

Murky past of soccer's Iron Duke

Irvin Khoza has a history of trouble with the law dating back to 1979 — and the origin of his fortune remains a mystery

MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA

THE man who will head South Africa's bid for the 2010 World Cup has dribbled past authorities for over two decades, but will now face a new investigation.

Affectionately known as the Iron Duke, Irvin Khoza is a self-made millionaire whose road to riches is tainted with allegations of drug dealing, fraud and tax evasion running into millions.

The police's elite Scorpions Unit has begun another investigation into his financial affairs. They want to know where he got all his money from.

This is one of two investigations he has to deal with. The other is the ongoing probe by South African Revenue Services which claims he owes R66-million.

As boss of one of the top soccer clubs in South Africa, Orlando Pirates, and vice-president of the South African Football Association, Khoza mingles in the top social circles. But he has also been a close associate of some shady operators.

Khoza's home is a plush mansion in Diepkloof, Soweto. Outside is likely to be parked a swanky Mercedes-Benz, but police say no car is registered in his name and he doesn't have a driver's licence. He is driven around by chauffeurs in one of two luxury vehicles.

He flies first class on his many international trips, but he never carries more than one small piece of hand baggage. He says he "does not want drugs to be planted in his bags".

In Kiptown he owns Freedom Square, a shopping centre that he bought for R42-million. For a public figure, his private life is very secret.

His wife of many years, Elsie Matina Khoza, is rarely seen in public with him.

And how he made his fortune is shrouded in secrecy.

Khoza was born on January 27 1948 in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg. He grew up at house 58 on 10th Avenue. His mother was a cleaner at the local clinic, but little is known about his father.

He began his education at the Roma Mission School in Alexandra before he went to Orlando High School in Soweto. He was expelled from Fort Hare University in 1972, reportedly for his opposition to apartheid.

As a teenager he developed his great love for soccer and at the age of 14 he became a secretary of the Alexandra Football Association. But he has never played professional football which is now the centre of his life.

In 1976 Khoza joined Orlando Pirates as general secretary, but six years later left the team after he was found guilty on two fraud charges.

On February 5 1979 he was sentenced in Johannesburg to a R3 000 fine or 12 months in jail for

Khoza mingles in the top social circles. But he has also been a close associate of some shady operators

a fraudulent life insurance claim amounting to R50 000.

On September 18 1981 he was again sentenced in Johannesburg to a R2 000 fine or nine months in jail for fraud after trying to claim R42 918 from a fictitious insurance policy.

But the woes of the Iron Duke were not over. In 1995 he again became embroiled with the law when a prominent Soweto businessman and socialite, Robert "Rocks" Dlamini, mysteriously disappeared.

Khoza was questioned by police as it had been established that Dlamini, a self-confessed drug dealer, went missing while on his way to collect money from Khoza.

Police said the money was a payment from a R1.5-million drug deal which turned sour.

Dlamini is now presumed dead although the 55-year-old's body was never found.

Khoza's business career began in Zambia in the early 1980s when he imported wine from South Africa.

It was in Zambia where Khoza was introduced to two drug barons, Vijay "Vicky" Goswami and Milanos Constantino.

In 1983, shortly after he befriended Constantino, Khoza was arrested at Lusaka International Airport for possession of mandrax. Constantino's arrest for operating a mandrax factory in Zambia followed.

Constantino soon fled the country and a warrant of arrest is still outstanding for him in Zambia. Police believe he is now living somewhere in Europe.

The Zambian Drug Enforcement Commission confirmed this week that "Irvin Khoza was fined K95 (kwacha) or three months in jail".

Goswami also fled Zambia for South Africa in 1994 after a senior government official warned him about an order for his arrest in connection with drug dealing and money laundering.

Once in South Africa, Goswami revived his friendship with Khoza. Goswami is now in jail in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on charges of drug dealing.

Goswami was also linked to Dlamini's disappearance and fled South Africa for Dubai in April 1996 after he was exposed as the biggest druglord in this country.

Within a few months of being in Dubai, Goswami was arrested when local police raided two of his mandrax factories and confiscated tablets worth millions of rands. He was initially given the death sentence but it was later changed to life imprisonment.



