

She described it as a clear indication of economic empowerment and development in efforts by operators to bring peace and prosperity to the city’s taxi industry. She said the green could also be interpreted as a new development in the taxi industry.

Another speaker, Phila Shepole Manhungu, general secretary of the Cape Amalgamated Taxi Association (Cata), said the green look was a step in the right direction for the taxi industry, which began as a backyard business and mushroomed into a vibrant enterprise.

He said: “Commuters will naturally identify the colour with the route of the Wynberg Main Road Taxi Association.

“I hope other taxis will eventually also take steps to introduce their own colours on other routes.

“It is high time we pulled our act together and put the taxi industry’s past history behind us.”

The councillor for Wynberg in the South Peninsula council, John Mathie, hailed the colour concept as a step in the right direction for the taxi industry.

WMFA chairman Ebrahim Hassan-Parker said pegging drivers to parameters of specific routes was designed to bring about equity in the taxi industry.

The association had propagated the concept of equity within the taxi industry.
Tourism industry urged to plan ahead

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — The South African holiday industry must plan further ahead if it was not to lose out to competition from Florida, the Caribbean and Australia, Stephen Powell, the managing director of British tour company Bluebird Holidays, said last week.

Powell warned that South Africa had missed out on some of the business it could have attracted this summer. British tour operators launched their packages for long-haul destinations a year ahead and their customers booked early to get the best offers and prices.

However, Bluebird expected to stimulate the growth of tourism to South Africa.

Bluebird is wholly owned by a Canadian company, Leisure Canada, with offices in the US, Australia, Canada and Britain. It will market South Africa in all these countries.

In addition to The African Experience and Star Travel, the South African tour operators, Bluebird had chartered British Airways Boeing 767-300s for two return flights a week from Gatwick during the summer months.

One flight was to Johannesburg and one to Cape Town.

In winter it would bring its customers on scheduled flights.

As the market grew this would provide the scheduled airlines with thousands of extra passengers during the low season, Powell said.

Bluebird also worked closely with Virgin Atlantic, Sun Air and British Airways Comair.
Foreign visitors will earn Cape R3.3bn

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — A surge in international visitors to Western Cape over Christmas could help earn the region up to R3.3bn in foreign exchange this year compared with the R9bn generated by the tourism industry in SA as a whole last year, according to figures compiled by SA Tourism Board (Soutour).

Soutour spokesman James Seymour said yesterday that the number of international tourists visiting Western Cape this year — at least 50% of all foreign tourists entering SA by air visited the region — was expected to show a healthy increase over year-earlier figures.

While the recent rand depreciation and inflation were contributors to a commensurate rise in foreign exchange earnings, the robust growth in the number of foreign visitors was a key factor behind the R3.3bn figure, he said.

Latest Soutour figures indicated a renewed surge in tourism to SA, following signs of a levelling off in the first half of the year.

We're expecting the overseas market to grow about 8% in 1996 compared with 1995, which is exciting when one considers that the numbers come off a very high base and that Soutour was without a substantial marketing budget and competing with fairly negative publicity about crime levels during this time," he said.

The growth in the number of foreign visitors to SA was well above the international norm, "which augurs well for the future of the local tourism industry. International growth in tourism was expected to average 3% this year."
Sun International merger a
‘major force on East Coast’

PARADISE ISLANDS

Sun International Hotels announced in Bahamas yesterday that it had completed its merger with Griffin Gaming & Entertainment, through which Griffin Gaming would become a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun International. Griffin Gaming owns Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City.

Sol Kerzner, chairman and CEO of Sun International, said the transaction would position Sun International as one of the major casino operators on the East Coast with operations in New Jersey, Connecticut and The Bahamas.

The company also announced a $500m development plan for the Resorts Casino Hotel.

Resorts will be transformed into an ocean theme mega-resort based on the theme of the lost continent of Atlantis. We have invested tens of millions of dollars in research and development to meet the challenges of enormous marine habitats.

The development would include a renovation of the existing Resorts Hotel and a new development on the adjacent real estate, which would include the construction of about 1,400 new hotel rooms.

Construction was expected to commence next year with a projected opening of 1999.

Sun International would have about 88,400 fully diluted shares outstanding, an equity market value of $1.6bn. — Sapa.
SA must improve level of service in tourism

By Sam Mtshoco

With some half a million visitors to South Africa this month, what can they expect?

