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and fine
Mpumalanga
Premier P4



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PASSING OF NDABEZITHA MBANGWA MAHLANGU

**THE NATION MOURN
FOR THE PASING OF
NDABEZITHA MBANG-
WA ANDRIES
MAHLANGU**

P3



The late Ndabezitha Mbangwa
Andries Mahlangu



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MPUMALANGA PRESS NEWS



PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF MINISTER JACKSON MTHEMBU

an activist and life-long champion of freedom and democracy. He was a much-loved and greatly respected colleague and comrade, whose passing leaves our nation at a loss.

By Saai Mahlangu

EMALAHLENI - It is with deep sorrow and shock that we announce that Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu passed away earlier today from COVID-related complications.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time of loss.

Minister Mthembu was an exemplary leader, an activist and life-long champion of freedom and democracy. He was a much-loved and greatly respected colleague and comrade, whose passing leaves our nation at a loss.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Minister's family, to his colleagues, comrades and many friends.

He passed away on Thursday, 21 January 2021, following Covid-19 related complications and was laid to rest on Sunday the 24 of January 2021 as per national lockdown regulations.



Minister Jackson Mthembu

THE NATION MOURN FOR THE PASING OF NDABEZITHA MBANGWA ANDRIES MAHLANGU

By Saai Mahlangu

MTHAMBOETHINI - On January 09, 2021 Ndabezitha Mbangwa Andries Mahlangu was shot and killed in the evening outside his parent's home in Mthambothini, Siyabuswa.

It is alleged that his son upon hearing gunshots at around 08:15 and went out to investigate and then saw two men running out of the yard where his father had parked his vehicle. When he approached the vehicle, he realised that his father was leaning with his chest against the steering wheel unconscious. At the time of his murder, Ndabezitha Mbangwa Mahlangu had just finished a meeting with the members of the council when he was shot dead outside his parents' home while sitting in his car. His murder comes soon after Prince Zwelithini Ray Dlamini was killed after being shot 13 times by unknown gunmen.

Ndabezitha Mbangwa Mahlangu was the chairperson of the Nzunza Mabhoko Tribal Council. Mahlangu's memorial service took place on 13 January in Mthambothini and he was buried on 14 January. Mahlangu had in the past played a critical role in local politics and also in the unification of the Nzunza nation. The Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Ikosi Sipho Mahlangu said, "Ndabezitha Mbangwa Andries Mahlangu leaves us in a very difficult position because he was one of those that were leading the unity programme that

the Royal Family had started where he was unifying the Royal Family and also unifying the Nzunza nation." The ANC in Nkangala region has condemned the murder of Ndabezitha Mbangwa Andries Mahlangu. In a statement, the Nkangala ANC pointed out that the criminal elements must be speedily arrested, charged and served with the most severe sentence no less than life imprisonment. "We call on all law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned in their quest to ensure that perpetrators of this heinous crime are caught and face the full might of the law," ANC Nkangala stated in its statement. According to Mpumalanga police spokesperson, Leonard Hlathi, police were called including medical personnel to the scene and Mahlangu was certified dead on the scene. The Police in Mpumalanga are appealing to the public and all those who might have witnessed the incident or have any information in relation to the incident to assist the police in ensuring that the criminals are brought to justice.

No one has been arrested yet, and police are requesting anyone with information that can assist in the investigation to contact Lieutenant Colonel April Aphane on 0823026621 or Capt. Elvis Shabangu on 082-449-0339.

Moreover, the family of the late Andries Mbangwa Mahlangu had to pay a fine of R5000 admission of guilt for flouting Regulations of COVID-19, with mourners of more than 50 attended the funeral.

