



■ **BRAZILIAN BRILLIANCE: SUNDOWNS**
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■ **MASSIVE BOOST: NATALIE DU TOIT MOVES**
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Cops to act on botched DJ case charges

Neil Oelofse
GARDEN ROUTE CORRESPONDENT

POLICE will act on criticism directed at them by a circuit court judge over mistakes in the investigation into Knysna serial killer Heinrich van Rooyen, a spokesman said yesterday.

Judge Nathan Erasmus on Friday found disc jockey Van Rooyen guilty of the murders of Victoria Stadler, 20, and Jessica Wheeler, 19, in 2005, and said there had been a "serious dereliction of duty" on the part of the police during the investigation.

Stadler's mother, Hanneljie Stadler, told The Herald at the weekend she believed her only child could have been saved had police acted sooner on evidence found at the scene of Wheeler's murder a month earlier.

She added she was relieved at the verdict and would ask the court for the harshest possible punishment if called to testify at Van Rooyen's sentencing, scheduled for May 13.

Van Rooyen, 25, stood expressionless on Friday while Erasmus pronounced him guilty of the chilling murders that rocked the Garden Route town 2½ years ago.

Commenting on Erasmus's recommendation that all aspects of the investigation should be probed, Southern Cape police spokesman Captain Malcolm Pojie said the judgment would be studied and if necessary, adjustments would be made in the training of investigating officers.

Erasmus's criticism was in particular directed at the loss of forensic and other evidence at the scene of Stadler's murder because police inexplicably failed to link her disappearance to the discovery of the still smouldering burnt wreck of her car in a forested area outside Knysna a few hours after she was killed.

Stadler's decomposed body was only found five days later, lying just 100m from the car. Stadler's boyfriend, Gabriel du Toit, reported her missing a few hours after she was killed and after her car had already been found, but he was not told about the vehicle and was advised to come back two days later.

Pojie said disciplinary action was taken against the two police officers who failed to follow up on the discovery of the car.

During the trial it also became known that police used an illegal warrant to search Van Rooyen's home, an issue focused on by his

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HEINRICH VAN ROOYEN

■ Jobs could be saved as airline meets potential buyers, says liquidator

New hope Nationwide will return to the skies

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

TROUBLED Nationwide Airlines - grounded last week, leaving thousands of passengers angry and frustrated - may take to the skies again.

This development follows a statement from Hannes Muller, a representative of Tshwane Trust, the company appointed to be the cash-strapped airline's provisional liquidator.

Speaking to the media in Johannesburg yesterday, Muller confirmed "the airline is to meet two potential buyers" today.

He added he had already met

"another interested party on Friday", but refused to disclose the names of the buyers. "It's still too early for me to divulge the names. I can't reveal the information because this might confuse the public."

Nationwide applied for provisional liquidation in the Johannesburg High Court last Tuesday, leaving passengers around South Africa, including at Port Elizabeth airport, confused and angry that they could not get refunds on their tickets while travel agents admitted they "had their hands full" shuffling passengers into other airlines' open seats.

Since taking over the liquidation of Nationwide, Muller said Tshwane Trust had been inundated with inquiries from passengers and employees. He added the liquidator would not allow potential buyers access to the financial records of Nationwide Airlines, but would verify figures for them.

African General Equity (AGE) was supposed to buy a

majority stake in Nationwide in a black economic empowerment (BEE) deal that would see the company become the country's first black-owned airline. According to AGE chief executive Reggie Naidoo the deal, which was going to be fully funded by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), collapsed because of the weak trading climate for Nationwide.

AGE is an investment company owned by Naidoo and politician Max Sisulu. Wiseman Nkuhlu, who was also a shareholder, cut ties with the company last year.

"After a meeting with the IDC we decided to call off the deal because it was not going to be viable for us," said Naidoo.

He said the deal crashed due to external factors including the rocketing fuel prices and shrinking number of air travellers.

"We are not in business to save other businesses... We wanted to establish the first black-controlled airline in the country but it was not financially viable for us."

Joel Mafanya, owner of a free taxi journal TaxiWorld, said though the airline's management snubbed him, he would not give up on plans to acquire the company. He was due to fly to Dubai this week to try and convince investors to fund him so he could buy a stake in the airline company.

A takeover of the airline could save about 1 000 jobs which are at stake.

We are not in business to save other businesses... It was not financially viable for us



Global first as orcas filmed hunting in Bay

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IN A global environmental first, five orcas have been filmed hunting and killing a dolphin in Algoa Bay.

The "world class ecotourism event" was witnessed, photographed and filmed by Port Elizabeth-based dive tour operator Rainer Schimpf of Expert-Tours.

Expert-Tours' "advanced sardine run" offers tourists the opportunity to see ocean predators feeding on baitballs of sardine, and the crew was on

including Swiss diver Pascal Fazio, who shot this amazing photograph.

In an equally amazing sequel to the kill, five members of the crew then joined the "killer whales" in the water and captured further footage underwater, in what is believed to be a first for South African waters.

Orcas live mainly near the north and south poles but are occasionally spotted by fishermen at this time of year in Algoa Bay.

But capturing the dolphin

in hunt on film and joining the huge predators beneath the surface was what made the event world class, Schimpf said.

Expert-Tours' "advanced sardine run" offers tourists the opportunity to see ocean predators feeding on baitballs of sardine, and the crew was on

It was sad for the dolphin but it was mind-blowing to be able to capture it on film

the lookout for dolphins as a signal of activity below, Schimpf said.

"We were on our way back into the bay after an excursion to Maitlands on Friday. We had

stopped to refuel off Cape Recife and realised that a pod of dolphins was coming up behind us. Then we saw the giant fins behind

them closing in with incredible speed - and we knew it was orcas as well."

There were five of them, comprising two 7m animals, probably males, two females of 5m and a calf of about 3m, he said.

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SAVAGE BEAUTY... An orca "bumps" a common dolphin clear of the water in Algoa Bay. Picture: PASCAL FAZIO

D-Day on 2010 stadium hosting Confed Cup matches

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TOMORROW is D-Day for Port Elizabeth to know whether it will be one of the host cities for next year's Confederations Cup soccer tournament.

South Africa's 2010 Soccer World Cup organisers postponed the announcement a week ago, amid fears that the

city had fallen behind a stadium construction schedule due to labour, health and recruitment issues.

A report by the World Cup government unit revealed that the metro faced the risk of losing its spot in the tournament because it could not meet the completion deadline, which was set for December 2008.

Last month, Local Organ-

ising Committee chairman Irvin Khoza said while Port Elizabeth was still one of the five venues, there were still strict requirements that needed to be met.

The outstanding issues include the numbering of seats and the availability of accommodation. Nel-



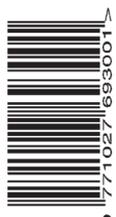
IRVIN KHOZA

son Mandela Bay municipal spokesman Roland Williams said construction of the 50 000-seat Nelson Mandela Bay stadium is expected to be completed by March next year.

A Fifa delegation would make its final inspection of the facility, that will also be

used for the 2010 soccer World Cup tournament, in December this year.

"We are more than ready to host both the Confederations Cup and World Cup. All our preparations which include stadium development, transportation network, accommodation, entertainment, marketing, information technology, safety and security and health are in



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