

Dolly's mom deprived of seeing her granddaughter

Court told of heartache since daughter's murder

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AS THE 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children was launched yesterday, one woman can't come to terms with the way gender-based violence ripped her family apart.

Dikeledi Marawa raised her granddaughter since birth, living with her at her house even after her daughter Dolly Tshabalala got married and went to live elsewhere.

When Tshabalala returned home after she and her husband separated, Marawa's granddaughter continued to be in her life.

But when Tshabalala was stabbed to death by her boyfriend and former Joz FM DJ Donald Sebolai last year, Marawa's idyllic life was shattered.

Not only did she lose her only daughter, she also lost her granddaughter. And her former son-in-law took the little girl to raise her himself.

Marawa hasn't seen her

since April, and the pain of missing her deepens every day. "I thought I could console myself with my granddaughter, but I cannot even see her," she said.

Speaking to The Star outside the court where Sebolai is being sentenced, Marawa said her former son-in-law had asked that he take the little girl to help her forget about what happened to her mother.

The old woman remembers that day clearly.

"It was a cold day and I packed track-suits and warm things. She was supposed to be there for three weeks, but she has been there since."

"Her birthday is in May, and on that Sunday morning, I called her to wish her a happy birthday before going to church, but he did not answer the phone. I called three times."

"When I returned from church, I called and still could not get hold of the father. The pain I'm feeling is indescrib-

able," Marawa said.

During Sebolai's trial yesterday in the high court sitting in Palm Ridge, the prosecutor read out Marawa's victim impact report in which she explained the effect of her daughter's death on her.

In the report, Marawa said she was separated from her granddaughter.

"Since my daughter's death, I'm not even allowed to see my granddaughter since the biological father took her. I was very close to her and now I have sleepless nights when I think of her. It would comfort me if I could be allowed to continue bringing her up as I was when the mother was still alive."

Marawa said in an interview that another thing that hurt her deeply was that her graduate daughter, who was working towards her second degree, died like a "tickyeyone (loose woman) from Hillbrow".

While walking in the court corridor after the case,



REMAINED IN CUSTODY: Donald Sebolai has been convicted of murdering his girlfriend Dolly Tshabalala.

Marawa approached the family of her daughter's killer and told them she harboured no ill feelings towards them.

Sebolai's family were touched by Marawa's gesture.

They said they had wanted to go and see her but were too scared.

"We even thought of asking the police to accompany us," Sebolai's aunt Sinah Sebolai said.

'Dietary guidelines not curbing health problems in SA'

FRANCESCA VILLETTE

CONTROVERSIAL sports scientist Tim Noakes's legal team hauled South Africa's latest food-based dietary guidelines over the coals for apparently doing little to curb a growing obesity and diabetes epidemic in the country.

On the third day of Noakes's hearing into unprofessional conduct yesterday, one of his legal representatives, Ravin Ramdass, cross-examined Professor Esté Vorster – the former chairwoman of the Nutrition Society of South Africa and the chairwoman of the committee that compiled the 2013 food-based dietary guidelines – about having only two differences from those of 2003.

The Health Professions Council of South Africa had sought Vorster's advice before it decided to charge Noakes for advising Pippa Leenstra on February 5 last year on Twitter to "wean" her baby onto a low-carbohydrate, high-fat diet.

Leenstra was breast-feeding her baby at the



UNDER FIRE: Tim Noakes's unconventional approach on Twitter.

time.

Vorster testified that Noakes did not have the necessary qualifications to advise Leenstra about breastfeeding.

She also said Noakes should not have provided "unconventional" dietary advice.

But Ramdass questioned Vorster about her statement concerning Noakes's unconventional approach and said the number of people becoming obese and diabetic had increased over the past few years, in spite of there being dietary guidelines.

He added: "There were two changes made to the dietary guidelines over 10 years."



Guard shot dead in mall robbery

A MALL in Polokwane was closed yesterday after robbers shot and killed a security guard near a jewellery store. Two suspects were arrested by police. A group of robbers entered the jewellery store, robbed a client and the shop of an undisclosed amount of cash, and, when fleeing the scene, shot a guard who was walking along a mall corridor. Police spokesman Captain Ntobeng Phala said the guard had attempted to grab one of the suspects when he was shot. Witnesses said the guard was walking from the shop where he had just bought his lunch when the shooting took place. A 2-litre bottle of cooldrink, sliced polony and a loaf of bread could be seen lying close to his body. Phala said two suspects were arrested after they were linked to the crime through surveillance. "We found them hiding somewhere along the road, it appears their co-suspects left them when they fled the scene," said Phala. Other suspects allegedly fled in a white Toyota Hilux bakkie. – ANA

