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Ama Ndebele mourn death of a king

The Ama Ndebele nation is mourning the passing of Inkosi Sipho Mahlangu(48), from eMthambothinikwa Simuyemiwa outside Siyabuswa, died because of Covid-19 complications on Friday 16 July.

His passing was officially announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the evening of Friday 16 July. The deceased king was the first-born son of the late Inkosi Senzangakhona James Mahlangu, the son of the late Inkosi Ingwenyama Mabusabesala David Mabhoko II of the Amandzundza Royal Kingdom. The late Mahlangu, who was also Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders and Khoi-San Leaders (NHTKL), succeeded his father in 2005 as the leader of the Ndzundza Mabusa Traditional Council. Mahlangu had an illustrious career in the country's traditional governance system, as testified by his various roles.

He served as the Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MHTL) from 2007 to 2012. In 2013, he was elected leader of the delegation from the MHTL to the NHTKL. At community level, Mahlangu was the custodian of the annual Ndzundza Micro Business Enterprise Heritage Celebration and Commemoration, which brings together communities which speak isiNdebele, Setswana, Sepedi and Xitsonga. He led the conceptualisation, implementation and monitoring of the Farm-in-Box project for the Ndzundza Mabusa community in support of the Agrarian Revolution. In 2016, he founded the Inkosi Senzangakhona Foundation to incubate youth cooperatives by funding agriculture, manufacturing and agro-processing projects. He initiated a number of projects for young boys and girls, including the hosting of a youth summit for the Ndzundza Mabusa community. Through his efforts to improve the lives of his community, Inkosi Mahlangu received a donation from Samsung in 2013 to build a clinic that was named after his late father. The Senzangakhona Digital Village Clinic situated in

Siyabuswa, providing health services to people from eight villages within the jurisdiction of the Ndzundza Mabusa Traditional Council as well as other nearby villages and some parts of Limpopo. Through the Inkosi Senzangakhona Foundation, Mahlangu was able to buy food parcels for 11 villages on various occasions, supply eight villages with 16 water storage tanks to help in farming projects and donate R10 000 to the Matshiding Community Project for the removal of encroaching bushes. The late traditional leader is been described as an active leader, who strived to transform the orientation of the traditional governance system from one which is inward-looking to one which is outward-looking. He believed that traditional leadership had a dual role of strengthening communities and deepening democracy. As part of his work at the NHTKL, he led a number of national government initiatives such as tackling gender-based violence and femicide, and the review of customary laws. He represented South Africa on the United Nations Panel on Indigenous Communities. He also formed part of the country's 829 traditional leaders on various other multilateral platforms, presented papers dealing with the traditional governance system at local and international universities. Alongside Kgoshi Pontsho Maubane of the Bakgatla Ba Mocha Traditional Council, Mahlangu was at the forefront of the establishment of the United Royal Kingship Holdings (URKH), a first-of-its kind investment firm that represents the commercial interests



of traditional leaders and some 20 million rural dwellers. He was its inaugural chairperson until his death. Mahlangu was laid to rest at Nzunza Mabusa Royal Residence in Weltevrede outside Siyabuswa on Friday 23 July. President Ramaphosa granted Mahlangu

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Police constable involved in business robbery

A suspect was fatally shot, two seriously wounded and two others including a police constable, were apprehended following a foiled business robbery in Leeuwfontein outside Marble Hall on Friday 23 July. The police said they received information about the suspects travelling in two motor vehicles, who were intending to rob one of the businesses in the Leeuwfontein area. "A snap operation compris-

ing the Limpopo Tracking Team, Limpopo Provincial Investigating Unit, Pretoria Airwing and Motetema Detectives was activated to track down the suspects," said Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. He said the armed suspects had already entered the business premises when the operatives arrived and when noticing the police, the suspects reportedly got into two vehicles and sped off into different directions. "A high speed car chase ensued and the occupants of one of the vehicles that took the direction of Mapyane allegedly started shooting at police members who returned fire. The vehicle came

to a stop and two injured suspects were immediately arrested. One of them was identified as a police constable stationed at Mahwelereng Police Station," he said. He said the third suspect was found fatally wounded and one firearm was allegedly found in the vehicle. "The other vehicle, a Ford Ranger, was cornered near Groblersdal and two suspects were arrested. The police searched the vehicle and found a firearm," Mojapelo said. He said the suspects, aged between 34 and 36, are expected to appear before the Motetema Magistrate's Court soon, facing charges of business robbery, murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal firearms and ammunition, possession of suspected stolen motor vehicle and reckless and negligent driving. "The recovered firearms will be subjected to ballistic examination to determine if they were previously involved in the commission of other serious crimes," detailed Mojapelo. The Provincial Commissioner of the police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has welcomed the arrest of the suspects and applauded community members for continuously assisting the police in the fight against crime. "The arrest of one of our members should send a strong message that the South African Police Service does not have place for criminals masquerading as police members," she said. Hadebe hailed the recovery of firearms at the hands of these dangerous suspects.



