A missing stillborn baby, and a grieving mother’s agony

Dalphine Tagwireyi

It’s been four months since Cynthia Sibanyoni gave birth to a stillborn child, but she has not yet received her baby’s remains.

Instead the family has faced unspeakable horror and unnecessary heartbreak.

“I don’t know what happened to my child. We need closure,” said Cynthia from Witbank, Mpumalanga.

“We need to put his spirit to rest, but we have no idea where he is.”

Cynthia, who named her baby Sphesihle Mthombeni, gave birth on 11 December at Witbank Hospital at 35 weeks.
She said they went to collect the body of the baby on 14 December, but they were shown the remains of a decomposing foetus kept in a broken-down refrigerator.

“I refused to take the baby. My child was fully developed,” she said.

She said they were told to come back two days later but when they got there they were still not given her baby’s remains.

To date, Sibanyoni has not received any assistance regarding the whereabouts of Sphesihle’s remains.

MEC of Health Sasekani Manzini, who said her department would carry out an investigation after the baby’s body went missing in December, did not respond to questions on the current status of the investigation.

Two nurses from the Mpumalanga Hospital were served with suspension letters for their alleged involvement in the incident.
Battered woman can't face her family

Elmon Tshikhudo

Lorraine Hlongwane was visiting friends in Hlongwane, Gauteng, for the weekend and wanted nothing more than just to enjoy a drink, eat some food and have fun.

But her ex-boyfriend denied her that.

He beat Lorraine so badly that she is now hiding from her children because she doesn’t want them to see her bruised eyes and face.

"We were just enjoying ourselves. When the drinks ran out and the others went to the local bar to buy more booze," she said.

“That’s when my ex-boyfriend appeared. Without saying a word he started hitting me. I eventually lost consciousness,” she said.

Lorraine said she doesn’t even know how she ended up in his room.
“When I woke up there was blood everywhere. I pleaded with the ex to let me go but he wouldn't hear any of it, saying he was scared I would get him arrested.”

For three days she hardly had anything to eat and she had to pretend she wanted him back so that he returned her cellphone.

When he did she sent out distress appeals on social media.

"At first people thought I was joking but it took the courage of Awelani Makongoza from Thohoyandou who rescued her when other people on social media thought it was a joke. He responded and called the police. I will forever be grateful to that man for saving me,” she said.

Lorraine is staying with relatives for now. She doesn’t know how to face her children.

Her ex has been arrested and charged with kidnapping and assault GBH.
For almost two decades, Dr Sindisiwe van Zyl spent her life as a fierce anti-HIV fighter, saving lives as a physician, a medical broadcasting commentator and a prolific magazine columnist.

Through her social media content and later at Kaya FM, her work reached millions across the country.

On Twitter, she informed and spoke about HIV particularly the prevention of mother to child transmission - all medical advice she gave free of charge.

In a statement, Van Zyl’s family said she died on Saturday morning from illness relating to Covid-19.

Former Public Protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela said on social media: “It’s hard to believe that Dr Sindi passed on just like that.”
She sent condolences to her family, friends, colleagues and fans.

In sharing her tribute, Miss Universe, Zozibini Tunzi said it felt as if everybody knew Dr Sindi personally.

“The way it feels as if we just lost a close loved one speaks volumes for the kind of person she was,” said Zozi.

“What a beautiful life lived.”

Musician Lady Zamar said Dr Sindi was like a Twitter mom to so many.

“I never got to know her personally but her life had an impact on mine. She was a blessing to everyone who interacted with her in real life and through social media.”

Dr Sindi, 45, is survived by her husband, Marinus van Zyl and two daughters, Nandi and Manie van Zyl. Details of her memorial and funeral will be confirmed at a later stage.
Mohale won’t explain Somizi’s actions

Lwai Nongauza

Back off!

That’s the angry message from Mohale Motaung-Mhlongo, who has told the media and fans to leave him in peace so he can fight for the restoration of his marriage.