Pilot in serious condition after crash

A HELICOPTER pilot-in-training crash-landed during a practice session near Krommevlei Cemetery in Alberton around 9am yesterday. Police said the pilot, in his 60s, had force-landed the helicopter. The cause of the crash had not been determined. The pilot sustained serious back injuries, according to police. He was airlifted by Netcare to Milpark Hospital. Police said the pilot, Chick Lee, had been training through NAC Flight School, which operates out of Rand Airport. A representative from the flight school declined to comment. Netcare spokesman Chris Botha reported that the pilot was in a serious but stable condition. Lee's supervisor, Jaques Krafft, was on the ground when Lee had to force-land the helicopter, police said. They said Krafft was not harmed. As inspectors searched the debris for clues about what caused the crash, a funeral procession wound its way into the nearby cemetery. – Kate Morrissey

Businessman's murder appeal fails

HE MAY have been technically convicted by two courts for murder and is under investigation for theft, but Durban businessman and socialite Rajiv Narandas is still a free man. Yesterday, his attempt to appeal against his murder conviction for the killing of Venand Singh failed, although his sentence was reduced from 18 years to 15. Singh was stabbed to death in 2008 at the Shoukara nightclub parking lot in Sandton after Narandas and some of his friends had attacked him. Narandas was convicted of murder in the Alexandra Magistrate's Court in May last year but has remained out on bail pending his appeal. At the high court in Joburg, Judges Rean Strydom and Motsamai Makume gave their judgment yesterday on Narandas's application to appeal against his conviction and sentencing. The judges were concerned about the 18-year sentence, which was three years more than the minimum sentence of 15 years. They found that Narandas had acted impulsively and took into account the fact that he was 22 at the time as well as the group mentality behind the attack. – Shain Germaner

Cop reservist held on litany of charges

A POLICE reservist stationed at Khayelitsha police station in Cape Town was one of three suspects who metro police arrested after they were caught driving in a hijacked vehicle. Member of the mayor committee on safety and security JP Smith said members of the metro police's tactical response unit were en route to an operation in Gugulethu yesterday when they spotted the Volkswagen Polo Vivo on the N2. The driver was pulled over between Duinefontein Road and Jakes Gerwel Drive. A Taurus pistol with the serial number filed off was recovered. Officers confirmed that the vehicle had been hijacked during a house robbery in Delft on November 12. The three occupants of the car were arrested. The men are set to face charges of possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, using false number plates, and armed robbery for the hijacking case. They were due to appear in court today. – ANA

Aunt gets 15 years for raping nephew

A 44-YEAR-OLD woman has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for raping her nephew, KwaZulu-Natal police said yesterday. The Maphumulo Regional Court sentenced the woman on Tuesday for raping him on December 20. Police spokesman Major Thulani Zwane said the 13-year-old boy was at home with his mother when his aunt asked him to escort her home because it was late. The boy returned home the following day and told his mother what had happened. He said he managed to escape while his aunt was sleeping. "A case of rape was opened at Maphumulo SAPS. The KwaDukuza Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit took over the investigation and the accused was arrested," Zwane said. Provincial commissioner Lieutenant-General Mmammonnye Ngobeni welcomed the sentence, saying: "As we head towards 16 Days of Activism, it is shameful that the person who should be protecting the boy is the one who abused him. We hope this sentence will send a strong message to other sexual predators who prey on defenceless women and children." – ANA

R4.2m contraband cigarettes seized

SOUTH African Revenue Service (Sars) officials seized illegal cigarettes with a street value of R4.2 million in two separate raids on Monday, the agency said yesterday. The raids occurred at the Grobler's Bridge border post between Botswana and South Africa, and the Beit Bridge border post between Zimbabwe and South Africa. Spokesman Sandile Memela said the first stash of illegal cigarettes was discovered at the Grobler's Bridge border as a customs inspector "noted a suspicious engagement between a truck driver and clearing agents within the import control area". Convinced that a deal was being closed, the inspector alerted a SAPS officer. "The truck driver and clearing agents were then linked to a specific truck," said Memela. The inspector discovered almost 18 000 cartons of illegal cigarettes, worth R3.6 million in an almost empty container's false compartment. The truck was travelling from Zambia to South Africa. Memela said a Zambian man was arrested in connection with suspected smuggling and a criminal case had been opened for investigation. The Beit Bridge case involved a routine check in which a customs officer stopped a truck around 10.45pm and found that the driver did not have a temporary import permit. The truck was searched. The officer found 3 135 cartons of Pacific Blue cigarettes in a false compartment hidden underneath the trailer. The cigarettes were estimated to be worth R600 000. The Zimbabwean truck driver was arrested. Sars said that this financial year, about 61.5 million cigarettes valued at R54.3 million had been seized. – ANA

Nephew defends Mama Jackie

ZELDA VENTER

THE COUPLE accused of buying two children – a baby and a six-year-old – from Mama Jackie's orphanage "borrowed" them to take them on holiday.