YAZI KABANZI NGAMABIZO WEENDAWO

Umtloli ngu Thulani
Mahlangu

- Weltevrede : eMthambothini
- Rossenekal : KoNomtjharhelo
- Belfast : KwaSimkhulu
- Tweefontein : KoSoMarobogo
- Vaalbank : Libangeni
- Draikraal : Esdakeni
- Tonteldoos : Emhlabaneni
- Ekangala : KoNobhalarhani
- Phola, Ogies, Kendal, Delmas, ne Babsfontein. : KwaHlanga
- Loskopdam : KonoQoli
- Pretoria : KwaMnyamana
- Randfontein : Emhlangeni
- Mamelodi : Flaga
- Blinkwater / Stoffberg : KwaMaza
- Valsepruit : Ndedema
- Secunda / Kriel : KwamaHlaze
- Davel / Bethal : Esibilo
- Trichardt : Embalenhle
- Vlaakglagte 1 : Emandlethu
- Vlaakglagte 2 : Buhlebesizwe
- Waalmanthal : KoMjekejeke
- Standerton : Esilongweni
- Witbank : KoMrimitjhi
- Witbank West : KoMrimitjhi
- Witbank East : KwaMfemfe
- Witbank South : eNcemeni
- Witbank North : KwaMgagadlha
- Middelburg : Panela
- Doorenkop : Burhole
- Duvha/Klipfontein : KwaMfemfe
- Bronkhorstspuit : KoSoMarhinini
- Tafelkop : Eride
- Cullinan : eMasongololo
- Woonerboom : eMbilaneni
- Middleburg : KwaTutu
- Tweef A,B,C,D : Phumula
- Tweefontein M : Thokoza
- Vries : KoSoMphalali
- Klipgat : Maganyaneni
- Winterveldt : Esdakaneni
- Boskop : KwaVumazana
- Waaikraal : KwaMhlahla
- Bethal : eBhosa
- Carolina : Mkhomazi
- Pieterskraal : Madlayedwa

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SA RECEIVES FIRST BATCH OF COVID-19 VACCINE

By Saai Mahlangu

On February 01, 2021 South Africa received its first consignment of COVID-19 vaccines at the OR Tambo International Airport from India. The consignment, consisting of one million doses of the Covishield vaccine produced by the Serum Institute in India, arrived at OR Tambo International Airport this afternoon. Another 500,000 doses of the vaccine are to be expected later this month.

This vaccine was developed by the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca together with the University of Oxford. South Africa was one of the countries where clinical trials were held to assess the drug's efficacy. The first one million shots of the vaccine will be used to inoculate healthcare workers amid a surge in infections fueled by a new variant of the coronavirus. The President said provincial health departments have submitted their

distribution plans. "We have identified about 200 facilities throughout the country through which the vaccines can be distributed. Healthcare workers will be the first to receive the vaccine,"

"Once we have completed the vaccination of healthcare workers, we will move to phase 2 of the national vaccine strategy which will include essential workers, people over 60 years, people with comorbidities, in other words, other health challenges. In phase 3, we will extend the vaccination process to the rest of the adult population." In his address, the President has dismissed rumours that the COVID 19 vaccination program will be compulsory for all citizens. Ramaphosa says no one will be forced to take the COVID-19 vaccine and it will not be manufactured in dark corners. "Nobody will be given this vaccine against their will nor will the vaccine be administered in some corners. Any rumours to

this effect are both false and dangerous. And we would like to ask those who are spreading these rumours to stop."

SA Lockdown restrictions:
President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced several restrictions are being eased under adjusted Level 3 of the Lockdown. This follows a steady decline in the number of daily COVID-19 cases. The President announced the ban on the sale of alcohol has been lifted, public places like beaches, dams, rivers, public pools and parks will be reopened, while the hours of the curfew will now be from 11pm to 4am.

The sale of alcohol by licensed premises for off-site consumption will be permit-

ted from Mondays to Thursdays, from 10am to 6pm. Faith-based gatherings will be permitted, subject to health protocols. Gatherings may not exceed 50 people for indoor venues and 100 persons for outdoor venues. Several prevention measures will remain in place, such as social gatherings, political events, traditional council meetings and gatherings at sports grounds will not be permitted. Funerals may not be attended by more than 50 people, and there needs to be social distancing, hand sanitising and mask wearing.

However, it remains compulsory for every person to wear a mask in a public space.



culture, sport & recreation

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MASS PARTICIPATION CONDITIONAL GRANT 17-MONTH CONTRACT POSITIONS.

SPORT COORDINATORS (15 POSTS)

Salary: All-inclusive package of R7 971.00 per month.

