

Couple were told to pay R15 000 a child

They thought amount covered the paperwork for adoption, the High Court in Pretoria hears



PLEADING NOT GUILTY: Raisibe Ramohlola at the high court in Pretoria for allegedly selling two children. PICTURE: BONGANI SHILUBANE

ZELDA VENTER

THE WOMAN who thought she had adopted two children after she and her husband had paid R15 000 to the owner of a Diepsloot orphanage for each child was initially surprised when told to make the payment.

She thought the cost would include the paperwork to register the children, among other things.

The woman, who cannot be identified to protect the children, took the stand in the high court in Pretoria to testify on behalf of the State in the child trafficking case against Raisibe Ramohlola, 60, better

known as "Mama Jackie". The owner of the "illegally" run Delfire Home and Care Centre in Diepsloot pleaded not guilty and said the couple had paid the money to her as a donation. She claimed they fetched the children – a month-old baby and a six-year-old boy – in 2012 and refused to bring them back.

But the couple said Mama Jackie had assured them that they were adopting the children and that she had the power to facilitate that.

The childless couple had applied to adopt through the Tshwane and Joburg welfare departments. The man was, however, involved in a serious

car accident and they eventually lost contact with the welfare authorities.

The woman testified that she read about Mama Jackie's good work and saw her contact details in a newspaper.

The story was about Mama Jackie, who was taking care of an abandoned baby called Baby Hope. "I wanted to adopt Baby Hope and I immediately phoned her."

They went to the orphanage. Mama Jackie said she would speak to the social worker about whether the couple could have Baby Hope.

The mother said she also told Mama Jackie about a boy she had seen and wanted.

"I thought we could have a happy life with two children."

Mama Jackie, however, later told the woman she could not have Baby Hope, but that there was another baby available. "She explained what the baby looked like. I thought maybe they wanted to choose who I could adopt, but I was happy."

Mama Jackie phoned her a few days later and told her the social worker wanted R15 000 for each child.

"I was surprised and asked her what the money was for. She said it included everything. She at first said we must pay a R5 000 deposit and the rest upon delivery, but she

later changed her mind and wanted everything."

After a few weeks, Mama Jackie said they could fetch the children.

When they arrived at Diepsloot, Mama Jackie was at the clinic and someone took the couple there. She showed them the two children.

She said they had to wait outside the clinic for several hours while Mama Jackie and another woman spent time inside the building.

"I thought they were sorting out the paperwork, but when we were handed the children later, they came without any documents."

The trial continues.

What's the fuss about, asks 'Dr Death'

LISA ISAACS

WOUTER Basson says he has never had any complaints from any of the Stellenbosch University medical students he taught, and doesn't understand the controversy surrounding his involvement with them.

University students have refused to be taught by Basson, the man known as "Dr Death" for the role he played as head of a top-secret chemical and biological warfare project in the apartheid era.

This comes after it emerged this week that Basson, now a practising cardiologist, is teaching select groups of fourth-year medical students who are on clinical rotation at Durbanville's Mediclinic.

In 2013, the Health Professions Council of South Africa found Basson guilty on four charges of unprofessional conduct.

The university has, however, distanced itself from the employment of Basson and said he was never appointed or employed by the faculty of medicine and health sciences in any capacity.

Yesterday Basson said: "I have no idea what all the fuss is about. I teach many groups of people and have received no complaints – related to either the giving thereof or the quality thereof – at all over the years from any of my students."

"My lectures are a given – the attendees do so of their own volition," he added.

But Tygerberg Student Council chairman Nick Wayne said the council stood by its call that no student should be taught by Basson. Wayne, however, noted that students were not forced to take Basson's classes.



IN SYMPATHY: Rolinhua Ralinala wipes her mom Shothodzo's tears during the memorial service of her grandmother, slain Flying Squad member Sergeant Azwindini Sharon Ralinala at Dlamini Community Hall in Soweto. PICTURES: BOXER NGWENYA

Senior cop urges police officers to shoot back

KATE MORRISSEY
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A TOP Soweto policeman has called on officers to defend themselves by shooting back when faced by criminals who are armed.

"When you are attacked, what's stopping you from defending yourself?" Moroka cluster commander Major-General Papile Fred Kekana asked yesterday during the memorial service for Flying Squad officer Sergeant Sharon Ralinala who was shot dead in Eldorado Park last week.

"Suspensions," a woman in the crowd shot back but Kekana didn't back down, saying: "Nothing (should stop you). If that person has a gun facing you, shoot that person. Destroy that person."

