

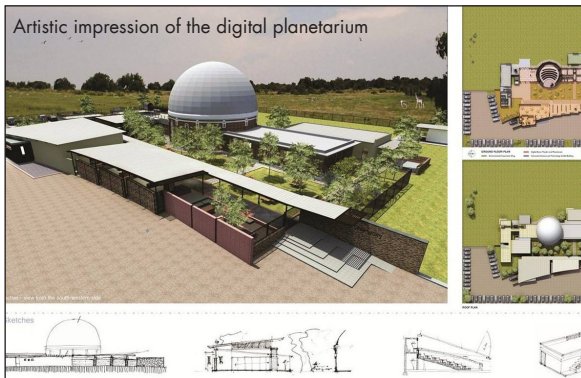


Members of the Mangaung Fire Brigade wet the Dome to test its waterproofing; with a fire engine from 1926 when they start building the observatory. The dome will accommodate the new dome interior



MMM City Manager Me Sibongile Mazibuko and Officials from UFS pose in front of the old fire engine.

Artistic impression of the digital planetarium



MEC Tourism, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Mr Msebenzi Zwane and MMM Deputy Mayor Clr Connie Rampai at the launch and unveiling of the dome crates

## Digital planetarium to “transport audience through the universe”

The city of Mangaung in partnership with the DETEA and UFS on Tuesday, June 18 launched another flagship project at Naval Hill Nature Reserve, where crates which will form an integral part of the digital planetarium were unveiled in front of the media and various stakeholders.

The launch was attended by the MEC DETEA, Mr Msebenzi Zwane, MMM Deputy-Mayor Clr Connie Rampai, UFS Vice-Rector: Operations Professor Nicky Morgan, and officials from various entities which are working together for the realisation of the planetarium.

“The digital planetarium is a tripartite partnership between the city, government and the university, and it will take all our efforts to make it a success. As with the revitalisation of Naval Hill, this will position Mangaung as a prime tourist destination” Clr Rampai said.

The dream of having a digital planetarium, which would be the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa, started many years ago, Professor Morgan told the

gathered audience.

During his keynote address, MEC Zwane said once completed, the digital planetarium would attract not only locals and South Africans, but even the world at large.

The MEC further explained that the second phase of the project would include the development of a state of the art eco-park recreational area to complement the planetarium; and eventually the establishment of an international hotel & convention centre including an office park, which in turn will generate significant revenue for MMM through rates and taxes.

Visitors of the planetarium would be immersed in a 3-D experience of the digital Universe as well as the recreation of the macro- and micro-cosmos and a variety of other environments. This will enable the audience to ‘fly through’ the Universe, visit planets, explore secrets of the oceans, or even organs of the human body. This would be complemented by a state of the art sound system.

### MANGAUNG NEWS UPDATE

This platform has been created to communicate all the activities, projects, events and the latest developments within MMM. If an individual Directorate wants to publish their information, please contact the communications unit: (Tel: 051-4058212 or e-mail qondile.khedama@mangaung.co.za)