

## **News – 23 September 2009: 12:00**

### **Highlights:**

1. Model gets life for murder
2. 'Credible' threat to US embassy
3. China wants to control weather
4. Jordaan lays into Bafana

A male model and former Mr Thabong has been given a life sentence and a further 15 years for the murder of a teacher and musician. Jogie van Tonder, 35, was murdered in his flat in Welkom on April 1, 2008. Bonginkosi Khoza, 29, stared vacantly in front of him while Judge MB Molemela delivered the sentence. He then sat down in the dock and cried, covering his face with his hands. Earlier this week he was found guilty of murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances. There was a strong police presence during Khoza's appearance, probably because he had previously escaped from the court in Welkom by hitting a police officer with his head. During sentencing Molemela described Khoza's actions as cruel. She said Khoza's motive for the crimes had simply been greed, and that he never really showed remorse. Khoza's application to appeal against the guilty verdict was refused, but his application to appeal the sentence was granted. Shortly after the court proceedings, the police laid an escape charge against Khoza for escaping from the Welkom court building shortly after his first court appearance last year.

US government facilities in South Africa remained closed for a second day today; after the State Department said it had received a "credible" threat against the embassy. The US embassy in Pretoria, consulates in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, as well as aid and development offices have been closed since Tuesday due to the threat, which neither the embassy nor South African officials will discuss. US facilities will stay closed at least until Friday, due to a public holiday on Thursday. In a Washington press briefing, State Department spokesperson Ian Kelly said the closure was a precaution. "The embassy received information about a possible threat against the embassy, and so as a precaution the

State Department decided to close US government facilities in South Africa," he said. Kelly would not be drawn on what the specific threat was, but said US officials were in close contact with South African authorities on the matter.

**China** will make it's biggest-ever effort to control the weather and prevent rain washing out festivities marking the 60th anniversary of communist rule. China's air force will deploy 18 aircraft to spray cloud dispersal chemicals into the atmosphere around Beijing, while "48 fog dispersal vehicles" will use similar technology at airports around the capital. "It is the first time in Chinese history that artificial weather modification on such a large scale has been attempted," Cui Lianqing, an air force meteorologist said. China is planning a massive parade, song and dance performances and fireworks on October 1 to mark the day when revolutionary leader Mao Zedong proclaimed the state's founding in 1949. Clear weather is especially important for the military parade, which will include a flyover by the nation's most advanced fighter jets. The capital made similar efforts for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics when over 1 100 "rain dispersal rockets" were fired into the skies to break up clouds around the Bird's Nest National Stadium.

### **Sportnews:**

**Danny Jordaan** has all but admitted losing confidence in Bafana Bafana ahead of the World Cup next year. Speaking during the launch of this year's Soccerex in Sandton, Jordaan was unusually pessimistic about the national team's chances in 2010. "We will be welcoming many great teams from around the world. All these countries will be great to watch, but I can't say the same about Bafana Bafana and Argentina. They are not doing well at all," he says. Jordaan, who is in the running for the SAFA presidency, says "In 2010 we will be hosting the World Cup and the administration is very good, but I can't say the same on the field of play and the more I don't talk about it the better," he added.

**This news bulletin was written and compiled by Triple M News.**