While Ralinala's family and friends took turns sharing memories of her great sense of humour and kind spirit, the South African Police Union (Sapu) and the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) – used the event to address their concerns about the killing of police officers.

"More than 70 men and women in blue have been 'butchered since the beginning of the year," said Sapu representative Mogale Mmutle. He said police officers were on their own to defend themselves against police killings.

"Even when our members are fighting back, the courts of law are fighting them today," he added, referring to the Krugersdorp police who were arrested after video footage surfaced of them shooting a fallen suspect. He called out everyone – from the media to the minister of police – for failing to support police officers.

"There's no way police killers are getting bail and light sentences while our own members who were clearly defending themselves will be denied bail," he said, adding that the Krugersdorp officers would be appealing their bail denial in the high court.

Popcru representative Naughty Magoai urged officers attending the service to join a march later this week to express their concerns about the number of police officers killed and the lack of sympathy



TRIBUTE: An officer sings during the memorial service of their slain colleague in Soweto.

for officers involved in similar cases to the Krugersdorp one. He said that officers should not go to work if more SAPS members were killed.

The crowd erupted in cheers and the room filled with voices singing "S'byaya" (We're going). Only one of the grief-stricken relatives could find the energy to sing with them.

Programme director Lieutenant Alfred Monametshe had

to calm down the crowd, reminding them to "respect the occasion".

Provincial community policing board chairman Andy Mashaike said the policing board had held three meetings with the deputy minister of justice about the treatment of police killers.

Kekana said officers needed to remember that management was there for them.

But everyone in the room remained silent.

He said that any officer not on duty during the march could take part but others who had to work should report for duty.

Ralinala, 44, didn't have a chance to defend herself.

She was in the back seat of a police vehicle that was in pursuit of the occupants of a BMW on the Golden Highway near Eldorado Park on November 9. Before any of the officers had time to react, shots were fired. Ralinala was struck in the head and the police vehicle crashed into a tree.

Ralinala was airlifted to hospital but died from her injuries on Friday.

Her brother Vhonani Ralinala yesterday called her a "queen", saying: "She was a woman who believed in herself, a strong woman."

Ralinala's relief commander Captain Romeo Vassen struggled as his voice cracked with emotion. "The devotion of her family was the foundation of her action, the anchor of her life," Vassen said.

Ralinala is survived by her two daughters.

QUICK TAKE

Premier treated in hospital for illness

GAUTENG premier David Makhura was released yesterday from hospital, where he received treatment, his office said. "David Makhura was on Monday, November 16 admitted to Bertha Gxowa Hospital in Germiston for treatment. He was kept overnight and the doctors treating him were happy with his condition. He was discharged on Tuesday," said spokesman Thabo Masebe. He said Makhura was treated for a mild gastritis. – ANA

Repeat offender jailed for 20 years

A 35-YEAR-OLD convicted rapist was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, North West police said yesterday. On Monday, the Taung District Court sentenced 35-year-old Thakadu Keoagile to 20 years in prison for housebreaking and three counts of rape, police's provincial spokesperson Kelebogile Moleko said. Keoagile was sentenced for the February 2014 rape of a 23-year-old woman in Dyrharts Village near Pudimoe, North West. He had broken into her home and covered the victim's face with a pillow while he raped her. But this was not Keoagile's first crime, Moleko said. He was on correctional supervision after being found guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm by the Schweizer Reneke Regional Court and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in 2010. He was also declared unfit to carry a firearm. – ANA

Family petrol-bomb horror: pair in court

TWO MEN accused of petrol-bombing a house, killing three people including an eight-month-old baby, appeared briefly in the Bafokeng Magistrate's Court in Tlhabane near Rustenburg yesterday. The case against Nicholas "Molefe" Ntsimane, 38, and Lethogonolo Mokgofa, 30, was postponed to February 16 for further investigations. The two allegedly petrol-bombed a house in Bester, Tlhabane, on May 16, killing Kealeboga Segopa, 30, her baby daughter Kaboyaona and her mother Mmapula, 55. They were pulled out of the burning house by neighbours, but they later succumbed to smoke inhalation. Ntsimane was arrested on May 29 for an armed robbery and hijacking case in which he allegedly robbed an off-duty police officer of his service pistol and drove off in the officer's car in Tlhabane on December 15. Detectives found during questioning that he was directly linked to the murder of the Segopa family. Ntsimane is a close relative of the family. – ANA

