

Shock over mutilation of Soweto showjumper's pony

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WHAT was meant to be a routine feeding time for several of his horses yesterday morning turned into gruesome discovery for veteran South African showjumper Enos Mafokate.

Mafokate, who is the father of kwaiko star Arthur Mafokate and the first black showjumper to ride in an international competition during the apartheid era, told of how he arrived at his equestrian club in Rockville, Soweto, to find one of his ponies mutilated.

According to Mafokate, he suspects the incident took place overnight while his security guard sat inside his booth while guarding the club's main entrance.

"We arrived in the morning as usual to feed the horses. During our preparations, we noticed that my pony Mmabatho was missing," said Mafokate, adding that he immediately thought the pony had wandered off as usual, and searched for it along the paddocks.

Minutes later, he spotted it lying on the floor in another paddock it shared with other horses.

The four-year-old pony was dead, with its intestines hanging out.

"I'm upset. I don't know who would do this to a harmless animal. People are so cruel," Mafokate said.

He explained that earlier this week, his staff had informed him about three men they had seen jumping a fence at the club. They ran away when they were spotted.

He added he had no doubt the attack was related to witchcraft.

"It seems the purpose was to drain out her intestines for whatever they needed. Her scars show

that she was tortured and struggled. She died a painful death," he said.

The pony, which Mafokate bought last year, was used to train youngsters who aspire to ride professionally.

Omphile Mashilwane, 10, and his brother Junior, 8, said they were devastated.

"I'm scared. I never thought they would kill her," Omphile said while his brother sobbed.

Mafokate said he went to Moroka police station to report the matter but was initially told by police they could not open a case concerning a "dead animal"

and instead had to report it to the SPCA.

It is only after he demanded to speak to the station commander that a case of animal cruelty was opened.

Booyens SPCA senior inspector Ronald Ramalata assessed the pony. "At this stage, we can't confirm what the motive behind the killing was, but the horse was brutally attacked. We make a humble plea to the community to treat animals with respect," he said.

Mafokate said he needed support from the community and not to be targeted.



DEVESTATED: Enos Mafokate comforts youngsters at his equestrian club in Rockville, Soweto, after the slaying of one of his favourite ponies in a suspected muti killing early yesterday. PICTURE: BHEKIKHAYA MABASO

QUICK TAKE

Zuma pays tribute to actor Moeti

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma has conveyed his condolences to the family of actor Sammy Moeti, who died on Monday after a long illness. Hailing him as one of South Africa's finest actors, Zuma said: "It is a sad period in our entertainment industry to lose someone of Mr Moeti's calibre, who was not only an accomplished and talented actor but also a popular cultural activist. We wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire arts and culture industry. May his soul rest in peace." Moeti played medicine man Who-Mushana on the much-acclaimed Tshwenda television drama series *Muvhango*. He also acted in the South African movie *Elelwani* as the mad man Madwara. – ANA

Angry protesters burn 10 vehicles

AT LEAST 10 vehicles were set alight by Burgersfort residents in Limpopo during protests over a lack of job opportunities in mining. Four trucks, four buses and two cars were set alight on Tuesday night by residents living near the platinum mines who are demanding jobs and development. Residents, who claimed mining companies had failed to deliver on earlier promises to employ locals, also burnt tyres, barricaded roads and pulled drivers from their vehicles along the R555 between De Hoop Dam and Burgersfort, ordering them from their vehicles. Community spokesman Sikhalo Motubatse said: "We aren't retreating, and this time enough damage will be caused. These mine managers are playing with us and we aren't in that game." Public order police had been deployed to monitor the situation. Police spokesman Colonel Malesela Ledwaba said motorists should be cautious when using the R555. – ANA

Most are against merger, says DA

OPPOSITION to the merger of Tlokwe (Potchefstroom) and Ventersdorp municipalities in North West was widespread across political parties, civil society and community groupings, the DA said yesterday. "Thousands of community members were part of a violent protest against the proposal and took to the streets of Potchefstroom and Ventersdorp in September. It is sad that communities have to turn to such extreme measures to get the attention of the government on issues affecting their lives," said provincial party leader Joe McGluwa. "On October 26 the matter will be heard in court, and we are positive that the court will rule in favour of the DA and in favour of what is right for the people of Tlokwe and Ventersdorp." – ANA

