

Public urged to help

STAFF REPORTER

GIFT of the Givers have set up a disaster management and distribution site in Kya Sand and the public are urged to help them assist the residents who were affected by the fire that gutted hundreds of shacks.

Imtiaz Sooliman of Gift of the Givers said their teams had been on site since the incident occurred and praised city firefighters for doing a magnificent job in controlling the fire and preventing a far greater disaster. He said they had the total co-operation of the MEC of human settlements in Gauteng and the City Disaster Management.

“Blankets and food were handed out by our teams on Wednesday night. We have set up a facility from where all assistance will be facilitated in a controlled, organised manner.”

The organisation also provides two meals a day.

A tent has been provided to assist pupils who are writing exams.

Sooliman said the public’s response had been overwhelming and the organisation was mobilising to accept and distribute donations.

“The following items will be of value to the victims: blankets, clothes, baby clothes, towels, linen, various food items, bottled water, baby milk powder, sanitary pads, disposable nappies, plastic utensils (plate, bowl, cup, spoon), bin bags and hygiene items. Building material will also be highly appreciated,” said Sooliman.

The organisation is appealing to citizens to drop off donations at the Life-style Image Centre on the corner of Mint and Carr Road, Fordsburg. Call Mustafah on 082 602 9854.

Or at the Gift of the Givers Logistics Centre at 22 Orchard Road, Bramley View (off Corlett drive). Contact number 011 346 1087.

Please deposit donations into Gift of the Givers, Standard Bank, Pietermaritzburg, Account Number 052137228, Branch Code 057525. Please send the deposit slip with full contact details for acknowledgement purposes.

For tax Section 18A certificates, please contact laila@giftofthegivers.org



SUSTENANCE: People from the Msawawa informal settlement queue to receive breakfast sponsored by Shoprite. Here little Mpho Nkosi clutches her soup and bread. PICTURES BOXER NGWENYA

Fire victims rebuild their lives

Help pours in for informal settlement residents

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STEPHINA Masebe lost everything in the fire that scorched the Msawawa informal settlement near Kya Sand in Randburg on Wednesday.

She said that when she realised her shack was on fire, she went towards it, hoping to save something, anything, before the blaze destroyed all she owned. She felt the intense heat as she got closer and realised it was already too late. She decided to save herself instead.

She turned and ran.

Masebe watched from a distance as flames engulfed her home. The fire reportedly started because of an unattended paraffin stove, and by the time firefighters managed to put out the inferno, an unprecedented level of dam-



REBUILDING: Msawawa residents try to rebuild their homes after a fire destroyed them.

age had been done.

“We’ve had fires in Msawawa, but not this big,” said spokeswoman for Johannesburg Emergency Management Services, Nana Radebe. She estimated 200 shacks had been destroyed. Other reports went as high as 1 000.

The Department of Human

Settlements was still working on an official tally, but all could agree the area had never seen a fire this bad.

Though some of Masebe’s neighbours carried the loss of their homes on their faces yesterday morning, she smiled broadly after she made her way through the Shoprite

mobile soup kitchen line. She held a cup of soup in one hand and several slices of bread in the other.

She said she hadn’t eaten since the fire, but even that fact didn’t seem to bother her: “I’m a survivor,” she said. “I’m still alive, I’m happy.”

Her clothes and furniture,

she said, could be replaced. Masebe said her son Andrew didn’t feel the same way. He’s in Grade 12 and already had exams to worry about. Now his books and uniforms were gone. She said Andrew was overwhelmed by the situation.

They stayed at a church up the road from Msawawa on Wednesday. Yesterday, Andrew went to school while his mother sifted through the debris with her neighbours.

Gift of the Givers, an organisation that also provided food for the victims, said it was working with the government and other non-profit organisations to set up a study centre for matrics.

The new MEC for Social Development, Molebatsi Bopape, stopped by to thank organisations such as Gift of the Givers and EDS Projects for their quick response to the disaster.

Police arrest second suspect for Rhodes Park murders

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ANOTHER Zimbabwean man has been detained for his alleged involvement in the Rhodes Park murders in which two men were tied up and drowned and a woman was raped.

The 22-year-old man and 11 others allegedly attacked Zukisa Kela, 25, and Sizwe Tyeke, 33, as they were walking in the park with their partners around 7pm after a church service last month.

Kela and Tyeke were stripped, beaten and thrown into the lake with their hands tied behind their backs with

their own clothes.

They drowned as their partners watched. One of the women was raped and the other was sexually assaulted.

