

**THE CAPE TIMES
WILL NOT PUBLISH
ON WEDNESDAY,
RECONCILIATION DAY.
OUR NEXT EDITION
WILL BE ON THURSDAY.**

SPORT | 16
CSA CEO Kugandrie Govender suspended



BR Race to trace lawyers defaulting on clients | 9

OPINION | 6
SA's electricity supply: What's tripping the switch?

METRO 3
Hotel industry wants Covid claims met

NATION

PARTY'S OVER AT BEACHES AND PARKS



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THE Covid-19 second wave will be worse than the first and a lot more people will lose their loved ones if behaviours around the country's prevention measures don't change.

This was the warning President Cyril Ramaphosa issued last night during his address to the nation as he identified the festive season as the greatest threat to the country's early gains against the pandemic.

"It poses the greatest threat also to the recovery of our economy. This is because the festive season is traditionally a time of gatherings, of travel, of meeting friends and family, and of relaxing after a difficult and stressful year," Ramaphosa said.

The Garden Route and the Sarah Baartman districts were declared coronavirus hot spots, joining Nelson Mandela Bay, which declared one 12 days ago.

Beaches and public parks will be closed for the duration of the festive season from December 15 to January 3 in those regions.

Ramaphosa also announced several other nationwide restrictions, including an extended curfew, which now starts at 11pm and ends at 4am.

Non-essential establishments, including restaurants and bars, will have to close at 10pm so that staff and patrons can get home before the enforcement of the curfew.

Further national restrictions imposed at midnight last night include:

- Drivers and operators of any form of public transport must ensure that all passengers wear a mask;
- The managers or owners of buildings, places or premises – including retail stores, shopping centres, and government buildings – are obliged by law to ensure that all customers who enter their facilities or buildings wear a mask;

- An employer must ensure that all employees wear a mask while they perform their duties;
- Gatherings – including religious gatherings – may not be attended by more than 100 people for indoor events and 250 for outdoor events;
- Festivals, live music, and live performances at beaches are prohibited;
- The sale of alcohol from retail outlets will only be permitted from 10am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday;
- Alcohol consumption in all public spaces, such as beaches and parks, is forbidden.

In KwaZulu-Natal, beaches and public parks will be closed on what are traditionally the busiest days of the season.

To Page 2



ALWYN Uys, 30, became the first paraplegic swimmer to successfully swim across from Robben Island to the Bloubergstrand. He is carried by friend and pastor Sean Phillipps, and Big Bay Events Lifeguard Kurt Rautenbach. Uys completed the swim days before English Channel swimmer, Howard Warrington, finished yet another double crossing of Robben Island in aid of charity. | NELIS ENGELBRECHT PHOTOGRAPHY See page 2

METRO

School's R9.5k 1m by 2m shack probed

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A SERVICE provider that was awarded a tender to build a guardhouse for security at Vuselela Primary School in Khayelitsha has set tongues wagging after it built a 1m by 2m iron shack.

Nalikhaya Constructions built the guardhouse in July after being nominated by the school governing body (SGB).

The company lists Mcebisi Gantsho as a director in papers. He is said to be a husband of one of the teachers at the school, Themba Gantsho.

Speaking to the Cape Times yesterday, SGB chairperson Abongile Nyumbeka said when schools were about to reopen they received two quotations, one for R9 884 and another one for R10 200, and they chose the cheapest quote.

"We were under pressure as we were

supposed to comply with Covid-19 protocols. A recommendation also came from the Covid-19 school committee echoing the need for such a structure.

"An SGB member was assigned the task to look for quotes in the community. During lockdown level 3 things were not easy but we managed to get two quotes. We then had to proceed with the two quotes as the matter was urgent.

"Nalikhaya Constructions was nominated. There were concerns raised with the structure among other members, that they were not happy with it, but we were under pressure," Nyumbeka said.

On claims that the husband of one of the teachers got the tender, Nyumbeka said: "The person appearing on company documents is not her, it's her husband. Also we would like to make it clear that the educator as alleged in the report is a level 1 educator who

is not serving on the SGB and cannot influence the SGB ..." said Nyumbeka.

Attempts to reach Mcebisi went unanswered, while Themba refuted claims she was implicated in the tender.

Western Cape Education Department spokesperson Bronagh Hammond said the matter was reported to the district office for investigation.

"The school has reported that the SGB obtained quotes and decided on the company to use based on the quotes received. The matter has been reported to the district for investigation," Hammond said.

SA Democratic Teachers Union provincial secretary Jonavon Rustin said they were aware of the matter and would be launching their own investigation.

ANC provincial spokesperson on education Khalid Sayed said that they wanted the investigations' findings to be made public.

WORLD

Abdool Karim, Fauci share global award for science

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SOUTH Africa's Covid-19 ministerial advisory committee chairperson, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, and US infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci have been jointly awarded the John Maddox Prize 2020 for standing up for science during the coronavirus pandemic.

At a virtual ceremony yesterday, Centre for the Aids Programme of Research director Abdool Karim and US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Fauci were recognised for going beyond the line of duty as government advisers on health, and communicating the complex and changing science of Covid-19 to the public and policymakers in the midst of international uncertainty and anxiety.

Now in its 9th year, the John Maddox Prize, a joint initiative of the charity Sense about Science and the scientific journal Nature, recognises the work of individuals anywhere in the world who promote sound science and evidence on a matter of public interest, facing difficulty or hostility in doing so.

The judges found Abdool Karim had a reputation for clear and honest communication, which had allowed him to generate public trust in fast-moving science. By April, he had appeared in over 500 print, broadcast and online media items, as a trusted source of scientific information.

"I am deeply honoured," Abdool Karim said in accepting the award.

"Providing scientific advice on Covid-19 in the midst of uncertainty and anxiety proved to be a difficult task, made more challenging by conspiracy theories. But I found that the task was made easier by staying true to the available scientific evidence without bending to ideology or vested interests.

"Serving the nation by promoting science, evidence and public discussion during two pandemics – Aids and Covid-19 – over the last 30 or so years has been a privilege for me."

Editor-in-chief of science journal Nature, Magdalena Skipper, said this year had demonstrated how critical it was that science be communicated clearly and accurately.

"As many are confronted with confusing, contradictory and sometimes even false information, leaders who are able to convey the important messages clearly can literally mean the difference between life and death.

To Page 2

METRO

Bellville family, residents demand justice after man dies 'in police custody'

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THE family of a Bellville man who died, allegedly while in police custody, is pleading for assistance with legal advice or support in their quest for justice.

Gareth Louw died on December 4 after he was arrested at a friend's house.

Aggrieved community members and the family are expected to march peacefully to the Bellville police station

tomorrow to demand answers and hand over a memorandum.

Louw's sister, Priscilla, said they were not happy with the outcome of the post-mortem and wanted an independent, second opinion on the cause of her brother's death.

She alleged her brother was restrained with red rope and handcuffed while he was assaulted by police officers in the presence of his friends.

"His friends, who are witnesses to the

assault, told us my brother was badly assaulted before he was taken away like garbage by the police," said Priscilla.

"The police had been looking for Gareth for being in contempt of court on another case. We knew they were looking for him and we weren't hiding him from police but when they came to look for him in connection with the case before court, he wasn't home."

Priscilla said they wanted to ensure officers were held responsible. "On

December 4 they found Gareth at his friend's home where they arrested him. What was told to us by Gareth's friends is that the police officers came in and unprovoked, starting beating up my brother."

Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) spokesperson Sontaga Seisa said they were investigating a case of death in police custody and no arrests had been made.

"It is alleged that the deceased was



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