

Former DJ guilty of killing his girlfriend

Prayers that Donald Sebolai will pay for his crime have been answered, Tshabalala’s family say

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AS THE murder of their daughter took its toll on them, the family of Rachel “Dolly” Tshabalala took solace in prayer.

Yesterday, they heaved sighs of relief after their first step towards their wish for justice was realised when Tshabalala’s boyfriend, Donald Sebolai, was convicted of her murder.

Tshabalala’s mother Elizabeth Marawa, said she had been praying for retribution.

“We are relieved, God is good. We just kept praying for this day to come,” she said, moments after Sebolai was found guilty in the high court sitting in Palm Ridge.

“All we can do now is wait until the sentencing and pray that justice will continue to prevail,” Marawa added.

In addition to being found guilty of murder, Sebolai, a former Jozi FM DJ, was also found guilty of trying to defeat the ends of justice after he changed Tshabalala’s clothes and cleaned the crime scene after the murder. Sebolai stabbed Tshabalala to

death with a steak knife in June last year during an altercation. It was revealed during judgment that Sebolai had abused his girlfriend at least three times before her death.

Judge Cassim Moosa acknowledged the couple’s troubled relationship but dismissed Sebolai’s claim that he had acted in self-defence.

“The accused clearly knew what he was doing when he stabbed the deceased.

“He did not act in self-defence. He did not take her to the hospital after she was stabbed but

instead mopped up the blood... He clearly intended for her to die,” Judge Moosa said.

Tshabalala’s family, some of whom came to court wearing T-shirts emblazoned with her face, sobbed in the public gallery as the details of her murder were recounted.

While the court convicted Sebolai of murder and obstructing the ends of justice, the charge of stealing Tshabalala’s car after her death was dropped.

Sebolai’s aunt, who asked not to be named, said the family had hoped that everything would be

over yesterday.

“We’d hoped he would be sentenced today too. It has been hard for us to be in this situation. We just want to know what’s going to happen,” the aunt said.

National Prosecuting Authority spokeswoman Phindi Louw said they were satisfied with the outcome.

“This sends a very strong message to those who commit gender-based violence. We will make sure to impose a sentence that befits the crime,” Louw said.

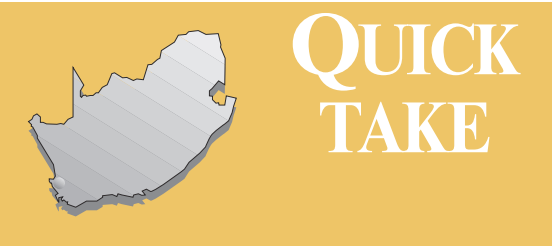
“We hope this will deter those from committing such crimes.”



JUSTICE SERVED: Donald Sebolai is due to be sentenced next month.

PICTURE: DUMISANI SIBEKO

Sebolai’s bail was revoked but his defence team said he would appear in court on Thursday to apply for bail, pending sentencing on November 25.



Colonel held over drugs scam

A SENIOR police officer alleged to be involved in an elaborate, corrupt scheme with drug dealers was arrested at Sophiatown police station in Joburg yesterday, national police said.

The officer, a 51-year-old colonel in charge of visible policing operations at the Sophiatown station, allegedly acted in cahoots with drug dealers in various Joburg suburbs. “Intelligence and investigations showed that he was helping the suspected drug dealers betray their clients and evade arrest,” police spokesman Vsh Naidoo said. “It is alleged that after a client purchased drugs from the suspects, they would give the police officer a tipoff. The police officer would then organise a raid on the clients, seize the drugs but free the clients in exchange for a bribe.” The colonel would then allegedly return the drugs to the dealers in return for kickbacks. Four drug dealers, aged between 29 and 63, were also arrested. – ANA

Hunt for missing DA leader still on

THE FAMILY and friends of the missing deputy leader of the DA in North West, Petro Nel, have raised \$5 000 (R66 000) to ensure the search for her continues, the party said yesterday.