EHLANZENI REGION (3 POSTS)

Busibuckridge Municipality (Mkhuhlu Ref: DCSR/MPCG/01)
Thaba Chweu Municipality (Mashishing Ref: DCSR/MPCG/02 & Matibidi DCSR/MPCG/03)

GERT SIBANDE REGION (7 POSTS)

Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (Silobela) DCSR/MPCG/04
Dipaleseng Municipality DCSR/MPCG/05
Govan Mbeki Municipality (eMbalenle DCSR/MPCG/06 & Lebohang DCSR/MPCG/07)
Lekwa Municipality DCSR/MPCG/08
Msukaligwa Municipality DCSR/MPCG/09
Mkhondo Municipality DCSR/MPCG/10

NKANGALA REGION (5 POSTS)

Dr JS Moroka Municipality (Marapyané) DCSR/MPCG/011
Emakhazeni Municipality (Siyathuthuka) DCSR/MPCG/12
Emalahleni Municipality (Duvha) DCSR/MPCG/13
Thembisile Hani Municipality (Zithabiseni) DCSR/MPCG/14
Victor Khanye Municipality DCSR/MPCG/15

Requirements:

Matric · Certificate in Sport Management or Equivalent qualification · Computer literacy · Experience in working with communities with regard to sport and recreation will be an added advantage · The ability to coordinate sport, recreation and school sport activities and programmes · Planning and organising skills · Communication skills · Report writing skills · The ability to interpret sport, recreation and school sport policies · Sound interpersonal relationships · Problem-solving skills

Key performance areas:

Facilitate the coordination of sport, recreation and school sport activities in the Municipality with regard to Youth Camps, Big Walk, Recreation Day, Tournaments, Festivals, Golden Games, Rural Sport, Leagues, School Leagues, Summer, Autumn and Winter Games and Indigenous Games, in partnership with local sport and recreation councils, school sport structures and Municipality · Ensure that sport and recreation councils and other sport structures are functional · Encourage synergy at local level with regard to sport, recreation and school sport programmes · Report on sport, recreation and school sport activities within the Municipality · Support and monitor the utilisation of community gyms within the Municipality · Support formation and management of sport and recreation clubs

COMMUNITY SPORT AND RECREATION OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (1 POST)

Salary: All-inclusive package of R9 954.00 per month.

NKANGALA REGION: (KwaMhlanga DCSR/MPCG/16)

Requirements:

Matric · Certificate in Office Administration or Equivalent qualification · Computer literacy · Previous experience in working with communities with regard to sport and recreation will be an added advantage · Ability to coordinate sport activities and programmes · Planning and organizing skills · Communication skills · Report-writing skills · Ability to interpret sport and recreation policies · Sound interpersonal relationships · Problem-solving skills

Key performance areas:

Coordinate Provincial Sport and Recreation programmes with Regional community sport and recreation administrative officers · Ensure that reliable data with regard to league system and hubs is kept · Continuously liaise with Sport Coordinators on sport and recreation activities and ensure that they are supported · Support preparations of sport and recreation leagues as well as district and provincial tournaments · Provide any data required from stakeholders within the hubs · Write monthly reports

SPORTS ACADEMY OFFICER: EHLANZENI REGIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY (1 POST)

Salary: All-inclusive package of R9 954.00 per month

Ehlanzeni Region, Mbombela DCSR/MPCG/17

Requirements:

Matric plus Certificate in Sport Science · 3-year Diploma in Sport Science will be an added advantage · Knowledge of the White Paper on Sport and Recreation and the National Sport and Recreation Plan · Knowledge of the South African Coaches Framework and its implementation facets · Knowledge of the South African Sports Academies Strategic Framework and Policy Guidelines · Knowledge and understanding of the Public Finance Management Act, including their respective regulations · Skills in human resource management and development processes · Project management principles and practices · Advanced computer skills · Report-writing skills · Problem solving and relationship building skills · Valid driver's licence

Key performance areas:

Manage all activities of the District Academy of Sport · Compile, submit and monitor the District Academy of Sport's budget · Compile, submit and implement the District Academy of Sport's operational plan · Manage, monitor and evaluate database of the District Sport Academy athletes and coaches · Evaluate and propose intervention strategies for betterment of Academy systems and policies as will be directed by Mpumalanga Academy of Sport · Manage District Academy of Sport resources · Manage and ensure all movable and immovable District Academy assets and general management

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER (1 POST)

Salary: All-inclusive package of R12 034.00 per annum

HEAD OFFICE, MBOMBELA DCSR/MPCG/18

Requirements:

Matric plus a Diploma in Public Administration or Equivalent qualification · Advanced computer skills · Report-writing skills · Analytical skills · Problem solving and relationship building skills · Valid driver's licence · Ability to work long hours under pressure

Key performance areas:

Coordinate monthly programme and project reports of Sport, Recreation and School Sport Section from Regions and Head Office · Consolidate reports and portfolio of evidence from the Regions and submit to National Department of Sports, Arts and Culture · Track and monitor the performance of sports and recreation programmes in line with set targets · Conduct reviews and evaluations on the implementation of sports and recreation programs · Support the sport and recreation programme managers in order to ensure that monitoring and evaluation processes are followed and implemented within sports and recreation programmes · Support the programme managers in order to ensure that monitoring and evaluation processes are followed and implemented within sports and recreation programmes · Enforce compliance with DORA and PFMA in relation to sports and recreation programmes

Closing Date: Friday, 19 February 2021

Applications must be submitted on the new Z83 form, which obtainable from any Public Service department or on the department's website at <https://dcsr.mpg.gov.za> and should be accompanied by certified copy of ID, qualifications and CV. All applications will be subjected to security screening.

Note: One post per application form. No fax applications will be accepted. State full name of post and reference number of the said post on the application form.

Completed application forms with relevant reference numbers should be addressed to:

The Head:
Department of Culture, Sport & Recreation
P.O. Box 1243
MBOMBELA
1200

Due to Covid-19 health and safety protocols, no hand-delivered applications will be accepted.

The Department is committed to providing equal opportunities and practices affirmative action employment. It is our intention to promote representivity in terms of race, gender and disability when filling the vacant positions. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Note: Correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates only. If you have not been contacted within three months of the closing date of the advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.

Enquiries: Ms Samkelisiwe Lushaba 013 766 5245, Mr Clement Mahlalela 013 766 5343 and Ms Ncobile Mkhabela 013 766 5656



DA calls on police to arrest and fine Mpumalanga Premier

Jane Sithole MPL - DA

On January 25, 2021 The Democratic Alliance (DA) calls on the South African Police Service (SAPS) to arrest and fine the Premier of Mpumalanga, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, following her non-compliance to wear a mask. It is ridiculous that the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele, has now called for an investigation. Mtsweni-Tsipane's failure to wear a mask at the funeral of the late Jackson Mthembu, was broadcasted live on national television in full view of all South Africans – there is no need for an investigation. Had this been an ordinary citizen, they would have already been arrested and fined, without any investigation. The DA condemns the blatant double standards that is on display when it comes to the treatment of ordinary South Africans compared to the treatment of ANC cadres during this lockdown.

Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane must be subjected to same treatment as any South African – she should be arrested and fined R1 500, payable in her personal capacity. The weak excuse by the Premier's Office that she did not notice her mask fell off ("she was oblivious of that when it fell") is an insult to the intelligence of South Africans. We also call for Mtsweni-Tsipane to appear before the Portfolio Committees on the Premier's Office; Finance; Economic Development and Tourism in the Mpumalanga Legislature. She will simply not get away with a slap on the wrist. If immediate action is not taken against the Premier, the DA will be left with no option but to open a case against her.

FOUR VICTIMS SHOT, ONE DIED AND THREE INCLUDING A POLICE OFFICER HOSPITALISED, SUSPECT SOUGHT

By MP Staff Reporter.

MHLUZI - A 29 year old man is due to appear before the Middleburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 02 February 2021, on allegations of murder as well as three counts of attempted murder.

His court appearance comes after the man reportedly handed himself over at Mhluzi Police Station today, accompanied by his legal representative. The man is alleged to have been involved in a shocking incident in which four people were reportedly shot at Riverside section in Mhluzi. The unpleasant event took place in the early hours of yesterday, resulting in one male victim succumbing to his injuries meanwhile three other victims were taken to hospital for medical treatment. Amongst the people reportedly shot is a female police

Sergeant who was off-duty at the time of the incident.

Reports indicate that after the shooting incident, police were then notified and upon arrival at the said place, they found a 39 year old male victim with bullet wounds. The man who has since been identified as Sipho Samuel Magagula was unfortunately certified dead at the scene. Further information was supplied to the police that the same suspect allegedly shot other three victims as well but lucky enough, they survived and were treated at hospital. These details led police to add attempted murder charges. After the incident was reported, police immediately motioned a manhunt hence the sterling result.

The police management commends the members who were involved in this investigation.