Police divers who later arrived at the scene took four hours to retrieve the bodies of Kela and Tyeke.

Last week, Thabo Nkala, who is also from Zimbabwe, was the first to be arrested.

His case was postponed to allow the police to determine whether he is in South Africa legally.

He is alleged to have confessed to his role in the attack and also took the police to the place where the incident occurred for a pointing out.

On Tuesday, the police arrested the 22-year-old man in Yeoville.

He cannot be named yet as police are still busy with investigations linking him to the crime as well as an ID parade.

He appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court yesterday on charges of murder and rape.

Wearing a pair of faun trousers and a blue T-shirt with gold stripes on the sleeves, he seemed confused as he climbed up the stairs from the holding cells into the courtroom.

He took a long time to come out of the cells into the court-

room, prompting the court orderly to scold him for wasting the court’s time.

The chiding he got caused the other accused who were

You will have prove you are legally in SA

with him in the cells to laugh, telling the orderly that the accused needed to be slapped.

When he finally emerged into the courtroom, his eyes

darted everywhere, probably looking for a familiar face.

Magistrate Lucas van der Schyff informed the accused that he was facing very serious charges and he could face a life sentence if convicted.

“I recommend that you get legal representation.

“You are also entitled to be released on bail, but since you are from Zimbabwe, you will have to prove that you are legally in South Africa and have a fixed address,” he said. Van der Schyff also informed him that it might also not be easy to get bail just because he had a fixed address and was legally in the country.

The accused said he was

going to apply for legal aid and that he intended to apply for bail.

An identity parade was expected to be held soon.

At the time of the attacks, Kela – who taught social sciences and coached rugby at Westbury Secondary School – had just finished paying lobolo for his fiancée and they were to marry soon.

Tyeke and his wife were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and were visiting from the Eastern Cape.

The 22-year-old man will be back in court on November 19 and Nkala will be back on November 24.



Man killed in KZN car accident

A MAN was killed and three people were injured when the car in which they were travelling rolled in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal yesterday. ER24 spokesman Russel Meiring said the car rolled off the Asiphephe Bridgenear Albert Wessels Road in Newcastle’s Madadeni township. Meiring said the man, who was found lying a few metres from the car wreck, had died before paramedics arrived. Two of the injured three were described as being in a critical condition and all of them were taken to hospital. Meiring said authorities were investigating the cause of the crash. – ANA

Brothers jailed for killing elderly couple

THE PIETERMARITZBURG High Court has sentenced two brothers to lengthy jail terms for killing an elderly couple who they had accused of witchcraft in 2012, KwaZulu-Natal police said yesterday. Sifiso Freedom Mncwango, 29, was handed a sentence of two life terms on Wednesday. Sanele Theminkosi Mncwango, 24, faces 24 years behind bars. Police spokesman Brigadier Jay Naicker said that on December 19, 2012, Bhakuyise Mthabela, 84, and Ntombini Mazibuko, 66, were killed while asleep at their home in Zwelisha when they were stabbed and assaulted. – ANA

Pair held after cigarette truck hijacked

TWO MEN were arrested for being in possession of cigarettes worth R500 000 after allegedly hijacking a truck in Hammanskraal, Gauteng police said yesterday. Spokeswoman Captain Augustinah Selepe said the incident took place on the N1 highway on Wednesday. “It is alleged that the driver of a truck transporting cigarettes was pushed off the road by five suspects driving a blue BMW and caravan taxi.” Selepe said five men allegedly stopped in front of the truck and pointed a firearm at the driver, before loading the cigarettes into a white Nissan panel van. “Police received information to be on the lookout for the Nissan panel van that was driving towards old Pretoria Road to Pretoria West or Atteridgeville. The Gauteng Flying Squad pounced on the suspects at the corner of Es’kia Mphahlele and Charlotte Maxeke streets.” Three of the five men got away. Police confiscated a pistol from the alleged robbers and the panel van, which was recently hijacked in Mabopane. The two men, aged 38 and 50, were due to appear in the Pretoria Magistrate’s Court today. – ANA

Suspected rapist stoned to death

A MAN was stoned to death by villagers for allegedly attempting to rape a woman in Machakaneng near Atok on Tuesday night, Limpopo police said yesterday. While the man was trying to rape the woman, 35, she screamed, which alerted the community. Villagers then stoned the alleged rapist to death. His body was discovered in a street on Wednesday morning. A murder investigation is under way. Provincial commissioner General Fannie Masemola condemned the incident and urged communities to report suspected criminals to the police, and refrain from taking the law into their own hands. – ANA