A firearm that was found in possession of the suspects during attempted armed robbery at Leeuwfontein.

Police brutality at Malaeneng

Cases of police brutality are under investigation after two community members, aligned with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), were assaulted by the police at Malaeneng in Dennilton, Moutse. The victims, Clide Mohlamme who is the EFF Chairperson in Elias Motsoaledi Ward 8 and EFF Secretary in the same ward, Tshepo Letsoalo, were allegedly brutally assaulted by members of the Public Order Police during a raid at Moutse on Wednesday 14 July 2021. The police raid was aiming to recover goods that were looted at a number of foreign owned shops in Moutse during "Free Zuma" unrests that hit the area. Following the brutal assault, the duo sustained serious injuries and were hospitalized. Mohlamme was shot in the leg with a rifle and Tshepo Letsoalo has sustained serious head injuries after he was hit with a rifle. According to Letsoalo, they were targeted after asking Premier Stanley Mathabatha about service delivery backlog during his visit to Moutse earlier that day. Mathabatha visited Moutse Mall to calm the situation after looting during the nationwide "Free Zuma" protests. "The premier did not like it when we asked him to address poor service delivery issues as he was already in Moutse. We became police targets just after requesting the premier to address those backlogs," he said. Letsoalo said surprisingly, the same evening, the police came to their houses, started harassing and beating them. "They were claiming that we are part of the group that looted the shops the previous day. During the assault, Mohlamme was hit and run over with a police vehicle and later shot in the leg. I intervened trying to stop them and was hit with a rifle on the head and started bleeding heavily," he said. Letsoalo said they were rushed to the hospital in serious conditions. "I was discharged the same day but Mohlamme is still recovering in hospital as we speak," he said. Following the incident, EFF Limpopo Provincial Office sent a delegation led by its Head of Research and Advisory. EFF Limpopo Provincial Leader, Jossey Buthane, told the Dispatch Newspaper that the party is following the matter after two of their members were assaulted by the police in Moutse. "We sent our Research and Advisory team to deal with the matter and they are currently investigating. We can't go deeper into details at this stage as our office is still busy with the matter. We will divulge our intervention as soon as we are done discussing the incident and will release official statement," he said. Cases of assault



and attempted murder are being investigated by the Independent Police Investigating Directorate (IPID). According to a few community members, who request to remain anonymous, there were 5 people assaulted in total, all with different degrees of injuries, from loss of hearing to injured legs, now known as the Malaeneng5.

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GTA takes a stand against looting

Following nationwide violent protests and lootings associated in the name of a campaign to call for the release of former President Jacob Zuma, the Groblersdal Taxi Association (GTA) started a "No Looting in Groblersdal Campaign" to protect Groblersdal Town and its Mall against the perpetrators.

The association, together with Gunmar Security Company, local farmers and businesses, started the campaign to guard Groblersdal businesses against looting and destruction of property. To make their message clear to the public, GTA organized a no looting motorcade awareness campaign on Saturday 17 July. The campaign started at the Groblersdal Fire Station, with about 7000 people in more than 200 vehicles, including community members traveling on foot, participating in the initiative. Local shops had also supported the campaign and released their workers to join the motorcade that lasted for about two hours. Campaign organizer, who is also Executive Committee Member in GTA, Herbert Radingwana, said he started the campaign to call on various stakeholders to protect businesses in town and local malls. "I started the initiative on facebook and twitter to protect businesses after receiving threats that former president Zuma supporters

might attack businesses in Groblersdal," he said. Radingwana said just after introduced on social media platforms, the campaign received a full support of the community and other stakeholders in Groblersdal and surrounding areas. "Local farmers, Gunmar Security and local shops approached me and insisted to support the initiative. Having them on board gave the campaign a momentum which I believe yielded positive results against looting after uniting community members and business owners," he said. Radingwana said they mobilized their members to protect Moratiwa Crossing Complex and Moutse Mall to make sure that businesses do not grind to a halt. "We want to protect businesses whole on the other hand protecting jobs for our brothers and sisters who work very hard to support their families. Shops must stay open because job losses will be common if the shops are looted, our business will also struggle if that happens," he said. Radingwana said the initiative continues and they are still on high alert to protect Groblersdal businesses and other local shopping malls. "We ensured that the message is spread to everyone around Groblersdal to take an initiative to protect businesses and report any suspicious activities to relevant law enforcement authorities. The little resources we have should be protected," he said.

