



Event Review

Piet Byleveld

**4th of September 2013
at the Johannesburg Country
Club in Woodmead**

At a Luncheon recently held at the Johannesburg Country Club Johannesburg in Woodmead, Members of SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter had the privilege of being addressed by **Piet Byleveld**, Crime & Commercial Investigator.

SwissCham President Thomas C. Hippele welcomed the guests who had come to hear Piet Byleveld's message on the challenges during his career.

After a delicious starter and main course, Thomas Hippele introduced the guest speaker, Piet Byleveld.

Piet Byleveld retired from the South African Police at the end of June 2010 after a long and outstanding career. He was the longest serving murder and robbery investigator in the South African Police. He acted as the Commanding Officer of the Murder and Robbery Unit as well as the Serious Violent Crimes Unit in Johannesburg for extended periods. As a result of his experience and reputation, his astounding success rate, expertise and proven record of credibility in the Regional and High Courts of South Africa, he has regularly been asked to undertake a wide range of investigations including serial killer cases and special investigations. He has earned numerous commendations and awards, which include being nominated amongst the top 10 "Heroes Category" and as one of the "Top 100 Newsmakers of the Year" published in The Star newspaper. He is one of only seven police officers to date who have received the prestigious SA Police Service Commendation Medal. He is internationally recognized for his investigative expertise. Members of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the London Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard), the Canadian Police and Israel's Mossad have been to South Africa to seek his guidance in the investigation of serial killers. He has also received an award from Interpol.

He initially specialized in house and bank robberies as well as Police killings, but the one thing that placed him on the world stage was his investigations into serial killings. This is where he achieved his greatest successes and it ultimately would define his career.

After retiring from the Police in 2010, he wanted to ensure that he could continue working with the country's most decorated, professional, trustworthy and dependable teams in an effort to bring justice to the great people of our country. Piet Byleveld CCI strives to provide an unrivalled professional investigative service to our clients. Piet Byleveld's CCI works together with the client, police departments, prosecuting offices and/or other investigation teams where needed. The success of many cases depends on how you decide to respond. It cannot be stressed enough that any case needs a "strong foundation" that the rest of the case can be built on.



Thomas C Hippele
President
SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter



Piet Byleveld
Crime & Commercial Investigator

My first and embarrassing Challenge:

The selection process at the Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit was notoriously stringent. One underwent a trial period up to one year. It was any detective's dream to work at Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit. I was so nervous when I arrived for my selection interview on 1st of June 1977. I dressed myself in a snow-white suit for this occasion. I didn't even get past the charge office when one of the warrant officers gave me one look and said, "Boet, we don't dress like dollies here." Never again would I be caught without a dark suit, white shirt and tie.

Challenges I had to face to catch a Serial Killer

I was tasked by the National Commissioner to investigate serial killings in South Africa in 1994. Biggest difficulty: stranger victims - Lazarus Mazingane selected his victims carefully it was *not just* a random choice. The other serial murderers selected their victims randomly. Informers are useless; serial murderers don't talk about their crimes. It is one of the most difficult investigations to track a serial murderer down, it is like playing chess against a grandmaster. Serial killers push any detective to his limits.

Lazarus Mazingane, the Nasrec serial killer was the fifth serial killer in the legal history of South Africa, he escaped me for 4 long years.

I took over a shaky case from the start, mistakes had been made, it was a nightmare. Important clues found at the murder scenes had never been sent away for forensic analysis, so there were gaps in the investigations. It was an incredibly long investigation before I caught Mazingane, in 4 years a lot of people can die. Mazingane was found guilty on 74 of the 75 counts brought against him, he was sentenced to 17 life sentences and 781 years in prison. The trial in Johannesburg High Court lasted nine months. My team and I consulted with 270 witnesses.

Cedric Maake, one of South Africa's cruellest serial killers was my most difficult client. I concentrated on one profile, only to discover that the killer has changed his modus operandi. Indian tailors were beaten with a hammer, which I had previously thought to have been committed by another killer. Once he had taken his shirts in and wasn't satisfied with the mending, that was when he had begun to kill, his words were: "No one fuck with Maake's shirt". The shirts taken in were torn by the victims who put up a fight while Maake was raping them. His anger was to abate after he had killed someone, he could not control his anger under specific circumstances. The night when Cedric Maake wanted to kill me, he changed the way of behaviour.



