



IN THIS April 24, 2018 photo, a hemp plant is pollinated at the Unique Botanicals facility in Springfield, Oregon, in the US. | DON RYAN AP

'LEGAL FRAMEWORK'

Cloud hangs over cannabis legislation

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CALLS have grown for the revision of the Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill so that it becomes clearer on laws that will guide the commercialisation and farming of dagga.

Provinces such as Gauteng were steaming ahead with plans to tap into the commercialisation of cannabis to create new job opportunities.

The national strategy for the industrialisation and commercialisation published in 2021 estimated that the industry was worth R28 billion.

In his State of the Nation Address in February, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the hemp and cannabis sector has the potential to create over 130 000 new jobs.

"We are, therefore, streamlining the regulatory processes so the hemp and cannabis sector can thrive like it is in other countries such as Lesotho," he said. "Our people in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere are ready to farm with this age-old commodity and bring it to market."

But the new piece of legislation intended to legalise cannabis in the country has come under heavy criticism for being unclear on farming and commercialisation laws.

The Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill resulted from a 2018 Constitutional Court ruling that decriminalised dagga for private use and cultivation in private spaces.

Cosatu, in a submission made to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, said it was concerned that the bill was contradictory and not clear on where the government stands on commercialisation.

The federation said while it understood that the government was developing an industrial master plan for cannabis commercialisation, the bill left it wondering whether the government supports the development of this industry or not.

"If it does, then the legal framework needs to be clear. If it does not, then equally, this must be made clear. The bill, as it is drafted now, does not make this clear," said Cosatu.

"It indicates clearly how cannabis can be produced for personal use. It is clear on how it can be used for medical use.

"It is not clear on how it can be produced, sold and used for commercial use. This will send confusing signals to the public, commercial producers and law enforcement organs."

The Umzimvubu Farmers Support Network NPC (UFSN), which represents Pondoland-based cannabis-growing communities, lashed out at what it termed as the disregard of its previous comments on the bill.

"Quite clearly, our previously submitted substantive comments were not even considered when producing the most recent iteration of the bill," UFSN said in its submission.

"We say this because it remains abundantly clear that the bill does not, even in the slightest, make provision for the centuries old custom of cannabis use and cultivation by the beneficiaries of the UFSN, who remain the hundreds of thousands of amaMpondo cannabis farmers."

In a submission made under the non-profit organisation called New Race Consciousness, Thulo "Ras Inity" Mpholo called for amendments to allow Rastafarian students to keep and exchange cannabis on campus.

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DIVORCÉE NOW DEMANDS SHARE IN R10M ESTATE

Rushed divorce leads to regrets

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A WOMAN was in such a hurry to divorce her husband of 23 years and join her new lover, she wanted nothing except to get out of her marriage.

However, she now has second thoughts about being left with nothing.

Nearly three years after signing a settlement agreement during her divorce stating she wanted nothing from her now former husband, she has now demanded to share in his R10 million estate.

She asked the Eastern Cape High Court, which dealt with her divorce, to overturn the settlement, stating she wanted no money or assets from her husband.

The parties were married out of community of property with the inclusion of the accrual system during

1996. They were divorced in 2019, and entered into a settlement agreement which was made an order of court.

That agreement included a non-variation clause, confirming, among others, the agreement contained all the terms and conditions of the agreement between the parties, and neither party would have any further claims against the other.

It was also agreed the husband would retain the farm, and would be solely responsible for the payment of the outstanding bond on the property.

The court was told the reason for the divorce was that the wife had an affair, and she wanted to join the new love of her life as soon as possible.

In light of their divorce, which was uncontested and because neither party wanted any assets from the other, they decided to make things easy and both consulted the same attorney to streamline the process.

The wife now, after the divorce, claimed she was under the impression she was not entitled to any part of her husband's estate, which she estimated to be worth approximately R10m at the time.

This was based on her erroneous belief they had been married out of community of property, she said.

According to the wife, the attorney failed to correct her error and did not explain the accrual system. Thus, she now said, he prevented her from claiming what she was entitled to.

The wife now told the court the settlement agreement was signed as a result of this "mistake".

The husband said his wife wanted an amicable divorce settlement without any need to litigate.

"She repeatedly advised me that she wanted 'nothing' out of the marriage as she wished to get divorced as soon as possible and to move..."

The husband said this was the basis of the instructions to their shared attorney. According to him, the attorney did advise the wife she was entitled to a portion of the assets which they had accumulated together during the marriage, but she wanted nothing.

It was said the wife did not want to be saddled with the mortgage bond debt regarding the farm, and was simply in a rush to join her new lover.

The husband said it was a conscious decision by her not to claim anything, as she wanted a speedy divorce, thus she must live with her decision.

Judge A Govindjee said the jurisdiction of the high court did not include the right to tamper with the principle of finality of judgments, other than in specific circumstances. This was because of the importance of litigation being brought to finality.

In turning down her application, the judge found the wife knew exactly

what she was getting herself into at the time.

He said although she was entitled to obtain a far better financial outcome had she enforced her claim for accrual prior to the divorce, the settlement agreement reached and made an order of court could not be unravelled for the reasons forwarded by her.

The judge added this judgment should also serve as a salutary reminder to legal practitioners of the possible dire consequences for their clients in cases where they choose to represent both parties in proceedings where money or rights are involved.

"While these joint consultations may commence in a spirit of goodwill, or in an attempt to expedite matters and save costs, once the shoe pinches, it is inevitable that the legal practitioner, and by extension the profession, lands in the crosshairs," the judge said.



