

NMU spends R550 000 on sign

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Jury still out on whether university got bang for its rebranding bucks

MONTHS after the rebranding of Nelson Mandela University, the institution has installed a R550 000 sign on its main building in Summerstrand, which has received mixed reviews from students and a lecturer.

The old sign with the "Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University" name was taken down shortly after the rebranding in July.

NMU spokeswoman Zandile Mbabela said the costs involved had formed part of the annual opera-

tional and maintenance budget. "The budget devoted to the rebranding and rebranding of the university was carefully thought through, given the sustainability and efficiency drive, such that the only direct cost involved in embracing this new identity was the actual launch event in July," she said.

The new sign, which consists of blue lettering spelling out "Nelson Mandela University" against a grey wall, has received mixed reviews.

Some said it was a waste of money while others embraced it.

Fourth-year psychology student

Sivenati Yami, 21, said the new sign was necessary following the rebranding.

"They are honestly not that bad, they look much better now."

Khanyisa Jack, 22, a fourth-year education student, said she believed the design could have been better.

"I think they could have put more effort in and perhaps used more advanced design technologies to make it illuminated, because it looks plain," Jack said.

An NMU lecturer, who declined to be named, said she had felt under-

whelmed when she first noticed the new sign. "It's not visible at all from a distance, as the old sign was."

"I think if they went with a white background it would be displayed much better. Dark blue on grey just doesn't work," she said.

Last year NMU spent R265 000 for the development and design of the new logo - which at the time many likened to an orange and samoosa.

Mbabela confirmed then that a Cape Town company had done the work.

However, this time around a Nelson Mandela Bay company did the

design. "Local companies were used for the manufacture of the main-building sign and the erection of this was done by a local rope access installer," Mbabela said.

"The manufacture and installation of the remaining signs are being undertaken by internal maintenance staff and they have already manufactured and installed some of the new signs."

She said the sign formed part of consultations with the various university stakeholders, such as student and union representatives.

"The erection of the new sign is

not a new process on its own, but the next phase in the university's overall rebrand exercise, discussion around which began in the months following the official gazetting of the new name in June 2016 and months leading up to the official launch last July.

"Due to the fact that there was no specifically allocated budget for the rebranding exercise, which was given careful consideration in the light of prevailing financial pressures, the university opted on a phased approach aligned to what operational budgets allow," she said.

Additional reporting by Naziziphobu Biso



NEW LOOK: The NMU signage
Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

STAMP OF APPROVAL



TV MILESTONE: Simpsons characters welcome guests at the Fox Studios in Los Angeles, California, before a dedication ceremony for the issue of the Simpsons' stamps by the US Postal Service. 'The Simpsons' has broken the record for the most episodes in a primetime scripted series on American TV, but the milestone came as the popular show finds itself accused of racism. Fox's 636th episode about the Simpson family aired on Sunday night
Picture: AFP

Verdict in Karabo murder trial set to be delivered tomorrow

KARABO Mokoena's alleged killer will know by tomorrow whether or not he will face jail time.

Acting Judge Peet Johnson postponed Sandile Mantsoe's trial yesterday to allow both the state and the defence to prepare closing arguments.

"I just want to place on record that the parties did visit me in chambers. The prosecutor has convinced me that she is not able to address the court today," Johnson said.

"In the circumstances, I grant the postponement for the prosecutor to prepare to address me. On Wednesday, I would like to finalise the matter."

He is expected to deliver his verdict shortly after the closing arguments tomorrow.

In a shocking move, the defence has decided to close its case without calling any witnesses to the stand.

Mantsoe is on trial in the high court in Johannesburg for the murder of his girlfriend Mokoena, whose charred remains were found in a ditch in Lyndhurst on April 28 last year.

Johnson questioned Victor Simelane, for Mantsoe, on whether his client was aware that if found guilty, he could be handed a life sentence. Mantsoe told the court that he was aware of this.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the court proceedings, Simelane said they had decided to close their case without calling any witnesses because "the state has not proven its case beyond reasonable doubt. We are not going to help them."

Mantsoe has denied killing the 22-year-old. His version was that he returned to his apartment after a meeting to find that his "troubled" on-and-off girlfriend had committed suicide by stabbing herself in the neck.

However, other witnesses, including police officers, have testified that Mantsoe had said Mokoena needed to die to break a blood ritual that they had entered into to



SANDILE MANTSOE

boost his business dealings.

The police officers alleged that Mantsoe claimed that his business had begun to suffer as a result of the two of them splitting up.

In order to fix this, a sacrifice had to be made and this sacrifice was Mokoena, the police were allegedly told.

Mantsoe has denied these allegations and instead accused one of the police officers of trying to extort money from him.

The forex trader, who is a married father of three estranged from his wife, says that out of fear and panic that he would be blamed for Karabo's death, he disposed of her body by drenching it in pool acid and petrol, putting a tyre around it and setting it alight.

A postmortem failed to deduce what had killed Mokoena as her body was too badly burnt.

Mantsoe is charged with premeditated murder, defeating the ends of justice and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. - TimesLIVE

Killing-spree victim shot multiple times

Devon Koen

MULTIPLE gunshot wounds including a shot to the head were what killed one of the victims of a killing spree in 2015.