“The money is needed for the search and rescue team to continue. The team could only search for a certain period of time, and if you want the search to continue, you pay,” said party spokeswoman Nicolize van der Walt. Nel was on holiday in Nepal when she went missing on Thursday while on a sightseeing flight over a mountainous area. All contact was lost with the light aircraft she boarded. Nel, who was elected DA North West deputy leader this year, served as a DA ward councillor in the Matlosana municipality in Klerksdorp. Earlier this year, she received the special Paul Harris Rotary Award for her extreme dedication to community work and upliftment. Van der Walt said the party was praying for her safe return. – ANA

Crash claims man, four injured

A MAN in his 20s was killed and four people were injured when their vehicle rolled in the Northern Cape, paramedics said yesterday. ER24 spokeswoman Russel Meiring said the accident occurred in Kirk Road in Kuruman on Sunday. A car was found lying on its side next to the road when paramedics arrived. The lifeless body of a man believed to be in his 20s was found a few metres away. “He had already succumbed to multiple injuries and was declared dead on the scene,” Meiring said. Four other patients were found on the scene with minor injuries, he added. The injured were treated and taken to Kuruman Hospital. The cause of the accident is being investigated. – ANA

Pair on bail for VAT fraud

TWO MEN who allegedly defrauded the South African Revenue Service of more than R5 million were granted bail of R50 000 each in the Nigel Magistrate’s Court yesterday. Clint Dixon and Leo Agbakwuru were arrested by the police’s elite crime-fighting unit, the Hawks, on Friday following a probe by the Sars enforcement division. Sars said it believes the two were part of an illicit gold industry syndicate. “The syndicate allegedly fabricated fraudulent documentation reflecting purchases of second-hand jewellery amounting to R50m,” Sars spokesman Luther Lebello said. “The fictitious purchases were used in claiming a fraudulent 14 percent notional VAT input over the period of 2011 to 2013. Sars suffered prejudice in excess of R5m due to this scheme.” The case against Dixon and Agbakwuru was postponed to November 3 for further investigation. – ANA

Sex pest case lawyer gets hate mail

A LAWYER defending a former music teacher accused of sexually assaulting boys at the Cape Town private school Reddam House has told a court that he has been receiving hate mail. William Booth is defending the 32-year-old teacher, who appeared in the Wynberg Magistrate’s Court yesterday. The man allegedly molested boys between the ages of nine and 10 during music lessons. When the allegations first surfaced earlier this year, the school terminated his contract. He had been teaching both boys and girls private music lessons at the school since 2010. The accused is out on bail of R2 000. – ANA

Murder-trial delays taking toll on family

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THE SEVENTH postponement of a trial has left the family of the woman who was killed and then set alight even more distraught.

The trial of the alleged killers of Nthabiseng Selesho was meant to have started in August, and yesterday, just like on the previous trial dates, the family arrived in court hopeful that it would finally begin.

However, as everyone waited for the judge to arrive, one of Selesho’s alleged killers, Ashley de Villiers, held a lengthy consultation with his lawyer, who then withdrew from the case for “ethical reasons”.

This was De Villiers’s second lawyer since August.

Selesho’s family faced the latest development in disbelief, saying the delays were taking a toll on their emotions.

“These postponements are messing all of us emotionally. We’re upset and disappointed,” said Selesho’s uncle, Sledge Selesho, at the high court sitting in Palm Ridge.

Selesho was a jewellery saleswoman, and one of her clients was Candice Prevost, De Villiers’s fiancée.

In September last year, the pair, who lived with Prevost’s former fiancé, Wayne Williams, in their Boksburg home, allegedly lured Selesho to the house under the pretext of buying jewellery.

There, Selesho was robbed of jewellery worth R300 000, killed and bundled into her car, which was then driven to Grasmere and set alight. At the time of her death, Selesho’s son was four months old and she had been breastfeeding.

Her boyfriend and the father of her child, Ketso Monaheng, wore a T-shirt with Selesho’s face on it in court.

Monaheng said he wasn’t surprised at the latest delay.

“It’s not the first time that they are pulling this lawyer stunt and it’s emotionally taxing. You always come to court and think something will happen, but the matter gets postponed. I expected the trial to start because I want to hear from the guys about what happened.”

His words were echoed by Sledge, who said he was anxious to get the full story, but the frequent postponements were making that impossible.

Sledge said most of the family lived in the Free State, and it was inconvenient to keep taking leave and travelling to Joburg only for the matter to be postponed.

