

Roaring good time



A lion carries a jack-o'-lantern during a Halloween celebration, 'Boo at the Zoo', in Fort Worth, Texas, yesterday. Meat-filled carved pumpkins were placed with the Zoo's African lion display for the big cats to play with and explore. PICTURE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

State mulls vetting deadline

Ducking managers in for shock

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA

SENIOR managers in government who duck undergoing security clearance are in for a rude awakening. The government is mulling deadlines for vetting and all officials face lifestyle audits and being made to disclose their conflict of financial interests.

This emerged at the two-day integrity leadership summit organised by the KwaZulu-Natal government in Ballito and comes less than a month after the audits of civil servants came up strongly at the ANC national general council.

Speaking at the summit State Security Minister David Mahlobo said the security agency was ready to conduct vetting. He said the vetting of about 940 senior managers in KZN had been concluded.

"The problem we are facing is that senior managers are

running away. We must put in a rule that says if you can't be vetted within this period, you must be out of the system," Mahlobo said to huge applause. "We must do the lifestyle audits, too," he said referring to those whose wealth was beyond their means.

Mahlobo said lifestyle audits would go a long way to weeding out the corruption that infested the public sector.

He hinted that lifestyle audits would also no longer be confined to the public sector. "Those people in the private sector should not think we are a government of the public sector. We are a government for the Republic of South Africa."

Soon after Mahlobo's address, acting director-general Frikkie Brooks said the KZN government had to organise field officers for vetting to work with the State Security Agency. "We emphasise it is not a voluntary process. We all have to go through that."

Mahlobo's sentiments on civil servants' lifestyle audits and vetting were supported by premier Senzo Mchunu and Public Service and Administration Minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

Mchunu said vetting should be done regularly. Ramatlhodi said: "My immediate response is that it is something we need to engage on, discuss and see if we can find common ground."

Ramatlhodi earlier told the summit that there was a financial disclosure framework to prevent the conflict of financial interests of senior managers.

"It does not apply to all employees in the public service, which has opened doors for officials at lower levels in the public service to exploit this provision of the framework," he said, adding that regulations were being amended to provide for all officials to make financial disclosure.

Varsity opposes interdict

NOELENE BARBEAU

HOURS before the University of Zululand was to inaugurate newly elected members to its SRC, the South African Student Congress Organisation (Sasco) was granted a high court order to stop the event taking place.

Yesterday the university, cited as the first of five respondents opposed to the interdict before Durban High Court Acting Judge Cassim Sardiwalla, argued it was not given an opportunity to be heard before the interdict was granted.

According to court papers, Sasco's regional chairman, Howard Vilakazi, said they had voiced their concern about election irregularities and had objected to the election process and results to Africare – an independent electoral committee established in terms of the university's constitution.

However, they received no response, which resulted in the urgent application last Friday when the inauguration was said to take place.

An order was granted for the new student council to not operate until all the issues were addressed.

Vilakazi said the elections were held on October 12, despite Sasco raising concerns about the eligibility of one of the candidates, Wandile Mathe-

bula, cited as the fifth respondent, a member of the Progressive Youth Alliance, the fourth respondent.

Sasco argued Mathebula could not be studying towards a postgraduate certificate in education because it was not listed as a postgraduate programme on the Faculty of Education's website.

Candidates

Further, Vilakazi said one of the other candidates was found with campaigning material inside the voting station and was distributing it, which the Sasco regional chairman said was against the Code of Conduct of the elections. The material contained names of candidates, including Mathebula.

This was reported to the election committee's presiding and deputy presiding officer, he said.

The candidate was disqualified, but, Vilakazi said, no action was taken against those candidates named in the material distributed. These candidates were apparently from the Progressive Youth Alliance.

Sasco felt these members should have also been disqualified. Another irregularity raised was about ballot papers from four different voting stations allegedly not being counted.

Sasco said the results were announced on October 13 by a university employee instead of the chief electoral officer and auditor of the independent electoral committee. On October 14, Sasco wrote their letter of complaint.

"Despite all the letters we wrote to the university, it appears that they want to proceed with the inauguration on October 16. The degree of urgency is so serious that if the order is not granted the constitution of the university will be undermined," read Vilakazi's founding affidavit.

