

Uber Eats **Hot just got Hotter**

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Mochachos MEXICAN CHICKEN FIESTA

INDEPENDENT

IN

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Hot just got Hotter

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Mochachos MEXICAN CHICKEN FIESTA

INSIDER

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PERSONAL FINANCE: FOUR COMMON MONEY MISTAKES YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE

A 'TAIL' OF VODKA AND 9 LIVES

Vets save cat poisoned with anti-freeze by giving an intravenous shot of pure vodka

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BABI, a ginger cat, can count himself lucky that the country has not banned the sale of alcohol as the Covid-19 third wave intensifies.

A vet in the small Free State town of Fouriesburg had to rush to a bottle store to find the purest possible in order to save Babi's life.

Apart from perhaps a headache, the pet cat is now fighting fit – all thanks to a team of vets at the Cluny Animal Trust, a non-profit veterinary organisation.

Imogen Tarita, a fund-raiser for the trust, said Babi was rushed to them by a Mme Reittumetsie and her grandchildren who love their cat.

"The children noticed he was acting funny. They scooped him up and carried him, without a box, almost 2km across the valley from Mashaeng township to our clinic in Fouriesburg. They were lucky that we had both of our vets there at the time.

"Babi is known to be a fussy cat, but they became very concerned when he wasn't eating. He also seemed very weak and feeble, barely able to stand. Thankfully, Dr Katherine Barker was at the clinic with doctors Eunice Olevano and Mariska Malan."

The veterinary team suspected poisoning, so Barker did a cystocentesis (which involves the insertion of a needle through the abdominal and bladder walls to get a urine sample).

The feline's urine was a strange lime/yellow colour.

Babi then started to projectile vomit watery liquid.

The urine tested very high for increased glucose levels, so initially they thought it might be diabetes, but Babi does not have a history of the disease.

And because he was acting and eating normally just the day before, that was quickly ruled out.

The team went back to the drawing board and started again. This time they decided it had to be kidney failure, and with such a sudden onset and rapid decline, it had to be linked to poison.

"That was when they started thinking about the time of the year. It's very cold here in the Free State, with temperatures reaching -5°C most mornings.

"They came up with potential anti-freeze poisoning and quickly checked Google for more information.

"Sadly, the prognosis for anti-freeze poisoning is very poor if not caught early, and we initially feared the worst.

"But because Babi had vomited, the team were convinced we had caught it early enough and we had to try everything we could do to save him."

Information on the internet said the urine would be fluorescent, so Barker rushed back to her private practice to get her fluorescent lamp.

Babi's urine was neon, confirming the diagnosis.

"Anti-freeze poisoning is treated with intravenous ethanol ... That is not something that we have just lying around, so back to Google we went. What could we use in its place?"

"Barker rushed off again to the local bottle store and got hold of the purest bottle of vodka she could get.

Thankfully, the team had Babi hooked up to a drip, but it took them a couple of minutes to work out the dosage which they had to dilute.

"We then intravenously dosed Babi with vodka."

Tarita said that even though it was diluted, the cat got drunk.

They had to repeat the process every six hours for a day and a half and then every eight hours for another day.

She explained that basically the propylene glycol in anti-freeze causes crystals to form in the kidneys which destroys the tubules in the kidneys.

Ethanol, or in this case vodka, dissolves the crystals and allows them to pass in the urine.

"By the fourth treatment, Babi was almost back to normal, eating, and he looked like a million bucks – very different from when he was first brought in.

"So, we kept him for a couple of days for observation. His family were thrilled to have him back in their arms."



QUICK-thinking vets Mariska Malan and Eunice Olevano treat Babi the cat – who had fallen seriously ill after consuming anti-freeze – with vodka.



AFTER numerous doses of vodka, Babi was back to his usual self.



Transformation is lacking – EE report

THE Commission for Employment Equity annual report has revealed that the pace of transformation continues to be slow in the labour market.

The report gives a broad overview of transformation patterns in the labour market and looks at top management, senior management, professionally qualified, skilled technical labour, semi-skilled labour and unskilled labour.

