

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 kwaito 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 her brother Junior, 8, said they were devastated.

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

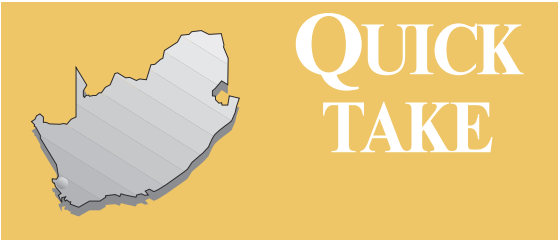
It is only after he demanded to speak to the station commander that a case of animal cruelty was opened.

Booysens 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.



DEVASTATED: 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: BHEKIKAYA MABASO



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 Vho-Mushana on the much-acclaimed Tshivenda television drama series *Muvhango*. He also acted in the South African movie *Elelwani* as the mad man Madwara. – 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 Mondeor 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... yiile toitot... noma besi dubula... noma be sishaya*" (we are going forward with the struggle even if they shoot us... even if they beat 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: BHEKIKAYA 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," said Dlamini.

Nompundulo Mkhathshwa, the president-elect of the SRC, said Wits management should remember that the institution

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 lectern 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. 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 Nkwanyana 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," Nkwanyana 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

the alleged rapist's affidavit during his bail application hearing.

The man was charged with three counts of rape and two of kidnapping after he allegedly abducted Maria*, 18, last month.

The magistrate ordered the accused to remain living at the same address; not to make any contact with the teenager or her family, even if it was through an intermediary; and to report to Jeppe police station on Mondays and Thursdays.

On Saturday, September 12,

the man allegedly approached the teenager and choked her until she lost consciousness.

It is alleged that when she woke up, the teenager found herself in an unfamiliar room.

Her captor allegedly spent the next day-and-a-half raping her and cutting her with a knife when she tried to resist.

When he eventually let Maria leave the room in the early hours of that Monday morning, she was at first too afraid to approach the police because he had threatened to kill her and her family if she

ever spoke about the incident.

Maria's mother helped the police capture the 23-year-old suspect, after inviting him and his parents to her home through a ruse that she would drop the charges.

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 Germaner*

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OBITUARY

Sisulus' activist son will be missed

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THE SISULU family are grieving the death of Mlungisi Sisulu, pictured, the second son of Walter and Albertina.

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.



"Lungi's death is a great blow, coming as it does just three years after that of his brother Zwelakhe," a family statement read.

The office of the Presidency said: Mr Sisulu was an activist and later a businessman, who was involved in the ANC's underground structures, notably during the 1980s when he ran a small shop in Soweto, affectionately known as Shop 7."

Funeral arrangements are still to be announced.

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