

APPENDIX O

10 arrested for dogfighting

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NEWS 3



TEMPTING VIEWING: Game farmers from around the Eastern Cape came in their numbers to the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency 2011 Game Auction, held at the Thomas Baines Nature Reserve, outside Grahamstown, on Saturday.

Game auction realises R5m

By XOLISA MOWATU

AN AUCTION of more than 400 animals held at the Thomas Baines Nature Reserve outside Grahamstown fetched more than R5 million on Saturday, exceeding the hopes of organisers.

The annual auction hosted by the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPA) attracted more than 40 registered buyers, mainly game reserve owners from around the province.

Among the most popular items on the sale catalogue were buffalo, which sold for a whopping R275 000.

each, black wildebeest selling at R170 each, while eland sold for close to R6 000 each.

Cape Mountain rears, Burchell's zebras and red hartebeest.

Gratified were also a last-minute addition to the catalogue and this lot raised about R100 000.

Although the animals were viewed on electronic screens, excitement ran high with auctioneer Roy Hayes charming buyers into a competitive spirit.

"We did very well... We have been hit by the recession, but it is not so bad," he said.

Hayes said the sale prices were surprising and he could see that buyers were excited.

"It was good to see people from other provinces and also from overseas attending."

The game on sale would come from Solwani, Commando Drift, Mpofo, Oviston and Great Fish River.

One of the day's top buyers, Grant Saka, of Vaalwater Game Farm, splashed out on eland and five buffalo.

"I love them and I came here aiming for them," he said, adding he would keep the buffalo and resell the eland at a later stage.

Another buyer, Simon Burling, said the prices were not bad; he managed to buy a few animals but declined to name them.

ECPA chief executive officer Sybert Liebenberg said the auction went exceptionally well and was a true reflection of the quality of their game management strategy.

"This is also testimony to a game industry that is healthy and increasing in size. We have exceeded our initial target of R3.7m," he said.

Liebenberg said money from the auction would be invested directly in conservation and biodiversity initiatives. — xolisa@dispatch.co.za

Three years of freedom lost

By KATHRYN KIMBERLEY
Court Reporter

Late appeal against sentence costs man

HAD a 28-year-old Transkei man propped with an appeal against his 13-year sentence for culpable homicide and robbery at the time of his conviction, he would have been in jail for at least three years.

Now, almost a decade later, Luvuyo Suka has been acquitted of a charge of culpable homicide — and immediately released from custody.

But Suka's successful appeal comes a decade too late — he had already served nine years behind bars — and his refusal to use a Legal Aid Board attorney cost him three years of freedom.

Mrs Botha — whose first name was not supplied — died three days later, reportedly from complications as a result of the injuries sustained.

Investigating officer Inspector Gustav Spanns said Botha had told him she had parked her car on the side of the road and alighted, leaving the keys in the ignition. The accused walked by but she only took notice of him when she heard the vehicle's engine starting up.

She approached the accused in the driver's seat and begged him not to start her car. He sped off, knocking her down in the process.

The presiding magistrate at the time found that the deceased had attempted to prevent the accused from driving off with her car "and he had overcome this by simply driving her out of the way... so force was used to obtain control of this vehicle... making him guilty of robbery."

However, on Thursday, this was dismissed by Judge Yusuf Ebrahim, who said there was no evidence that Botha had physically attempted to prevent Suka from stealing her vehicle, nor that Suka had deliberately knocked her down.

Ebrahim set aside the conviction and sentence for robbery, and instead found Suka guilty of theft.

He added that the evidence before the court did not establish that the

applicant had intended to kill Botha.

He said the regional court magistrate had misdirected himself when ruling that Suka should have foreseen that Botha could have died as a result of his actions.

He said the magistrate therefore erred in finding the appellant guilty of culpable homicide.

He added that Botha's request to be treated at home instead of going to hospital could have contributed to her death.

Ebrahim said on considering the circumstances, "I would have imposed a sentence of six years' imprisonment."

He said the fact that Suka would not gain any benefit from the reduced sentence was entirely of his own making.

Ebrahim said the "extraordinary" 10-year delay for the appeal to be heard was due to Suka's reluctance to use a Legal Aid attorney, because he believed a private law firm would render better services.

