

continue with existing story-lines, it has been reported there could be a settlement with the actors following negotiations facilitated by the SABC's COO, Hlaudi Motsoeneng. This came after the actors' lawyer Bulelani Mzamo sent a letter to MMSV Productions stating that they are willing to return to conditions agreed on November, which include contracts.

NOW that Oscar Pistorius has escaped a possible life sentence and has been convicted of culpable homicide, he still has the burden of convincing judge Thoko Masipa to grant him a lesser sentence.

If Pistorius even makes it to jail, which criminal lawyer advocate Bonginkosi Ngubane says is unlikely, it will be for no more than five years.

Culpable homicide is listed in South Africa among Schedule 2 Offences in the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Amendment Act,

rape and prescribed sentences for those crimes under it.

However, Schedule 2 itself is broken down into several parts.

One part calls for a life sentence for murder and rape.

Another dictates a sentence of 15 years for a first offender with yet another stating a first offender should be sentenced to a minimum of five years.

Ngubane says in Pistorius's case, he is likely to fall under the third part and that the state will have no grounds if it decides to argue he be sentenced to 15 years.

of question altogether.

"The heaviest sentence he can get is five years if the state can prove its case on aggravation of sentence."

Pistorius has never denied he shot and killed Reevea Steenkamp, but he denied intention and the court believed him.

And as his defence team, Ngubane says it will go all out to find the best experts to strengthen its argument for a fine or suspended sentence during mitigation of sentence.



Oscar Pistorius

major role in supporting his argument.

"They will find an expert who will testify about prison conditions and the facilities that are not there for disabled persons." That Pistorius showed remorse will be used as a mitigating factor. Some of the witnesses the state is expected to call are one of Steenkamp's parents and possibly her best friend, Gina Myers.

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inform them to spare their celebratory comments and rhetoric about freedom while on the other hand they support the Israel-led genocide against Palestine," Hlophe said.

"We remain unequivocal in our support of the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination, and are unapologetic in our view that the Palestinians are the victims and the oppressed in the conflict with Israel," Hlophe said.

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cricket looking up

ILATSE MPHAHLELE

re of SA cricket looks good place after Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced fit of R199m during its general meeting on Sat-

will be a 44% increase

in international cricket matches hosted in South Africa, according to the confirmed Futures Tours Programme in the coming eight years cycle.

The Proteas will be in action for an increased average of 46 days per year, versus the current 32.

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now Prince Zuma

ABUNZIMA MEMELA

r "royal highness" for man Khulubuse Zuma, his marriage to Swazi Fikisiwe Dlamini, 33.

ommoner" was accorded is of a Swazi prince at mala in Nkandla.

id 100 cows as lobola. ds attended the nuptials resident's nephew brav-

ing the scorching sun and dust to witness the marrying of two Nguni cultures.

Dlamini clad in traditional Swazi outfit responded "I do" loudly to the iphoyisa lenkosi (traditional headman) when asked whether she loved Zuma.

In a field with hundreds of maidens, the blushing bride handed over a spear to Zuma.

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Eldorado drug deaths 'soaring'

ITUMELENG MAFISA AND

OLWETHU BOSO

AFTER a string of drug-related suicides in Eldorado Park near Soweto, the mothers of the area have asked for President Jacob Zuma's intervention once more.

The mothers, who had previously written a letter to the Presidency a year ago, said things were getting worse in Eldorado Park with new lolly lounges popping up all over the township and a spate of suicides of addicts who failed to kick the habit on the increase.

A representative of the mothers and drug activist, Dereleen James, said she was shaken by the increase in the number of drug-related suicides.

James said she had more than 15 obituaries kept in her house.

All of them were from drug-



TOLL: Drug-related deaths are pervasive in Eldorado Park say mothers in the area. PICTURE: TIRO RAMATHLATSE

related deaths and suicides.

The latest was a 20 year old who had hanged himself in his room.

He had lost the fight with drugs, and left a letter to his parents saying death was the only way out.

James said the boy, in the letter,

named 30 of his friends in the area who were struggling with drugs.

Despite the young man saying he was a "coward" in his letter, James said in fact he was a hero for detailing his experiences with drugs.

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ZUMA'S PROMISES

- » Close down all lolly lounges
 - » Work with young people in the community and support employment initiatives in the area
 - » A committee was appointed to tackle the problem
 - » He committed to himself lead a turnaround strategy for the community
 - » He would be proactive
 - » Time frames for the turnaround strategy would be announced soon
- NGCIVULA MOKONYANE'S PROMISES**
- » Buildings that belonged to the city of Johannesburg and were being used for drug activities would be cleared or demolished.
 - » School gates would be closed and locked during the day
 - » School fences to be repaired
 - » Vendors around schools to be scrutinised
 - » There would be patrollers within school premises
 - » World Cup-style specialist courts to deal swiftly with drug-related crime in the area discussed