

PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE

Cape Town invests in fibre-optic cables



The City of Cape Town recently approved the installation of fibre-optic cables, in a draft agreement with telecommunications company Link Africa (Pty) Ltd, to make broadband more widely available.

The City has also partnered with other private players, such as Telkom, granting them access to infrastructure in the metro so that they can also lay cables. The new partnership with Link Africa is pioneering in that, while the other private participants use road services and trenching, Link Africa will lay the new cables in the municipality's sewer and storm water pipes.

"The innovative way of installing fibre-optic cabling will have far-reaching benefits, not only for the City, but more importantly for our residents and businesses," said the Mayoral Committee

Member for Corporate Services and Compliance, Xanthea Limberg. "The installation of fibre-optic cables will help to reduce the negative impact of open trenching on municipal infrastructure such as roads and pavements."

According to Limberg, the City has contributed just over 700km to the 43 000km fibre footprint in the metro.

"We believe that improved access to telecommunications services and especially access to the internet is no longer a privilege but a necessity to link residents to economic activities," said Limberg.

The installation of fibre-optic cables could lead to more blockages in municipal pipes. But according to the City, its engineering department and an independent consultant investigated the possibility and found the risk acceptable. – *Leroy Glam*

WHAT TO DO IF YOU WANT FIBRE?

First you need to find out if anyone has laid, or is laying, cables in your area.

While many different companies are currently doing so, the search facility at www.webafrica.co.za/fibre will tell you if you're covered by five of the most prevalent companies (including Telkom and Octotel).

If cables are being laid in your area, the company responsible should leave a pamphlet in your postbox once they've completed installation. This will tell you which Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to contact if you're interested in getting fibre.

MOBILE SERVICE OFFERS RELIEF TO REFUGEES

Refugees are often targets for xenophobia, corruption and unlawful arrests, yet they don't always know where to turn when they need to fight human rights abuses or get basic services. With this in mind, a new initiative to assist non-nationals has been launched.

Help@hand is a first-of-its-kind mobile service, developed Developed by South Africa's Lawyers for Human Rights, in collaboration with Design 4 Development and the American Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

Users simply dial *120*8864*1538# to gain access to free legal advice and information on permits, healthcare and education. They will also be able to report cases of corruption, illegal detention and xenophobic attacks.

The low-cost service, launched recently in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, is available in English, French, Kiswahili and Somali. – *Rebekah Funk*

SA's first *tea bar* opens in Cape Town

Somebody call the queen; South Africa's first dedicated tea bar just opened its doors.

"All our teas will serve a function conducive to mental and physical states that support modern-day living," said entrepreneur Jessica Bonin, creator of Lady Bonin's Tea and owner of the new Tea Bar. "We don't want to change the culture; we want to provide additions and alternatives to it in the way people already enjoy."

Tea Bar targets people who want healthy alternatives, enjoy innovation and exploration, and are inquiring into the nature and source of what they consume.

"Tea is an adaptogen," Bonin said. "That means it simultaneously affects the part of your brain that energises you and the part of your brain that calms you. But the benefits go far beyond that. Where people can't have more than one to two cups [of coffee] a day but still want that break from the office or a pick-me-up, tea can take over and provide that platform."



Bonin's goal is to establish a strong footprint locally with retail sales, expand export avenues, and franchise the Tea Bar concept. There are also plans to launch an exciting new product in September.

"This is a first of its kind and we cannot wait to take the world by storm," Bonin said. "We want this local *is lekker* brand to become loved in the home as well as adored internationally."

Tea Bar is located at 213 Long Street, Cape Town. Visit www.ladyboninstea.com for more info. – *Eugene Yiga*