Two privately appointed attorneys withdrew due to non-payment and the matter was only placed back on the roll in January this year when Suka finally appointed a Legal Aid counsel.

Suka was immediately released from custody. — kathryn@dispatch.co.za

10 arrested for dogfighting

By JANINE OELOFSE

POLICE and animal welfare groups swooped on one of the top organised dogfighting syndicates in the country on Saturday night, arresting 10 people during a clandestine American pitbull championship fight on a smallholding, outside Plettenberg Bay.

The suspects came from East London, Queenstown, Plettenberg Bay, Johannesburg and Cape Town to watch the blood sport.

Authorities, who have been chasing the syndicate down for the past five years, said animal welfare workers were horrified at the extent of the injuries to the two dogs they confiscated.

Southern Cape police spokesman Captain Malcolm Poje said yesterday the suspects, aged between 37 and 51, had been released on R1 500 bail each and would appear in the Plettenberg Bay's Magistrate's Court on Thursday on charges of contravening the Animal Protection Act by conducting illegal animal fights.

Poje said police from Kwa-Nokuthula, outside the coastal town had

received information from a member of the public that an illegal dogfight would take place on Saturday night on a smallholding in Ladywood, between Plettenberg Bay and Kwa-Nokuthula.

"When the SPCA and animal welfare arrived at the farm entrance, they found the cage locked. They had to remove a heavy lock and chain to access the property."

"When they entered the house, they made the horrific discovery of two pitbull terriers fighting in a 12x12m cage that had been erected in the centre of the living room."

He said the two dogs were already badly injured when authorities arrived. Another six pitbulls were chained up outside, waiting for their turn to fight.

Poje said all eight dogs were handed to animal welfare officials for treatment and safekeeping.

"The two dogs that were fighting were so badly injured that they had to be transferred from Kynsina to the George SPCA for treatment."

He said police also confiscated "quite a substantial amount" of illegal veterinary drugs. The Schedule 7

medicine is used to euthanise severely injured dogs.

Poje said the man who allegedly supplied the drugs was one of those arrested. He is a government official but it is not yet known which department he works for.

The man who allegedly organised the fight on his property is the head of a local business. He had apparently told his colleagues that he was rehabilitating his six pitbulls after rescuing them from fights.

The fights are usually brutal and can last up to five hours. In a grand championship, the pitbulls are made to fight to the death but sources close to the investigation were not sure if that was the intention this time.

A local resident, who did not want to be named, said one of the suspects, from the Eastern Cape, brought his 12 and 13-year-old sons to watch the fight without their mother's knowledge.

The business of dogfighting is lucrative, with the puppies of champion fighters easily fetching over R10 000 and people flying their dogs in from other countries for fights, mostly arranged over the Internet.

Stand against 'corrective rape'

By YVU VENA

"STOP! Stop! It is enough," read posters held by a group of some 40 protesters at East London's beachfront yesterday in a stand against "corrective rape".

The predominantly female group was made up of members from the Eastern Cape Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Organisation (LGBTI) hold-

ing placards displaying such messages as "God is an equal opportunity lover", "Share my life", "He at men don't rape" and "Next it could be your daughter, brother or sister".

"Today we are protesting against the latest rise in rape," said Eastern Cape LGBTI chairperson Zama Mzimela.

"Rape won't change our orientation," she said.

The group had drawn up a memorandum to be handed to police which consisted of only one demand: "We demand that government and civil society speed up the formation of the hate crimes task team, and to take immediate action."

"We need action and ultimately a change in our society,"

In their statement, LGBTI noted three instances of corrective rape

that had occurred nationally in the past three weeks.

In Durban they highlighted the rape and assault of Nqobile Khumalo, who was choked to death because she was lesbian.

They also cited the rape of a 13-year-old in Pretoria last week and the rape and murder of Nsola Norgwana, a 24-year-old lesbian, outside Johannesburg at the beginning of May.

East London cluster commander Major-General Sandile Hlobo was present to accept the organisation's memorandum on behalf of the police. — yvuna@dispatch.co.za

Police foil armed robbery

By BONCANI FUZILE
Crime Reporter

KING William's Town police foiled an armed robbery planned for early on Saturday morning.