BAKEOLOGY STUDIO

Mother's Day celebrated in style

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WHAT better way to honour mothers from all walks of life than to get them to do what they like with their loved ones?

Bakeology Studio opened their doors for mothers and their loved ones in Johannesburg for a special and thrilling baking experience.

The event was nothing short of fun and entertaining, with mothers getting the kitchen heated with their loved ones and exploring modern sweet treats.

While overflowing with joy, they described the event as relaxing and exciting, particularly for the ones who are always working.

The Star spoke with one of the mothers that were there, Brenda Siphuma, a caregiver at Life Genesis Maternity Clinic and works with women on a regular basis.

"I was just excited. I needed to be part of the experience. This is a part that I have never done in my life. It was an exciting experience. Though I just came from work from an early shift but this made my day."

She further spoke about what Mother's Day meant to her.

"For me, Mother's Day is a huge day. I think it's a day that I must celebrate because I am close to my mother, and she is my best friend. Mother's Day is everything."

Ivy Mnisi, who was a cookery chef at this special mom's day event, was elated to share her baking experience.

"I am really happy because I know the feeling of being a mom and being celebrated. Coming here and celebrating with other women is very important to me because, remember, women work hard to provide for their children. We are who we are today because of their love. I could do it every day. I enjoyed myself."

Malvin Ndlovu, head chef from Bakeology Studio, said in all the years spent as a chef, Mother's Day was the best he has ever experienced.

"As the head chef of Bakeology, I knew I had to impress people and give them all the information that they need to know about baking."

He further said he was delighted to share what he knows best with all the people that were present on the special day.



IN celebration of Mother's Day Bakeology Studio event with The Star Newspaper and Saturday Star gave lucky readers a chance to create some fun sweet French dessert-making experience. | NOKUTHULA MBATHA African News Agency (ANA)



'LUXURY LIFESTYLE'

Court setback for Nel-Roberts

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MRS South Africa 2020 finalist, Chandré Goosen-Joubert, said her advocacy will always be for charity after the Western Cape High Court awarded her access to financial records of NPO, Women4Women (W4W).

Goosen-Joubert said she was elated the court ruled in her favour after she had, through a Promotion of Access to Information Act (Paia) application in terms of the NPO Act, demanded the right to financial documents for 2019, 2020, and 2021, that she had requested and initially been denied by W4W.

She said: "I am very happy for the fact that during my reign in Mrs SA, I had women approaching me and talking to me about how they felt silenced around issues and I was being their voice. I am very much for women empowerment and will always use my voice for this. When I had entered, it was not advertised as a pageant, it was advertised as a women empowerment programme and I wanted to advocate for women and children in SA through such a programme."

Goosen-Joubert had raised nearly R150 000 for a gala dinner held at Muldersdrift which was paid into W4W's FNB Account.

On failing to win the title of Mrs South



CHANDRÉ Goosen-Joubert. | Facebook

Africa, Goosen-Joubert was awarded the "Mrs Charity" title, which meant she would be affiliated to Mrs SA and W4W, and would be expected to raise even more funds – while being responsible for any costs she incurred in the role, such as transportation and accommodation.

Unhappy with the arrangement, she decided not to accept the title.

Goosen-Joubert denied allegations of a smear campaign against W4W founder, Cindy Nel-Roberts.

"The cause was to raise money for

charity for women and children but instead it went to a luxury lifestyle which funded her child's birthday party, schools fees, Uber transactions and Nel's car insurance. Nel has since said that I am doing this because I want to be famous.

"I'm sorry, but if somebody fights like that, then they should stick to heels and make up. If you're a South African role model and that's how you defect, then that's a big concern. Nel confirmed the money was used but she had put it back. This means if I never went for her, she would never have put it back. This is an unethical situation," said Goosen-Joubert.

According to court documents, transactions from the W4W account included an unexplained R250 000 transfer, a number of payments for gym membership and private trainer at a private Durbanville gym, Facebook game payments, school fees and an R8 000 payment for a birthday party.

In her judgment, high court Judge Babalwa Mantame said Goosen-Joubert had made out a proper case for the documents she requested and the contention by Nel-Roberts that the information sought was for ulterior motives in a "smear campaign" was "irrelevant to the information requested".

W4W did not respond to questions by deadline.

RECIPE

Lamb tomato bredie

Ingredients

Main ingredients
1kg stewing lamb, cut in 2.5cm cubes
50g of Sasko Cake Flour
1 large onion, diced
1 celery fingers, diced
2 carrots bag, peeled and diced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
30ml sunflower oil
15ml Robertson's whole coriander, crushed
1 bay leaf
1 Knorrox Beef Stock Cubes, dissolved in 500ml hot water
50ml tomato paste
4 English tomatoes, chopped
1 can of whole peeled tomatoes
5ml sugar
Spice, salt and pepper, or to taste
To serve
250g basmati rice, cooked
1 handful of coriander
1 cup tomato and onion sambal, chopped

Method

Preheat the oven to 140°C.
Lightly dust the lamb in seasoned flour and discard all excess flour. Make sure all the meat is coated.
In a heavy-based casserole dish, heat the vegetable oil over a high



TOMATO BREDIE

heat and brown the meat in batches until golden brown.

Remove the meat and set aside on kitchen paper.

Using the same casserole dish, sauté the onion, celery, carrots, garlic and spices until the onions are soft and translucent.

Add the meat, chopped and tinned tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar and stock to the pot and stir well.

Season with salt and pepper. Place the lid on the casserole dish and place in the oven. Slowly braise for 2 to 2½ hours until the meat is tender and the liquid has reduced and thickened. | Pick n Pay