A MANHUNT LAUNCHED BY POLICE AFTER TWO DANGEROUS SUSPECTS ESCAPED FROM LAWFUL CUSTODY

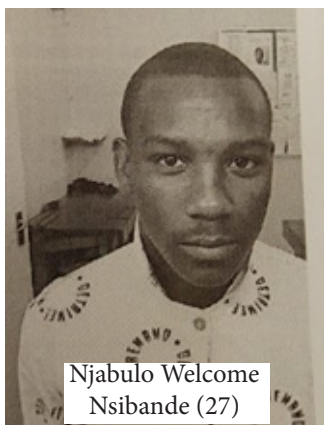
By MP Staff Reporter

ERMELO - A vigorous manhunt has been launched by police in Mpumalanga following an incident where two dangerous suspects escaped from lawful custody Tuesday, 26 January 2021. The suspects are Njabulo Welcome Nsibande (27) and Sabelo Francisco Nkosi (24).

The duo are said to have escaped at Gert Sibande District near Ermelo Correctional Centre. They were being transported from Breyten Magistrate's Court to the Correctional facility. Nkosi and Nsibande were initially arrested after they reportedly committed various offences in December 2016. These offences include murder, attempted murder, two counts of rape as well as two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and were both on trial for the said charges. The escapees appeared before the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court which was sitting at Breyten on Monday, 25 January 2021.

Police urge members of the public including families of the suspects, to assist with information that may lead to their rearrest to contact Detective Sergeant Mmabatho Mafate on 0726105768 from Ermelo Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) or call the Crime Stop number on 08600 10111. Alternatively members of the public can send information via MYSAPSAPP which can be downloaded to any smartphone. All information will be treated as confidential and callers may opt to remain anonymous.

An internal investigation that will look into how these villains escaped is underway.



Njabulo Welcome Nsibande (27)



Sabelo Francisco Nkosi (24)



INVITATION TO A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS ON THE DARFT NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR TROPHY HUNTING OF LEOPARDS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development; Land and Environmental Affairs, Mr Million Makaringe, invites members of the public and any affected or interested stakeholders to a Virtual Public Hearing aimed at soliciting public views and comments on the Norms and Standards for Trophy Hunting of Leopards in South Africa.

The Virtual Public Hearing is scheduled to take place as follows:

Date: Friday, 05 February 2021
Time: 10:00 – 13h00
Live on Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Facebook and YouTube

The purpose of the amendment of draft Norms and Standards for the Trophy Hunting of Leopards in South Africa, developed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) as gazetted include the following:

- Key threats to the leopard population of South Africa:
 - * habitat loss/ fragmentation; excessive legal and illegal off-take of damage-causing leopard; poorly managed trophy hunting; illegal trade in leopard skins for cultural and religious attire; incidental snaring; and unethical radio-collaring of leopard for research and tourism
- No reliable estimate of the South African leopard population
- To address this, the Scientific Authority recommended:
 - * a zero trophy hunting quota for 2016;
 - * guidelines for the allocation of leopard trophy hunting quotas;
 - * implementation of urgent measures to facilitate sustainable use of leopard populations, which would include norms and standards (N&S) for the management and monitoring of leopard hunts

Get Copies of the Norms and Standards www.mpuleg.gov.za. Written submissions on the Norms and Standards can be sent to Ms. Charlotte Chiloane on e-mail: CharlotteC@mpuleg.gov.za; or WhatsApp number 067 428 3345 on or before **16H00, Tuesday, 09 February 2021. Enquiries: (013) 766 1123/ 073 196 9421**

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MPUMALANGA PREMIER, REFILWE MTSWENI-TSIPANE APOLOGISED FOR NOT WEARING A MASK AT THE LATE MINISTER JACKSON MTHEMBU’S FUNERAL

The Premier has made a statement of guilt at a police station in Emalahleni and has also accepted a fine. She has also apologised earlier for the incident.

By Saai Mahlangu

The Police Minister Bheki Cele has called for an investigation into Mpumalanga Premier, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane who was seen on TV not wearing a mask in public.

On Sunday the 24 of January 2021, just after the funeral a social media uproar ensued after images of Mpumalanga Premier’s without a mask surfaced over the weekend during the late Minister Jackson Mthembu’s funeral.

The Premier has made a statement of guilt at

a police station in Emalahleni and has also accepted a fine. She has also apologised earlier for the incident.

The Premier has emphasized the importance of adhering to the COVID - 19 regulations and continues to urge the people of Mpumalanga to constantly wear masks, practice social distancing and sanitize or wash hands frequently.



Mpumalanga Premier, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsi-



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www.sanral.co.za



Reg. No. 1998/009584/30 An agency of the Department of Transport.

