

Left for Dredd

The legendary lawman will strut his 3D stuff in city production

[Page 7](#)



Production begins at new city film studios

Michelle Pietersen

CAPE Town Film Studios (CTFS) has signed its first major production deal, valued at R140 million.

Nico Dekker, chief executive officer, said the deal would inject about R175m into the economy because for every rand spent an economic impact factor of 2.5 is accrued.

After years of delays and controversy, construction of the studios started last year.

This week the four sound-stage facility welcomed its first production.

DNA Films, makers of *The Beach*, *Trainspotting* and *The*

'Our vision of an exceptional facility is an exciting reality'

Last King of Scotland, have chosen Cape Town as production base for the 3D action-film *Judge Dredd*, based on the comic book figure brought to the big screen by Sylvester Stallone. Pre-production started on Monday, with physical production expected

to conclude in March 2011.

"The affordability of South Africa as a film destination and the new high-tech Cape Town Film Studios provided the ideal combination," said producer Andrew McDonald.

Studio executives said this is a significant vote of confidence in the establishment of the facilities considering the first phase of development has not been completed.

Anant Singh, chairman of the CTFS, said the deal sets the tone for the future.

"Our vision to create an exceptional world-class facility for local and international films is now an exciting real-

ity," he said.

Dekker said *Judge Dredd* is a "dream production" to start with as it is largely studio based and very high-tech.

"*Judge Dredd* will use most of the available 17 000m² of production facilities and will be based at the studios for the duration of filming," he said.

The City of Cape Town has agreed to have scenes filmed at the Cape Town Civic Centre.

Karl Urban, Bones McCoy in *Star Trek*, heads the cast.

The team includes director Pete Travis (*End Game*) and set designer Mark Digby (*Stumdog Millionaire*).

michelle.pietersen@inl.co.za