Setas help to upskill thousands of prisoners

SOUTH African prisoners are being given, through a collaboration between the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and the National Skills Fund (NSF), a chance to acquire skills suitable for a life without crime. This was through a programme agreed to in 2012 between the DCS and NSF which also saw a number of further education and training entities join in a bid to help prisoners turn their lives around. "The goal of the project is to provide offenders with access to occupationally directed skills programmes that would lead to the acquisition of skills needed in the labour market," Higher Education and Training spokesman Busiswa Nongogo said, adding it would create access to employment opportunities and entrepreneurship within various sectors. Funding also came from the NSF. Sector education and training authorities (Setas) contributed R66.4 million for 6 416 offenders to be skilled. – ANA

Suspect nabbed after grenade tip-off

A 51-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Morokweng, North West, after he was caught with explosives, police said yesterday. Morokweng police and the Vryburg K9 Unit arrested the suspect for unlawful possession of explosives, North West police spokesman Paul Ramaloko said. The man was arrested on Monday after police received a call about the suspect's behaviour. "Morokweng police were called by a community member alleging that a man is going around drunk with a hand grenade in his possession threatening people," Ramaloko said. When police arrived, they recovered a live grenade hidden under a tree. Police then proceeded to the man's house where they found "used cartridges of a high-calibre rifle in plastic as well as part of a mortar". – ANA

Warrants out for Israeli commanders

POLICE have issued warrants of arrest for four Israeli commanders allegedly responsible for the attacks on the Mavi Marmara five years ago. The Israel Defence Forces commanders attacked the ship, which was part of a flotilla of vessels travelling to Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid and medical supplies in 2010. A court in Istanbul, Turkey, issued arrest warrants against the commanders in 2014. Yesterday, South Africa's Priority Crimes Investigation Unit said the commanders would be arrested upon entry into South Africa. – ANA

ATM card theft at crime scene: cop in court

A DETECTIVE landed on the wrong side of the law after he allegedly stole an ATM card at a crime scene. The detective sergeant, based at Gansbaai in the Overberg, was arrested by his colleagues on Friday. He appeared in the Hermanus Magistrate's Court on Monday, where the case was postponed for further investigation. Police were tight lipped about the circumstances that led to the 47-year-old's arrest, but according to sources, the experienced detective stole an ATM card at the scene of a case he had to investigate a few weeks ago. An internal investigation into the matter has also been launched. – Staff Reporter

Masebe's son drowns in pool

STAFF REPORTER

THE MASEBE family have expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and words of comfort they received following the tragic death of the former *Generations* star Florence Masebe's toddler.



FLORENCE MASEBE

Masebe's 18-month-old son Masakona died over the weekend when, in an unfortunate accident, he drowned in the family pool at Masebe's home in Bramley, Joburg. "Family members found the 18-month-old child in the pool on Saturday afternoon.

"They called paramedics to the scene. When police arrived, the paramedics had already declared the child deceased," said Warrant Officer Moses Maphakela. The memorial service will be held tomorrow in Bramley. Masakona will be laid to rest at a family burial site in Limpopo.

Tomorrow at 2pm there will be a family service at Masebe's residence at 47 Linden Road, Bramley. This will be followed by a funeral service at 3pm at Bramley Primary School at 59 Eden Road.

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Press Council

Calling all Matrics

As the matrics have started writing their final exams, *The Star* would like to celebrate this special time by publishing articles of their success. If you know of matric pupils you believe will do particularly well this year, or

who have overcome any type of hardship to get their matric certificate, let us know. We're looking for names of children and their schools, the reasons why you believe they will do well, contact details and photos.

Please send these details to: tebogo.monama@inl.co.za, starnews@inl.co.za or post them to Tebogo Monama The Star, P O Box 1014,

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Wife of 'Springs Monster' also charged

ZELDA VENTER

THE WIFE of the man dubbed the Springs Monster yesterday appeared alone in the high court in Pretoria as her husband is still under observation at Weskoppies Hospital. The man was arrested more than a year ago for allegedly abusing, torturing and holding his family captive for several years. He is also facing a charge of raping his wife. His wife was arrested on charges of child abuse, attempted murder, assault

and defeating the ends of justice. She is out on R2 000 bail, while her husband remains in custody.

The couple cannot be named to protect the identity of their five children – aged 2, 3, 4, 11 and 16.

The couple were due to go on trial in the high court yesterday, but the matter was postponed to December 4 because the husband's psychological evaluation is not yet complete.

Earlier this year, he was referred for observation, but could be accommodated only about a month

ago as there was no bed available for him earlier.

The man was arrested after the couple's 11-year-old son raised the alarm. His father allegedly hit with a knobkierie on the head and body and nearly drowned him.

None of the children attended school. Medical reports say all the children, except the youngest, had wounds across their bodies.

The mother was arrested about a month later. It was said that she was illiterate and afraid of her husband.