



ELIZABETH Park in Bellville has been upgraded with lighting placed around the park to illuminate the surroundings. | GTP

ICONIC LANDMARKS

Renewal urban initiative shines the light on Bellville

A GROUNDBREAKING urban renewal initiative is set to transform Bellville into a vibrant beacon of economic ambition and community pride, as corporate leaders and local government unite to illuminate the district's most iconic landmarks.

Backed by the City of Cape Town and driven by the Greater Tygerberg Partnership (GTP), the Bellville Skyline Project will see 10 major commercial and institutional buildings coordinated under an energy-efficient LED lighting scheme. This ambitious visual transformation forms the centrepiece of a broader placemaking strategy designed to restore quality of life, unlock massive investment potential, and signal the district's rising significance as an economic powerhouse.

For too long, urban revitalisation has been viewed through the narrow lens of basic infrastructure and cosmetic beautification, but this initiative represents a profound shift toward creating spaces where people feel deeply connected. By activating public spaces and enhancing the night-time environment, the project aims to establish a recognisable visual symbol that sets the scene for present and future growth.

Speaking at the annual gala dinner hosted by the GTP, Warren Hewitt, the chief executive officer at GTP, emphasised the psychological power of the project, noting that "sense of place is an emotion, and if we can positively influence people, we will create lasting impact".

By changing how people interact with the evening cityscape, the initiative aims to create environments where people can live, work, study, invest, and connect with dignity.

The financial framework of the skyline project is as innovative as the design itself, relying on a shared-investment model where individual property owners fund the lighting of their own premises. Major landmarks, including the Sanlam Head Office, the University of the Western Cape Health Sciences Centre, and the Telkom Tower, will participate, ensuring collective ownership of Bellville's long-term transformation.

This public-private collaboration has drawn immense praise from Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, who said at the gala dinner, that "the City is backing Bellville, the City is backing GTP, and the City is calling on the private sector to do the same".

Hill-Lewis further endorsed the partnership's efficiency, stating that "the money invested into GTP has provided some of the best returns for the City of Cape Town over the last four and a half years".

This luminescent transformation extends right down to the ground level, where the revitalisation of Elizabeth Park is currently unfolding alongside a major R20 million municipal infrastructure upgrade. The park initiative will introduce bespoke aesthetic lighting to accentuate pathways, architectural features, and trees during dusk and early evening hours, creating a safe, welcoming, and highly valued public asset.

James Vos, Mayco member for economic development, said officials "see serious economic energy happening in Bellville" and explained that the municipality partners on these specific placemaking initiatives to "beautify, maintain, and set the scene for present and future growth".

By bringing together corporate funding, universities, and government, the partnership is successfully proving its core ethos that "when we invest in places, we invest in people", shaping a sustainable future where communities are not only functional, but alive with possibility.

RIISING TENSIONS

State reiterates position on 'illegal' foreign nationals

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THE government's position remains clear: foreign nationals who are in South Africa illegally are required to leave the country voluntarily or be repatriated through the appropriate legal processes.

This was among the key messages to emerge from the latest briefing of the Overstrand Municipality's Incident Command Centre (ICC), which continues to coordinate the response to tensions involving foreign nationals in Kleinmond, Gansbaai and Stanford.

The briefing comes as the Western Cape Government condemned violence, intimidation and lawlessness directed at foreign nationals, while law enforcement agencies prepare for possible further demonstrations and community mobilisations in the coming weeks.

Authorities revealed that approximately 90% of the foreign nationals currently being accommodated in temporary facilities in Gansbaai, Stanford and Kleinmond are undocumented.

Officials warned that a difficult month may lie ahead as some community groups continue to call for the deportation of undocumented foreign nationals and have reportedly issued a deadline of June 30 for them to leave the country.

Law enforcement agencies have

already been alerted to possible community mobilisations in Zwelihle, which could begin as early as this week. Hermanus SAPS station commander Colonel Gustav Tamboer has been engaging organisers regarding proposed routes for marches and timeframes in an effort to prevent disruptions and maintain public order.

Authorities are also preparing for a planned march in Pearly Beach this Saturday, while Operation Dudula has indicated that it intends holding marches on June 17 and 18.

Authorities have also activated a comprehensive NATJOINTS operational plan in response to the unrest. The operation brings together SAPS, the State Security Agency, Metro Police Departments, Traffic Law Enforcement, the Department of Home Affairs, Correctional Services, the South African National Defence Force and other key government stakeholders.

