

COURT CASE AGAINST RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

Court case against religion in schools affects 24 000 schools and flies in the face of the religious practices of 95% of South Africans

Trade union Solidarity on Tuesday, 16 May 2017, argued that the ruling in the Gauteng South High Court case would not only affect the six schools involved in the case, but 24 000 other schools in the country as well.

As such, the case is of major importance to hundreds of thousands of parents and children across South Africa. The application asking that religious practices be banned at schools runs counter to the conviction of 95% of South Africans who identify themselves with a religion.

According to Solidarity, religion and values are the very elements that bring South Africans together across traditional divisions. According to the South African Institute of Race Relations, 86% of South Africans identify themselves as Christians, while almost 95% identify with this faith. Only 5,2% regard themselves as non-religious or are not sure which religion they associate with.

The World Value Survey and the Pew Global Morality Study have also found that social values unite South Africans. The World Value Survey also found that 83,9% of South Africans regard faith as important; 96,7% believe in God; and that 1,9% would identify themselves as atheists. According to Solidarity, the application is thus essentially an undemocratic attempt to enforce the applicants' own, very narrow-minded interests on school communities.

"What the applicants are trying to achieve is to destroy the

moral glue that glues South Africans together. The question is whether that which the applicants are seeking is in line with what ordinary South Africans want. Looking at the statistics, this is clearly not the case," Solidarity Chief Executive Dr Dirk Hermann said.

Solidarity argued as friend of the court in favour of the six schools whose religious practices are being challenged in court by the Organisation for Religious Education and Democracy. According to Solidarity, it is constitutionally permissible and desirable that school communities decide on a school's ethos and practices through their democratically elected governing bodies.

"There is no such thing as neutral education. In practice, the atheists who brought the matter before court want to enforce their belief on school communities. Even a secular approach constitutes a certain worldview that is to be enforced on school communities. Under the guise of inclusion their arguments the will of communities is being excluded.

"The current system, in terms of which parents decide by way of governing bodies on the religious practices of their schools, but making provision for those who wish not to participate in such activities to do so is the correct approach, for in this way, the rights of the school community and those of the individual are being accommodated. Schools must also have firm guidelines in place to accommodate those who disagree with the school's ethos and practices, affording them the necessary respect and ensuring that participation in religious activity is voluntary at all times. Governing bodies must therefore ensure that their policy

on religious practices is fair. "If the application succeeds standard practices such as prayers at assembly, prayers at sports events, Christmas Carol performances by choirs, as well as a specific faith ethos would be banned. In thousands of schools those are the very values that unite children. In the long run, the absence of those values, practices and a certain ethos would have radical consequences for the culture at schools, and later also for South Africa," Hermann said.

Hermann stated that in this case Solidarity was acting on behalf of teachers.

"Thousands of teachers are driven by their vocation, believing that children should not only be neutral individuals but that they should receive their education within the framework of a certain value system. It is for this very reason that they teach at schools where they can live their calling," Hermann explained.

Solidarity Press Release, 16 May 2017



R8 million Drug-lab busted



The Phokeng K9 Unit confiscated large pots, chemicals and other materials used to manufacture drugs, to the value of R8 million.

Rustenburg – The Phokeng K9 Unit from Rustenburg busted a drug-lab in the Maubane village near Madikwe on the N1 (about 150km from Rustenburg) on Wednesday, 10 May 2017.

According to Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, police spokesperson, four suspects, aged between 33 and 37, were arrested for the contravention of Section 3 of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act No.140 of 1992).

The police confiscated large pots, chemicals and other materials used to manufacture drugs, to the value of R8 million. The suspects appeared before the Madikwe Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 11 May 2017.

The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane, thanked the community for their cooperation and swift reaction of the police that resulted in the arrest of the suspects.

Police investigating, 24 bodies retrieved from Free State mine

Welkom – The search for more miners continues in a Welkom mine after 24 bodies were retrieved, Free State police said on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.

"Thirteen more bodies have been retrieved, which brings the number to 24. The mine's security company is busy retrieving the bodies. At this time we have no idea who the people are. Some have name tags on so in some cases we have names," police spokesman Lieu-

tenant Colonel Thandi Mbambo said. Mbambo said that none of those retrieved had been formally identified and their state of decomposition would make this process challenging. "This follows an apparent explosion underground on Thursday, 11 May 2017. The cause of the explosion is not yet known and will form part of the investigation," Mbambo said.

