

Judges halt sand dune mining

Company must obtain permit, court rules

FATIMA SCHROEDER
High Court Writer

A WESTERN Cape High Court decision has effectively halted mining operations at two sand dunes in the heart of the Cape Flats.

The sand dunes are in the Mitchells Plain suburbs of Westridge and Rocklands.

The Rocklands dune is situated between two schools.

The Westridge dune abuts on to a major road, and an informal settlement was built there.

Two judges ruled on Friday that mining operations could not continue until black empowerment mining firm Maccsand had obtained zoning authorisation under the Western Cape Land Use Planning Ordinance (Lupo), as well as environmental clearance under the National Environmental Management Act (Nema).

The ruling comes after the City of Cape Town challenged the mining right and permit Maccsand obtained from the Department of Minerals and Energy in October 2007 and August 2008 respectively.

The right and permit were awarded to Maccsand in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act.

The city asked the court to interdict Maccsand from mining and prospecting the dunes until it had complied with the terms of Lupo and Nema.

But Maccsand hit back, arguing that once the minister or a delegate had granted a right or permit, no law or authority could veto that.

The minister of mineral resources, a respondent in the case, argued that the act trumped all other legislation, and that the city's interpretation of the process would create administrative chaos.

In a judgment handed down on Friday, Judge Dennis Davis said it was clear that the constitution carved out areas for provinces and municipalities, and did not give national legislation the right to take away the planning function of municipalities.

If Parliament had wanted the act to override legislation such as Lupo, it would have inserted a provision such as "notwithstanding the provision of any other law", Judge Davis said.

He found that Lupo had clear application to the matter. Turning to the dispute relating to Nema, Judge Davis agreed that environmental authorisation was necessary.

He said there was no dispute that the mining operation would remove 14.67ha of indigenous vegetation.

He ordered Maccsand and the minister of mineral resources to pay the costs of the application. Judge Elizabeth Baartman concurred.

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PUBLIC APPEAL: Tammy Joubert, 17, the inexperienced artist who won the 11th spot on South Africa's first creative team, the Superstars, by popular demand.

PICTURE: MATTHEW JORDAAN

Teen's flair lands her a spot in SA's creative team

FOUZIA VAN DER FORT
Staff Reporter

A DURBANVILLE teen is the 11th member of South Africa's first creative team – thanks to popular demand.

The creative flair of the Superstars, South Africa's first creative team identified thanks to a campaign launched last December, has been immortalised as a public art work at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

Tammy Joubert, 17, a Grade

11 pupil at Stellenberg High School, said she was an "inexperienced artist" and that winning a spot on the creative team, voted for by ordinary people, had inspired her to do more.

"This was her first art competition and Joubert said she would like to tackle more creative assignments.

"In this industry you grab every single opportunity you get your hands on, to get your name out there," she said.

The public got the chance to

vote for Joubert when her work was on display during the Design Indaba annual exhibition earlier this year.

"It is quite cool to have your work up and people looking at it, and admiring it," she said.

The rest of the team was selected by a panel of judges.

Each contestant had to take a profile photograph of themselves, then decorate it using different designs and mediums.

Founder and Design Indaba host Ravi Naidoo said at the unveiling of the artwork last

week that the team had been selected from 400 entries from across the country.

Another member of the team, retired administrator George Kellerman, 77, said it took him two hours to complete his portrait.

The team's prize, according to organisers, is "the fame and glory that comes with making the national creative team".

All the winners' entries were also turned into public art works.

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Admiral believes military service will curb crime

CLAYTON BARNES
Staff Writer

SA NAVY Chief Vice-Admiral Johannes Mudimu has said that a national youth service could help cure the country's drug and crime problem.

Mudimu was speaking during the passing-out parade of more than 500 naval cadets in Saldanha Bay on Friday.

They will from today begin their specialist training in areas such as weapon warfare, navigation and diving.

Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, who also spoke to the cadets at the parade, is expected to launch a military youth service programme later this year.

Mudimu said that such a service would also address the dire skills shortage in the SANDF.

Last year, the navy admitted that it was battling to run its ships, submarines and other equipment because of a lack of skilled staff.

According to senior naval officers, three quarters of all submariners trained every year leave the navy.

