

## APPENDIX K

### Wagtail recovery for pitbull pup 'a miracle'

Author: Eleanor Douglas-Meyers Published:

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## External magistrate to hear clerk's case

By RAY HARTLE

A MAGISTRATE from outside the East London Magistrate's Court precinct will be appointed to hear the theft case of a local court clerk, Phumla Mphahlele, who is charged with stealing R1 100 in two separate incidents.

Mphahlele appeared briefly in court on Wednesday, nine months since her first appearance, and asked for the magistrate, prosecutor and interpreter to excuse themselves and for court personnel from outside to be brought in for her trial.

Mphahlele, who works in an administrative office, faces two counts of theft involving amounts of R500 and R600. She is currently on suspension as a result of the charges against her. Mphahlele's lawyer, Manyane, told the court his client felt it would be an injustice for her to be tried by East London officials, with whom she interacted in the normal course of her duties.

There had been gossip in the court corridors about her case before it was brought to court.

While it would be impossible to prove, Mphahlele's lawyer, appointed to

preside at her trial, might have overheard discussion of her case in the magistrate's courtroom.

The National Prosecuting Authority had already pre-empted a potential conflict of interest by appointing Maitane prosecutor Nomsa Noyama to prosecute the case.

Granting the application for his own recusal, Kemp said it was important to deal with the perception of bias.

When the case was enrolled in April last year, he was allocated to hear it on the basis that he was relatively new to the local courts.

He acknowledged that after a year of being on the bench, it was "true that people do talk".

There had also been an instance when Mphahlele had come into his office and he had insisted she leave and only return in the company of a prosecutor, in order to avoid their interaction being misconstrued.

Manyane subsequently withdrew his application for an external interpreter to be appointed.

The trial date has been set down for March 27, with Kemp undertaking to request a magistrate from outside the district to hear the matter. — rayh@dispatch.co.za



LONG ROUTE: Pupils are stranded on the side of the road after the transport system failed them on the first day of school. Picture: ZISANDA NKONKO

## Wagtail recovery for pitbull pup 'a miracle'

By ELEANOR DOUGLAS-MEYERS

IT HAD BEEN a miracle "operation free" recovery for Zara, the East London puppy who made headlines when she was refused passage on an airplane for a life-saving operation.

The dog who was rushed to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital in Pretoria through the generous assistance of SAA cargo, has learnt to walk again without surgical intervention, shocking the experts.

"The vet said there was no explanation for her recovery as scans and examinations showed a definite need to operate," Zara's owner, Gashy Cokayne, said.

Just last week, Zara's scans showed significant damage to her vertebrae and spinal cord.

To remedy this, veterinary surgeon Martinus Hartman was scheduled to remove the broken pieces of bone pushing on her spinal cord and use bone from her

hip to make new discs.

Examinations this week showed that this was not necessary.

"We've been absolutely blown away, left speechless, in tears, flabbergasted," Cokayne said about the recovery of her puppy who will be back in East London today.

Hartman, who exercises Zara's stay in Onderstepoort, told the Cokaynes Zara's bones would knit back together as she grew and she should heal completely.

Zara will keep the neck brace on for two to three weeks and be on anti-inflammatory medication.

"She is okay and moving 100% - driving them mad trying to get out of the cage," Cokayne said.

The Cokaynes had set up a bank account on behalf of Zara and have raised R4 000 to date, which covers half of the medical expenses.

Donations are still coming in and any money not used for Zara will be donated to the Underdogs SA Rehabilitation Centre, from where Zara was adopted.

## Over 30 000 EC pupils set to walk to school

By BONGANI FUILE  
Senior Reporter

MORE than 30 000 Eastern Cape pupils in need of transport may be forced to walk to school this year.

This was admitted by the provincial department of transport yesterday. The department has budgeted to transport only 57 000 pupils, and admitted that due to financial constraints it could not transport the full number of 94 000 needing transport.

"There are 94 000 deserving pupils and we are able to transport 57 000 of them. Our next target is 65 000 pupils," said spokesman Ncedo Kumbaka.

"Despite the challenges we face and the short time we had to pre-

### Kids excluded due to cash shortage

pare the current programme, we can safely say we are doing well."

Kumbaka said by yesterday 99% of budgeted for pupils were transported and a number of taxi operators had supported the department, but that there were "a few individuals who wanted to sabotage and disrupt the idea".

He said reasons for transport delays in some areas of the province, including the Amathole and O R Tambo regions, were roads being in a poor state and operators transporting pupils without operating licences.

The department said plans were under way to engage the department of public works to assist in

fixing the roads. "We are not going to allow our operators to drive on such roads - this is about the safety of the pupils as well."

Kumbaka said that by the end of the week the registration of transport operators and awarding of operating licences would be finalised. "We finished working at 2am on Thursday and said they were operating smoothly in the area."

"We have no complaints here and we are excited by what the department has done. But it must be said that there were times where people wanted to sabotage this, forgetting that we are doing this for the children." — bongani@dispatch.co.za

qualifying pupils from the education department and we transport these. It must be understood that not all the schools or pupils are registered to be transported. If you are not approved we are not going to transport you," he said.

Transport MDC Wenzel Tikana and education department officials were travelling the province to monitor pupil transport.

Ntsakalo Ngala, the spokesman for the Alfred Nzo district bus council, said they were operating smoothly in the area.

