

Professor secures visa court victory

A UNIVERSITY of KwaZulu-Natal professor has won a victory in her court battle against the Department of Home Affairs.

She has secured a court order allowing her children to travel in and out of the country without the written consent of their father, as is required by the new visa regulations.

But the second part of her "public interest" Durban High Court application – to scrap in its entirety the new, controversial regulation which requires the consent of any non-travelling parent for any child wishing to travel overseas – is being challenged by the minister of home affairs and, unless there is a change of heart, could take many months to resolve.

In terms of an order taken by consent before Judge Dhaya Pillay yesterday, the minister has until March to file a full answering affidavit in the matter, which is likely to head to the Constitutional Court.

The professor, who can't be named to protect the identities of her children, aged eight and 11, said in her application she and they were virtual prisoners in South Africa as she could not get the necessary written consent from their dad.

— Tania Broughton

City motor licensing staff go on strike

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TO THE dismay of those trying to get vehicle licences, Joburg's licensing department went on strike again yesterday.

According to Jack Mokalapa, a leader from the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu), the workers had raised concerns about the pay advertised for new positions requiring no experience, compared with the salaries for experienced workers.

They also called for the removal of several people, including Nom-

cebo Mndebele, director of licensing and prosecutions, and the head of human resources.

"We are prepared to do this as long as it takes," Mokalapa said.

He addressed workers in the parking lot of the Joburg metropolitan police department (JMPD) headquarters in a red Samwu T-shirt and hat from on top of a red car.

He waved an advert he said had offered new positions externally with better salaries than those earned by workers who had held

the same positions for 12 years.

He cited two positions in particular: both clerk/cashier posts.

Mokalapa said new recruits for those positions would receive, including benefits, about R20 000 a month while the established workers in those positions, who would have to train the new workers, made R12 000, including benefits.

The advertisements obtained by The Star listed an annual salary range of R143 294 and R184 228 plus benefits for the higher paid position. That would amount to a

range of R11 941 to R15 352 a month plus benefits.

Mokalapa said the experienced workers should get at least the same salaries as the new positions. "The city always say they don't have money, but they have money for the new advertisements."

The strike that began on Monday was temporarily lifted while the workers waited for a response from the department head, Mokalapa said.

He said the head of the department of public safety, Hlula Msi-

mang, agreed on Monday that they would meet yesterday.

Msimang, however, in a letter given to The Star by Mokalapa, moved the meeting to Monday.

"We are still considering and consulting about the issues you raised and furthermore you have also not provided evidence as per our agreement," the letter said.

A member of the mayoral committee on transport, Sello Lema, met with workers at the JMPD headquarters when he arrived to speak at an event for the 16 Days of Activism.

The strikers had toyi-toyed loudly before his arrival.



TRAGEDY: A taxi driver died after a truck lost control on the M1 in Joburg between 11th Avenue and Glenhove, with 24 people injured.

PICTURE: ITUMELENG ENGLISH

Mom escapes crash as taxi driver killed

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HIS HEAD rested on the steering wheel as though he was praying. His hands were raised, as if to surrender.

It was this haunting image of minibus taxi driver Harold Mayimbela slouched in his vehicle that made Agnes Makgagke realise how narrowly she had escaped death yesterday.

It took hours to extract Mayi-

mbela's body from the wreckage after a Checkers truck overturned and landed on his minibus taxi that had been travelling in the opposite lane on the M1 North.

Mayimbela had been on a routine trip from the taxi rank in the Joburg CBD to Pretoria. Makgagke had almost made it into Mayimbela's taxi, but had to go into the one behind it at the taxi rank.

The sight of Mayimbela's body, clothed in a white checked shirt, made her shake at the realisation

'My daughter told me to pray to Jesus for a safe journey'

of how close she'd come to dying. "This morning before I left the house, my daughter told me to pray to Jesus for a safe journey on the roads because it's December. And now I'm shaking because she was right. My husband died last year

on December 12, and I nearly did too," she said.

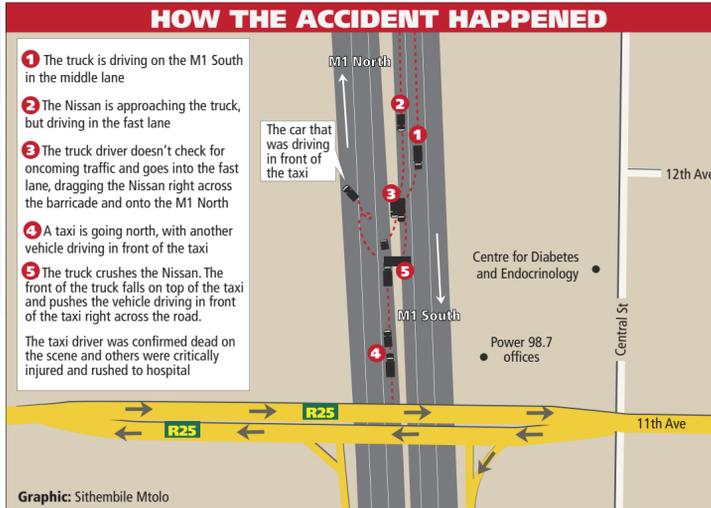
The accident, which took place around 1pm, left 24 other people injured. According to Joburg metro police department spokeswoman Edna Mamonyane, the accident was caused when a truck driver on the M1 South tried to change from the middle lane to the fast lane without checking his blind spot.