In top management, the report showed that 64.7% of the positions were occupied by whites, followed by 15.8% Africans, 10.6% Indians, 5.7% coloureds and 3.1% foreign nationals. Males occupied 75.1% of positions while females took 24.9%. The report also said 51.6% of the positions were occupied by white males, while white females followed at 13.1% and 10.1% African males, while people with disabilities made up 1.6% at top management level.

The report went on to state that in senior management, 52.5% of positions were occupied by whites, followed by Africans at 24.7%, Indians at 11.6%, coloureds at 8% and foreign nationals at 3.1%. Males occupied 64.3% of positions.

It said 34.7% of the senior management positions were occupied by white males, followed by white females, who occupied 17.8%, while African males held 15.1% and 1.3% of people with disabilities held positions at senior management level.

For professionally qualified positions, 46.7% of the positions were occupied by Africans, followed by whites at 32.1%, coloureds at 9.7%, Indians at 9.1% and foreign nationals at 2.4%, while males occupied 52.3% of positions. African females had 24% of positions, followed by 22.7% of African males, 18.2% of white males and 14% of white females, while people with disabilities constituted 1.3% of positions. | Samkelo Mtshali

SUSPENSION

Ramaphosa says Magashule is shifting goalposts

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PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday accused suspended ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule of shifting goalposts in his legal battle to return to his powerful position following his suspension for refusing to step aside despite facing criminal charges.

Ramaphosa's senior counsel Wim Trengove told the full bench of the high court – judges Jody Kollapen, Sharise Weiner and Edwin Molahlehi – that every time Magashule runs into problems in his urgent application he shifts ground.

Trengove asked the judges not to allow the ex-Free State premier to do that.

He said while Magashule was challenging his suspension and questioning the invalidity of rule 25.70 of the ANC constitution this was the same clause he purportedly used to suspend Ramaphosa last month.

"These are the extraordinary contradictions in Magashule's own case," said Trengove.

He said rule 25.70 applied to members who have been indicted to appear in a court of law on any charge.

"We know that this does not apply to the president," said Trengove, referring to Magashule's purported suspension of Ramaphosa after he was apparently reported to the Hawks' serious corruption offences unit and the court cases relating to the unsealing of CR17 ANC presidential campaign documents.

He said Magashule had no right never to be suspended, to be disciplined or expelled despite his senior counsel Mahlape Sello earlier arguing that the ANC's secretary-general makes the decision to suspend in terms of rule 25.70 as the conference has given him authority to summarily suspend leaders and members who fail to give an acceptable explanation or voluntarily step aside.

According to Trengove, Magashule's defence that he has the right to presumption of innocence does not stand as it has nothing to do with civil litigation but only criminal matters.

"The presumption of innocence is confined to the conduct of criminal cases and does not apply to disciplinary procedures," he explained.

Magashule also argued that the step-aside rule was a broad rule and that the national executive committee (NEC) has unlawfully narrowed it down.

However, Trengove denied this, saying the NEC did not narrow down the step-aside rule but gave the full effect to the conference resolution.

"It's not correct on the facts ... This is a futile attack," said Trengove, adding that Magashule was again shifting the ground.

Magashule also claimed the NEC's step-aside guidelines made the National Prosecuting Authority the arbiter of who should step aside but Trengove rejected this attack as being based on the blind reading of the guidelines.

Trengove said it is sensible to deal with people who have been indicted

and that the guidelines also provide for people who stand accused of corruption and every form of accusation, which he described as a "catch all" and covered the field entirely.

He said Magashule's initial attack on the guidelines that they fall short of the conference resolutions as they are confined to people who are indicted and not those who are accused is unfounded.

"Magashule has shifted ground again, he now realises that the guidelines not only apply to people who have been indicted but people who are accused," Trengove explained.

He now argues that the guidelines are invalid because they fail to give proper effect to the resolutions, according to Trengove.

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IN THREE WORDS I CAN SUM UP EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT LIFE: IT GOES ON! **ROBERT FROST**