AECOM, a leading engineering and consulting firm, has estimated that the tourism sector in South Africa could contribute R10 billion to the economy. This figure is based on forecasts in the tourism industry and the travel and hospitality sectors.

The question is, how can we ensure that visitors have a memorable experience when they come to South Africa? Here are some key areas that need to be improved:

1. Safety and Security: Ensure that visitors feel safe and secure. This includes improving police and security presence in tourist areas, as well as educating tourists on safety precautions.

2. Infrastructure: Improve infrastructure such as roads, public transport, and accommodation. This will ensure that visitors have easy access to tourist attractions and comfortable places to stay.

3. Cultural Experiences: Offer unique cultural experiences that showcase South Africa's rich history and heritage. This can include historical tours, cultural festivals, and traditional performances.

4. Language: Ensure that visitors can communicate effectively with locals. This can be achieved through bilingual signage, interpreters, and language courses for locals.

5. Information: Provide accurate and up-to-date information about tourist attractions, events, and cultural activities. This can be done through online platforms, mobile apps, and printed guides.

By addressing these areas, South Africa can ensure that visitors have a memorable and enjoyable experience. This will not only boost the tourism industry but also contribute to the country's overall economy.
R12,2-billion Dolphin deal under attack

The Mpumalanga Parks Board is desperately trying to rescue its "theme resort" deal, reports Justin Arenstein

Despite mounting public opposition and the discovery that there are gazetted land claims on some of the key conservation areas promised to the Dubai-based Dolphin Group, the Mpumalanga Parks Board denied on Thursday that their R12,2-billion deal was in danger of collapsing.

The Dolphin Group signed an agreement with the Mpumalanga Parks Board three weeks ago granting the mega-corporation exclusive commercial development rights to Mpumalanga’s flagship game reserves and natural assets such as the Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim’s Rest, Loskop Dam, as well as the Songimvelo and Manyeleti game reserves.

In return, Dolphin has agreed to underwrite the Mpumalanga Parks Board’s R12,2-billion operating budget for the next 30 years, while developing the reserves into "theme resorts" for an international clientele.

However, the provincial land affairs department pointed out this week that there are at least three gazetted land claims on the Blyde canyon by surrounding communities and that none of them has been consulted about the proposed transformation of the canyon into one of the province’s biggest international tourist developments.

"Land claims are only ever gazetted if the commissioner feels there is a good chance that they will be successful. According to our records, these claims were gazetted in 1995. We will be sending a letter of notification to the Parks Board," said land affairs representative Conrad Spamer.

Once a claim for a specific area has been gazetted, the land may not be sold or substantially altered by development until the claim has been settled.

"Look, we weren’t aware of any claims in the area and so didn’t tell Dolphin, but even though Blyde is one of the three corner stones of the deal we don’t think this will substantially alter anything," said Mpumalanga Parks Board chief executive Alan Gay.

He insisted that after the affected communities realised the economic advantages of the proposed developments — which include at least one five-star hotel, various exclusive lodges and safari operations as well as a “sub-economic zone” around the Bourke’s Luck potholes for the local tourism market — the land claims would “fall away”.

Environmental activists in surrounding areas sent a letter of concern to the provincial environmental MEC David Mdhwanazi this week, alleging that both they and members of the Parks Board had only learnt of the development from the media, that no adequate feasibility study has yet been conducted, that no attempt has been made to consult with the local communities and that South African companies would never have the opportunity to develop if “our lives are taken over by multi-nationals like Dolphin”.

The activists, represented by Mpumalanga Environmental Council member Shirley Ngenya, also asked what the purpose of discussing conservation policy at grassroots level was if decisions were made unilaterally by “a dictatorship of whoever is in power”.

"These people are doing their best to dig up any dirt which could destroy the deal, and frankly I’m getting sick of fighting this negativity.

"How can people oppose a deal which will bring billions into the provincial economy, will bring jobs and development? Just what are the motives in this issue?"

Gray, however, refused to identify any of the members of the group other than to say certain Mpumalanga Parks Board members were involved, as well as a number of other conservationists outside the parks board.

"As far as we’re concerned, no money from any national or provincial source will be invested in the park until we’re satisfied. I expect to have a meeting with the MEC in the near future to discuss the issue.

"It is true the parks board leases office space to local hotel owner Sean MacMurray and that MacMurray has signed deals with Dolphin in some form of joint operations, but we had nothing to do with that.

