

Murals cheer up Durban station

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COMMUTERS using Durban station's pedestrian underpass are getting an injection of colour into their lives.

Local artists, following a brief from cellphone network operator Cell C, are painting cheerful murals on the walls depicting typical Durban scenes.

"Spearheading" the project is a Zulu warrior who gives a whole new meaning to surfing. Balancing on his cowhide surfboard, spear in hand, he pursues a fish.

A vivacious Zulu maiden proffers her fruit, holidaymakers frolic on the beachfront, while a dolphin plays volleyball. Boats bob in Durban harbour, the huge head of a ricksha puller beams from the wall. And there's a golden spire of the Indian market, Tollgate bridge, a Zulu woman wrapped in a blanket.

The co-ordinator of the project, Terry-Anne Stevenson, of Community Mural Projects, said: "The sponsors wanted to give an opportunity to young professional artists to promote our city."

"There are four, Sharlene Khan, Lalelani Mbhele, Joseph Manana and S'bu Sithebe, each with an art degree."

Khan said sketches had been sent to Cell C for approval. "Each mural had to have a Durban theme and a C in it."

Mbhele, who was responsible for the warrior surfer, said "C is reflected in the wave, curling above the surfer."



ABOVE: Artist Lalelani Mbhele helps this Zulu warrior spear his fish.

LEFT: 'Buy my fruit'. 'I'd like that one, please'.

BELOW: An impressive ricksha puller gazes out of this mural at Durban station

PICTURES: MARILYN BERNARD

