



Narend and Manitha Singh at the tourism awards function



Anant Singh, Billy Nair and Imtiaz Cajee at the Timol book launch



Robbie Naidoo, Reshma Badal and Minister in the President's Office Essop Pahad at the launch of "Timol: A Quest for Justice"

Pictures: M S ROY and SIMON MATHEBULA

Durban's 'jeans and T-shirts' brigade spoil the show

THERE are few grander ways of making an entrance than in a chauffeur-driven Merc.

Guests at the Zulu Kingdom Tourism Awards enjoyed this treat last week — even though it was only from the Sibaya casino's parking lot to the main entrance.

The awards were hosted by Tourism KwaZulu-Natal to recognise service excellence in the industry.

Tourism KZN chairman Anita Soni was an entertaining speaker and, along with her CEO, Miller Matola, kept the ceremony short and sweet.

Soni looked simple but smart in a tailored black pants suit with black-and-red beaded accessories.

The province's MEC for arts, culture and tourism, Narend Singh, attended with his wife, Manitha, daughter and son-in-law, plus a brand-new grandchild.

The couple looked elegant, he in a tux and she in a red crushed-cotton punjabi with gemstone accessories.

Mrs Singh, by the way, is not just a pretty accessory on the MEC's arm. She is also something of a transport mogul.

The omnipresent deputy mayor of Durban, Logie Naidoo, was accompanied by his wife, Jeevie.

I picked up an interesting titbit of information about the deputy mayor: he has won an award every month of this year.

I jested that May's award should be for attending the most functions in the history of the mayor's office. It is a majestic feat in anyone's book.

At my table was former KZN premier Lionel Mtshali, who was prudent than I at dessert time, passing up the divine tiramisu for a healthy apple.

The current premier, Sbu Ndebele, greeted him warmly when he finally arrived an hour late, in "African time", according to MC Makhosi Khoza.

I was a trifle annoyed that although the majority of guests were in smart evening wear, according to the invite, others did not make an effort — I noticed a person even in baggies and slops.

That doesn't qualify as a fashion faux pas; it is downright rudeness.



SHANTHINI NAIDOO'S

CITY SWANK

A colleague who attended the recent *Bravo!* opera show also saw Durbanites in sloppy jeans and T-shirts.

Far be it from me to tell people how to dress, but if you don't dress up for an opera or a glitzy awards evening, what will you dress up for?

I WASN'T able to attend the Durban Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner owing to other commitments.

It was a "big one" on the social scene and Prince Sifiso Zulu was inaugurated as the new head.

Sources tell me it went off well enough, despite extremely long speeches that had guests clinking their glasses to no avail.

Hint for speakers: when you hear people moving glasses and cutlery around, you should stop talking!



Award winner Siza Hadebe, KZN Premier Sbu Ndebele, Tourism KZN chairperson Anita Soni and Miller Matola



Denzyl Janneker, Michelle Khan, and Pat and Ashok Ramsarup at the Tourism KZN awards ceremony

LAST Friday marked the launch of the book *Timol: A Quest for Justice* in the former University of Durban-Westville's recital hall.

The story of anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Timol, who died in police custody in 1971, is well known, and I looked forward to meeting the author, Imtiaz Cajee.

The Minister in the Presidency, Essop Pahad, who was a friend of Timol back in the struggle days, helped Cajee, Timol's nephew, with his research.

Pahad delivered a touching anecdotal speech about their

friendship.

I ran into Durban city manager Mike Sutcliffe, a target of jibes about his "angry white male" tirade.

The literary evening wasn't really a "glamour gathering", but an exquisite Xhosa dress with hand embroidery definitely deserves a mention.

The wearer, Narissa Ramdhani, is the director of the university's documentation centre and told me it was made by a Grahamstown designer.

After the ceremony, I met film-

maker Anant Singh, who sponsored the launch.

I also spoke briefly to police communications director and KZN Tamil Federation head Bala Naidoo, who was getting ready for the new year celebration.

It was a gathering of contemporaries, with many struggle stalwarts in attendance, including Billy Nair, Fatima Meer, Mo Essack, Indres Moodley and Siva Naidoo.

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