PRIVATE LIVES: Irvin Khoza and his wife Elsie Matina, who is rarely seen with him, arriving for Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday party. Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

After Khoza paid the admission of guilt fine, he returned to South Africa where he started a company building houses in Diepkloof. Today he is a director of more than 20 companies.

Khoza made a dramatic comeback at Orlando Pirates as a general manager in 1992. Pirates was going through a financial crisis and the team saw Khoza as their saviour.

Khoza again hit headlines in 1999 when he and Sizwe Mthembu, a senior official from the National Intelligence Agency, spent R3-million in state funds to buy 30 luxury vehicles for the agency.

They registered the cars in the name of Safa.

The agency gagged Khoza from speaking about the deal and Mthembu was suspended.



LEGAL TROUBLE: Khoza's house was searched by police and tax officials. He is still the subject of two probes

Mbeki shocks crowd at Bartmann's burial

ROWAN PHILP

AN ADORING gathering of more than 10 000 people saw Sarah Bartmann buried almost two centuries late on Friday — after being shocked by a brutal exposé of racism by South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki.

Bartmann — the Khoikhoi woman who died aged 26 in 1815 after being paraded as a sexual freak in Europe — was buried as a modern icon in the town of Hankey in the Eastern Cape at an event that almost reached the status of a state funeral.

In his address on South Africa's Women's Day, Mbeki described Bartmann not as a hero but as a "simple African woman" who had been used to prove the cruelest theories of racism to the world.

Mbeki devoted four pages of his 10-page speech to racist quotes from 19th-century European thinkers — some so brutal that they drew cries of outrage and disbelief from the audience.

He quoted Baron Georges Cuvier, the French scientist who dissected Bartmann's body and who once compared the features of the "Negro race" with "the monkey tribes" and Bartmann's genitalia with "those of the orangutan".

An emotional Mbeki said Europeans had used Bartmann to promote their racist theories: "Sarah Bartmann was taken to Europe to tell this lie in the most dramatic way possible."

Mbeki warned that such racist ideas remained a force in South African society.

Cecil le Fleur, chairman of the National Khoisan Consultative Conference, said Mbeki's speech was "the first time I've heard such words in public", but said South Africans needed to understand the severity of racism in colonial times.

Le Fleur said that Bartmann's return marked a turning point in the political profile and search



FINAL RESTING PLACE: Sarah Bartmann was buried in the Eastern Cape town of Hankey. Picture: AFP

for identity for all Khoisan descendants.

"It's the first time the government has promised to take care of the Khoisan people — we now want them to turn their words into deeds," he said.

Le Fleur said he was disappointed that no Khoisan official had been invited to sit among the dignitaries.

Traditional healer Gladys Mengu said she was "shocked by the racist content" read out in Mbeki's speech, but said: "It's time that even the children should learn about this hate."

"Sarah's dignity has been restored to her. This is the biggest day in my life," said Christian Martin, a United Democratic Party (UDF) member of the Inqutu tribe. Martin has worn black clothing ever since his vow in Parliament in October last year to see Bartmann brought to her home in the Gamtoos Valley.

Nandi Arries, 12, a dancer at the ceremony, said it had been "very wrong" for Bartmann to have been ogled in Europe. In a poem she read, Arries said: "Mama Sarah lived not as a sheep but as a leopard; a lion — a lady."

Sarah to save dying home town

THE people of Hankey believe Sarah Bartmann's return will save the town from dying — and perhaps even turn it into a Nieu Bethesda-type tourist oasis.

Once a thriving centre for the Eastern Cape's potato and orange industry, Hankey has been crippled by a severe local recession that has seen the last of its full bank branches pull out in May this year.

But this week — as the town

enjoyed a sudden facelift ahead of Bartmann's Friday funeral — officials and residents said her return was "the miracle we've been waiting for".

Discussions involving a Bartmann monument, heritage site status, and a Khoisan cultural trail are already under way.

This week, glassware souvenirs etched with the words "Sarah Bartmann is home again in Hankey" appeared on the streets

and curio posters linked her name to the town's 36-4m sundial — the largest in Africa.

