

Knysna's Hall of Fame now built in Soweto

THE town of Knysna has suffered an "enormous loss" with the news that the vaunted South African Sports & Arts Hall of Fame will no longer be built here.

Former Springbok Naas Botha, who represented the private sector entity behind the development, last month told the parliamentary portfolio committee on sports and recreation that the project would instead be undertaken in Soweto, Joburg.

Botha said that the decision had been taken following a number of delays. A scaled down watersports complex would however still be built on the Knysna site.

The former rugby star and Knysna landowners West River first suggested the Hall of Fame project in 2001, but the Western Cape government only gave its approval in 2008, and then for a smaller development than was originally proposed.

Botha said this had been rejected by the investors.

Knysna DA councillor Richard Dawson said he was surprised to hear the project had been scaled back to include only a watersports venue, adding that the change of plans represented an enormous loss to the town.

"It was going to be phenomenal. Back in 2007 it was a R2-billion project and this amount

would have escalated. We had a number of people in the building industry who had gained skills on other developments and they could have been employed on this development," Dawson said.

The original project included the Hall of Fame, a golf course, a luxury hotel and an upmarket housing development.

A 2004 economic study of the proposed development by Wits professor Richard Tomlinson found it would have created at least 1 000 construction jobs and another 678 off-site jobs during the four-year construction period.

Tomlinson also estimated that the Hall would have boosted Knysna's tourism spend by R123-million per year.

Garden Route Media

Give education a chance

Conservation student Daniel Vivier, right, recently stopped over in Plett during his epic cycle tour down the length of South Africa, from Messina to Cape Town. Along the way Daniel, 21, has made presentations to schools, exhorting them to raise funds to help pay for the education of underprivileged children through the Alluvia Give Me a Chance Foundation (visit www.givemeachance.co.za for further information). He was joined on the Garden Route leg of his journey by Alluvia founder Delaney Brugman, left, and on their Plett stopover the two cyclists were hosted by attorney Hardy Mills, centre. - Garden Route Media



New food project feeds Eden's poor



relief to the most vulnerable members of the community. Eden community services manager Clive Africa said the FoodBank would run a pilot project for six months, provid-

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