“Others have stopped coming because they are scared they will get fired. I hope the new judge will see to it that this matter will proceed. I am walking away confident that he understands,” he said.

The matter is expected back in court on Monday.



PROTESTING: A boy joins the Treatment Action Campaign and Sonke Gender Justice demonstration outside the high court in Joburg yesterday, to raise awareness for mineworkers with silicosis or tuberculosis on SA’s mines.

PICTURE: ANTOINE DE RAS

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HOW DOES one bring justice to a case involving hundreds of thousands?

This was the question posed by advocate Wim Trengove SC, representing the mineworkers who contracted either silicosis, tuberculosis or both, in what has the potential to be the biggest class-action case in South African history, which finally opened its certification hearing in the high court in Joburg yesterday.

Defining miners’ class action

Three law firms have joined together to represent the employees working in mines which have unsafe ventilation practices that can expose workers to high levels of dust and cause both diseases.

Bangu Mzi Balakisi, a 61-year-old man from the Eastern Cape, said through an interpreter that he contracted silicosis and tuberculosis as a result of working for 25 years in several mines.

He said that because of these

illnesses, he has difficulty breathing and low energy. The struggle in his breath is audible.

The first task for the legal team representing the mineworkers is to convince the court during a two-week hearing that this should be a class-action case.

“The question is how does one bring justice to a case involving hundreds of thousands,” Trengove said, addressing the court.

He argued that the only way

for each person who has been harmed or died from these work-related illnesses is to have a class action that includes them all. Otherwise, each person would have to go to court individually to prove his or her case.

John Stephens, a legal researcher for Section27, said most of the mineworkers can’t afford the costs of going to court alone.

Three judges – Deputy Judge President Phineas Mojapelo, Judge Bashier Vally and Judge Leonie Windell – presided over the hearing, which continues today.

Relocation to North West, poor services spark angry protest

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A LACK of service delivery in the Kya Sand informal settlement in Randburg, as well as a possible relocation to Brits in North West, resulted in thousands of disgruntled residents taking to the streets in protest yesterday.

Armed with an assortment of weapons, including pangas, sjamboks, golf clubs and sticks, the residents paraded through the streets.

They chanted songs and blew vuvuzelas as they barricaded roads with burning tyres and set tyres alight in a bid to highlight their grievances.

Some pelted passing motorists on main roads, including Malibongwe Drive and Witkoppen Road, with stones.

Commuters looked on help-

lessly as they struggled to manoeuvre their way past debris strewn in their path amid a pall of black smoke from the burning tyres.

Despite the large police contingent, which included the SAPS and Joburg metro police department officers, the rowdy crowd continued to make their way through the area.

The police fired rubber bullets and teargas, temporally halting the protest action.

But after gaining increasing momentum, the more than 2 000 residents instead began marching towards the municipal offices in Randburg to hand over a memorandum of their grievances.

After making some headway, they were thwarted by the police, who eventually blocked them off using their Nyala armoured vehicles. After some negotiations

between the police and community leaders, the residents agreed to temporarily suspend their protest action.

Among the protesters was Topsy Mathas. He told The Star that he would continue fighting until he and his community were treated fairly.

He said that since he had been staying in the informal township since 2006, the government had promised him a house and other basic services, including running water and electricity.

But now that there were possible plans to move the group to Brits, he said the municipality would not fulfil this promise. Instead, he added, it would make living conditions worse.

“It is not right what they are doing. We were never consulted with for this move,” Mathas said.

“We used our own money to build the shacks we live in, and if



we move, we will have to spend more time and money to travel to work.”

Another resident, Mandla Monyetswale, said he and many others worked in nearby factories, and that if they moved to Brits, they wouldn’t be able to afford to travel.

Gauteng Department of Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs spokesman Motsamai Motlhalwa said the planning process for the rollout of bulk infrastructure services had started.



AGGRIEVED: Kya Sand informal settlers blocked roads and disrupted traffic in Malibongwe Drive yesterday.

PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

Woman badly hurt as bullets fly in mall

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SHOPPERS and employees at Joburg’s newly opened Mall of the South ran for their lives as gunshots rang through the shopping centre yesterday afternoon.