"MacMurray accompanied us on an investment trip with other provincial businessmen and negotiated his own deals. The office rental was a favour to us below the economic standard."

Even then, she said, the briefing had only come after urgent appeals for assistance to Mr. Mood Phosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pello Jordan and President Nelson Mandela’s office.

"Dismissing Hart’s concerns by saying that the Mpumalanga Parks Board had not yet received a single direct query from the council, Gray said although he had been aware the council was querying development plans via the MEC’s office, he had not considered their concerns serious enough to respond to.

"The Mbupumalanga Parks Board is an independent statutory body and its board is therefore the only authority when making decisions to develop our assets. The board conducts the impact and other studies, but it is open for suggestions — if approached directly," he explained.

An anonymous source with a background in environmental conservation said there was growing concern that the deal would be used to destroy the Dolphin deal, Gray said: "These people are doing their best to dig up any dirt which could destroy the deal, and frankly I’m getting sick of fighting this negativity.

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"MacMurray accompanied us on an investment trip with other provincial businessmen and negotiated his own deals. The office rental was a favour to us below the economic standard."
Sasol gives boost to bid for Games

Michael Morris

Fuel giant Sasol has donated R500 000 to Cape Town's Olympic bid, to boost what it regards as a project of "major importance" to the country.

Sasol's chief operating officer, Pieter Cox, said the "opportunities inherent in the challenges of winning the bid, together with the financial spin-offs from hosting the Games, could place South Africa firmly on the road to becoming a winning nation."

He added: "The one obstacle we have to overcome is the unacceptably high crime rate. We believe, however, that we are well on our way to solving that problem and that by 2004 it will be under control, particularly as the hosting of the Games would create jobs and help address the socio-economic causes of high crime."

The donation was made this week to the Champions for the Bid Initiative. This is a project run by Pula-API, an agency under contract to the Bid Company, to promote awareness of the bid. Contributions go towards a fund for sporting, environmental and cultural development in South Africa.
Durban, Cape Town bursting at the seams

Despite the ailing economy, local and foreign holidaymakers are flocking to the coast

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS

Durban and Cape Town are bursting at the seams with local and foreign holidaymakers and, despite the ailing economy, they expect a prosperous festive season.

Authorities in Durban expect about a million visitors to have converged on the city by January 12, the official end of the holiday period.

Clive Booth, director of communications for Tourism Durban, said the city expects to generate a R500-million from tourists this season.

The city was exceptionally busy with the traditional influx of tourists from Gauteng and the Free State, he said.

"Durban is the biggest resort city in South Africa, with domestic tourism representing a 26% share of the total market," he said.

"This is followed by Cape Town, which has a 33% share of the domestic tourism market," he added.

He said almost all hotels and holiday flats in the city were booked to capacity.

"As a result, extra precautions – such as more policemen, lifeguards and patrols – had been taken to ensure the safety of visitors," said Booth.

Gordon Oliver, chief executive of the Cape Tourism Authority, said the Mother City was expecting about 500 000 holidaymakers this festive season.

He estimated that the city would gain about R550-million during the holidays.

"Our busy period starts in October and goes through to April, but our peak period is between January and March," Oliver said.

He said tourists were not only attracted to the city’s beaches, but to other exciting venues such as the winelands, Kirstenbosch and the mountains.

Foreign tourists to Cape Town hailed mainly from the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States, he said.

There was also growing interest in the city from tourists from France, Holland, Malaysia and Singapore, Oliver said.

But, said Susan Riley, manager of the Johannesburg Tourism Association's airport office, although thousands of holidaymakers are flocking to the coast, a number of people are spending their holidays closer to home.

She said pleasure resorts in the Magaliesberg and Sun City were fully booked, and the Kruger National Park was 99% full.

"People are still going away for family holidays, but they seem to be going for shorter periods," Riley said.
Olympic bid, backed countrywide.

**Olympic bid, backed countrywide.**

*Business Day Reporter*

60/13/96 [383]
Bumper year for Cape Town as visitors stream in

BY JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT, CHARL DE VILLIERS AND SIPHO VANGA

CAPE Town is bursting at the seams as tens of thousands of visitors flock to the Mother City to bask on its beaches, partying until dawn and setting tills a-jingling.

