

THURSDAY Clear skies.	19°C
FRIDAY Clear skies.	24°C
SATURDAY Partly cloudy.	18°C
SUNDAY Clear skies.	19°C



The girls visited all of the departments at Metrorail. Here they visit the CMOCC department. From left: Kim Isaacs, Sesno Johnson, Janine Solomons (CMOCC), Brondlyne Giewelaar and Kim Brandt. Photos: Byron La Hoe

Invest and inspire a future

Say about title holding

THE City of Cape Town invites the public to comment on the proposed model for title holding of the MyCiTi buses.

Phase 1A of the MyCiTi system will provide public transport services in the inner city and between the CBD and the Blaauwberg/Atlantis areas. It also includes a regular airport service to the CBD and a shuttle to the Cape Town Stadium during events.

A document describing the proposed model can be viewed at all public libraries, sub-council offices, and on the City's website at www.capetown.gov.za/en/irt.

All comments should be sent in writing, by no later than Tuesday 21 September 2010, to either Mike Marsden Executive Director: Transport, Roads and Major Projects, City of Cape Town, P O Box 298, Cape Town, 8000 or faxed to 021 400 5697 or emailed to beverley.ball@capetown.gov.za. Any queries can be directed to Beverley Ball at the same email address or on 021 400 9139.

BYRON LA HOE

A GROUP of high school girls packed their books and pens away for a day, to receive some valuable motivation for the future ahead.

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) hosted their 'Take a Girl Child to Work' programme on Thursday, 19 August, to expose the pupils to the work environment.

Since 2003, PRASA has made this an annual corporate social investment to contribute to the upliftment of young woman in society.

Every year a group of high school girls from all over the Peninsula attends this programme where they get to learn more about PRASA.

This includes the visit to various departments within the company, together with some knowledge and encouragement that PRASA employees share with them.

The programme is a collaborative effort between departments from Metrorail, Shosoloz Meyl, Intersite, Autopax, Rolling Stock,

CMOCC, Infrastructure, Railway Protection Services and a wide range of partners in the Western Cape.

Months of planning and cooperation with partners, culminated in a very successful day and moving forward, a few girls will be hopefully more determined to achieve success and work for PRASA.

Ms Zino Mihi, corporate affairs manager of Metrorail, said due to gender and equality, some women suffer the most in the work place. "Women need to be more economically empowered."

"We (women) face many challenges which include the lack of skills, HIV/Aids, child led families, peer pressure, and teen pregnancy that play a major part in girls dropping out of schools and tertiary institutions. Our goal is to help these girls reach their full potential."

Mihi added Metrorail and Shosoloz Meyl wanted to demonstrate that it is not only about trains but they also focus on changing lives.

The girls were very pleased with the way

the day turned out. It was not only a day of learning, they also had a chance to meet new friends.

Nazeema Daniels (17) from Blackheath High School said the presentation was well explained and it was worth attending. "Not only did they inspire us, I also got the opportunity to engage with different girls."

Nosipho Matshogo (15) from Thandokhulu High School in Khayelitsha said: "I've learnt many things that I didn't know. I don't travel much by train, but today's presentation was great."

"I'll be able to buy a ticket, see trains and platform information and various other things that I have learnt."

For the rest of the girls, the day went without any major glitch, and the girls were thoroughly spoiled with bags, stationary, something to eat during lunch and refreshments.

Mihi said a woman should start thinking like a man and act like a lady.

● The girls were asked to write about their day's experiences with the best candidate's effort to be published in the Blits next week.



Ithemba Labantu from Phillipi and Community Women's Action music groups from Eerste River and Mfuleni entertained commuters with their Marimba and Djemba drums and shakers.

Photos: Byron La Hoe

Safety addressed

BYRON LA HOE

METRORAIL in the Western Cape embarked on a Safety Awareness Campaign at the Eerste River station last Friday to raise awareness to commuters about safety and security at stations.

The campaign, a collaborative effort between Metrorail, the Commuter Forum Group (CFG) members, the railway police, NGOs, local schools and a wide range of stakeholders, is conducted monthly at different stations to minimise rail incidents.

Ms Zino Mihi, corporate affairs manager of Metrorail's marketing and communication department, said they work according to the safety calendar which they plan with all the departments within Metrorail and stakeholders.

"The aim of the campaign is to educate our customers about rail safety and to build strong relations with the surrounding communities. Our customers are important to us and we need to ensure that their safety is well taken care of."

She praised her team for their behind-the-

scenes co-ordination in ensuring the safety campaigns are effective. "It is an absolute privilege to work with them including the CFG members who are our eyes and ears on the ground."

She indicated they all have a good understanding and working relationship with each other. "I never miss a campaign and it gives them a boost when I'm around," said Mihi.

She added they have good partnerships with the schools, community-based organisations, the police and railway police in the areas they visit.

With teachers currently on strike as part of the national public services strike, schools were unable to participate at the station in Eerste River. Pupils at local schools would have performed drama and poetry on safety as part of the campaign. Instead, local music groups performed to attract commuters. Itemba Labantu from Phillipi and Community Women's Action music groups from Eerste River and Mfuleni entertained commuters with their Marimba and Djemba drums and shakers.

Metrorail promotes working with local groups when conducting safety campaigns on stations. "It is better to get local artists to perform because the people know them and can relate to them."

Mihi said they care about the problems that commuters encounter on stations and through this campaign, they are focusing on strengthening communities. "We can't stop the problem but we can try to reduce incidents taking place."

Months of planning culminated in a very successful event.

For more information dial 0800 656 463.



The audience actively participating in the safety campaign.

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