



IMPRESSIVE: An artist's impression of the Maitland proposal, left. Above: The proposals for this area and two others were unveiled yesterday.

PICTURE: WILLEM LAW

# Top team has designs on big Maitland makeover

City Desired exhibition reveals scenarios aimed at creating more housing space in suburb

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**A** POP-UP church on the Black River, a schoolyard enclosed by housing and a sports field with temporary student accommodation are just some of the future scenarios a group of designers have proposed for a Cape Town suburb.

These proposals for Maitland as well as proposals for the Lotus Park informal settlement in Gugulethu and the Two Rivers Urban Park were unveiled yesterday at the City Desired exhibition at the City Hall.

Teams of South African and Dutch designers from the Density Syndicate, city officials, researchers and several organisations have been working together for several months to develop future scenarios for the three areas.

The Density Syndicate is an initiative of UCT's African Centre for Cities and the International New Town Institute, in collaboration with the City of Cape Town, and explores innovative and alternative strategies for the future of the city.

Walter van Dijk from NL Architects, who worked on the Maitland proposal, said the team looked at how they could create more housing in Maitland and densify it without taking away existing structures but adding new structures to existing open spaces.

"By doing that in five locations we already doubled the number of housing units in the whole of Maitland (from about 3 000 to about 6 000)."

Van Dijk said empty shipping containers were already being used for student accom-



**INTO THE FUTURE:** Some of the proposals for Maitland include temporary student housing made of shipping containers that would be placed on the parameters of a sports fields. Designers also proposed the Maitland train station square, which could be used for mixed-use buildings.

modation in Amsterdam and the suggestion was that similar containers be placed along the parameters of a sports field in Maitland.

He said these containers came with a bathroom and kitchen, and "feel like the inside of a hotel room".

"If we use the parameters of the fields (in Maitland) we can stack up about 3 000 of these container units in a five-

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**THE TEAM LOOKED AT HOW THEY COULD CREATE MORE HOUSING IN MAITLAND WITHOUT TAKING AWAY MANY OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURES**

storey building and intensify the use of this area."

He said the field was in a good location, close to the station, which meant that students could commute to university.

One of the team's other proposals was based on a high school "with an abundance of land around the school" used for play.

"What we are proposing is to use this terrain of the school and build housing around it."

A future scenario for the Maitland train station was also drawn up and, according to the team, it could be the suburb's central public space.

Entry to the exhibition, which is open until next month, is free.

## DA demands investigation to 'lift cloud of secrecy' over collapsed silo at Majuba power plant

Staff Reporter and Sapa

**THE DA has called for an urgent inspection of the Majuba power plant in Mpumalanga to assess the damage which they call an "issue of national importance clouded in secrecy".**

A coal storage silo at the power station cracked on Saturday and later collapsed, damaging a conveyor system that feeds coal into the station.

A third of the damaged power station came back online on Monday after nationwide blackouts on Sunday.

Before the collapse, Majuba supplied 3 600 megawatts, roughly 10 percent

of the country's electricity capacity, said Eskom spokesman Andrew Etzinger on Sunday. Its capacity was reduced to 1 800MW and then to 600MW.

According to Eskom, this has since been increased to 1 200MW.

DA MP Natasha Michael said yesterday she would ask for an urgent oversight visit to the Majuba plant.

"We do not know what caused the collapse of the silo, we do not know how great the risk of further blackouts is, and we do not know how permanent the current solution to the problem is."

"The Minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown, should, together with the parliamentary portfolio committee

on public enterprises, perform an oversight visit to the Majuba power station.

"Given that this is a serious national crisis, with the potential to wreck our economy, destroy jobs, disrupt the matric exams and cause serious disruptions in the lives of South Africans, we would expect a constant and clear flow of information from the minister.

"It is ridiculous that no information has been forthcoming from minister Brown or Eskom on the nature of the problem at Majuba, and whether any further blackouts are likely."

Michael said it had been widely reported that Eskom used wet coal, which posed a serious danger since it

caused a chemical reaction that placed extra pressure on a silo.

"It is very plausible that the collapse of the silo, and the resulting national rolling blackout, was caused by negligence on the part of Eskom. This possibility needs to be thoroughly and transparently investigated."

Questions to Brown's office have gone unanswered.

Meanwhile the DA has accused Eskom of hiding behind apartheid laws by detaining a journalist who took pictures of the Majuba power station, saying it was a national key point.

Party spokeswoman and MP Phumzile van Damme said she would

ask Brown and Eskom management to brief Parliament's public enterprises committee on the power crisis.

"At this meeting I will request a full explanation on why Eskom is using an apartheid law, the National Key Points Act, to, as it would appear, hide Majuba power station from public scrutiny."

Beeld reported that power station security guards detained and later released Network24 journalist Le Roux Schoeman on Monday for taking photos of the power station.

Etzinger said Eskom would comment on the matter only after it had received a report from the security company.

*Matrics, keep your heads down, it's just a few more weeks and your hard work will pay off.*

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### Loud cheers for Cele

DEPUTY Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Bheki Cele was greeted with loud cheers at the Vosloorus Civic Centre in Ekurhuleni yesterday.

Some chanted "Bring back Bheki", as the man who was national police commissioner from 2009-2011, arrived to talk about crime. Bafana Bafana captain Senzo Meyiwa was killed in Vosloorus. - Sapa