TWO SEVERELY BURNED SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR PIPELINE FUEL THEFT



By MP Staff Reporter

MPUMALANGA – Two suspects aged 28 and 39 were arrested by members of Fidelity Security during the night of Thursday, 21 January 2021 at Kendal near Phola.

The pair were arrested after Transnet control room detected a fuel pressure drop on the pipeline. Authorities responded to the identified spot and apprehended one suspect who attempted to run away. He had fresh burn marks all over his body. There was a big fire in the maize field nearby and upon inspection they realised that the flames is from the burning Transnet pipeline. The Hawks’ Serious Organised Crime Investigation team and local police were summoned to the scene for further investigation. Following an intensive search a second suspect who was also badly burnt was apprehended after he was found hiding under a bridge.

Emergency services were summoned and the two suspects were transported to the Hospital under police guard. All the exhibits which included a white Mazda bakkie, generator and pieces of charred clothes were confiscated for further investigation. The suspects are expected to appear before the Phola Magistrate’s Court on Monday 25 January 2021 to face charges of malicious damage to property, tampering with essential infrastructure and theft of fuel.

Meanwhile, the police have confirm that two suspects have succumbed to their injuries at Wit-bank Hospital on the 25 January 2021.

POLICE MANAGEMENT WELCOME DOUBLE LIFE SENTENCE METED AGAINST RAPIST

“These rape incidents were reported to the police and through a thorough investigation, they managed to arrest Kabini in December 2018. He was subsequently brought before court and with the assistance of forensic evidence obtained”

By MP Staff Reporter

KWAMHLANGA - The police management in Mpumalanga has welcomed a double life sentence meted by the KwaMhlanga Regional Court to Sibusiso Charles Kabini, aged 26 for raping and robbing three women. Kabini's reign of terror took place between July and December 2018.

According to the details of the incidences as revealed in court, during the said period, Kabini preyed on women between the ages 18 and 25. He would wait for them behind a local shopping mall at KwaMhlanga, where he would rape and rob them of their personal belongings using a knife.

In one of the incidents, he unshamefully raped a woman in front of her 5 year old child whilst on the way to a local clinic. Kabini's despicable acts continued where at one stage, he also raped a woman who was pregnant at the time and she too was on her way to the local clinic. The third victim went through a similar ordeal, after she came back from a tavern and she was also raped by him

behind the said mall. These rape incidents were reported to the police and through a thorough investigation, they managed to arrest Kabini in December 2018.

He was subsequently brought before court and with the assistance of forensic evidence obtained, Kabini was then linked to the said crime scenes at which the state managed to have a watertight case against him. Kabini was then convicted hence his sentencing as follows:

- Count 01 - rape, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.
- Count 02 - rape - life sentence.
- Count 03 - robbery with aggravating circumstances, was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment.
- Count 04 - rape - life sentence.

When handing down sentence, Magistrate Marlene Grawensteyn said that the accused have no respect for both women and children. She further indicated that the country is battling with crimes against women and children. She pointed out that Kabini showed no remorse to his victims and the sentence should serve as a lesson that the Judiciary does



not take crimes against women as well as children lightly. The accused was declared unfit to possess a firearm and his particulars will be entered into the national register for sex offenders. He was also found to be unfit to work with children.

The police management has thanked members of the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit

(FCS) for their relentless efforts in preventing the accused from preying on more victims. The management is of the view that Kabini's hefty sentence, will assist the victims in their journey to find closure and healing from the unfortunate emotional trauma that they had to endure as a result of this man's vicious and lustful acts.

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ASSURING QUALITY HOMES

EXPERT OPINION: Fighting COVID-19: A veterinary perspective

“It is unfortunate that the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC), the Department of Health, and the Cabinet, have to date not involved the veterinary profession in soliciting inputs and advice on how to manage the pandemic”

By Dr Rebhone Moerane

As a veterinary professional with experience in disease control, I have been following the various measures implemented by the South African government as we attempt to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is unfortunate that the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC), the Department of Health, and the Cabinet, have to date not involved the veterinary profession in soliciting inputs and advice on how to manage the pandemic. There are a number of veterinary experts (veterinary epidemiologists, virologists and disease control experts) whose skills gained from dealing with various pandemics in the animal health field, such as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, could be useful in the fight against COVID-19. Luckily it is not too late for government to consider involving a core team of veterinary experts, even if as a sub-committee of the NCCC.