A woman in her 20s trying to flee apparently tripped and fell from the second floor as the gang of robbers fired shots at random.

She was in a critical condition in hospital with severe head injuries, ER24 spokesman Russel Meiring said. She was treated and given advanced life support before being transported to Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

It is alleged that at around 2pm, four men entered the mall and robbed a jewellery store.

Six employees of a cellphone shop told The Star they had witnessed four men running into the mall with guns in hand.

“A few moments later, I heard about four shots being fired. We all just ran. I didn’t even know where I was running to, I was so scared. I don’t want to relive that moment again,” said one woman.

She and her colleagues stood outside the shop while the police were inspecting the crime scene.

“We can’t continue working today, I have never seen anything like that,” she added.

Other witnesses said the men fled in a Hyundai sedan.

However, mall spokesman Waldo Marcus said only three men robbed the store but declined to mention its name, adding that security at the mall was tight.

“Mall robberies have been on the increase. We try to make it as difficult as possible for criminals to rob the mall. We have full-time security and armed response,” he said. – *Additional reporting by ANA*

The Star

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GDARD Ref: Gaut: 002/14-15/0052

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED
INSTALLATION OF A TREATED MUNICIPAL WATER PIPELINE
FROM WELGEDACHT WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS TO
ENSTRA MILL IN SPRINGS EKURHULENI MUNICIPALITY

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the installation
of a treated municipal water pipeline from Welgedacht
waste water treatment works to the Enstra Mill in Springs,
Ekurhuleni Municipality was issued in terms of the National
Environmental Management Act (Act No. 1998) by the
Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs
(GDARD) on 6 October 2015.

Copies of the EA can be requested from Ms. R. Bellucci of SRK
Consulting (Pty) Ltd. as per the contact details provided below:

Ms. R. Bellucci Tel: (031) 279 1213
SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd. Fax: (031) 279 1204
PO Box 1969, Westville, 3630 Email: rbellucci@srk.co.za

An appeal against the Department’s decision may be lodged in
accordance with the procedure described in Chapter 2 of the
National Appeals Regulations, 2014. Should you wish to appeal
this decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged with
the Appeals Administrator by 26 October 2015. Contact SRK for
further information on the appeal procedure.

srk consulting

Krejcir security tightened over escape ploys

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THE SECURITY around Radovan Krejcir’s court cases has massively increased, after police discovered that the Czech businessman has multiple plots in play to escape from prison.

The sentencing proceedings for Krejcir and his five co-accused were set to start yesterday in the high court in Joburg, but the usual SAPS team monitoring the court had more than doubled.

Last month, Krejcir’s cell at the Zonderwater Correctional Centre was raided and several illegal items were discovered hidden inside, including a 9mm pistol, a knife, ammunition, a taser and 10 cellphones, among others.

It’s understood these items were meant to be used as part of an escape from the facility, with Krejcir allegedly planning to flee to Swaziland, Mozambique and eventually Argentina.

However, national police spokesman Lieutenant-General Solomon Makgale yesterday told The Star this wasn’t the only escape attempt Krejcir had been planning. This, he said, was why security had been significantly increased.

The Star also understands from another police source that the reason the security had to be upped so quickly was because of an alleged plan by Krejcir to escape yesterday morning. The police apparently became aware of this over the weekend.

Makgale said intelligence sources had revealed that Krejcir has repeatedly been requesting medical attention from a specific doctor at a specific time and date, which police believe is another window for the Czech businessman to make his escape.

“We know that he wants to escape. He realises the court proceedings have come to a certain point and he believes his only option is to escape,” Makgale said.

While police have several leads on those who were and are set to assist Krejcir in his alleged escape plots, Makgale said no arrests had been made. Numerous witnesses and possible suspects were being interviewed by investigators.

“He is getting help from fellow inmates and Correctional Services (officials)... There will be arrests in the near future.”

Meanwhile, Krejcir’s legal team have lodged a formal request at the high court in Pretoria to have him transferred to another prison. The application was set to be heard today.

Makgale said the police were aware of this transfer application, but that if it was successful, it would be up to Correctional Services to ensure he doesn’t try to make any escape attempts upon being moved.

Krejcir has been convicted on charges of kidnapping, attempted murder and drug dealing.

The case was postponed to October 28.

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