This was the evidence of Solly Baloyi, who took the stand in the trial of Raisibe Ramohlola, 60, better known as Mama Jackie.

Baloyi testified on behalf of the woman accused of selling two children for R15 000 each to the KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, couple.

The childless couple earlier testified that they were under the impression they were legally adopting the children from Mama Jackie, who owned the Delfire Home and Care Centre in Diepsloot, north of Joburg.

She is also accused of running an illegal care centre for homeless children as her establishment was not registered.

The high court in Joburg issued an order in favour of the Department of Social Development, in terms of which Mama Jackie was told to close her doors.

It is claimed that even after she allegedly sold the two children, she continued taking in abandoned children, in spite of the court order.

Baloyi said Mama Jackie was his aunt and she had taken care of him since he was 12.

Baloyi, 25, testified that he was living with her and that she had done nothing wrong.

He said the couple gave Mama Jackie a donation and later went to "borrow" two children to take with them on holiday. He said they took groceries for the orphanage.

Baloyi said his aunt didn't continue running an orphanage after she was told to stop.



BULLDOZED: The City of Joburg yesterday demolished an illegally constructed building in Mount Logan Street in Lenasia South. The council obtained a demolition order, but the owner disappeared.

PICTURE: DUMISANI SIBEKO

Illegal building flattened after owner vanishes

ANNA COX
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A LENASIA South owner faces losses estimated at R700 000 for constructing a block of flats illegally.

The City of Joburg moved in with a demolition crew yesterday, razing the illegal building in Mount Logan Street, which was half complete, to the ground as delighted neighbours looked on.

The owner, Palesa Moimane, started building in about 2010. Her intention was to have a guest house/flats up and running for the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

However, she started building without having submitted plans. The council issued several orders for her to stop construction, but she failed to do so.

Eventually, the city obtained a demolition order.

In the meantime, Moimane disappeared and was untraceable. City spokesman Virgil James said she had wasted about R500 000 on construction costs. She now faces legal costs of close to R200 000, which are going to be added to her rates bill.

"This should serve as a warning that people should

not build without approved plans. Getting plans is a relatively simple and easy process. If the city cannot approve plans, our building team will assist residents with information about how to adapt their plans so that they will be approved," James said.

The process takes long because proper processes have to be followed, he added.

"And this is where the public try to take advantage of the system. They believe that if they construct quickly we will not demolish. That is a misconception. We will demolish if the buildings do not comply

with building regulations. The city is subject to lengthy judicial processes due to the pressure on the court roll," he said.

A demolition order costs close to R170 000, and the city annually makes budget provisions for instituting legal action. Incomplete, unoccupied properties that are structurally dangerous or are used as springboards for criminal activities are prioritised, James said.

He added the half-completed building in Lenasia South was causing problems for the neighbourhood, and that was why it had been

prioritised.

In fact, the neighbours were celebrating when the bulldozers moved in this week.

Hawa Baby, who lives next door, said she would now be sleeping at night. "We have had so many things stolen from our property by criminals who hide there."

Amina Mustapha agreed. "The whole suburb will be sleeping peacefully now. We have been waiting for about five years for this to happen. The shell was being used by children bunking school to go and do drugs, by criminals and by homeless people," she said.

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ROLEX

Krejcir's demands dismissed

ZELDA VENTER

LIFE is becoming increasingly difficult for criminal fugitive Radovan Krejcir.

Not only is his magnificent home near Joburg being auctioned on Saturday, but his bid to be allowed certain privileges while being detained at Zonderwater prison – said to be one of the most secure correctional facilities in the country – has failed.

His alleged escape plans have come back to haunt him, as Judge Joseph Raulinga turned down his application in the high court in Pretoria to, among others, Skype members of his family, who are

living abroad.

He also wanted to have his exercise bicycle, among other things, returned to him.

The judge said such privileges were not possible because he was a security risk.

The only victory Krejcir scored in court was that the media is prohibited from publishing details of his medical conditions.

This ruling, however, came at a great price, as the judge not only turned down his entire application but also ordered that he must foot the legal bill.

Krejcir turned to the court last month with a list of demands, which

included that he wanted to consult certain types of specialist doctors and a dentist.

He wanted his TV set returned, permission to interact with other awaiting-trial prisoners and be able to consult his legal team in private.

Judge Raulinga agreed that Krejcir had the right to consult his lawyers out of earshot of the guards but with them still being in sight, and that the Correctional Services didn't have the right to interrupt those sessions.

The judge, however, simply turned down the entire application without making this an order.

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:
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