Taking into account lessons learned from pandemics in animal populations, here are some ways in which the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic might be tackled differently if veterinary experience was considered:

- After the new COVID-19 was detected in the Eastern Cape, and as the second wave escalated in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, veterinary experience would have suggested: the closure of all borders in RSA during November and December 2020; moving the three worst-hit provinces to lockdown level four or five, accompanied by deployment of police and soldiers to enforce regulations; an increase in road blocks at all ports of entry or exit; stopping inter-provincial travel into and out of the three provinces; and increasing the number of health personnel to focus on increasing awareness, testing and surveillance.
- In hospital wards handling COVID-19 cases in the other provinces, besides

the current biosecurity measures, we would have suggested the following: A system similar to an ALL-IN and ALL-OUT system, whereby only specifically identified health professionals are allowed to enter into a ward, and remain inside until they are replaced at a certain time, with food and water delivered following strict biosecurity measures. Any health professional entering a ward must shower (with hot water at specific temperature, and using soap) and remove personal clothing to change into specific PPE (personal protective equipment) clothing, and they must also shower when leaving the ward before putting on their personal clothing. Hospitals should also dispose of new patients' clothing as they are admitted – the clothing should be treated as infected, and family should not be allowed to collect it.

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- Regarding hospital mortuaries and funeral parlours, it's surprising that the government is only now acknowledging that funerals are often super-spreader events. It was clear to many early on that funeral parlours and funerals would be one of the major sources of infection and spread. Therefore, besides the biosecurity measures implemented by funeral parlours and mortuaries, we need to do the following: Use an ALL-IN and ALL-OUT system (as indicated above) for all people entering and leaving the mortuary or funeral parlour; administrative personnel must also wear PPE, instead of working in their ordinary clothing; change into new PPE regularly, with no re-use of PPE.

- Funerals are a very sensitive matter, but although bereaved families are stressed and experiencing emotional pain, one must also be considerate of the health and safety of the extended

family and friend circle. Therefore one must consider the following: Any death at home should be treated as a COVID-19 case, unless proven otherwise; funeral parlours must be compelled to immediately inform relevant health authorities to disinfect houses affected, requiring an increase in the number of health personnel at local level; only one family member (complying with the ALL-IN and ALL-OUT system) to identify a body at a funeral parlour; irrespective of cause of death, the deceased's coffin must not be allowed to be taken to the family home the night before the funeral; only close family members should be allowed at the funeral, with a maximum of ten people in attendance (this should be monitored by an authorised Health Department representative); all ten people must wear appropriate PPE on top of their normal clothing, and not only face masks; this would apply until we manage to vaccinate 70 to 80% of the population.

- While one acknowledges the positive intention behind giving first priority for vaccination to healthcare and other frontline workers, my approach would have been different and as follows: In the first phase, target the initial 1,5 million doses of vaccine (although insufficient) to specific areas, including hotspot areas as identified, as well as mining areas and their towns. Vaccine coverage should also include a 30 to 60km radius around the hotspot and mining areas. Two groups of teams should drive the vaccination campaign as follows: The first team starts from inside going out from the centre of the hotspot and mining areas, while the second team starts vaccinating from outside the 30 to 60km radius of the hotspot/ mining area going inside. All people in the town/ radius should be vaccinated.

- In the second phase, the next batch of vaccines should focus on health and frontline workers, essential workers and the elderly. This could apply to all health and essential workers in the rest

of the country, with the starting point being, again, a radius of 60km beyond the first 30-60 km radius vaccinated during the first campaign.

- In the third phase, all remaining residents should be vaccinated to target an 80% coverage in the population. I know that a number of people will argue that treating and managing people is different from animals. However I would argue that:

- Dealing with diseases (bacteria and viruses) which cause pandemics does not differentiate between animals and human beings, and most of the causes of such diseases are zoonotic (originate from animals). Scientific literature indicates that more than 70% of diseases in humans originate from animals.
- Veterinary professionals deal with diseases which might cause pandemics on a regular basis, and are well experienced to utilise the skills acquired over the years. It is thus unfortunate that their knowledge and skills have not been called on.

- It is common knowledge that a number of international drug companies, flying in the face of the push to reduce the practice, still use animals (rodents and monkeys) to develop and test the vaccines and medicine developed for human use.

- The above measures, even though some might be viewed as drastic, would reduce the spread and contain the disease until herd immunity is attained in South Africa.