Bartmann — who listed the Gamtoos Valley as her birthplace on a British passport certificate in 1811 — lived in the area until her mid-teens before leaving for Cape Town around 1805, and England in 1810.

After two centuries of public display, Bartmann has found peace at last. — Rowan Philp

Kids starve as food scheme funds vanish

BUDDY NAIDU

STARVING schoolchildren from a poor community were fed just two slices of brown bread and a cup of cocoa while their school feeding scheme was allegedly defrauded of more than R100 000.

Now the head of the Copesville Combined School in Pietermaritzburg, Phuzile Makhathini, has been suspended pending an inquiry. An investigation has also been launched into missing school funds.

Both KwaZulu-Natal's Health and Education departments say they are finalising their investigation.

The Health Department, which was responsible for paying out R207 000 towards the feeding scheme over 27 months, has also employed the services

of auditors to investigate where the school's money went.

Makhathini was suspended by the school's governing body on June 9. Her daughter, who does not want to be named, said her mother was not "going to say anything right now" as the matter was still under investigation.

The Health Department says the menu Makhathini submitted to them for the pupils included mixed vegetables, soya mince, beans, rice, samp, maize meal, margarine, peanut butter and bread.

But the governing body and teachers this week were adamant that on average only 100 pupils a day were fed — with two slices of brown bread and a cup of cocoa.

A report by auditors hired by the governing body showed that the school had received R105 078.40 to feed more than 1 100 children last year alone.

It also disclosed how funds from the school's coffers were used to:

- Pay an account of R250 to the municipality;
- Pay R756.96 to have a top-of-the-range Honda Ballade serviced; and
- Pay a monthly instalment of R197.83 towards a holiday timeshare scheme.

Numerous cheques belonging to the school and which were cashed also remain unaccounted for.

Former governing body chairman Alison Nxumalo and a teacher whose signatures appear on the cheques this week denied ever signing them.

Makhathini's bedridden father was allegedly named as a supplier to the feeding scheme. Health Department investigator Molly Mlaba, who interviewed Makhathini's father this week, confirmed that he was unaware that his company's name had been used.

The chairman of the governing body, Jack Ngubane, said the community was "livid". "Our children were supposed to have been fed a nutritious meal each day yet they were starved. This is an impoverished area with a high unemployment rate. Ninety percent of our children are unable to bring lunch to school."

Maweni Mkhize, 11, said he could count the number of times he got a school meal in the past two years. He said he could not bring lunch to school as both his parents were unemployed.

Several teachers said that pupils who were fed on one day were not fed the following day.

Education Department spokesman Muzi Kubheka said Makhathini was still receiving a salary from the department.

Police in Pietermaritzburg have confirmed that a case of theft is being investigated against Makhathini.

Institute backs lottery critic

THE Freedom of Expression Institute has come to the defence of a webmaster who was threatened with legal action by the National Lottery operator after he criticised how lottery funds were being disharded.

The institute has urged Uthingo to reconsider a legal threat handed recently to Shaun Dewberry, who runs the local website of international hacker group, 2600. On the website, Dewberry called the lottery "National Robbery", and referred to the lottery slogan "Tata Ma Chance, Tata Ma Millions" as "Tata Ma Chance, Tata Ma F**k-All".

Uthingo demanded he stop using the "offending slogans", saying it respected his right to freedom of speech, but wanted him to stop a "misuse and distortion of the trademark".

But Dewberry, a Johannesburg computer security consultant, believes the trademark issue is a smokescreen.

"I won't take the web pages down. I strongly believe it's a free speech issue," he said. — Gill Moodie

● For the winning lottery numbers, go to www.sundaytimes.co.za/lottery/

Stingy racers desert gran

MULTIMILLIONAIRE Grand Prix brothers Michael and Ralf Schumacher live it up in a lavish jet-set lifestyle. But their ageing and frail 78-year-old grandmother and her mentally retarded son have to scrape by on her weekly pension of about R1 060.

And, reports Britain's News of the World, the two racers give their gran nothing. What's more, they have not seen their mother's mother in two years.