Western Cape MEC of Police Oversight and Community Safety Anroux Marais welcomed the coordinated law enforcement response, saying it would assist efforts to restore and maintain order in affected communities while ensuring those responsible for criminal acts are brought to justice.

The developments follow recent incidents in Mossel Bay, Kleinmond, Gansbaai and Stanford that resulted in the displacement of hundreds of foreign

nationals and prompted the activation of emergency response structures.

The matter was discussed during an extended Western Cape Cabinet meeting this week, where Premier Alan Winde and provincial leaders received a briefing from senior SAPS officials.

"The Western Cape Government Cabinet condemns, in the strongest possible terms, all acts of violence, intimidation or lawlessness against foreign nationals," Winde said.

While authorities believe the situation has stabilised, the Premier called on SAPS to improve intelligence gathering and confirmed that mediators had been deployed to affected communities.

The most serious violence occurred in KwaNongqaba, Mossel Bay, where around 55 shacks were torched.

Western Cape police spokesperson Brigadier Novela Potelwa said police, assisted by public order officers, fire services and disaster management teams, responded to the unrest and helped restore calm.

The violence left three people dead, including two Mozambican nationals aged 27 and 43, whose bodies were discovered with assault-related injuries. A separate murder investigation was launched after an 18-year-old South African man was stabbed to death.

Potelwa said police investigations remain ongoing and five arrests have been made on charges relating to public

violence and possession of presumed stolen property.

She also urged residents and community leaders not to spread misinformation. "A further plea is made to community members and leaders to refrain from disseminating unverified information as that causes unnecessary panic and anxiety," Potelwa said.

As part of the humanitarian response, municipal facilities have been opened to provide temporary shelter to displaced foreign nationals who fear returning home.

Municipal manager Dr Dean O'Neill said local government had a responsibility to protect vulnerable people during humanitarian crises, despite public order matters falling outside its core mandate.

Emergency Medical Services have also deployed mobile clinics to provide chronic medication to displaced individuals who fled without their belongings. Among those currently housed in the facilities is a woman from Kleinmond who gave birth after being transported to hospital earlier this week.

Officials said language barriers continue to hamper efforts to communicate available options to undocumented foreign nationals. The majority of those currently seeking refuge are Malawian and Mozambican nationals. Authorities, however, fear that any further

unrest could trigger a "second wave" affecting other foreign communities, including Zimbabwean, Bangladeshi and Somali nationals.

The Department of Home Affairs has meanwhile deployed immigration officials to verify the documentation status of displaced foreign nationals.

Speaking at the ICC briefing, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Operations at the Border Management Authority, Stephen van Neel, said the current situation was being used by various groups to advance political agendas ahead of the November elections.

Van Neel stressed that non-compliance with immigration laws could not be ignored and noted that South Africa has only around 600 immigration officers nationwide, making cooperation between government departments and law enforcement agencies essential.

This is not the first time concerns over xenophobia and anti-foreigner sentiment in South Africa have prompted foreign nationals to seek assistance from their home countries. Earlier this year, Ghana facilitated the return of hundreds of its citizens from South Africa, while more than 800 Ghanaians reportedly registered for assistance amid concerns over their safety.

Nigeria also announced the voluntary evacuation of at least 130 Nigerians who requested to return home due to safety fears.

GLOBAL FOOTBALL

King's Cup Soccer, brought to you by Ruby Family Office, comes to SA

PARTNERED CONTENT

THE excitement of global football and entertainment is heading to South Africa as the internationally recognised King's Cup Soccer prepares to deliver a world-class sporting spectacle unlike anything seen before.

Known for combining football, celebrity culture, entertainment, and philanthropy into one powerful platform, the King's Cup continues its global expansion, with South Africa becoming one of its newest and most exciting destinations.

The previous King's Cup edition featured some of football's most recognized legends and icons, including John Terry, Franck Ribéry, David Silva, Paul Scholes, and Roberto Carlos, alongside many other footballing greats who participated in the event.

For this year's upcoming edition, the drafted player list is expected to feature another world-class lineup of football icons and global stars, including former Inter Miami superstar Jordi Alba, Juan Sebastián Verón, David Villa, Gareth Bale, Marcelo, Eden Hazard, Mustapha Hadji, and many more football legends expected to grace the pitch in this edition.