The truck then collided into a Nissan MP200 bakkie, and both vehicles crashed into the M1 North.

The truck landed on Mayimbela's taxi, with the most impact being on the driver's side.

"He was such a nice guy, who had no problems with anyone," said a fellow taxi driver who looked forlorn at the scene.

Joburg Emergency Medical Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said: "One person was declared dead on the scene. One of the victims is critical, and the 23 others were treated for minor to moderate injuries."



Graphic: Sithembile Mtolo



RETLIATING: A man cowers in fear as he is beaten for allegedly raping his attacker's daughter.

SCREENGRABS: YOUTUBE

Victim's dad beating rape suspect goes viral

ILANIT CHERNICK

A VIDEO has emerged showing two men beating another man they accused him of raping the daughter of one of them.

In the video, which was posted on YouTube by the North Eastern Tribune on Tuesday, the two men can be seen throwing the man out of a chair at a coffee shop on Grant Avenue in Norwood, Joburg. The man, who is dressed smartly, falls to the ground and takes several

punches before standing up and attempting to run away.

But his assailants give chase and corner him in a doorway a few shops down, where they continue to beat him as he falls to the floor. The faces of all those involved are blurred, obscuring their identities.

As they continue to beat him, kicking his head and punching his face, the older of the two men can be heard shouting: "You raped my f***ing daughter."

The younger of the two then

continues to punch the man as he lies on floor, putting his hands over his head to protect himself, to no avail. The older man continues to egg his friend on by telling him to kick him and "uppercut" him.

Cowering in the doorway of a closed shop, the man accused of rape puts his hands out in a bid to plead with the attackers to stop.

The Hillbrow police's Sergeant Mduzuzi Zondo said: "We haven't had any cases of assault reported."

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Teen's rapist jailed for 10 years

A COURT in KwaZulu-Natal has sentenced a 42-year-old man to 10 years' imprisonment for the statutory rape of a 15-year-old girl. Police spokesman Lieutenant Nqobile Gwala said the Esikhaleni Regional Court convicted and sentenced the man on Wednesday. "The teen was said to be dating the accused and went to visit him. Her mother said her daughter never came home for two days, and when she did, the victim reported that she had been with her boyfriend," Gwala said. — ANA

Youth drowns in W Cape

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy drowned while swimming at Strand Beach in Somerset West, ER24's Russel Meiring said yesterday. The youth drowned when he went swimming with friends. "They had been swimming near the jetty when one of them apparently had difficulty and was swept underwater." A search was launched but his body was still missing. — ANA

Robbers try to run cop down

TWO SUSPECTS have been arrested in Cape Town after they robbed someone at an ATM and then tried to run down a police officer in their vehicle while fleeing. Lieutenant-Colonel André Traut said the suspects, aged 27 and 29, were arrested in Sea Point at about 7.25pm on Wednesday on charges of attempted murder, robbery and reckless and/or negligent driving. — ANA

Boy slain: ex-boyfriend held

A 31-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Greytown yesterday for kidnapping and killing his ex-girlfriend's 11-year-old son. Major Thulani Zwane said Speziehle Phewa's mother had left him at her KwaDabeka home near Durban on November 28 and went to do errands. Upon her return, she found the boy was missing and reported his disappearance to KwaDabeka police station. More than a week later, a man came across Speziehle's decomposing body at a dump site. Police tracked down the suspect, who was hiding in his new girlfriend's house. — ANA

Mayor hands over title deeds

"A TITLE deed is one of the most important documents one can ever possess," Joburg mayor Parks Tau said as he handed over title deeds to hundreds of homeowners in Lehae, south of Joburg, yesterday. He handed the title deeds to 1 302 homeowners of the Lenasia suburb at a ceremony held in the community hall. Tau said title deeds can also be used to facilitate market and financial transactions. — ANA

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, Johannesburg 2001 or drop them off at the newspaper's offices at 47 Pickley Ka some street (was Sauer Street), call 011-633-2548, or fax to 011-836-6186

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