

R5m Grand Parade upgrade will include revamped trading kiosks

The City of Cape Town's newly elected mayoral committee member for assets and facilities management Alderman James Vos recently did a site visit to the Grand Parade which is currently undergoing a R5m upgrade.



"The Grand Parade is one of the city's most iconic heritage sites and its upgrade, together with the major upgrade of the City Hall, will increase the precinct's attraction as an events venue and tourist attraction," said Vos.

The proposed plan is to upgrade the trading kiosks to fit-in with the new revamped overall aesthetics of the precinct. The row of small kiosks facing the parade will be demolished and those closest to Plein Street will be refurbished to make the spaces compliant with SABS regulations. The rear of the existing kiosk's service yards will be converted into small kiosk spaces to accommodate the existing traders who are currently trading from the row that will be demolished.

Law enforcement presence

As part of the project, the existing ablution facilities will be revamped and internal alterations will be effected to one of the kiosks, on the first-floor, to accommodate law enforcement on the Grand Parade, which aims to improve policing and security at the venue.

"Our commitment is to create a safe space for residents and visitors to this iconic public venue. We want locals and visitors to stop-over at the Grand Parade more often, and not just once a year for the festive lights event. Being located close to the various modes of public transport makes the venue accessible to residents from across the city."

During an inspection, it was found that the kiosk buildings did not meet the necessary safety standards and fire regulations. The buildings therefore either need to be demolished or refurbished to a compliant standard.

"I am confident that the proposed upgrade of the Grande Parade, together with the recent revamp of the City Hall will continue to position this iconic precinct as an ideal events venue, a tourist attraction and, of course, economic opportunities area for some of our most vulnerable residents. The recent installation of the Madiba statue on the balcony of the City Hall will in itself attract locals and visitors to the city. Therefore, it is vital that the upgrade of the Grand Parade goes full-steam ahead to remain a premier attraction," added Vos.

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