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Vaal Weekly
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Complaint: Vaal Weekly

With reference to a story entitled 'Inyanga to rescue possessed child' (appended below) by Lerato Serero -

Journalist Lerato Serero give credence to libellous hearsay by Maniki Motloutsi against another unnamed inyanga and inadvertently succeeds in allowing Motloutsi to allege (without any evidence other than his own professional prejudice against another inyanga) that trusted community members in Sebokeng should be regarded with suspicion and fear because "they become monsters at night".

Serero quotes Motloutsi as saying, "I have caught many witches here in my yard and you will be surprised who does these thing as these are usually trusted community members who become monsters at night... Evil exists, what that witch is doing to the child is evil and must be stopped as soon as possible, she is not an inyanga but a killer".

Articles such as this fuel witchcraft hysteria in our country. Given the high preponderance of witchcraft allegations and the often tragic consequences for innocent victims of these false accusations, their family members and communities, the South African Pagan Rights Alliance would like to submit objection to the content of this article on the grounds that Serero's article may serve to further fuel vindictive rumours that result in violent witch-hunts against community members in Sebokeng.

The Alliance would further like to request Lerato Serero to refrain from inadvertently inciting prejudice against self-defined Witches who regard Witchcraft as a bona-fide religion.

Yours Sincerely

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Inyanga to rescue possessed child

http://www.news24.com/Regional_Papers/Components/Category_Article_Text_Template/0,,372_2371820~E,00.html

By Lerato Serero

SEBOKENG.- A traditional healer has come out in support of the little girl who is allegedly being used by another traditional healer for witchcraft purposes.

Maniki Motloutsi a professional soldier and traditional healer from Zone 14 Sebokeng says that he knows what the little girl is going through and I can help her heal with the permission of her parents.

"I know what she is going through and can help her so that she can go and save those who are still alive there. These are demons, I can help her live a normal life as I have gone through what she is experiencing. Before agreeing to be an inyanga I had the problem of people bewitching me," says Motloutsi.

The inyanga says that he was a member of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) where he was a prophet before agreeing to heed the calling of being a practicing inyanga and that other prophets within the church had told him that he will suffer for the rest of his life if he does not accept the 'calling'.

The relevance of the child's story to his, he says, is that his household was bewitched and he even allegedly lost his mother to witchcraft from neighbours. "They also wanted my head but cannot get me as I am stronger than them."

"I have caught many witches here in my yard and you will be surprised who does these thing as these are usually trusted community members who become monsters at night," adds Motloutsi. According to Motloutsi the child can be healed if she can attend his treatments as she is being used because she is pure and harmless.

"Evil exists, what that witch is doing to the child is evil and must be stopped as soon as possible, she is not an inyanga but a killer", he concludes.