This year's edition will also feature a powerful lineup of globally branded teams representing different regions around the world, including:

- Red Rock Royals – Dubai
- BW Saints – India
- Odisha Kings FC – India
- Clear Water Knights – US
- Betlife Angels – Slovakia



MOHAMED Saib and Edgar Davids. | Supplied

- AIG Fab Stars – United Kingdom
- Kheloyar Giants – United Kingdom
- Capital Gold Emperors – South Africa

Each team is expected to feature a mixture of football legends, celebrity athletes, influencers, entertainers, and global personalities competing in one of the most unique football entertainment concepts in the world today.

With football deeply rooted in the heart of South African culture, the arrival of the King's Cup represents a perfect union between global entertain-

ment and local passion for the beautiful game. Fans can expect high-profile exhibition matches, celebrity appearances, gala events, media showcases, fan engagement experiences, and charity-driven activities designed to inspire communities both on and off the pitch.

Proudly bringing this vision to life is Ruby Family Office, founded by Lina Lim Sy. Built on the vision of connecting industries, capital, innovation, and opportunities across international markets, Ruby Family Office has estab-



ALESSANDRO Del Piero and Mohamed Saib. | Supplied

lished itself as a forward-thinking global family office operating across multiple sectors and industries.

More than an investor, Ruby Family Office serves as a strategic partner – working alongside governments, corporations, institutions, and private entities to create scalable opportunities through collaboration and innovation.

By leveraging its Assets Under Management (AUM), the family office actively supports joint ventures, international developments, technology-driven platforms, and high-impact initiatives that create both financial growth and meaningful social impact.

Through the King's Cup, Ruby Family Office continues to demonstrate its commitment to using sport as a platform for global connection, entertain-

ment, and philanthropy.

From youth engagement programs and community initiatives to foundation visits and charitable outreach, the event is designed to leave a lasting legacy in every region it touches.

As the King's Cup expands across Dubai, India, the United States, and now South Africa, it continues to establish itself as one of the most ambitious football and entertainment concepts globally – where sport becomes more than competition and evolves into a platform for opportunity, impact, and unity.

South Africa, Get Ready. The King's Cup is coming.

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TOP-CLASS ACCOMMODATION

Win a luxury getaway this Father's Day at Val Du Charron

PARTNERED CONTENT

FORGET the novelty mugs and "Best Dad" socks – give dad something truly unforgettable: a two-night stay for two people sharing at Val Du Charron Guesthouse including breakfast valued at R8 496.

A member of Cape Country Routes, Val du Charron Wine & Leisure Estate is a working winery situated in the heart of the winelands close to the town of Wellington, just under an hour's drive from Cape Town.

Val du Charron offers the ideal base for corporate and leisure visitors to explore the winelands and savour the culture of South African wine making and its products. Its luxury accommodation comprises:

- A four-star Guesthouse – recently renovated and now with 40 luxurious, family-friendly rooms centred around a sparkling new pool and a Boma Bar.
- Two five-star offerings comprise the exclusive Coach House with three spacious suites, each with plunge pool

and private patio;

- Dating back to 1699, the completely restored and revamped Manor House which offers one of the most distinctive accommodation experiences in the Wellington winelands, ideal for honeymooners or families.
- Its two fully licensed restaurants are:

The Grillroom, a bespoke steakhouse specialising in grain and grass-fed aged meats and a wide variety of seafood and poultry options and tasty vegetarian options – also recently revamped the interior now features sumptuous softs in rich browns and vibrant greens, an expansive buffet area for breakfast, conferencing and special occasions, cosy fireplaces, immense glass doors and a cantilevered deck that appears to float over vineyards and mountains; and Pizza Vista, the Estate's Italian pizzeria based in the farm's historic cellar is the best place to enjoy rigorously Italian food with a glass of the Estate's award-winning wines;

- Children can enjoy the enclosed splash pad and play Centre area.



VAL du Charron Wine & Leisure Estate. | Supplied

Another highlight of a stay at Val du Charron are the wine tastings and

cellar tours. A winner of the prestigious Drinks International Most Innovative

Approach Wine Tourism award, Val du Charron combines the rich traditions and natural beauty of the area with modern day comforts and technology to produce, not only superb wines, but an experience for guests to remember.

To subscribe SMS 'FathersDay' to 33258 and we will call you back. SMSes charged at R1.50. Free SMSes do not apply.

Giveaway Terms and Conditions:

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- Accommodation is subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Terms and conditions apply.
- The prize cannot be redeemed over weekends, Summer or Easter school holidays.

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