Yesterday, the university argued that the interdict would not have been granted last Friday had it been given an opportunity to be heard. The university said Sasco had not followed the correct procedure according to the institution's constitution before resorting to legal action.

They argued for the application to be dismissed with costs, alternatively for the matter to be adjourned.

Sasco told the court it had exhausted all internal avenues and procedures but there was no response to their letter.

Sardiwalla adjourned the matter until next month for Sasco to file replying papers and for the matter to be argued then.

Cops guard KZN massacre survivor

KAMCILLA PILLAY

THE teenager who cheated death after his family were brutally hacked to death in the early hours of Wednesday in Msinisini, on the South Coast, is under police guard.

Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, Hawks spokesman and acting spokesman for acting national police commissioner, Lieutenant-General Kgomoiso Phahlane, told the *Daily News* that Minenhle Mhlongo, 18, was recovering in hospital.

"We cannot reveal where he is. The people who did this to the rest of his family, they are clever. They will read in the paper where he is and return to finish the job," he said. "We must think of his safety first."

Two men, aged 26 and 28, were arrested, but the possibility of more assailants could not be ruled out.

Police said yesterday a group of men had attacked the family.

Police were still investigating the circumstances leading

up to the murder. "There is no update at the moment."

Mhlongo was the only survivor in an attack that killed Mathinga Moses Mncwabe, 70, his wife, Shonisile, 60, and their daughter, Nontobeko Mncwabe, 35, Amanda, 15, and Amahle Mncwabe, 13, in the attack.

Three children – Andile Mncwabe and Philasande Mncwabe, both only a year old, and Aphwe Mhlongo, three – also perished.

The suspects, who were arrested soon after the incident in which the relatives were hacked to death, were due to appear in the Turton Magistrate's Court today.

Police said on Wednesday the arrested suspects were found in possession of blood-stained clothes and shoes and a jacket, which was worn by one of the suspects, and found shoved inside a pit toilet.

The suspects, police said, allegedly accused the family of practising witchcraft.

KZN Health to pay birth claim

SHERLISSA PETERS

A GREYTOWN mother has sued the KZN MEC of Health for more than R20 million after her son was born permanently disabled and brain-damaged due to negligence by staff at the Greytown Hospital and Clinic in 2010.

The Department of Health has since conceded liability and in terms of a Pietermaritzburg High Court interim order granted by Judge Kobus Booyens yesterday, was ordered to make an interim payment of R275 794.51 in respect of the child's past medical expenses and caregiver expenses.

The case has been adjourned to November 2 to argue on further damages to be awarded. In her affidavit, Sithabile Zondi, a single mother who had been unemployed for five years, said that on September 14, 2010, she went to the Greytown Hospital at 3.30pm in labour.

She was examined and advised that she should deliver

her baby naturally. She was admitted to the labour ward and remained in labour throughout the night, examined intermittently by nursing staff.

At 7am the next day, she was examined by a doctor who advised her that she was 1cm dilated, and was given an injection for the pain.

Dilated

Thirteen hours later, she was advised that she was 2cm dilated, and that her "waters had broken".

At 9pm, she was advised by a doctor that she was unable to give birth because her blood pressure was too high and she appeared "tired".

The distraught mother was given oxygen and was transferred to Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg.

Zondi arrived at Greys at 11pm and was examined and taken to theatre where she delivered her son by C-section.

Zondi alleges that hospital staff at Greytown Hospital were

negligent and failed to recognise that she and her baby were in distress. She claims that staff also failed to immediately initiate procedures to perform a C-section and unnecessarily prolonged her labour.

As a result of their negligence, Zondi's son, Mpendulo, was born severely mentally and physically handicapped and suffered irreversible brain damage.

He will be dependent on others for the rest of his life and requires continuous neuro-developmental, occupational, physio and speech and language therapy. He will also require specialised medical equipment and eventual placement in a suitable developmental pre-school.

Zondi said she required a full time, trained caregiver to help care for Mpendulo, and said because of his condition, he would incur future medical expenses.

The total claim Zondi is seeking is R20 287 794.

SA award for Aids researcher

KAMCILLA PILLAY

A LEADING AIDS researcher based in Durban has bagged a sought-after award for his work in the field.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim is the latest recipient of the South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) Platinum Medal, a lifetime achievement award, given to an outstanding scientist who has contributed substantially to improving health through research and helped build the foundations of health research in the country for future generations.