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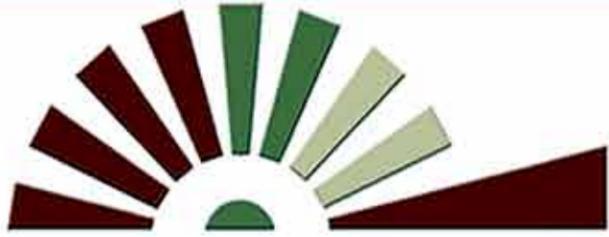
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SRF addresses poor services at public service offices

The Sekhukhune Residence Forum (SRF) says it will demand improvement in the chaotic services at Jane Furse Home Affairs and Labour Department. SRF Chairperson, Makalakatse Phasha, said they intervened as there is seemingly no notable dent in long queues caused by poor services in the two public service offices. "During our recent visit, the Labour Department was closed, however, there were too many people outside Home Affairs including young and old, seeking assistance without anyone helping them," said SRF Chairperson, Makalakatse Phasha. Phasha said the department intervened to address the situation after they raised their concerns in the manager's office. He said, despite the department's explanation citing that the branch experiences overcrowding due to delay in services caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the forum is still finding the conditions unwelcoming. "It is unacceptable that people have to spend hours to receive service, be it in Home Affairs, hospitals, clinics, licences departments and other public departments," he said. Department of Home Affairs Spokesperson, Thabo Mokgola, was not immediately available for a comment.

Missing man found dead

A 30-year-old man, Cecil Dibetswa Malefahlo, who was reported missing at Dennilton Police station on Saturday 17 July, was found dead at Machiding outside Siyabuswa. The lifeless body of the victim was recovered by community members on Monday 26 July near the river at Machiding Village, about 25kms from his home. The victim disappeared after he left his home at Malaenengin Dennilton, Moutse, without informing his family. Sergeant Mienkie Ramakgoakgoa, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said a search operation was activated immediately after the victim was reported missing. "Allegedly, the deceased received a phone call that evening from someone not known by his family, and he thereafter left home driving his White Polo TSi with Registration 12YfGP. He had since disappeared and never seen until his lifeless body was recovered," said Sergeant Ramakgoakgoa. Ramakgoakgoa said during his disappearance, the victim was wearing a pair of black long jeans, blue T-shirt, military jacket, black Puma shoes and a black bunny hat. "The Police conducted search operations at relatives, friends and surrounding areas without success," she said. The police in Siyabuswa confirmed that an inquest docket was opened and under investigation. According to the police reports, the deceased's vehicle is still missing and investigations are still underway.

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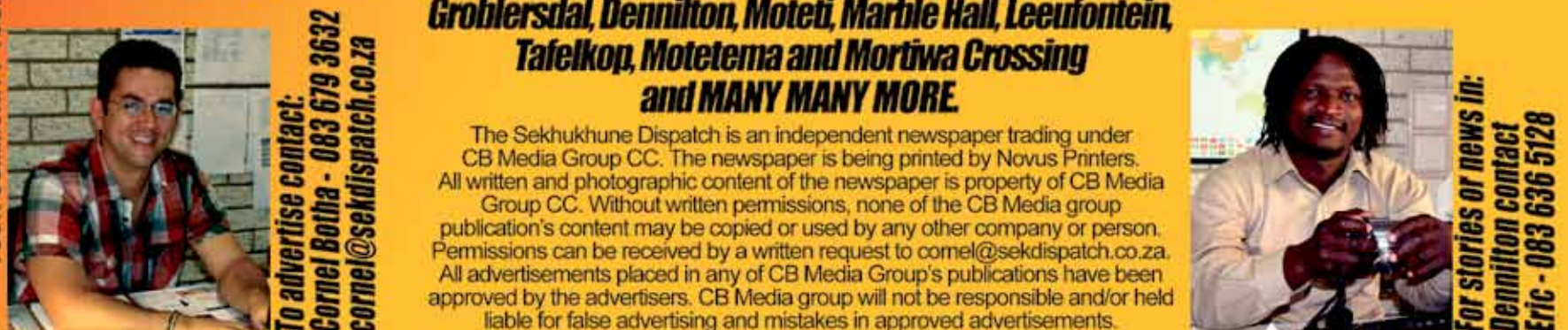
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Sekhukhune United unveils new signees

