

Bullets fly at Inkatha indaba

BRAWL AT MAQONGQO

THE South African Police are investigating claims made by a tribesman believed to be an Inkatha supporter in Maqongqo, that the tribe's head, Chief Mhlabunzima Maphumulo, shot and injured him on his forehead on Sunday.

A senior spokesman for the S.A.P. told Echo yesterday that an attempted murder docket has been opened.

Mr Molweni Goba, aged about 50, is the complainant who is alleged to have been involved in a brawl between Inkatha supporters and a clique of Chief Maphumulo's tribal guards and supporters during Sunday's Inkatha meeting at Maqongqo.

The meeting was aborted after police arrived at the scene to quell trouble which left at least five people injured from both the Maphumulo and Inkatha factions, according to the police spokesman. He added that they were also investigating four assault cases.

The Edendale Hospital released the following names of people from Maqongqo who were treated for injuries on Sunday.

- Mother of chief Mhlabunzima, Mrs Nosibhedlela Maphumulo (60), had her stab wounds stitched and was discharged.

- Mr Steven Xaba (50), the tribe's induna, was admitted with stab wounds and discharged on Tuesday.

- Mr Nunu Dladla (40) treated and discharged.

- Mr Richard Zuma (34) treated and discharged.

- And Mr Amon Maphumulo (23) who was also treated and discharged.

However, Echo has learned that there are other tribesmen who received minor injuries but did not seek hospitalisation.

The latest encounter between Inkatha and Chief Maphumulo, a renowned political opponent of Inkatha and its leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, is a sequel to a number of clashes dating back to the seventies.

In August last year during KwaZulu elections a meeting called by the Maphumulo at Maqongqo was aborted after KwaZulu's Legis-

lative Assembly's Chief Whip, Mr S. Z. Chonco, was allegedly "flooded" by the controversial chief.

Consequently, Mr Chonco told Echo that Chief Maphumulo had pointed at him with a firearm. He threatened to lay a charge but changed his mind later because "I cannot rely on hearsay evidence".

A few years ago Chief Buthelezi accused the "rebel" chief of forming an opposition party with "Boss-tainted" money and later the Ulundi Government suspended Chief Maphumulo from the chieftainship position.

The suspension was dismissed with costs in the Supreme Court.

Late last year the Maqongqo chief was assaulted in the premises of the new KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

According to Echo sources, there are now fresh and strong attempts to purge Chief Maphumulo from the Maqongqo chieftainship.

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