

Roberts loses again

THE Supreme Court of Appeal has dismissed a bid by author Ronald Suresh Roberts to appeal against a judgment in which he lost a costly defamation suit against the Sunday Times.

Roberts sued Johncom Media Investments after taking issue with a story published in the newspaper under the headline, "The unlikeable Mr Roberts".

The Cape High Court dismissed his claim in January — and turned down his application for leave to appeal against the judgment.

Roberts turned to the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein, which this week dismissed his new application for leave to appeal — with costs.

Roberts is the author of the recently published *Fit to Govern* — *The Native Intelligence of Thabo Mbeki*. — *Andre Jurgens*

Water Affairs to focus on poor schools

SUTHENTIRA GOVENDER

THE Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has taken over the provision of water and sanitation in impoverished public schools.

The department told Parliament last week that it took charge of the situation after education authorities failed to meet a target set in 2003 to address backlogs in government schools.

Spokesman Themba Khumalo said Water Affairs and Forestry had begun using its surplus

funds this year to bolster programmes that provincial education departments had already started and would focus the bulk of its budget allocation next year on the provision of water and toilets in government schools.

"This aims to support the Department of Education to achieve its water and sanitation target as soon as possible."

The education and recreation select committee recently raised concerns about the impact of the backlogs on the provision of education and the lack of

co-operation between government departments.

Khumalo said his department would prioritise schools with the most critical needs from a finalised database supplied by education authorities.

Education Director-General Duncan Hinde conceded that there were huge backlogs in the provision of water and sanitation to schools, adding: "It does make sense for Water Affairs to take over ... we've agreed that they should take the lead in this regard."



WANTING A SLICE: Mfundi Vundla says he should co-own the rights to *Generations* Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

DISTRIBUTED AND SUPPORTED BY DAIMLERCHRYSLER

TO OUR COMPETITORS FUSO

IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

MITSUBISHI FUSO FP 18-340 R499 999 (EXCL. VAT)

The Mitsubishi FUSO FP 18 - 340 Truck Tractor 4 x 2 delivers on time every time! With a 42 000 GCM, steel suspension, short wheel base and excellent power and torque delivery its the ideal truck tractor suitable for both regional and intercity haul. With a proud 75 year heritage, the Mitsubishi FUSO delivers what it promises - uncompromised efficiency and performance!

FUSO Finance and *Insurance is a division of DaimlerChrysler Financial Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd, an Authorised Financial Services Provider (Licence no. 18 604) and Credit Provider (Licence no. NCRCP80), *underwritten by Regent Insurance (Licence no. 25 511) and Regent Life Insurance (Licence no. 18 146) Terms and conditions apply. Pending stock availability.

FUSO YOU CAN RELY ON US.

FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER CALL 0800 133 355 OR VISIT WWW.FUSO.CO.ZA

SA COIN
www.sacoin.co.za

SA RARE COIN SELLS FOR R675 000

Call a Broker on (011) 808-0300 or visit us at SA Coin Building, Woodmead

call 084 145
or visit celldirect.co.za
weza weekend talk for free on the weekends!

GET 2 PHONES on 2 CONTRACTS for only R76 pm

2x FREE SAMSUNG X650
R76 pm x 24 on 2x casualchat 100 includes:
100 off-peak minutes
65K colour UFB screen
VGA camera
FM radio

GET 2 PHONES on 2 CONTRACTS for only R96 pm

FREE SAMSUNG E250 & SAMSUNG X510
R96 pm x 24 on 2x casualchat 100 includes:
100 off-peak minutes
Samsung E250 features:
slim sliding camera phone
FM radio & MP3 player
Bluetooth® & EDGE

- FREE DELIVERY
- FREE SIM CARD
- FREE CONNECTION

To order, have your credit card/bank account details, ID and reference number 070701/ST/E ready.
We're open 8 am - 8 pm weekdays and 9 am - 2 pm weekends and public holidays.

Cell C's standard terms and conditions apply. Visit www.celldirect.co.za or call 084 145 to find out what they are. Offers valid from 20 June to 19 July 2007 or while stocks last. E&OE

Generations creator at war with SABC

Producer wants rights to R1bn-a-year soapie

CHARLES MOLELE

A FIERCE intellectual property rights battle between TV producer Mfundi Vundla and the SABC is threatening a bitter end to their 14-year association.

Vundla, creator of South Africa's most popular soapie, *Generations*, on SABC1, has refused to sign a long-term contract with the public broadcaster until it gives him the intellectual property rights to his show.

Vundla also wants the SABC to relax its strict editorial policies in his contract, which now gives the broadcaster the power to change, reject or edit the show's plot, storyline and script.

The dispute has created uncertainty and insecurity among the cast members and some are wondering whether they should stay or go.

One actor, who asked not be named, said: "I am not sure whether to accept other offers for film and stage projects or whether to stay at the SABC."

Another lead actor said: "My agent and I have been in discussions about whether I should continue and we will make a decision by the end of next week."

The SABC offered to renew Vundla's contract, which expired in March, on the same terms but he objected to them.

A fuming Vundla told the Sunday Times on Friday that independent producers should have the right to co-own the intellectual property rights, as is the international norm.

"We are tackling these issues with the SABC. We feel we should own a part

of it — we are the ones who have built this brand to what it is today," he said. "And, if truth be told, *Generations* has been central to the growth of SABC 1."

Vundla, boss of Morula Productions, created *Generations* for the SABC in 1993 after his return from exile in the US. Today, the soap opera employs more than 200 people.

It generates more than R1-billion in advertising revenue each year for the SABC — more than any of its other locally produced programmes.

The SABC is also raking in millions by syndicating *Generations* to at least 12 African countries, including Senegal and Nigeria. It also syndicates the show in Jamaica and North America.

SABC chief executive of Content Enterprises Mvuzo Mbebe said Vundla was within his rights to complain about certain clauses in his contract.

"We are engaged in negotiations at the moment and I believe we'll reach agreement," he said.

In 2001, Vundla was embroiled in a similar dispute over intellectual property rights with e.tv over the free-to-air channel's first local soap, *Backstage*.

The dispute was taken to the Cape Town High Court after e.tv sacked Vundla and took control of the show's production. Vundla lost the case.

'We feel we should own a part of it — we are the ones who have built this brand to what it is today'

FEAR NOT THE CREDIT ACT.

The National Credit Act has changed the process of applying for a home loan. Securing one through us, however, is still as easy. At MortgageSA we are the NCA experts and know how to navigate the new law to secure your home loan. We'll do the paperwork and negotiate a better interest rate, hassle-free. And still at no cost to you. Call 0860 0123 60 or visit www.mortgagesa.co.za.

WINNER TOP NON-LISTED COMPANY

AUTHORISED FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDER.

mortgagesa
NOW YOU HAVE THE POWER.