I and rape accused earlier had sex'

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman, who has accused a Joburg model agency boss of raping her, admitted in court yesterday that she had had a sexual relationship with the man before he allegedly raped her. Model agency boss Davie de Villiers faces charges of sexual assault, rape, child pornography, sexual grooming, as well as fraud and intimidation. "I had sex with him twice," the woman told the high court sitting in Palm Ridge. She was almost 15 at the time of the alleged rape. Earlier, when De Villiers's lawyer Jacques Piernaar had asked her whether she was a virgin before the alleged attack, she had replied: "Yes, I was." She said later that she had lied because she had been scared. The woman said she never went to the doctor to get examined after the incident. "My mom and dad would stop me from modelling if I told them," she said. The case continues today. – ANA

Duo jailed for kidnapping, fraud

A KWAZULU-NATAL mother, 50, and daughter, 24, who had snatched their neighbour's child and used the seven-year-old's birth certificate to obtain a social grant, had been convicted by the Durban Magistrate's Court for kidnapping and fraud, provincial police said yesterday. "(On Tuesday), the Durban Magistrate's Court convicted and sentenced a mother and her daughter for kidnapping and fraud that was committed in 2010," spokesman Colonel Jay Naicker said. The daughter was jailed for 14 years and her mother for eight. In February 2010, the child was kidnapped from a Durban railway station. Her surname was changed and the mother applied for a new birth certificate at the Department of Home Affairs so that she could obtain a social grant, Naicker said. The police acted on a community tipoff and arrested the duo. – ANA

New IEC chairman announced

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma has appointed Vuna Mashinini as the new chairman of the Electoral Commission of South Africa. Mashinini was deputy chief electoral officer of the IEC between 1998 and 2001. In April, Zuma appointed him as a commissioner of the electoral body. He has also served as a special adviser to the president. The IEC hasn't had a chairperson since Pansy Tlakula resigned under a cloud last year. Vice-chairman Terry Tseleni has held the post in an acting capacity since then. – ANA

Molesting of girl latest in string of cop crimes

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THE INDEPENDENT Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) is investigating whether a police officer arrested for allegedly raping his neighbour's 13-year-old daughter has been involved in other crimes.

The warrant officer, 46, who is based at Mondoro police station in Joburg, allegedly raped the teen on Tuesday. She is the daughter of one of the man's colleagues. The girl's mother had sent her to the accused's house, where she was raped.

"His colleague's wife was helping him after his wife left him. She was ironing his shirts and she sent her daughter over to give him the ironed shirts when it happened," Ipid spokeswoman Grace Langa said.

The officer was arrested in the early hours of yesterday.

"The officer's daughter has been staying with him and we are investigating whether he abused her too," Langa said.

The suspect was expected to appear in the Vosloorus Magistrate's Court today.

Earlier this week, an officer from Florida police station in Roodepoort was arrested after "accidentally" shooting his wife in the face.

Last month, a police officer shot his wife and turned the gun on himself at the Tshwane Police Training College.

Also last month, in Pretoria West, a police officer shot and killed his wife and daughter after an argument.

Langa appealed to the police to do more in their investigations of domestic abuse. "It is also up to the police to do mental assessments and look into how they hire police officers."

Lisa Vetten, an associate at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, said there was a fair degree of criminality within the SAPS.

Campus fee hike action continues

Protest against 10.5% fee increase at Wits draws in police

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THE WITS university campus was strangely quiet this morning as student protesters launched day two of their university shutdown over an increase in tuition fees.

Despite the university insisting this morning that classes would continue today as normal, the few students who trekked onto campus walked back home from as early as 8:30am.

One student who had been trying to leave the university in his Subaru slept in his front seat while four protesters sat in front of his car, blocking his exit.