With preparations for the new season with full swing, the promoted Sekhukhune United FC, has announced a few additions of signed players to strengthen their squad. Babina Noko has announce the signings of Ryan De Jongh and Nicholas Lukhubeni. De Jongh (31), from Westbury, joins the club from Bloemfontein Celtics FC. De Jongh, who is a model by profession, plays both central midfield and right back and had been with FC AK, Platinum Stars FC and Maritzburg United FC. "I am delighted to be part of this team and know that the project lies over us to obviously work hard and do well in the league," said De Jongh after his first training. He said it was exciting to play in the new environment and feels comfortable as he is used to the football environment before coming to United. "For now we need to focus and getaway from the danger zone and get to the top eight to put the club in a second competition in the top eight cup finals," he said. Right-back Lukhubeni (25), who is the second professional footballer from Kraaipan in the North West, joins the team from reigning PSL champions Mamelodi Sundowns. The defender was promoted to the Sundowns senior team from the club's feeder side, M Tigers, which campaigned in the third tier in 2019. Before joining M Tigers in 2016, Lukhubeni had a brief spell with Highlands Park Old Eds, Balfour Alexandra FC and Godisanang FC, among others at amateur level. In another acquisition, the club has unveiled a number of experienced players which signals the team's intention of doing well in their squad, when campaigning for the 2021/2022 Dstv Premier Soccer League (PSL) title. Babina Noko said

is also delighted to announce the signing of Middlefield, Talent Chawapiwa from AmaZulu FC. The 29-year old Zimbabwean international player, started his career in 2013 with capital club Harare City, where he remained there until 2016. He completed his move to ZPC Kariba, before making another move to South Africa for Limpopo based PSL side, Baroka FC in 2017. The left winger will be reunited with his former Coach MacDonald Makhubedu, having worked with him in the past at Baroka FC. During his career, Chawapiwa has made twenty-six international appearances and scored five goals for the Zimbabwe national team. He participated in the 32nd edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Egypt. Talent Chawapiwa said that he is going to bring a new life to the team and looking forward to the new challenge and new environment. "I am happy to join this team and looking forward to a great season," he said. He added that he is confident that Sekhukhune United will do well in the upcoming season. "I know that Babina Noko is an ambitious team and looking forward to do well in their first Dstv PSL League campaign and I won't disappoint," he said. The club has also confirmed the signing of midfielder, Vusumuzi "Skheshe" Ncube. The 27-year-old has recently parted ways with GladAfrica Championship side JDR Stars to join Babina Noko. Ncube said that he is feeling happy to be part of Babina Noko family. "Is a new challenge for me and I am looking forward to it. It is a pleasure joining this team, they are very professional and I am looking forward to give my best for this team," he said. He thanked the management of the team to give him the opportunity and promised

that he will not disappoint. Sekhukhune United have already confirmed the signing of new players such as Tshidiso Patjie, Tumelo Matona, Kamohelo Sithole, Seun-Ledwaba and Thabo Rakhale for the new season.



Ryan De Jongh



Talent Chawapiwa

A green light for Limpopo Provincial Playoffs

The South African Football Association (SAFA) in Limpopo is gearing up for the provincial inter-regional playoffs following the return of amateur football amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The provincial playoffs will see five football teams representing the 5 districts, battling for the provincial championship title. The matches are set to take place on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August at Vhembe District Municipality. However, according to organizers, the matches may be postponed to the following weekend if the hosting region found not ready as a result of the closed stadiums matches being too expensive. The playoffs are scheduled to take place in a closed stadium with controlled security measures to abide with the Covid-19 regulations. No supporters will be allowed in the stadium. The teams will only be allowed to register 25 players, with five technical team members and 5 officials will be allowed in the sporting event. The expected playing format will include the expected number of participants including SAFA officials and compliance officers. In terms of compliance monitoring, SAFA Limpopo has appointed the provincial secretary as compliance officer. Each region and participating teams, will appoint one person each, to assume the responsibility of being safety and compliance officers, to ensure a total compliance as stipulated in the respective legislation in relating to training, coaching and playing activities. During the matches, the role of the compliance officer will be to monitor day-to-day team activities to ensure everyone adheres to social distancing and hygiene measures to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Sekhukhune Regional reigning champions, Mamatho United from Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, will be representing Sekhukhune in the provincial playoffs. Frank Maredi, SAFA Sekhukhune Regional League Coordinator, said the team is ready to partake in the province. "Currently, there are no challenges in the team and they will be participating in the playoffs on the weekend," he said. Maredi said they have hopes that Mamatho will return home with the title like other teams that represented the region previously in the playoffs. "We have been dominating the provincial playoffs for the past two seasons and hopefully will continue doing so," he said.

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