An accomplished scientist who has dedicated more than 30 years to social justice, human rights activism and scientific research, Karim has made several important breakthroughs ranging from treatment for HIV-TB co-infected people to new approaches to prevent HIV infections. Commenting on his current research, which focuses mainly on innovative technologies to prevent HIV, he said: "We won't stop HIV in young women tomorrow... but it has to be part of our long-term vision". He told the *Daily News* he was humbled by the award. "I suppose this means I'm a



Professor Salim Abdool Karim is the latest recipient of the SA Medical Research Council's Platinum Medal, awarded for his Aids research.

golden oldie now," he said, laughing. He said: "Impressive progress in scientific discovery, resource mobilisation, political commitment and implementation has been achieved, but young women in Africa still have high HIV rates. Each day there are about 1 000 new infections in South Africa."

Karim – Pro vice-chancellor for research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and professor in Clinical Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health

at Columbia University – also established the award-winning research institute, Caprisa.

He also chairs the Scientific Expert Panel of the Joint UN Programme on Aids, UNAids and is a member of the World Health Organisation's HIV-TB Task Force and the WHO Expert Panel on Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV.

The award will be presented at the SAMRC Scientific Merit Awards Evening in Cape Town on Thursday next week.

WEATHER DURBAN

TODAY
Cloudy to partly cloudy, late showers (30%)
17°/22°
Discomfort index 24°

TOMORROW
Fine to partly cloudy, evening showers (30%)
18°/23°
Discomfort index 25°

SUNDAY
Fine to partly cloudy, evening showers (30%)
19°/29°
Discomfort index 31°

PIETERMARITZBURG
TODAY
Morning fog, cloudy to partly cloudy, 30% rain
13°/26°
Discomfort index 28°

TOMORROW
Fine to partly cloudy, evening rain (30%)
14°/27°
Discomfort index 29°

SUNDAY
Morning fog to fine, 30% rain
17°/35°
Discomfort index 37°

TEMPERATURES

	Min	Max	DI
Empangeni	16	26	28
Kokstad	07	24	28
Ladysmith	13	31	33
Newcastle	12	31	33
Port Shepstone	17	22	24
Richards Bay	16	26	28
Ulundi	14	28	30

RAINFALL

	DBN	PMB
This month	19.2	9.8
Month average	98	74
This year	548	463.2
Year average	1 009	844

TIDES

HIGH TIDE: Today	00.01, 12.45
Tomorrow	01.05, 13.34
LOW TIDE: Today	06.18, 18.59
Tomorrow	07.15, 19.46
Sunset today	18.11
Sunrise tomorrow	05.09
Moonrise	13.51
Moonset	02.49

S COAST	
Sea: Calm	
Wind: NE10kt	Temp: 23°C
N COAST	
Sea: Moderate	
Wind: NE15kt	Temp: 23°C

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CORRECTION

IN SOME editions of yesterday's *Daily News*, it was advertised on Page 1 that Jobs Across SA would be carried today.

This was an error: the supplement will be carried in next Friday's editions. We apologise for any inconvenience.

PUBLIC NOTICE

KWAZULU NATAL CLOTHING INDUSTRY PROVIDENT FUND
(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY (NATAL) PROVIDENT FUND)

UNCLAIMED BENEFITS

In terms of the Rules of the KwaZulu Natal Clothing Industry Provident Fund, members who have not worked in the industry during the past 6 months and have not claimed their benefits may apply for this benefit.

A list of these members may be inspected at the offices of the National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry or the offices of the South African Clothing & Textile Workers Union, the address of both offices is 127 Magwaza Maphalala Street (Gale Street), Umbilo, Durban, 4001.

All interested persons need to produce their identity document, service card, banking details and tax reference numbers when applying for their benefit at the offices of the National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry at:

127 Magwaza Maphalala Street (Gale Street), Umbilo, Durban, 4001, Tel: 031 3620700 or 26 King Street, Shop 11, West End Builders Centre, Ladysmith, 3370, Tel 036 8353144 or Office 10, Business Partners Building, 3 Murchison Street, Newcastle, 2940, Tel 034 3264912.

P.C. WILD
Principal Officer and Regional Secretary
The National Bargaining Council
October 2015