

Lilliesleaf out of our history books



DEMOCRATIC ROOTS . . . Visitors view historical materials at the Lilliesleaf farm interactive museum

Pictures: Nicolene Ockers

Farm where banned ANC leaders plotted apartheid's downfall now a high-tech museum

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LILLIESLEAF farm, where members of the banned ANC hid from the security police in the 1960s, is hosting a history exhibition with a difference in its audiovisual-interactive museum.

The newly refurbished location, now a heritage site, boasts state-of-the-art technical gadgets that reveal the history of the farm and its role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

To learn about South African history, young people and visitors can pop into the auditorium situated next to the liberation centre to view a 15-minute film documenting the history of the anti-apartheid struggle and how the farm featured in that struggle.

The interactive table found in the main house's dining area will keep techno-freaks occupied,



The kitchen is a memoir of the life of former ANC president Chief Albert Luthuli and photographs of the late leader adorn these walls.

An antique radio that Madiba used to listen to Luthuli's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1961 has found a place in the kitchen and audio sounds of his speech transmit from a ceiling projector.

Mandela's room in the worker's building is another interesting facet of the centre. Visitors will have the chance to listen to a speech he made after he was sentenced at the Rivonia treason trial. The former president

The lounge recalls the police raid in 1963 when virtually the entire leadership of Umkhonto weSizwe was arrested

explains his reasons for planning to overthrow the government.

At Lilliesleaf farm resource centre, you can read statements and interview snippets that are engraved on glass walls and sidewalk exhibitions.

The historic farm was used as the headquarters of the then banned ANC, and party leaders such as the late Raymond Mhlaba, Govan Mbeki and Nelson Mandela drafted the plans for Operation Mayibuye – a guerrilla strategy to overthrow the National Party government.

The museum is open to the public between 8am and 6pm on weekdays and 9am and 2pm on weekends.

Entrance is R45 for adults and R30 for children under 12. For enquiries call 011 803 7882 or visit www.lilliesleaftrust.co.za

with pop-up displays

of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd's speech when the National Party came to power in 1948, and brief statements made by the accused during the Rivonia treason trial.

Handwritten autobiographies of iconic struggle stalwarts who spent some time on the farm are depicted on the walls of this room.

The lounge recalls the police raid in 1963 when virtually the entire leadership of Umkhonto weSizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, was arrested. Enlarged pictures from that fateful day are hung on the walls.



INTERACTIVE. . . Young people in particular will enjoy Lilliesleaf museum's state-of-the-art displays

