Recycling of graves proposed

SOLWA ZULU

Concerned city officials have come up with a proposal which may solve the problem of space at cemeteries. The city has placed a time limit on all graves in the municipal area, as the burial rate in the eThekwini region reaches 600 a weekend, leading to the city fast running out of burial space.

Thembanhledizi Ngcobo, head of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries in the municipality, is proposing that the city's grave recycling plan extends to all graves older than six to 10 years, regardless of whether they are regularly visited and tended by the deceased families.

Saying it is time for radical action to deal with the crisis, Ngcobo has proposed that all graves be dug up after six to 10 years and the remains be cremated, or buried deeper to make way for new burials.

"When we start recycling, we need to make sure that there won't be anything standing in the way of the process. There are various factors that we need to look at, especially religious ones, but we will have a consensual process where we will consult all stakeholders and communities. We have a big problem on our hands now, and we need to deal with it soon," Ngcobo said.

Ngcobo is also proposing that headstones at cemeteries be burned because they take up too much valuable space.

"We need to make sure that we take up all the spaces and apply this practice creatively every six to 10-year cycle. If we continue the way we are going now, the whole country will be turned into one big graveyard," he added.

Burial space shortage

Domestic workers take on world's highest peaks

DOMINIQUE HERMAN

CAPE TOWN: Last Sunday, two domestic workers from Mount Everest on top of the world when they reached the peak of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

The mountain, at 6,961m, is the highest peak on Earth outside of the Himalayas. And climbers do not attempt the Himalayas in winter, according to

Giled Stern. Stern recruited intamano Vedha residents Zakouwa Matomo and Nomawethu Nkila, as well as fellow mountain climbers and marathon runner Evelina Tshabalala, to participate in an extreme adventure sport-cum-achievement branding project called tefame.

Matomo, Nkila and Tshabalala plan to climb the seven highest peaks on each continent, from Kilimanjaro to Everest.

In September last year, Matomo and Nkila summited Mount Everest in Russia, and on June 1 they will set off for North America's Denali in Alaska. Tshabalala, who is HIV positive, will take on Aconcagua in February.

Stern said he made it to the top of Aconcagua on his third attempt two years ago. The women did it on their first attempt, in 11 days. "It's a little bit flat on top, like Table Mountain. It's so beautiful," Nkila, 31, said yesterday.

"The weather was good. We were very lucky. The day after we summited it was windy and cloudy," she said.

"It was very steep and rocky and we were not used to carrying big bags," she added.

Libraries have interesting events planned

NITOZIKO MFUSI

BOOKS and reading will be a feature in all libraries in the province. The council has embarked on a programme to ensure that all libraries are well-stocked and that reading materials are of high quality.

Court to rule on Lady Luck's role in poker

LONDON: A London court is expected to decide this week whether an elderly woman committed suicide. Lady Luck, who is in her 80s, is believed to have died after being found dead in a car in a road near her home.

Police said the woman, who was known as "Lady Luck," was last seen alive on Wednesday. They added that there were no suspicious circumstances.

Lady Luck is known for her skills as a gambler and is a regular at the local casino. She is believed to have won a large sum of money in a recent game and is said to have been in a state of excitement at the time of her death.

"We know that graves can be recycled, and we would put the recumbent owner to rest in a new plot and leave the old one to be filled with new burials," said Ngcobo.