In an interview with Scrolla.Africa, Mohale admitted that his marriage with Idols SA judge Somizi Mhlongo-Motaung is in turmoil and as a result they have not been staying together for some time.

Somizi unfollowed Mohale on all social media platforms last week.

“He is the one who unfollowed me,” said Mohale.

“Why must I answer questions about what he is doing on social media. Why don’t you ask him?”
A defiant Mohale asked why it was so important to the media and so-called fans to know every detail about his marriage.

“Let me also answer your next question,” said Mohale.

“My marriage is no different from any other marriages out there. Somizi and I have good and tough days just like any other couple.”

He said he didn’t know why some media was suggesting that Somizi and he were divorcing.

“I don’t know where they get that story.

“Neither Somizi nor I have ever announced such a decision,” he said.

Many media reports suggest the friendship between Somizi and Vusi Nova is a contributing factor to the troubles in the strained marriage, but Mohale wouldn’t comment on that.

The Soweto born man who has never been shy of sharing his views about anything and everything on social media would not say if the suspicious friendship is indeed one of the reasons his marriage is in trouble.
Hard lessons learnt from the tragedy

Timmy T Maranda

Kaizer Chiefs Chairman Kaizer 'Chincha Guvula' Motaung believes that a lot was learned from the tragedy that took place at Ellis Park on 11 April 2001 - exactly 20 years ago.

Described as the worst sporting event in South Africa, 43 fans died in a stampede at the stadium while attending a Soweto Derby between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates.

According to reports at the time, the stadium was packed to its 60,000 capacity but a further 30,000 people tried to make their way in.

Motaung said football has made many strides since the tragedy.

"As the football community we have done a lot and we have learned many lessons from that unfortunate event,” Motaung told PSL Media.
"I think the lessons learned at that game actually accelerated us into ensuring that the lives of the people must be prioritised when we have such big events."

The Amakhosi chairman expressed his satisfaction that up to this day we haven't had any event that could have triggered something of this nature.

Motaung sent his message of condolences to the bereaved families.

“We wish them strength and we hope the families have gathered strength,” he said.

“On behalf of Kaizer Chiefs Football Club and soccer fraternity at large, this day will remain a very important day in our lives and we thank you for the support.”

Picture source: @KaizerChiefs
AKA's fiancée dies in tragic incident

Mmaditaba and Lwazi Nongauza

The entertainment world is reeling with the news that AKA’s fiancée Nelli Tembe has died in a tragic incident at the Pepperclub Hotel in the Cape Town CBD.

The untimely death of the 22-year-old Eastern Cape woman was confirmed by AKA's publicist, Phumza Nohashe.

According to Nohashe, the Forbes and Tembe families will release a statement soon.

Pepperclub manager Efi Ella told Scrolla.Africa that a young woman had fallen from one of the upper floors of the hotel at 7.30am on Sunday morning.

Western Cape police spokesperson Captain FC van Wyk confirmed that police are investigating the death.

"Cape Town Central police are investigating an inquest case after an incident at a hotel this morning on the corners of Loop and Bloem streets, Cape Town CBD where the body of a 22-
year-old woman was found deceased," the police said in a statement.

**AKA and Nelli got engaged a few weeks ago.**

On Saturday, the couple shared dozens of videos while exploring a number of popular Cape Town bars and restaurants.

There are already many media reports that suggest that AKA is struggling to cope with the situation.

The Tembe and Forbes families issued a combined statement and said they are still in shock and dealing with their emotions, as Nelli was an exceptional and gifted young woman.

"Her fiancé is currently inconsolable and is surrounded by family and close friends.

At this hour of our grief, we humbly request that our families be given privacy and time to heal," the statement said.

This is a developing story.

Picture source: @akaworldwide
Banyana on track for 2022 CAF honours

Menzi Magubane

Once again Banyana Banyana defender Noko Matlou’s star shone brightly as she scored two goals in their 3-1 victory over stubborn Zambia on Saturday.