Maake told me how furious he had felt when he hadn't managed to get to me, he had known that I was a policeman and wanted to kill me. That was the first time Maake had attacked at night. What was more, he suddenly moved completely out of his killing field, the area in which he had usually operated in. To prove me a point, Maake that night, killed five people, allowed a girl to go, and shot a taxi driver in the neck. The pressure was tremendous.

Everyone from my seniors to the media said to me to catch this man and to catch him quickly. Luckily the taxi driver survived and was later able to give evidence at the trial. First, murders were just on weekends, sometimes between Friday night and Sunday afternoon. It took me six months to catch Cedric Maake. Maake murdered 27 people and raped 14 women. He faced 134 charges and received a total of 2, 214 years in prison. There were more than 300 witnesses, my team and I consulted with each of them and the consultations took eight months. Maake sat in the dock for 11 months, the trial lasted 358 days, the judgment took four and a half days.

At one point I was involved simultaneously in four serial killing investigations. On weekends the Wemmer Pan killings, on weekdays the Jeppe tailors, and in between the Nasrec and Kranskop murders.

In a matter of weeks, I investigated 27 cases of murder and attempted murder resulting from hammer assaults. Serial Killer usually work alone and take no one into their confidence. They conceal their underlying aggression very well and their appearance is normal when socializing with other people. Most of the time their close family members, friends and partners, are not aware of their criminal activities. No one in Mazingane's family or work circle could believe that he was a killing machine. To his immediate acquaintances and friends Mazingane had seem like an ordinary person. He worked during the day, he was part of a social network and had a good circle of friends. Cedric Maake was someone you wouldn't hesitate to employ if he came knocking on your door. The homeowners where Maake had been living in the garage were frightened when they learned that the "nice Cedric" they knew, was actually the Wemmer Pan Serial Killer, Maake had been a perfect, quiet tenant.



Mobility: Serial murderers may change areas. **My own experience:** Most serial killings take place near the killer's homes.

Bongani Mfeka committed eight murders and four of the bodies were found within 500 meters of his parent's home. The same pattern had been found with Cedric Maake, the majority of Maake's murders were committed within 500 meters of his places of residence, his place of work and his brother and girlfriend's homes.

Reasons why most serial killings took place near the killer's homes are:

- They seem to feel more in control in familiar surroundings
- The area is well known to them
- They know exactly where the secluded areas are to commit their crime
- They know the easy escape routes
- They return to crime scenes
- Involve themselves in investigation for example:

Sipho Dube offered his services to the police at the scenes of the murders he had committed, he even led the Police up the hill where he murdered a school girl and described to them how she had been raped and murdered. He pointed out blood stains to the Police which they had overlooked.

The Police failed to notice the blood on Dube's shoes.

Don't expect that everyone on a crime scene show only interest or are bystanders. The suspect could also be in the presence of the crowd and posing as a concerned member of the public.

Media

Serial murderers watch media for example:

Lazarus Mazingane confirmed that he indeed followed the initial police investigation on TV and in the newspapers. The information in the press had enabled him to play cat and mouse with the police. Details about every scene, even maps of the surrounding areas had been published. He told me that he changed his modus operandi after every newspaper report. Mazingane later admitted to me that when he realised that I was on his case, he knew he was in for big trouble.

Serial murderers must never be let out on parole, as they will continue killing again. here is no existing rehabilitation program for serial killers and serial rapists. Bongani Mfeka begged me not to ever let him go out of prison. He admitted that he will kill again because he can't stop himself. He wanted to be locked up as he said: "That's where I belong".

Serial cases had challenged the hell out of me. It was an amazing feeling for me to hunt serial killers. I always felt satisfied in connecting someone not only with one case but with several others, and not only in one place but all over the country, and then to tie up the many loose ends and all the bits of information. I was keen to find a link between cases that had no apparent connection. My team and I literally walked the streets, asking the residents if they have seen any suspicious-looking characters hanging around.

For a detective, a Serial Killer is the most difficult “client” to remain objective about, especially if you can’t manage to catch him and he keeps on killing.