"Tourism sources said this week the city was set to exceed its projected visitor tally for this year, with attractions such as the Waterfront, Table Mountain cableway and wine routes pulling in the crowds.

Cape Town international airport was handling about 80 incoming international flights a week and traffic authorities had reported a steady flow southwards along the N1 and N2 highways by Friday.

Spending is expected to peak tomorrow and on Tuesday, but Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry deputy director Colin Boyes said some retailers were already predicting bumper sales.

Cars headed for the Waterfront, the city’s undisputed tourism Mecca, in an unending stream on Friday and visitors hoping to take the cablecar to the top of Table Mountain had to queue for up to five hours.

Maureen Thompson, a spokesman for the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, said up to 40 000 people were visiting the centre daily and the tally was rising.

Cape Town international airport, where up to 32 000 foreign tourists were arriving weekly, had been extremely busy, airport manager Hennie Taljaard said.

"Forget about the Airbuses — it’s now just Jumbos. And there are so many corporate jets using the airport that we can’t find parking for them."

Wealthy clients have already packed out the Mount Nelson Hotel for the festive season and hostel managers said backpacking and overlander hostels were also doing a roaring trade.

Captor’s Bona Silverman said the Waterfront was now the city’s primary tourist destination, having pushed the Table Mountain cableway into second place.

The wine routes ranked third, followed by tours up the Garden Route and visits to the Kirstenbosch national botanic gardens and Cape Point.

Many foreigners "in Cape Town were on their second trip and wanted to do something different, she said.

"Adventure tours have been marketed very aggressively over the past year or so and are gaining in popularity. Many visitors also want to go to Robben Island, which is still out of bounds for landings."

She added that Cape Town appeared to be well on its way to matching the projected 726 000 visitors expected in the city this year, with a definite increase in foreign tourists.

It’s a swing on the suns

BY CAS ST LEGER

HOLIDAY-MAKERS are flocking to Eastern Cape coastal resorts for the festive season, but most are watching their budgets carefully.

While camp sites and self-catering resorts are packed, there are still empty beds at beachfront hotels. And families are sticking to smaller budgets by cutting a week or more off their traditional holiday time.

Port Elizabeth’s holiday accommodation is 80 percent full, five percent up on last year, according to the director of the city’s publicity association, Shaun van Eyk.

It’s high season — and how

City bursts at seams

JOSEPH ARAMES
Staff Reporter

Tourists are flocking to Cape Town, causing a boom that many in the industry say is overshadowing the customary bang — the Noon Gun.

After a late start partly due to the protracted winter, the high season looks set to better last year’s figures. Most city hotels are fully booked or close to it.

Captour’s chief executive officer, Gordon Oliver, said although the tourism industry was fragile, all indicators showed the current season was progressing better than last year.

“Hotel occupancy levels are between 80 and 90 percent and the Huguenot Tunnel, which most up-country visitors pass through when coming to the Cape, is much busier than during the same period last year,” said Mr Oliver.

Even the crime situation had been improving as a result of the increased and more visible police presence on the city’s streets. “But even one mugging or robbery is one too many.”

The city’s tourism hub, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, is doing a roaring trade, and indications are that almost 2 million visitors will pass through this popular attraction this month.

Marketing manager Maureen Thompson said numbers of local and foreign tourists were considerably up on last year, in spite of the negative publicity resulting from People Against Gangsterism and

To page 2

P.T.O.
Now tourists can lord it at Cape

The wonders of Cape Town that lure visitors from other countries are well known - the Table Mountain chair and the beaches have sung siren songs to millions over the years.

But now the Mother City's being touted as a holiday destination for another reason - proximity to the relocated scions of famous British families.

Tourists with an eye for the celebrity spotlight - or at least a reflection of it - are being offered holiday accommodation in Constantia "near the Spencers and Thatchers".

The presumed attraction, apart from the inanimate charms of the verdant and spacious suburb, is the possibility of bumping into Earl Spencer or Mark Thatcher while jogging or walking the dog.

It is not known what Princess Diana's brother and Margaret Thatcher's son think about their unintended contribution to the city's tourism portfolio, although they have made it abundantly clear that they have not enjoyed the recent attentions of the city's paparazzi.

The accommodation advertisement appeared this month in the London-based Spectator, a weekly publication appealing to the British intelligentsia. On offer is a two-roomed flat with bathroom and kitchen in Southern Cross Drive. Besides the pull for those who hanker after eye contact with Cape Town's chapter of British society, there's the price.

