

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 2013.03.03

DATE: Sunday March 3, 2013

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Indian Ocean at Port St. Johns, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Fundile Nogumla

DESCRIPTION: He is a 39-year-old male, a businessman from Zimphunzana in Mthatha (formerly Umtata).

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 67% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, February 27, 2013.

ENVIRONMENT: No lifeguards were on duty when the attack took place. Due to lack of finances, lifeguards are on duty at Second Beach in December, 15 days in January and 15 days between March and April. "We also lack adequate equipment, even though this beach is regarded as one of the world's deadliest," said lifeguard Ndaba Mafutha.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep.

NARRATIVE: Nogumla and his family had driven from Mthatha to Port St Johns to spend Sunday afternoon on the beach. He said his wife and children swam for about 30 minutes while he remained on the beach looking after their youngest child. When his family came out of the water he decided to go for a swim and joined a group of about 30 bathers.

"I was in the middle of them: not in front, not in the back. After just five minutes in the water there was suddenly this thrashing beside me. I jumped up and as I came down I saw death – a shark with its mouth wide open," recounted Nogumla.

"I boxed a shark and we drew," he said. "I fought a good fight. As I beat it with fists, it bit off some flesh on my arms, it was like a toe-to-toe fight. A small voice inside me kept on telling me that I won't die, but must fight strongly." He said he punched, kicked, prayed and screamed. "It attacked me three or four times before I managed to run out of the water, bleeding and shaking with fear and praying that I would not die."



Second Beach, Port St. Johns



Photo by Lulamile Feni

Fundile Nogumla demonstrates the boxing stance he used to beat a shark on the head, as bit him at Second Beach.

Nogumla said while fighting off the shark he screamed for help but no one came to his aid. "The only help came from God himself who gave me the strength to fight the shark. I came face-to-face with death but God saved me."

INJURIES: The patient sustained multiple lacerations to his chest, abdomen and both arms.

TREATMENT: The patient was treated at the provincial hospital in Mthatha.

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCES: Daily Dispatch, March 9, 2013
<http://www.dispatch.co.za>; <http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>
Dispatch Online, March 5, 2013, <http://www.dispatch.co.za/shark-victim-survives/>