I was beside myself every time I heard about yet another murder, I could just not accept it. I felt that I had failed the victims and with every new murder I felt guilty, as I could have prevented it. Feeling helpless is hell, Serial Killers don’t take leave and that’s why I didn’t take leave for seven years. It was always of utmost importance for me to keep my cases 110% watertight. I believe that an investigation only starts once the suspect has been arrested, an investigation does not stop once the suspect has been arrested. Many policemen think they have got the case in the bag and when they appear in court there are minor investigative errors and the suspect walks out as a free man. My main goal was to secure a conviction on the investigation itself. The victims are dead and now my job started to find the perpetrator and to bring him or her to book. You need to have endless patience with your suspect otherwise they will not share the vital information which you desperately need.

My policy during my career was:

Pay attention to detail, do everything according to procedure. I was filled with pride when I received an award in 1998 as the best serial-killing investigator in South Africa.



Serial Murderers Origin

Social factors do not cause a serial murderer. Why does one of two brothers become a serial murderer?

Cedric Maake’s one brother is a police sergeant. They shared the same home, the same circumstances. Motive is internal problems in a psychological development phase.

Mazingane’s mother had been serving a five-year sentence for prostitution and dealing in dagga. Bongani Mfeka’s father couldn’t stand him, and his mother was overprotective towards him. Mfeka and his mother had an unnatural relationship. She helped smuggle girls into his bedroom without his father’s knowledge. Mfeka sometimes had two girls in his bedroom at the same time.

Sipho Dube’s mother was a Muti Doctor and he blamed her for all the murders he had committed. Sipho Dube and his mother had a bizarre partnership, he brought his mother the body parts of some of the children he had killed. Serial Killers cannot identify with others. They grew up in a lonely manner and most of them feel excluded from society, and are loners without friends or meaningful relationships.

Mazingane was born in prison; a lonely, ill-fated life. His grudge against woman had begun at his mother’s knee in a prison cell - his first memory. Sipho Dube was an outcast whom everyone avoided. The children in his neighbourhood were dead scared of him. As teenagers they start out fantasies. Reality is never as good as fantasy so they try over and over. Modus operandi and even victim type may change but the fantasy remains the same. The Serial murderer’s own private fantasy is the blue-print for the murder. They had a tough childhood and were physically and mentally abused and during adulthood, something triggers them.

Sipho Dube, the mine dump Serial Killer said once that it does not take a psychologist to explain a serial killer. He knows; “It is sparked by something small that goes wrong in your life”.

Why do they kill?

Personality disorders, the strange triggers that make them act the way they do, and lack of emotion. They don’t show any remorse. The only serial killer I knew who showed remorse for his actions was Bongani Mfeka. Serial murderers choose victims that have a special meaning to them.

A homosexual man forced Sipho Dube at a very young age to have sex with him. This incident might have made him choose children as his victims, which may be substitutes for people who harmed him as a child.

My own experience: The mothers of serial murderers were the domineering parent in the household, mothers who intimidate and suffocate their children, and an absent father. They crave their father's attention, and want to free themselves from their overbearing mothers. They hope that a murder would make their father take notice of the boy in whom he had never shown interest. Serial killers won't stop until they are caught, they want to get caught. Lazarus Mazingane became so blasé that he would just grab any girl who was walking along the road and kill her.

Sipho Dube admitted openly that he didn't know the exact amount of people he had killed. Bongani Mfeka, Kranskop serial killer, was visibly satisfied when the judge handed down his sentence. He was sent to prison for 112 years, eight life sentences for murder, and two life sentences for rape.



Profile of A Serial Murderer

Whenever a murder occurs that has sexual elements, it can possibly be serial for example:

- Rape
- Mutilation
- Inserting something into vagina of victim
- The murder seems motiveless
- Suspect is unknown

They are highly intelligent, neatly dressed and well spoken. Sipho Dube for instance used his intelligence to gain the confidence of young minor victims. They are masters of crime, both murderer and detective. They are

usually presentable and self-confident, even sly and arrogant in their approach to their intended victim, where rape is not the main objective, only a bonus for them. They are driven by power and control.

Their main objectives are:

To be complete in control over life and death, the victim has to plead before he or she dies. I kept looking for that weak spot that will catch the suspect off guard. With Bongani Mfeka it was his mother, with Lazarus Mazingane it was his young daughter.