Ranjen Naidoo was shot outside a Burt Street, Newton Park, house on the afternoon of September 14 2015.

He was the second of three men shot on the same day, allegedly by suspected gangsters Wendell Petersen, 30, Jermaine "Dolf" Mitchell, 30, Glynn "Boudt/Holland" Carelson, 30, Robin "Milo" Taylor, 21 and Graham "Gram" Kammies, 35.

Testifying in the Port Elizabeth High Court yesterday, forensic pathologist Dr Dave Kalev said Naidoo had succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds but had died within seconds of being shot in the abdomen.

"Major bleeding and rapid loss of blood led to loss of consciousness

and death within seconds," Kalev said.

All five accused have been charged with three counts of murder, three counts of conspiracy to commit murder, four counts of contravening the Prevention of Organised Crime Act and the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

The men, all alleged members of the Dustlives gang, are charged with killing Theodore "Tupac" Matthews, Naidoo and Jermain "Jabulo" Essau.

They have all pleaded not guilty.

The trial has seen all roads surrounding the Central court building blocked off, with a heavy police presence inside and around the building since last week.

The major security detail is expected to continue until the conclusion of the trial, which has been set down until June 29.

The case continues.

Life sentence handed down for rape of girl

Devon Koen

A MAN accused of raping an 11-year-old girl was sentenced to life in prison yesterday after the judge found that there was no compelling reason to give him a lighter sentence.

Handing down sentence in the Port Elizabeth High Court, Judge Janie Eksteen said even though there was a lack of injuries from the rape this could not be considered as a compelling circumstance, as suggested by the defence.

"Under consideration, the aggravating features far outweigh the mitigating features," Eksteen said.

On March 25 last year, the then 11-year-old victim was taken to a tavern in Kamesh by Christo Petrus, 42, of Uitenhage, while on the way home from her aunt's house.

While there, the victim tried to run

away but was caught by Petrus and taken to nearby bushes, where he forced her to drink alcohol before raping her.

"The victim was known to [Petrus] and did what she was told," Eksteen said.

According to the charge sheet, the ordeal ended when someone walked past the bushy area where the rape was taking place.

Petrus then threatened to kill the young girl if she told anyone.

After Petrus and the girl got dressed, they both walked toward her aunt's house before Petrus walked away.

The girl then went to a friend's house and called her mother, who reported the rape.

Petrus's name will also be entered into the national sex offenders register.

IN BRIEF

Car guard murder suspect in court

THE man arrested for the murder of a car guard at Hobie Beach last week made a brief appearance in the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Sivuyile Batyi, 36, believed to be a car guard in the area, was arrested on Friday.

It is alleged that Batyi killed an unknown man, estimated to be 34 years old.

The victim, also a car guard, was stabbed while sleeping near the pier early on Wednesday.

He carried no identification and was identified by bystanders only as "Boere".

The motive for the murder remains unknown. - Estelle Ellis

Woman held after fatal stabbing

A KIRKWOOD man was stabbed to death in an alleged drunken quarrel with his girlfriend, police said yesterday.

Police spokeswoman Captain Gerda Swart said the incident took place at Dunbrody, near Kirkwood, at about noon and the woman, 29, was arrested about an hour later.

The man, also 29, has not been named as his next of kin have not been informed.

"It is alleged that the victim and his girlfriend were having a quarrel when she allegedly stabbed the victim in the throat with a knife," Swart said.

The woman will appear in the Kirkwood Magistrate's Court tomorrow. - Gareth Wilson



NOW YOU SEE IT: US President Donald Trump and France's Emmanuel Macron plant the tree as Trump's wife, Melania, watches
Picture: AFP

The oak that Trump planted gets treed-off

THE photograph was seen around the world - US President Donald Trump and France's Emmanuel Macron, gilded spades in hand, shovelling soil over a young sapling.

A week ago, at the beginning of Macron's visit to Washington, the French president joined his American counterpart to throw handfuls of soil on the roots of a young oak tree as their respective first ladies looked on.

It was a symbolic gesture: the tree came from a northern French forest where 2 000 US Marines died during World War I.

But a few days later, the plant was nowhere to be seen.

Amid fervent speculation, France came through with an explanation on Sunday - the tree, now not just a plant but a symbol of US-French relations, had been placed in quarantine.

"It is a quarantine which is mandatory for any living organism imported into the US," French ambassador to America, Gerard Araud, wrote on Twitter.

"It will be replanted afterwards."

When a follower fired back that the caution seemed a bit late - given that the tree had already been planted - the diplomat confirmed that the roots had been enclosed in plastic. - AFP

100 held for drunk driving

MORE than 100 suspected drunk drivers were arrested during a joint weekend crime blitz in the Bay.

This was part of Operation Thunderstorm - targeting different offenders on different days - which ran from Monday last week to Sunday.

It involved the police, national traffic police, Port Elizabeth provincial traffic services, the municipal traffic service and metro police.

Besides 102 drunk-driving arrests, 520 summonses were issued for other offences - 178 for driving without their licence on them, 78 for driving unlicensed vehicles and 26 held over outstanding fines, two for fake driver's licences and one for bribing an official.

Provincial Traffic deputy director Charles Bramwell said similar operations would continue across the province. - Gareth Wilson