The match, an international friendly at Milpark's Bidvest Stadium, forms part of Banyana's preparations for the 2022 CAF Africa Women's Nations Cup qualifiers set for later this year. The actual tournament will be hosted by Morocco.

Banyana star striker Thembi Kgatlana scored the other goal to help them come from a goal down to win.

Matlou, Kgatlana and striker Amanda Mthandi are the only three overseas based players that coach Desiree Ellis could manage to get for the two friendlies that she had lined up.

On Tuesday at 3pm, Banyana will face Botswana in their final match to be played at the same venue.
Matlou advised locally-based players to never give up on their dreams.

"Never stop believing in yourselves. I know it's not easy," she said.

Matlou became the first South African player to be named African Women's Footballer of the year in 2008. She went overseas to join SD Eibar in Spain last October.

"Last year, I was supposed to go to China but due to coronavirus that move didn't go through. But thanks to Thembi who recommended me I'm living my dream at 35 years of age," she said.

The Limpopo-born started her career as a striker. Her award came after scoring six goals at the African Women's Championship.

The veteran defenders, together with Kgatlana, are expected to continue showing young stars how things are done on Tuesday.

Picture source: @BanyanaBanyana
A great day for SA football: two teams crack the CAF quarter-finals

Menzi Magubane

For the first time in CAF Champions League history, South Africa will have two teams in the quarter-finals this season.

Mamelodi Sundowns and Kaizer Chiefs are both in the draw when the quarter-final matches are determined in Cairo on 30 April.

The other teams are Simba SC (Tanzania), Esperance (Tunisia), Wydad Casablanca (Morocco), Al Ahly (Egypt), CR Belouizdad and MC Alger (Algeria).

Teams will be drawn in two pools.

Pool A will consist of teams who topped their respective groups. Pool B will be for those teams who were runners up.

Pool A will consist of Simba, Sundowns, Wydad and Esperance. Pool B has Al Ahly, CR Belouizdad, Chiefs and MC Alger.
It is possible that the two South African teams could be drawn to play each other in the quarter-finals.

To get through to the quarter-finals, Chiefs drew 2-2 with Horoya in Guinea to claim second place in Group C on Saturday night.

Gavin Hunt was proud of his lads, who put up a brave fight in Group C.

"It hasn’t been easy. We lost 4-0 some weeks ago to Wydad Casablanca,” said Hunt.

“But it’s good for our club to make history even though we’re not doing well domestically. Let’s just see how far we can go in the CAF. We’ve done well, but let’s see.”

Meanwhile, Sundowns’ 28-match unbeaten run came to an end on Friday when they lost 2-0 to CR Belouizdad in the final match of Group B.

Picture source: @Masandawana & @KaizerChiefs
Pep Guardiola has described Manchester City’s shock defeat against Leeds United as a wake up call.

"Sometimes defeat is necessary to understand what we have done wrong as a team," manager Guardiola told Manchester City on Twitter after his side’s 2-1 loss to the newly promoted Leeds United at Etihad Stadium.

Guardiola said: "We gave them the first goal and after we created clear chances, not too many clear cuts though. They deserve it."

"I have incredible confidence in the guys."

Despite going 10-men down following the sending off of captain Liam Cooper, Marcelo Bielsa's side did enough to contain City.
Stuart Dallas scored twice, including the stoppage time winner to hand City only their fourth defeat of the season. Leeds held City to a 1-1 draw in the reverse fixture in October.

Guardiola's men need 11-points from the remaining six league games to be crowned for a third time in four seasons.

Guardiola made seven changes to the team that beat Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League midweek.

"I do not regret the team selection because I trust them. If I don't trust them, they wouldn’t play."

City now head to Germany for Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg against Borussia Dortmund at Westfalenstadion. Kick-off at 9pm.

Picture source: @ManchesterCity