Police began to arrive outside both gates shortly before 9am, and told students they had two minutes to disperse.

But 30 minutes later, no one had moved.

At the Empire Road gate, students sang "we nyamazana siyaya bo... we nyamazana siyaya bo... yile toitoi... nomabesibubla... nomabesibishaya" (we are going forward with the struggle even if they shoot us up).

One staff member, Nicole Barnes, who works in the campus health clinic, was visibly frustrated.

"I'm disgusted," she said. "Our students are preparing for exams. A lot of students have moved heaven and earth to pay the fees," she said, adding that it was contradictory to the group's goal for them to be denying other students their right to education.

However, two third-year students who walked onto campus this morning were more sympathetic. They smiled and danced as they passed the students



NO GO: This white Subaru was stopped by protesters as it was leaving the university this morning. They blocked it for about an hour before the police convinced the protesters to move back, according to the driver. PICTURE: BHEKIKHAYA MABSO

blocking the gate.

The protesters say they plan to block the gates for the entire day without pause.

Wits vice-principal and deputy vice-chancellor for academics Professor Andrew Crouch said: "If the student protest continues, additional security will be deployed and the SAPS will be on standby to ensure that staff and students will have access to our campuses. Additional security will be put in place at all campus entry and exit points."

Crouch said: "The university will continue its academic activities as usual on Thursday, 15 October 2015," adding that any changes would be communicated to students and staff members via e-mail or through the media.

Yesterday, classes and other academic activities were suspended as a crowd of students moved through lecture halls chanting songs condemning the

fee increases. They said the hike would prevent students who came from lower-income families from accessing higher education.

"This is not a protest – it's a shutdown," said Mcebo Dlamini, the former student representative council (SRC) president, addressing hundreds of students in a hall outside the

'This is not a protest – it's a shutdown'

student enrolment centre yesterday. The students had blocked all entrances and exits.

"We're going to shut down Wits until management comes and says there's no fee increase."

When the man, who had been on the run for more than a week, arrived, she and her daughter contacted the police.

The case was postponed to next month for further investigation. – Additional reporting by Shain Geranner

*Not her real name
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belonged to the students.

The morning started with fewer than 100 students guarding the gates, and by mid-morning the group had begun winding through buildings on the west side of the campus before they burst into lecture halls, singing and stomping as they disrupted lectures.

Some students ignored the procession of demonstrators but others joined in.

By 11:30am, the crowd had swelled to more than 500 people. Some of the Wits staff also joined in, singing, chanting and dancing their way through the campus.

A woman hoisted a placard with the message "Being poor cost me my future".

A few of the buildings bore the marks of the protest. One lecturer in a hallway had been tagged "Do not submit. Revolt", and someone had painted "Lynch Habib" on the side of College House, referring to Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Habib.

Mlungisi died on Tuesday at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre in Joburg after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

He is survived by his wife Sheila, son Linda and daughters Nontsikelelo and Boitumelo.

Funeral arrangements are still to be announced.

Chancellor Professor Adam Habib, Wits chief financial officer Linda Jarvis said the increase in fees was necessary because of the cost of buying stationery items overseas and academic staff salary increases.

The university is increasing fees by 10.5 percent and registration fees by 6 percent.

The University of Cape Town is also raising its fees, by 10.3 percent.

UCT spokeswoman Pat Lucas said the university council would propose a 13 percent increase in student financial aid.

Higher Education spokesman Khaye Nkwayana agreed with the students.

"Institutions of higher learning sometimes raise their fees in ways that are exorbitant and serve as an exclusion mechanism for many students."

"This also means that students who are in the institutions default and are financially excluded," Nkwayana said.

Rape accused gets bail as he is likely to go free

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A MAN accused of kidnapping and raping a teenager several times in Bezuidenhout Valley, Joburg, has been granted R2 000 bail, provided that he adheres to strict conditions.

"There is a strong chance that you may be acquitted, and under those circumstances it's appropriate that I grant you bail," magistrate Paul du Plessis said, addressing the accused in court yesterday.

This was after he read

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