



The construction team is working on the new open grandstand, which is steadily nearing completion **Dave Savides**

# Stadium on track for play in December

**Dave Savides**

THE lead contractor is adamant that the uMhlatuze Stadium renovation programme remains on track to host football matches by December.

Project engineer Nzuzo Buthelezi of Izinga Holdings said on Wednesday that progress is moving along steadily, despite recent rains that hampered preparation of the playing field itself.

“The pitch is quite wet but we have treated weeds and are ready to begin scarifying and adding new grass if necessary; we will later roll it to even the

surface.

“We are busy with a number of items, including the main entrance, turnstiles and fencing around the parking area.

“Extensions are being added to the new open stand, where the ambulance access ramp is also being built.

“Most of the electrical work in the VIP suites is completed and we are busy with connections for the server room for broadcast access.”

A date will shortly be set for an inspection tour of the stadium by PSL officials, who will assess the readiness for matches to resume.



Almost all the electrical work has been finalised for the VIP suites on top of the main grandstand



## The truck stops here

There is major progress in the development of a truck stop along the John Ross highway, with clearing of the site having begun some weeks ago. The truck stop being constructed by Eyamakhosi is expected to accommodate at least 350 side-tipper trucks amid ongoing efforts to ease congestion on the city's roads **Bryce Forduce**

# Case of missing Sodwana Bay skipper John ‘Matambu’ revived

‘Pitbull’ Gerrie issues scathing letter to prosecuting authority

**Tamlyn Cramer**

CALLING for an update in the seemingly cold case of missing Sodwana Bay skipper John ‘Matambu’ Dercksen, Advocate Gerrie Nel on Friday issued a scathing letter addressed to the National Prosecuting Authority’s (NPA) Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Nel was recently appointed by Dercksen’s sister Cherie Eilertsen to take the case further.

Outlining the ‘undisputed facts’ of the matter, Nel questioned why the SAPS is seemingly more interested in the status of the docket than using all evidence at their disposal to carry out a thorough investigation.

“We are astounded that the NPA treats the investigation of what is unquestionably a murder (as opposed to a missing person) as separate from the fraud allegations,” said Nel, calling for the accused, Thomas Frederik ‘Verdie’ Visser, to be prosecuted in one trial for both fraud and murder.

In what Nel termed an ‘indictment against the parole system’, he said the situation presented is that within 10 days of being granted parole, the accused allegedly stole,



John ‘Matambu’ Dercksen’s case has gained fresh momentum

defrauded and committed murder.

Nel said, during consultations between NPA prosecutors and boat owner Reghardt Scott and Eilertsen to inform them of the fraud charge being withdrawn, prosecutors ‘inexplicably’ advised Eilertsen to register a murder docket regarding the disappearance of Dercksen.

“Unsurprisingly, the SAPS frowned on her attempts to register a new docket because a missing person ‘docket’ had already been opened by Scott.”

Consultations revealed that the fraud matter was enrolled prematurely when there was still an outstanding investigation.

Referring to the information

Eilertsen has gathered in her own attempt to seek justice for her brother, Nel said the ‘impressive docket’ records ‘extensive circumstantial evidence’ that was provided to the NPA and SAPS.

“Your prosecutors admitted that the evidence she had collected was essential and indicated that the investigating officer would be instructed to obtain an affidavit from her.

“Following the instruction of the NPA, Eilertsen travelled to Mbazwana Police Station and provided a statement on 20 May.”

Nel said the detective took the statement, but disallowed inclusion of all the evidence or witnesses collected by her, ‘telling her she is not an investigating officer’.

“Despite attempts to keep the line of communication open, no steps were taken to investigate the circumstantial evidence she had provided,” said Nel.

Neither has Scott been contacted by the police since the withdrawal of the fraud charge, despite ongoing investigations.

“The inference is apt that hollow commitments to conduct further investigations were made merely to appease our clients,” said Nel, adding that it appears the authorities ‘hope our interest will wane’.

# Red rage

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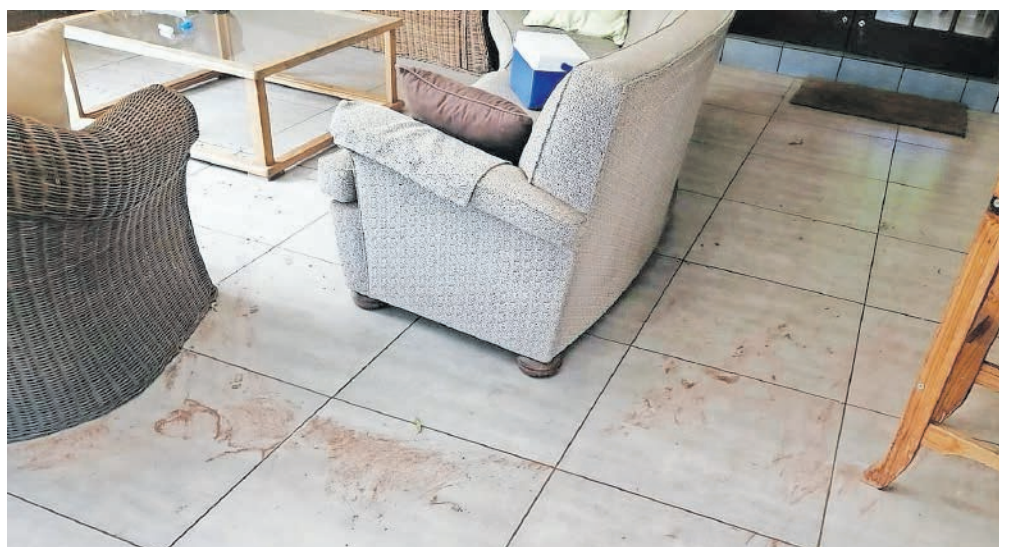
The company said it has commissioned a study to update the air dispersion model, with a consulting specialist currently working on site.

“To minimise dust emissions, Tronox implements measures, including undertaking continuous dust suppression, putting dust sheeting nets in place, and furthering an existing tree barrier between Mtunzini village and the mining and rehabilitation areas, acting as a further buffer.

“Tronox is committed to proactively monitoring weather conditions, and increases the frequency of its dust suppression efforts should predicted weather conditions indicate abnormalities.”



Wiping down of surfaces reveals thick red dust



Dust affects houses, both inside and out