Serial Murderers Motives

5 Broad Categories for Motives:

Vision motivated - Mission motivated - Lust motivated - Sensation motivated - Power motivated, (usually disorganised, hallucinations or delusions tell him to murder).

For example:

- “The voices told me to murder these women”
Mission motivated - person reacts to these voices - kills for personal belief
- “All prostitutes are bad”
Lust motivated - very common in South Africa - kills for sexual motive
- Sensation motivated
Very scarce - thrives on media sensation
- Power motivated
Enjoys feeling of power of life and death over a person
Sipho Dube's killings showed elements of a power-control murderer

Modus Operandi of a Serial Murderer

They may change their modus operandi (more than one modus). All of them eventually deviate from their initial target area and victim types. The Wemmer Pan and Hammer Serial Killers turned out to be one and the same person, Cedric Maake. At Wemmer Pan he shot his victims, and in Jeppe he hit them with a four-pound hammer on the head, just behind the right ear.

Hammer killings: A signature, Patrick Mokwena written on a lay-by receipt had led to the breakthrough.

Wemmer Pan killings: The breakthrough came when a vigilant member of the public became suspicious of a man who was hanging around a hotel without actually eating or drinking. He gave a description to the Police of Cedric Maake. The description matched the picture that I had formed in my mind from the accounts given by survivors. For months, I thought I was investigating two serial killers when in fact it was one killer with several modus operandi. Cedric Maake was a super killer who kept changing his modus operandi more than five times. He re-wrote the textbook on Serial Killers along with Lazarus Mazingane and Bongani Mfeka.

Cedric Maake at first murdered single women almost every weekend, then he brutally murdered couples, then he murdered Indian tailors, and then elderly white men who employed him to do odd jobs. He seemed to fear that his victims would be able to identify him if their eyes were left open even after death, which is why he battered the faces of his victims unrecognisably with a large rock and covered their eyes with an item of clothing.

Then Maake started to shoot his victims. He shot his male victims cold-bloodedly in the back of the head without saying a word. He began to kill elderly white men because one apparently didn't pay him enough once. Sometimes Maake instructed couples to have sex with each other while he watched. To confound the profile even more, Maake would randomly spare his victim's lives.

Lazarus Mazingane first raped, then he raped and killed, then he moved on to hijacking and if the opportunity arose, he raped and killed the hijacked victims.

Age of victims

At a stage Mazingane had developed a taste for little girls, he had killed 4 of them. Siphso Dube preferred children, especially boys whom he sodomised. His victims were all minors except for one, an Indian female whom he murdered to gain money, he did not rape her.

Method of killing their victims

Mazigane's victims were all strangled with the straps of their handbags, panties or their belts. The cord was wrapped around the neck a few times with the knot exactly at the centre of the throat. Strangulation can take up to 4 minutes and irreversible brain damage occurs after 4 minutes. He kept up with the strangulation until the blood vessels in the eyes popped and the tongue turned purple.

The manner in which serial murderer's approach their victim: Simon Majola's and Themba Nkozi's modus operandi was simple, they would ambush unsuspecting lovers at party and picnic spots in the late afternoon and evening with a firearm or knife and demand their vehicle, cell phones, bank cards, clothes, money and jewellery, or they would be thrown into the Bruma lake alive.

Nkosi would give his victims a choice: "How do you want to die? Shall I shoot you? Or must I drown you? Which do you choose?"

Siphso Dube, Mine Dump Serial Killer asked one of his young victims: "Why are you afraid to die? You're going to die anyway."

And for another young victim he asked: "Do you want me to stab you with a knife, must I kill you?" Certain elements will stay the same or develop with each crime. This is called the signature. Other linking factors are the area where bodies are found, the DNA, ballistics, wound and victim similarities.



Serial Murderers crime scenes differ between two different types: organised and disorganised crime scenes.

Organised Crime Scene:

- Planned attack
- Victim selected
- Personalises victim
- Demands submissive victim
- Scene reflects control
- Body hidden
- Weapon removed
- Transport Body

Disorganised Crime Scene:

- Spontaneous attack
- Victim random
- Depersonalises victim
- Sudden violence towards victim
- Scene chaotic
- Body displayed
- Weapon left at scene
- Body left at scene

Most offenders are organised and function like normal people. Disorganised offenders can indicate mental illness or inexperience.

