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Press Statement

AIP mourns the passing of veteran North West publisher, Aaron Maleke

31 October 2024

The Association of Independent Publishers (AIP) mourns the passing of veteran North West publisher, Aaron Maleke. Maleke was a board member of the AIP. He was the founding publisher of Mmegadikgang newspaper in North West. He was a brilliant businessman. He started out in printing calendars, desk pads and other office paraphernalia and then later pursued his career in publishing. He had a gift for sourcing advertising and was an excellent distribution strategist. His newspaper was the envy of many publishers due to his ongoing financial successes. At the time of his passing, he was looking at ways to further expand his distribution footprint and increase his circulation. Fellow veteran publisher, Thabo Mooke, who was working with him on his expansion plans, laments, “Now all his dreams are like a mirage... Death creeps into our lives at the least expected moments and robs us of friends and colleagues.”

AIP Chair for North West and Northern Cape, Johannes Makgate, states, “Aaron was a true trailblazer and pioneer in the North West. AIP is deeply saddened to hear about his passing. He was a true pioneer and leader in the media industry and his contributions helped shape the landscape of media in this province.”

Ofentse Letlape, founder of North West Insider and Kgwele newspapers comments, “Aaron Maleke’s untimely passing has left me and the local media industry shocked as we join the mourning period with his family.

“Aaron Maleke was a unique and brave news editor, who could tell and uncover stories where it did not sit well with many. This was evident with his many articles in the MmegaDikgang newspaper.

“He was a hard worker who understood what he was doing and never allowed anyone to distract his work.

Letlape adds, “I am lost for words because this is not just a loss to his family, but for our industry as well. He fought for the recognition and support of community newspapers”.

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

Directors:

A Mangxaba (Chair), D Ntsanwisi, S Mboleka, T Mjiba, S Khanyile, J Makgate (Deputy Chair), M Dlakude, E Phiri,
P. Luhanga
K Skinner (Executive Director)



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Mmatshupo Dikgole of Bua Mogaetsho Newspaper then adds, “He was a true community media advocate. As a publisher he believed in hard work and real journalism not entitlement and he would rather distance himself from those who dared to differ. He was a mentor to many and my inspiration to start my media project when he was an AIP board member.”

AIP sends its heartfelt condolences to Maleke’s family and friends. Maleke died on Monday 28 October 2024 after a short illness.

ENDS/

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Note to Editors:

The Association of Independent Publishers (AIP) is a vibrant national organisation for advancing the interests of the local grassroots independent print and online media sector in South Africa.

Website: www.aip.org.za

X (Twitter) - <https://twitter.com/AIPSouthAfrica>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/IndependentPublishers/>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/90829107/admin/feed/posts/>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@AIPSouthAfrica>

Frequently asked question:

Why is community media so critical?

- It is one of the most diverse sectors of the media in terms of language, content and format.

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- It covers areas of the country that no other media cover, other than SABC radio.
- It has the closest and most intimate relationship with its audiences.
- It builds communities from the bottom up.
- It holds local power brokers (government, business and civil society organisations) to account.
- It is critical to SA democracy because it ensures that we know what is happening in our country – not just what is happening in the major cities.
- It celebrates and preserves our local culture and history.

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