

Township secrets on your way to the KNP

Who of us have not wondered what transpires at all the little informal establishments along the route to Paul Kruger Gate? Lowvelder recently took a look, and made some interesting “discoveries” along the Numbi road. Owners were happy to provide details about services offered, and to share their concerns about everyday challenges. Lowvelder found the retail experience both fascinating and eye-opening, and it was uplifting to see how community members combine initiative and hard work to earn an honest living, often under trying circumstances. At no time did we feel threatened, although locals did advise tourists not to linger for too long as curious onlookers begin to gather eventually. See you at the shops!

Richard Prinsloo



The salon is run by Betty Fifelola, originally from Nigeria, who provides a range of beauty services ranging from dreads and weaves to perms and mani/pedis. A full nail experience will cost R150. Betty does not feel that crime is her biggest concern, rather the abundance of competition!



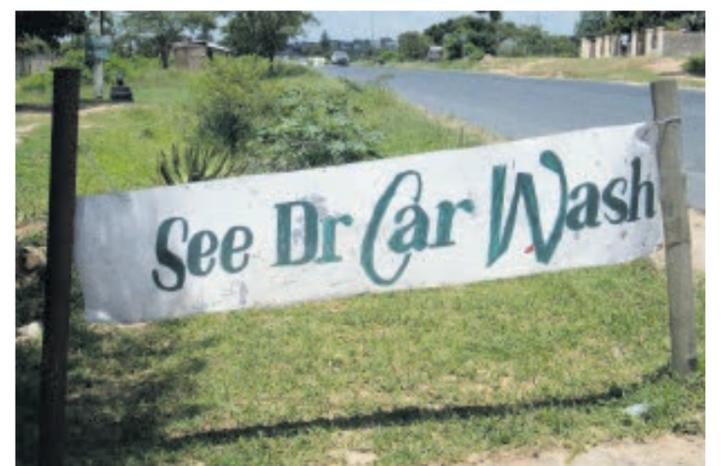
Motorists stop to fill their stomachs.



Sonto Mabuye prepares a delicious meal while you wait. She says she does well, but crime remains a daily concern for her business.



After a long morning's shopping it is time to unwind, and a typical spot for that would be a tavern such as Koffie, near Numbi Gate.



The adjacent Car Wash, another ubiquitous township feature.



A Castle Lite quart sets you back R19.



There is a limited but delicious menu, with freshly-grilled riblets and pap or salad setting you back R40.



Nomaququ Lekhoane and Thulisile Mqiba are the chefs. They also feel that crime is their biggest concern.