Visa regulations for students waived

INTERNATIONAL students studying in South Africa can breathe a sigh of relief after Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba announced yesterday that his department would waive visa regulations for those whose visas have expired. The waiver is applicable to international students whose visas expired at the end of last month or were due to expire at the end of this month. Gigaba’s announcement came after consultations he had with the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA), which was liaising with universities to identify students affected by the regulations. The waiver came as a solution to assist students, who would have been unable to write their exams or have been “declared undesirable when leaving the country on expired visas”, said Home Affairs spokesman Mayihlome Tshwete. The waiver, said Tshwete, meant that the students would be allowed to remain in the country until December 31. He added: “Any student who intends to return to South Africa next year for study purposes will have to follow the usual process of either applying for a renewal of their visa or apply for a study visa in their country of origin, whichever is applicable.” Tshwete said that once the IEASA had provided the department with a list of bona fide students who were applicable for the waiver, they would proceed with granting these students the waiver. – ANA

Genital mutilation accused fights for bail

NORMA WILDENBOER

THE DANISH man found with female genitalia stashed in a fridge at his Bloemfontein home has also been implicated in the murder of his wife, who was gunned down several weeks after his arrest.

Peter Frederiksen yesterday testified in his bail application in the Bloemfontein Magistrate’s Court.

He has been in custody since his arrest on September 17 following the gruesome find, and has since also been charged with conspiracy to commit murder after the death of his wife, Anna Matseliso Molise, 28, who was gunned down on October 20.

Frederiksen is also facing several other charges, including assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, the possession and manufacturing of child pornography, the removal of human tissue in contraven-

tion of the Health Act, and bigamy.

Frederiksen became visibly agitated by the State’s cross-examination and started to cry when talking about how his incarceration had affected his health and his businesses, and how “everything in my life changed when I heard about my wife’s death”.

However, the State alleges that Frederiksen used a cell-phone while in custody to contact and threaten witnesses.

Prosecutor Amanda Bester grilled Frederiksen on the issue of his not serving a six-month sentence in Denmark, which he received for the possession of unlicensed firearms in 2010.

The State said that if he evaded a six-month sentence in Denmark, what would prevent him from doing the same in this case if granted bail.

The bail application continues today.

The Star

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What’s in a name? A lot of entertainment apparently

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TWITTER users were amused at the name Tokyo Sexwale after he was listed among the five candidates to stand for Fifa president in February.

His name appeared along with those of Prince Ali Al Hussein, Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Jerome Champagne and Gianni Infantino. Soon after Sexwale’s name was listed among the candidates to replace Sepp Blatter, jokes flooded Twitter.

Some thought that because of his first name, Tokyo, he should be linked with the Japanese.

Others seemed to go for the jugular, poking fun at his surname and spelling it as Sex-

wale.

@Howling_Snail tweeted: “Tokyo Sexwale is trending. I don’t know what that is but it sounds like Japanese porn has finally gone too far.”

@Jason_scott quipped: “Mum: It’s a boy. What shall we call him? Dad: Shhh, game’s on. Mum: What’s his name? Dad: Whatever...Tokyo Sexwale. Now shhh. #TokyoSexwale.”

For some, however, the name seemed good enough to earn Sexwale the top job.

A Sexwale supporter made it known that Tokyo isn’t linked to the Japanese. @YesWeCrann tweeted: “For the record, Tokyo Sexwale’s real name is Mosima Gabriel Sexwale. Tokyo’s nickname is because he was involved in karate as a youth.”

@tiagri tweeted: Tokyo Sexwale! What a name! He’ll make a legendary Fifa president! Him or Prince Ali. Imagine him coming to meetings on a magic carpet #FIFA

@noswadneb: “Twitter is stumped as quite literally nobody can come up with a better made-up name to compete with the genuine Tokyo Sexwale.”

@Haz1882 tweeted: “Tokyo Sexwale is the greatest name I’ve ever heard. Give him the Fifa job now.”

Meanwhile, a blog tokyosexwale.com has been created to galvanise support for Sexwale. The blog named Tokyo Sexwale For President captures his success in politics and in business.

@kgopiMabotja



TOPICAL: Tokyo Sexwale is trending on Twitter.

PICTURE: AP

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: telogo.mosam@inl.co.za, starnews@inl.co.za or post them to Tobego Monama The Star, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2001 or drop them off at the newspaper's offices at 47 playle ka seme street (was Sauer Street), call 011-633-2548, or fax to 011-836-6186

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