MAN JAILED FOR RAPING A GRANNY

Rustenburg/ Tlhabane – The Bafokeng Magistrates' Court sentenced Tumelo Moopelwa (21) to eight years' imprisonment on the charge of raping a 76-year old woman in 2016 in Kanana, a village outside Rustenburg. Moopelwa gained access to the grandmother's house by braking one of the windows. "She was assaulted with a screwdriver and raped by Moopelwa," Sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi, police spokesperson said. Moopelwa left before stealing the granny's money and cigarettes. Sergeant Phenyio Monchusi was assigned to the case and diligently investigated until Moopelwa was brought to justice. The Rustenburg Cluster commander Major General Adams commended Sergeant Phenyio Monchusi and

the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offence Unit for their sterling efforts in bringing the perpetrator to book.



Sergeant Phenyio Monchusi was assigned to the case and diligently investigated until Moopelwa was brought to justice.

2 FIREARMS CONFISCATED

Rustenburg/ Boitekong – Fusi Kaekae (38) appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court on two charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, on Monday, 8 May 2017.

The Police conducted a routine search in Sondela, Boitekong on Thursday, 4 May 2017. "Kaekae was found with a 9mm pistol with seven live rounds and a 12 Gauge 23.4 shotgun with three live rounds," Sgt Ofentse Mokgadi, police spokesperson, said. Both firearms were sent to the SAPS laborato-

ry in Pretoria for testing. Kaekae was remanded in custody until his next court appearance. Acting Boitekong station commander Lieutenant Colonel Moagi commended his members in their effective approach in fighting crime.



A stock photo of a 12 Gauge 23.4 shotgun.



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04 May 2017

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PUBLIC NOTICE CALLING FOR INSPECTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATION ROLL AND LODGING OF OBJECTIONS

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 49(1) (a)(i) read together with section 78(2)* of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act No.6 of 2004), hereinafter referred to as the "Act", that the Supplementary Valuation Roll for the financial years 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is open for public inspection at Rustenburg Local Municipality from 19 May 2017 to 30 June 2017. In addition the Supplementary Valuation Roll will be available on our website www.rustenburg.gov.za and at the following venues:

1. Municipal libraries situated at Boitekong ; Karlienpark; Marikana and Rustenburg
 2. Municipal Regional Community Center's (RCC) situated at Boitekong; Lethabong; Monnakato; Marikana; Phatsima and Tlhabane.
- An invitation is hereby made in terms of section 49(1) (a)(i) read together with section 78(2)* of the Act that any owner of property or other person who so desires should lodge an objection with municipal manager in respect of any matter reflected in, or omitted from, the supplementary valuation roll within the abovementioned period.

Attention is specifically drawn to the fact that in terms of section 50(2) of the Act an objection must be in relation to a specific individual property and not against the supplementary valuation roll as such. The form for the lodging of an objection is obtainable at the address below or website www.rustenburg.gov.za. The completed forms must be returned to the following address:

Municipal Main Building
1st Floor Office 155

For enquiries please contact: Neo Malatsi/Winnie Nkelembisa/Lebogang Segoati 014 590 3033 / 014 590 3738 / 014 590 3113
Email : nmalatsi@rustenburg.gov.za/ email : wnkelembisa@rustenburg.gov.za

Ms N Sithole - Municipal Manager

Rhino poachers in court



Ganyesa – A collaborative effort by the Police and farmers led to apprehension of two suspects, both aged 35. The pair appeared before the Ganyesa Magistrates' Court on Monday, 8 May 2017, on charges of rhino poaching. The suspects were arrested after a rhino was shot and dehorned in a game reserve at Mookgophong, close to the Botswana border on Friday, 5 May 2017. Shortly after the shooting, the Police received a tip-off. They activated an intensive search and together with the Vryburg K9, Crime Intelligence and the Provincial Tracking Unit with assistance of neighbouring farmers, the suspects were traced – still in the game reserve at that

time. The suspects opened fire when the Police showed up. The Police returned fire; in the process one of the suspects was wounded and transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. The two remaining suspects managed to flee; however they were both arrested shortly after. According to Lieutenant Colonel Pelonomi Makau, a stolen and illegal firearm, vehicle and two rhino horns were recovered at the game reserve. The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane applauded the Police and farmers.