

Senior CWP officer arrested for murder



CWP workers took to the streets to picket outside the Magistrate's Court, where a senior officer within the CWP appeared for the alleged murder of his colleague.

Police station flooded – service disrupted in Sakhile

STANDERTON - Sakhile Police Station was flooded with water from broken pipes and the whole administration block, Community Service Centre and holding cells are affected. According to Captain David Nkosi, the problem was discovered and reported on Friday, 16 March, to the Provincial Supply Chain office.

Over the weekend police officers and office staff had to get about in a pool of water. The situation became worse on Monday. Every room of the administration office had been flooded and as a result, officers and staff members have abandoned the offices and barricaded the main gate to prevent the public from coming into the flooded premises.

When Cosmos News arrived at the police station on

Monday, 19 March at 11:00, police officers and staff were ringing non-stop. The CPF's chairperson, Mr Aaron Madonzela, was at the police station to assess the situation. He took it upon himself to call the cluster commander and Major General Phahla, who reportedly sent Mr Madonzela from pillar to post.

While services are not being rendered to the community, Captain Nkosi raised concerns about the safety and health of the inmates in the holding cells. He lamented that if the Department of Public Works does not make a speedy intervention, damage to all the files in the offices could be huge. Officers and staff members have vowed not to go into the flooded place to risk their health. Provincial Communication Officer, Brigadier Leonard Hlathi, said he is aware of the situation. **DM**

STANDERTON - In a dramatic turn of events, a senior officer of the Community Workers Programme (CWP) was arrested by police at his office on Tuesday, 13 March. He was taken into custody where he was charged with the murder of his former colleague.

The officer whose identity cannot be made public, is allegedly linked to the murder of the late Sihle Mathenjwa (37), whose body was found on a farm on 25 November 2017 after he was reported missing. Three suspects were arrested and charged with murder after police found them in possession of the then missing person's car. One of the suspects led police to the spot where the body was dumped in a pit. The fourth suspect handed himself over to the police after he was on the run for weeks. The four suspects were eventually granted bail in January.

The deceased was a safety officer of the CWF when he met his death. During the lengthy court appearances where suspects were making their formal bail application, angry colleagues of the deceased and members of the society led by #IAM picketed outside the court, making calls for the suspects to not be granted bail. Anger flared up when suspects were granted bail and colleagues felt betrayed by the justice system and vowed to continue picketing until the case was finalised.

The news about the arrest of the senior officer on Tuesday was met with anger and shock by CWF employees.

On Thursday morning, the suspect appeared in court and emotions ran high while CWP workers abandoned their work and flocked to the Magistrate's Court where they picketed once again. The case was postponed to 22 March while the suspect remains in custody. **DM**