"We have no complaints here and we are excited by what the department has done. But it must be said that there were times where people wanted to sabotage this, forgetting that we are doing this for the children." — bongani@dispatch.co.za

## Youth gets life term for murders

By ASANDA NINI  
Bisho Correspondent

ONE of three youths accused of hacking an Eastern Cape mother and her two children to death in April 2013 and concealing their lifeless bodies in neighbours' pit toilets has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Bisho High Court.

Thulani Nkomoni, 21, who was 18 years old at the time, was last week sentenced to life imprisonment on three counts of murder, robbery and housebreaking.

The bodies of 44-year-old Sibongile Loko of Veldvans village in Ndevana outside King William's Town and her two children - Mthabisi, five, and four-month-old Themba - were found by neighbours stashed in two pit toilets two days after they disappeared.

Nkomoni's two co-accused, 20-year-old Sinekhlasa Phiso and 18-year-old Ayabulela Tshali, from the same village, received lesser sentences for being accomplices to the gruesome crime, which left the village in shock.

Phiso was sentenced to six years in prison for hiding information about the crime, while Tshali got five years for his role in concealing it.

Court papers reveal Nkomoni acted alone in killing Loko and her children.

The decomposing bodies of the Loko family were found by neighbours wire-bound, with multiple stab wounds, wrapped in blood-soaked blankets and dumped in two pit toilets.

The bodies were discovered four days after the incident after neighbours noticed a foul smell from one of the toilets.

They made the gruesome discovery after spotting blood-soaked blankets inside their pit latrines.

The trio were arrested a day after the discovery after one of them confessed to his older brother and later pointed out his co-accused to police.

Ndevana's Veldvans village has been named by provincial police commissioner Lieutenant-General Cebile Buta as a hotspot for the brutal murders of women and children.

During a Daily Dispatch visit to the scene last year, shaken community members said they feared venturing out at night.

Most women in the village, especially those who lived alone, were shaken by the incident.

King William's Town police station commander Brigadier Henry Vos this week welcomed the conviction and sentencing.

He praised the police for swiftly arresting the suspects and for the investigations that led to their conviction.

"Such people do not deserve to be in our community. We cannot tolerate such people who violate the rights of women and children," Vos said. — asanda@dispatch.co.za

### SA Airways

| Arrivals                   | Departures                 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| SA2001 Durban 0705         | SA1302 Cape Town 0825      |
| SA2002 Johannesburg 0715   | SA1404 Johannesburg 0900   |
| SA2003 Port Elizabeth 0730 | SA0478 Johannesburg 1200   |
| SA2004 Cape Town 0745      | SA1058 Durban 1200         |
| SA2005 Johannesburg 0800   | SA1072 Cape Town 1200      |
| SA2006 Port Elizabeth 0815 | SA0488 Port Elizabeth 1200 |
| SA2007 Cape Town 0830      | SA1070 Johannesburg 1345   |
| SA2008 Johannesburg 0845   | SA1072 Cape Town 1345      |
| SA2009 Port Elizabeth 0855 | SA0482 Johannesburg 2025   |
| SA2010 Cape Town 0910      |                            |
| SA2011 Johannesburg 0925   |                            |
| SA2012 Cape Town 0940      |                            |
| SA2013 Durban 0955         |                            |
| SA2014 Port Elizabeth 1010 |                            |
| SA2015 Johannesburg 1025   |                            |

### Flight Times

Flights and flight times are subject to change without notice

### Shipping

In port last night night: Sarah Baartman at Dry dock

Arrived yesterday: Nil

Sailed yesterday: Nil

Due today: Nil

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### WEATHER TODAY

#### Eastern Cape (Eastern Half)

Fine and warm to hot

#### Traveller's Weather

|               | min | max |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Bloemfontein  | 21  | 33  |
| Johannesburg  | 17  | 28  |
| Pretoria      | 19  | 29  |
| Durban        | 22  | 25  |
| Potchefstroom | 16  | 23  |
| Kimberley     | 24  | 37  |
| Upington      | 30  | 37  |
| Cape Town     | 21  | 27  |
| George        | 20  | 25  |

#### Yesterday's Weather

Max temp: 25.7°C  
Min temp: 20.0°C  
Discomfort Index: 35.0°C  
Barometer: 1008.0 hPa (rising)  
Wind: 33 knots (NE)  
Rain (at 2pm): 4.8mm  
Humidity: 72%  
Sun: 17.0°C

Source: South African Weather Service

### KEY

Light Moderate Strong  
Wind Wind Wind  
F Frost M Mist C Cold  
S Sun

### Moon Phases

January 27 First Quarter  
February 3 Full Moon  
February 12 Last Quarter  
February 18 New Moon

### Jan Tides

|         | High  | Low   | High  | Low   |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Fri 23  | 05:44 | 14:48 | 17:56 | —     |
| Fri 24  | 06:27 | 00:02 | 18:38 | 12:31 |
| Sat 25  | 07:12 | 00:42 | 19:21 | 13:16 |
| Sun 26  | 08:01 | 01:23 | 20:10 | 14:05 |
| Mon 27  | 08:50 | 02:10 | 21:04 | 15:07 |
| Tues 28 | 10:20 | 03:15 | 22:56 | 16:39 |
| Wed 29  | 11:54 | 04:13 | 25:00 | 18:28 |
| Thur 30 | 00:47 | 05:57 | 13:12 | 19:39 |

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