American researchers have found that less than two per cent of serial killers are deemed to be mentally disturbed, and do present with various personality disorders that usually begin in childhood.

Triggers that set off a Serial Killer

Bongani Mfeka admitted that he had a thing about dresses. He developed a mania about women who resembled his mother: slim women who wore dresses, slender, never overweight, like his mother. In a way, it was his mother he killed, time after time. It excited him when a woman wore a dress, he struggled to control himself, and killed his victims when they put up a fight.

Women in a similar situation should play along, be as nice as possible, It might save your life, except when your path happens to cross that of a psychopath, then it's tickets. Like Bongani Mfeka, every woman Mazingane raped and killed was actually his mother.



Mazingane's checklist for the perfect victim:

Women's underclothes, while he was driving, a pair of women's panties hung from the rear-view mirror of his Kombi. He preferred young women, well bred and in neat dresses, a working girl, no prostitute. He saw himself as superior to them. He preferred a submissive victim, aggression irritated him and any opposition would lead to murder.

Bright nail polish, high-heeled shoes, in one instance it had been a nurse's smart blue shoes that had led to her death. He had been stalking her for months before he murdered her. Or a young school girl's short school uniform turned him on and this has led to her death.

Lazarus Mazingane tied the woman's hands behind her back so that she couldn't put up much of a struggle, turned her on her back, rapes and strangles her and then turned her back onto her stomach, before tying the ankles together.

Cedric Maake discovered that his wife had sex with other men on a nearby koppie. That was why he forced his women victims to run up a mine dump while he gave chase. When they reached the top, the women were forced to undress before he raped and killed them. Those who resisted were promptly killed.

Lazarus Mazingane tied up his wife and made her watch him having sex with other women. He later explained to me that it was her punishment because she had cheated on him, amazingly, at that point he was no longer the serial killer, but the injured husband.

Bongani Mfeka, Kranskop Serial Killer, ordered his victims to undress, kneel down and then to lie down on their stomach.

Sipho Dube, Mine Dump Serial Killer admitted that some crimes had been for money, but others merely because of the way a victim had looked at him.



Distinguishing trademarks of a Serial Murderer

They intend to take "something" from their victim as a trophy for example:

Cedric Maake, Wemmer Pan and Hammer Serial Killer, always took one shoe of his victim as a trophy. The clothing and shoes he had taken from his victims were stored with his mother.

Cedric Maake deviated from his previous pattern in which he had taken only one shoe from his victim as a trophy that night when he killed five people to show me a point He took that night *both shoes* of his *male* victims as trophies. Mazingane, Nasrec Serial Killer, showered his girlfriends with gifts of rings and earrings he had looted



from his victims. He always left his victims with one shoe on and the other neatly placed next to their bodies. We found in Bongani Mfeka's room women's clothing and a purse. It seems that every serial killer has his own particular trademark.

Mazingane's distinguished trademark was his knotted rope, a double loop pulled tightly across the throat. Mazingane is one of South Africa's most notorious Serial Killers ever.

Cedric Maake had his shoe collection. Sipho Dube prayed; if the prayer was a good one, then it was a sign that he shouldn't kill a child, while a bad prayer would result in killing unfortunate young children.



In conclusion and luckily, some criminals are not the brightest of people; they often leave behind clues at scenes of crime that can be picked up by an investigating officer. Bongani Mfeka made a statement that I have been involved in the investigation for only a short time and already know everything about him. He further stated that it is clear that I am interested in my job and know what I am doing. I was never there to judge, the court would do that, which is why we have judges and magistrates.

My job was a passion for me, a passion for justice and to secure a conviction. I would have left no stone unturned to bring offenders to book. Crime has given

me an attitude of zero tolerance towards criminals, regardless of what the crime is.

I salute all my colleagues and members of the justice system for their contribution to my success, and remember, Piet Byleveld concluded:

“we only rent our space on earth for a short period of time; see that you use it fruitfully”

Daniela Maurer for
SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter



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event pictures on our website:
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