The newspaper quoted the defiantly proud gran, identified only as Agathe, as saying: "I've never had a penny from my grandsons in my whole life." She lives in a small flat in the German town of Althürth with her son Hannes.

By contrast, Michael Schumacher, 33, earns about R670-million a year. He lives with wife Corinna and their two children in a palatial home near Lake Geneva in Switzerland, and also owns a holiday home in Norway and a penthouse in Monaco. Ralf, 27, earns about R152-million a year.

Agathe's headresser, Stefan Borg, told News of the World: "I'm really angry the grandchildren became millionaires and their gran doesn't even have a decent wheelchair to get about in." — Sunday Times Foreign Desk

Speech ban to be challenged

HUMAN rights groups are planning to challenge a gagging order granted to steel giant Iscor against a poor community that it is alleged to be poisoning.

The Johannesburg High Court issued an order in February, banning both Iscor and Vanderbijlpark residents from talking to the media about their legal battle.

The residents accuse the multibillion-rand steel company of pumping harmful effluent into the environment.

The Freedom of Expression Institute alleged this week that residents' "arms were twisted" into accepting the gagging order, which clashed with their constitutional right to freedom of speech.

The organisation is now planning a legal challenge to the order in partnership with foreign environmental and human rights activists.

The organisation's anti-censorship coordinator, Simon Kimani, said: "We are discussing partnerships with international funders." Kimani said the order interfered unreasonably with the community's right to speak, the ability of the media to operate freely and the rights of the public to be informed. — Andre Jurgens

Women find their way

MAP reading is probably the main source of conflict between couples while driving. Despite the fact that several studies on spatial ability indicate men find map instructions easier to follow, new research shows that women are superior when using a verbal set of directions, with landmarks to assist them.

A psychologist, Professor Deborah Saucier, believes the difference between the way men and women navigate has evolutionary origins, dating back to when humans were hunter-gatherers.

"The men followed a herd of animals over vast distances and, having made the kill, had to use their spatial awareness to get home the quickest way possible before the meat spoiled.

"Women, on the other hand, had to remember how to get to a particular fruit-bearing tree, or nutritious plant, and therefore had to remember landmarks to help them find their way."

Saucier argues that if maps had been designed by women, then landmarks and street names would be given more prominence. She suggests that maps ought to be designed in two different ways. — © The Telegraph, London

less 33% @ worldonline

On your business telephone account

Right now you could be saving up to 33% on business landline to cellular phone calls. Tiscali World Online can reduce your telephone charges when you dial a cellular number through your switchboard system.

- Free installation, subject to a 24 month Vodacom Talk 500 contract
- Save at least 31 cents per minute on business landline to cellular phone calls

Switchboard to cellular phone call costs can be radically reduced

Summary of your account

Previous invoice (Payment)	R11,115.38
Opening balance	R978.43
This invoice (Jul 01)	R8,122.70
Rental	R2,626.12
Service/Surcharge/Phonebook	R1,347.59
VAT	R141.56
Interest	R11,115.38
Total (this invoice)	R11,115.38

Payment remittance advice

Please pay as follows: Paid in full, thank you. Please pay on or before 10 Aug 02.

Amount due R11,115.38

This full page must accompany payments at a counter. SA Ltd. Reg no 00090502000001, VAT no 00090502000001

Your main bank

Private Bag 70000
Puttfontein, 9000

International call rates are cheaper than you think.

Namibia R1.58 Standard time and R1.24 Global Off-Peak time
Germany R2.84 Standard time and R2.51 Global Off-Peak time
United Kingdom R3.41 Standard time and R3.07 Global Off-Peak time
USA R3.64 Standard time and R3.29 Global Off-Peak time
Call rates per minute (VAT included)

Call 0800 00 00 00 for more information.

33% Less on cell calls

To reduce your telephone bill, call:
0860 66 24 53
Monday to Sunday 7am-7pm
or go to www.worldonline.co.za/cellular

World Online

THE COMMUNICATION COMPANY
www.worldonline.co.za
A DIVISION OF TISCALI