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Sport



TS Galaxy Crush Leopards to continue with their winning ways

By Treasure Masombuka

Over the past few clashes, TS Galaxy to have shown improved under the new coach. Owen Da Gama has revived TS Galaxy since taking over the reigns in mid-January, taking 7 points from their last 3 games. As a results, the Rockets moved up to 10th position on the log and they will be looking to build momentum that could see them climbing up the log.



LAST FIVE GAMES



UP researcher's team discovers new compounds with the potential to eliminate malaria

By MP Staff Reporter

The University of Pretoria (UP) has discovered new potent chemical compounds that show potential as candidates for both the treatment and elimination of malaria.

Professor Lyn-Marie Birkholtz, Professor in Biochemistry and South African Research Chair in Sustainable Malaria Control (part of the South African Research Chair Initiative, SARChI), was part of an international team that published this discovery in the journal Nature Communications on 11 January. "The breakthrough involves the identification of unique compounds that are able to kill several stages of the malaria-causing parasite and can block the transmission of the parasite between humans and mosquitoes," she explained. The deadly human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* occurs in South Africa. These parasites are transmitted to humans by female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. The only means of killing the parasite itself is to use chemical drugs, but new antimalarial drugs are urgently needed to address the growing concern of antimalarial drug resistance. Prof Birkholtz describes the parasite as a "shape shifter" since it can take on multiple forms while in humans. Some of the forms cause disease and others allow the parasite to be transmitted

back to mosquitoes to continue the life cycle. Prof Birkholtz states: "To eliminate malaria, it is essential that we have the necessary tools to kill all these different forms of the parasite. We can then cure patients of the disease but, importantly, also block the malaria transmission cycle. This is the only way to achieve malaria elimination."

South Africa is leading regional malaria elimination efforts as part of four front-line countries in southern Africa including Namibia, Botswana and Eswatini. In an innovative strategy, the team looked for new chemical compounds that can do exactly this, but that are completely new so that the parasite does not have resistance against them. The team runs a unique research platform on the African continent, in which all of these stages of the malaria parasite can be produced in the lab and be used to test chemical compounds. The team discovered compounds that kill the disease-causing form and compounds that blocked the parasite from infecting mosquitoes in the lab.

Two potent compounds target processes essential to the parasite's survival: one is a clinical candidate against tuberculosis and blocks cell membrane synthesis and another is an anti-cancer candidate that targets epigenetic mechanisms (mechanisms that control cell fate beyond the

genome). "This is the first time that these compounds were shown to have activity against malaria parasites and since they are not toxic to humans, they show the potential to be developed as antimalarials for both the treatment and elimination of the disease," said Prof Birkholtz. The discovery was made possible by the team's use of an open-source chemical compound set called the Pandemic Response Box, developed by the Switzerland-based Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi). This compound box contains compounds that can be used for drug repurposing/repositioning, a process where drugs that have activity against a specific disease (e.g. cancer) can be reused for another disease (e.g. malaria). Dr James Duffy, MMV Project Director, describes the discovery "as an important breakthrough that emphasises the potential to use existing drugs as inspiration for drug discovery projects targeting different diseases. Never before has this been more important than in light of current outbreaks, where the rapid response to discover new chemicals able to kill infectious organisms is essential."

Prof Birkholtz directs the parasite cluster of the UP Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (ISMC), a multidisciplinary institute with a focus on integrated innovations towards malaria elimination

in South Africa. Professor Tiaan de Jager, Director of the ISMC and Dean of Health Sciences at UP, said: "A discovery of this kind attests to the leading expertise in antimalarial drug discovery at UP, and in South Africa, addressing African-centred societal challenges. This work also shows the commitment of scientists at UP to contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal for Good Health and Wellbeing."

Prof Birkholtz's team led the transmission-blocking drug discovery effort as partner in the South African Malaria Drug Discovery Consortium (SAMDD) that includes two other South African Research Chairs, Professor Kelly Chibale (Chair in Drug Discovery at the Drug Discovery and Development Centre, H3D, at the University of Cape Town) and Professor Lizette Koekemoer (Chair in Medical Entomology at the WITS Institute for Research on Malaria at the University of the Witwatersrand) as well as scientists from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and international partners from the USA and Spain. The work has benefitted from sustained funding from the MMV and the Medical Research Council's Strategic Health Innovation Programme (SHIP) and affirms that investments in health innovations places South Africa at the forefront of discovery.