"This programme would definitely fill those gaps," said Mudimu. "The training is good for anyone, but especially for youngsters facing problems and challenges with drugs and crime."

He said the two-year mili-

tary skills development course, of which the cadets have now completed eight months, had been introduced to hone the skills of the youth and to train them for service in the military.

"This programme has been a great success," he said. "We have many capable young men and women pursuing their careers in the navy, rendering performance of the highest order. But it all started here."

More than 30 000 applications were received to attend the navy's basic military training course last year. Only 526 were accepted.

Mudimu said 600 would be accepted next year.

Sisulu welcomed the cadets into the military.

"I'm filled with pride," she said, after receiving a guard of honour. "What I saw today was nothing short of a spectacular. I'm proud of these sailors. They have worked hard and can drill and march like the best there is."

She said the naval base at Saldanha would become the country's main base for her proposed national youth service programme.

In May, Sisulu told Parliament's defence committee of her plans for two-year military service that would see youngsters gaining valuable skills, while contributing to the greater good of the country.

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Low-cost fire extinguisher wins pupils expo spots

EDUCATION WRITER

TWO GRADE 10 pupils who designed a low-cost fire extinguisher have won the award for the best senior project at the Eskom Cape Town Expo for Young Scientists.

Rondebosch Boys' High pupils Mogamad Ali Parker and Travis Taylor won the Kevin Rochford Memorial Prize for senior pupils (grades 10 to 12) at the expo for their product, made of recyclable materials.

They, along with the

entrants of 24 other projects, have been offered a place in the national expo, to be held on October 1 and 2 in Pretoria.

Mogamad said the idea was to design something that could benefit South Africans.

"Shack fires are a big problem and sometimes end with lives being lost.

"Many residents of informal settlements can't afford fire extinguishers."

The pupils used a plastic bottle as a container and explained that they used two

common household products, which produce carbon dioxide and "push away" the oxygen molecules that the fire needs to burn.

Travis said their product did not expire and would cost less than R20.

He said their research focused on fires caused by cooking, which could not be extinguished using water.

Perryn Uys, a Grade 9 pupil from Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch, won the Kevin Rochford prize for the best junior project (grades 6 to 9).

His project was titled "The

effect of fertilisers on the underground ecology, finding that all three fertilisers were harmful".

For more information on the Cape Town Expo for Young Scientists, visit www.expo.wcape.school.za.

The Cape Argus reported last week that Ridah Wouters and Zain Allie were pupils at Herzlia. They are in fact pupils at Westerford High.

The Cape Argus regrets the error and apologises for any inconvenience caused.

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FIREFIGHTERS: Rondebosch Boys' High Grade 10 pupils Mogamad Ali Parker, left, and Travis Taylor with examples of their prize-winning fire extinguishers designed for poor communities.

PICTURE: MASKOLE FENI

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Man held hours after woman found dead

STAFF WRITER

WITHIN hours of a 21-year-old woman being found strangled, police from Harare in Khayelitsha had her suspected murderer safely behind bars.

It also appeared that the woman, Lihle Ngwendu, had been sexually assaulted.

She was last seen alive leaving a Harare tavern on Friday night with a 22-year-old man, according to police spokesman Colonel Billy Jones.

Jones said that police had been called out after Ngwendu's partially clothed body was found in bushes in Endlovini, Harare, at about 10am on Saturday. Preliminary investigations

showed she had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

The suspect was arrested that afternoon near his home, also in Endlovini.

Jones said a post-mortem would be performed to confirm Ngwendu's cause of death.

The suspect was expected to appear in the Khayelitsha Magistrate's Court today.

Jones said Mitchells Plain police were also investigating charges of murder relating to a shooting at about 6.30pm on Friday at the Town Centre taxi rank in which two taxi drivers, both aged about 30, were fatally wounded.

Witnesses said they heard a number of shots, then saw a man

with a handgun fleeing the scene on foot.

The two men who died were Msunelo Msengo, 32, of Nyanga, and Zuzukile Jende, 36, of Samora Machel.

Jones could not confirm whether the incident was taxi-related.

Msengo was wounded twice in the stomach.

He died on arrival at the local day hospital.

Jende was wounded once in the left side, and died at the taxi rank.

Jones urged anyone with information to call the Mitchells Plain police.

They can also contact Crime Stop on 08600 10111.

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