Spectator readers may be forgiven for thinking there's a misprint in the ad: Constantia living is theirs for just R55 a day - the price of a couple of cups of coffee in London at today's exchange rate.

And what has the response been to the advertisement for the Mother City's latest feature?

The owner of the property was not keen to discuss the matter with the Cape Argus.
Guests on guests – from Waterfront to that Island

SHARE MOTHER CITY’S SECRETS

FOREIGN VISITORS POOR IN TO

(28)
SA hotels mostly opposed to charging in dollars

(288) 404 7141, 96

Deparshita

The concept of a "visiting country" event would not be applicable in the foreseeable future, and a "visiting country" event would not be applicable to the foreseeable future. It would not be applicable to the foreseeable future. The concept of a "visiting country" event would not be applicable to the foreseeable future. It would not be applicable to the foreseeable future. The concept of a "visiting country" event would not be applicable to the foreseeable future. It would not be applicable to the foreseeable future.
Eastern Cape proves popular with tourists

Deborah Fine

THE Eastern Cape, especially the Wild Coast, Port Elizabeth and East London, were ranked first in the domestic tourism market this year, followed by the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Tourism Board public relations manager Masile Mkwalo said this week.

The Eastern Cape also proved extremely popular with foreign visitors, she said.

However, a spokesman for the British embassy has warned that the Wild Coast’s popularity with British tourists could be negatively affected by reports of violent crime in the area.

In separate incidents earlier this month, two Britons were hijacked and left naked on the road between Umtata and Port St Johns by armed bandits, who also raped a local woman and robbed her male companion near Flagstaff. In a third incident, two Butterworth men were robbed of their delivery vehicle by men armed with AK-47 rifles.

“This is hardly an encouraging sign for British tourists well-versed by the media about the dangers of travelling in SA. Their less-than-friendly perceptions will be reinforced by incidents like this,” he said.

Mkwalo said it was “unfortunate” the incidents had occurred because communities in the area had been working to make the Wild Coast “tourist-friendly” as possible.

The Eastern Cape Tourism Board had requested 24-hour police patrols in the area, and community members had offered to help with patrolling.

Mkwalo believed the Eastern Cape’s tourism success this year had been due to “aggressive marketing” initiated locally and abroad from the beginning of the year.

Foreign and local tourists were attracted by the Wild Coast’s “unspoilt beauty” and value-for-money, family accommodation. Most resorts offered prices which included three meals a day, “really stretching dollars, pounds and rands”, she said. The Wild Coast had shown 90% occupancy this month. Port Elizabeth and East London had been expecting 99% by Christmas.

Meanwhile, Association of SA Travel Agencies president Roger Mackie said the plummeting rand had not deterred South Africans from travelling abroad this month. He believed this was because most people had booked in advance.

“South Africans have been going everywhere — the USA, Britain, Europe, the East and Australia. This has been a very good year for travel,” he said.

Travel agents in Johannesburg predicted fewer South Africans would travel to Britain and Europe next year, but would rather choose the US, Australia and the East. Cruises and local destinations were also expected to become popular.
move into a major expansion mode

After 40 odd years, the Zeanor Suites

accommodate the growing demand in a high-rise hotel with the opening of self-contained guest houses.

A rendering shows the new suites.

Located adjacent to the hotel, the suites will provide a high level of convenience and comfort for guests. The suites will feature a variety of amenities, including fully equipped kitchens, living areas, and private balconies. The hotel is expected to benefit from the additional revenue generated by the new suites.

The expansion is part of a larger plan to upgrade the hotel's facilities and services. The hotel's management is confident that the new suites will attract a wider range of guests and increase the hotel's overall occupancy rates.

The hotel has a long history of providing exceptional service to its guests. Its reputation for excellence has helped to establish it as a leading destination in the region. The hotel's management is committed to maintaining this reputation and ensuring that guests continue to receive the highest level of service.

The hotel is located in a vibrant area of the city, with a variety of restaurants, shops, and attractions within easy reach. The hotel's location makes it an ideal choice for both business and leisure travelers.

The hotel's management is confident that the new suites will be a major success and look forward to welcoming guests to enjoy the additional facilities.
Tourism will have a strong impact on the region future looks brighter for Cape After a bleak business year the
Protea adds to its four-star stock