Police pounced on two suspects, aged 18 and 25, as they were about to enter a bank at around 1am.

Police spokesperson Major Thozama Solani-Mgweba said the suspects, who claimed to be from Butterworth, were arrested through a police operation called *Paseka*.

The campaign started at the beginning of May and is expected to run until the end of the month.

Solani-Mgweba said that besides the

arrests of the two suspects, there were other successes in the last two weeks, including the arrest of more than 140 people for a number of different crimes.

"In this period, 275 knives were confiscated and we are happy with that. This was a real success."

"One knife away from the street, is a life saved," said Solani-Mgweba.

She said the *Paseka* campaign was as a result of great teamwork between different law enforcement authorities.

Solani-Mgweba said the serial number of the firearm taken from the suspects, was filed off.

The two suspects are expected to appear in King William's Town Magistrate's Court today. — boncni@dispatch.co.za

LOTTO results									
2	5	22	29	34	46	33			
6 numbers + bonus	0	R0							
5 numbers + bonus	2	R229 171							
5 numbers	100	R10 312							
4 numbers + bonus	248	R2 310							
4 numbers	5 320	R360							
3 numbers + bonus	9 352	R150							
3 numbers	107 572	R38							
LOTTO PLUS results									
8	9	21	29	37	40	5			
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IN BRIEF

Three arrested for attack on Somalis

TWO foreigners were robbed at their spaza shops in separate incidents in Kwa-Nokuthula over the weekend.

Police said three men had been arrested in one of the incidents. Four men broke into a shop and threatened two Somali men yesterday morning.

One suspect escaped while three, aged between 25 and 31, were arrested. One of the Somalis had been slightly wounded.

— Sapa

Hope for veterans

SOME military veterans would be incorporated into the Reserve Force, Defence Minister Lindwe Susha said yesterday. — Sapa

Hanging appealed

A SOUTHI African man has successfully appealed against his

death sentence by hanging in Botswana.

Michael Molefe, 59, a Motoswana, shot and stabbed two Zambians in 2006 believing they had stolen money from his aunt.

Botswana's court of appeal overturned his death sentence and he will serve a 30-year jail term. — Sapa

Getting Luca back

THERE are efforts to get George Luca, the man accused of killing strip club owner, Lolly Jackson, back to South Africa, the Hawks said yesterday.

Hawks spokesperson McIntosh Polesa said the Hawks had to go through a formal process to get Luca, also known as George Smith, back in the country. — Sapa

year-old boy were among the dead. Fourteen passengers, including the driver and three children, were taken to Worcester Hospital with severe injuries. — Sapa

More time for Bills

DEADLINES for public participation in three Education Bills tabled in April were extended by Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Ntshemane yesterday.

The Further Education and Training Colleges Amendment Bill, the Higher Education Laws Amendment Bill, and the Skills Development Amendment Bill were published on April 15. — Sapa

SA woman jailed

A SOUTH African woman has been jailed in Australia for 11 years for killing her husband.

Elizabeth Creamer, 52, was found guilty of "defensive homicide", which provides an alternative charge for victims of domestic violence who kill their partners. — Sapa

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The Port St Johns Municipality wishes to respond to the article published in the Daily Dispatch on 10 May 2011 ("Nothing much has changed since 1994").

The Municipality has noted the comments made by Mr Costello regarding the effects of urbanisation. This is also of concern to the Municipality and is being considered by our Local Economic Development Department. The Municipality is committed to stimulating growth, development and job creation within its jurisdiction.

The allegations made by Mr Costello in respect of the Municipality are however spurious and devoid of any truth. The affairs of the Municipality pre-1994 were in disarray and the ANC-led Council inherited a totally dysfunctional local authority. The Municipality has made major inroads in respect of housing, infrastructure development and stimulating growth in Port St Johns.

The Municipality obtained its first unqualified audit in 2011 and was recently awarded a Vuna Award for institutional transformation and organisational development.

Mr Costello is more than welcome to meet with the Municipal Manager if he wishes to discuss developmental issues relevant to Port St Johns. The Municipality is however not prepared to enter into a debate with him through the media.

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